EATON COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
WEDNESDAY, MAY 15, 2024 AGENDA

I. Call to Order – 7:00 p.m.

II. Invocation

III. Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag

IV. Roll Call

V. Agenda Additions or Changes

VI. Approval of April 17, 2024 Regular, Special and Closed Minutes

VII. Communications

VIII. Retirement Recognition Resolutions

IX. Limited Public Comment

XI. COMMITTEE REPORTS AND RESOLUTIONS

A. HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES COMMITTEE – Commissioner Lautzenheiser
1. Resolution to Approve the Intergovernmental Contract for the Establishment of a Substance Use Disorder Oversight Policy Board

B. PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE – Commissioner Barnes
1. Resolution to Approve Waverly School Resource Officer Agreement
2. Resolution to Approve Amendment to the Eaton County 9-1-1 Plan (Administrative Findings)
3. Community Corrections Advisory Board (CCAB) Appointment – Probate Court, Amanda Pollard

C. INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY & COMMUNICATION COMMITTEE – Commissioner Droscha

D. PUBLIC WORKS AND PLANNING COMMITTEE – Commissioner Rogers
1. Resolution to Accept the May 15, 2024 Eaton County Master Plan
2. Resolution to Approve Rural Electronics Recycling Grant Amendment May 2024
3. Resolution to Approve Memorandum of Understanding with Calhoun County Recycling and Solid Waste Department
4. Resolution to Approve Designated Planning Agency for the MMP
5. Resolution to Approve 2024 (Cycle 2) Eaton County Parks Community Grant Program Recommendations

E. WAYS & MEANS COMMITTEE - Commissioner Mulder
1. 2024 Taxable Valuation Report
2. Resolution to Approve Entering into Early Bargaining with Youth Facility Unit
3. Resolution Pledging Full Faith and Credit for Bank Intercounty Drain Drainage District
4. Resolution to Approve FY 23/24 Budget Amendments
5. Resolution to Alter the Fixed Separate Tax Limitation and To Create a County Advisory Tax Limitation Committee
6. MMRMA Liability Litigation
7. Claims and Purchases

XII. Limited Public Comment

XIII. Administrator's Report

XIV. Commissioner Comment

XV. Unfinished Business

XVI. Old Business

XVII. New Business
~~1. MMRMA Liability Litigation (Closed Session will be Requested)~~

XVIII. Adjourn to **Thursday, June 20, 2024**, regular meeting at 7:00 p.m.

EATON COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
APRIL 17, 2024

The Eaton County Board of Commissioners met in regular session at the County Facilities, in the City of Charlotte, Wednesday, April 17, 2024 including the availability of virtual attendance by the public.

Chairman Mott called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

Chairman Mott gave the invocation.

The Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag was given by all.

Roll call. Commissioners present: Blake Mulder, Brandon Haskell, Jeanne Pearl-Wright, Trevor Youngquist, Mark Mudry, Joseph Brehler, Brian Droscha, Jacob Toomey, Scott Hansen, Brian Lautzenheiser, Frank Holmes, Barbara Rogers and Jim Mott. Tim Barnes arrived after roll call.
Commissioners absent: Terrance Augustine.

Commissioner Rogers moved the approval of the agenda as presented. Seconded by Commissioner Droscha. Carried unanimously.

Commissioner Toomey moved the approval of the March 20, 2024 Regular and Special Meeting minutes as presented. Seconded by Commissioner Hansen. Carried unanimously.

Communications: Resolutions from Crawford County, Ingham County, Lapeer County, Ogemaw County and Tuscola County. (On file)

Commissioner Haskell moved the approval of #24-4-26 Resolution of Appreciation for Jason Shipman Sheriff's Office.

WHEREAS, Jason Shipman will be retiring from Eaton County on April 29, 2024; and
WHEREAS, Jason worked in the Sheriff's Office from June 22, 1998, as a Deputy, then a Sergeant, and is now retiring as a Lieutenant with more than 25 years of service; and
WHEREAS, Jason has provided dedicated and honorable service to the residents and employees of Eaton County; and
WHEREAS, the Eaton County Board of Commissioners seeks to recognize and express appreciation for Jason's years of public service.
NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Commissioners expresses its sincere gratitude for the years of exceptional service Jason provided to Eaton County; and
BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that this resolution of appreciation and support be duly recorded and attached to the permanent records of the County on this 17h day of the month of April in the year 2024.
Seconded by Commissioner Pearl-Wright. Carried unanimously

Commissioner Haskell moved the approval of #24-4-27 Resolution of Appreciation for the Honorable John Maurer Circuit Court.

WHEREAS, the Honorable Judge John Maurer retires from Eaton County on April 30, 2024; and
WHEREAS, Judge Maurer was appointed as the Circuit Court Judge on May 2, 2016, and was elected as judge effective January 1, 2019, and is retiring from Eaton County after more than seven years of service; and
WHEREAS, Judge Maurer has provided dedicated and honorable service to the residents and employees of Eaton County; and
WHEREAS, the Eaton County Board of Commissioners seeks to recognize and express appreciation for Judge Maurer's years of public service.
NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Commissioners expresses its sincere gratitude for the years of exceptional service the Honorable Judge John Maurer has provided to Eaton County; and
BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that this resolution of appreciation and support be duly recorded and attached to the permanent records of the County on this 17th day of the month of April in the year 2024.
Seconded by Commissioner Pearl-Wright. Carried unanimously.

Public Comment: Eaton Conservation District Executive Director Rachel Cuschieri-Murry and past year events, 2024 Tree Sale and upcoming events. Conservation District Commissioner Mark Sweatman spoke in support of the proposed resolution in opposition to the FY 2025 governor's recommended budget for the reduction of operational funding to the Michigan conservation districts and the elimination of local administration of the Michigan Agriculture Environmental Assurance Program.

County resident Russ Hicks spoke regarding County Parks Committee budget and grant information.

Nathan Baldermann, Rehmann spoke regarding the County's 2022-2023 Audit Update.

Commissioner Barnes moved the approval of the following 11 resolutions:

#24-4-28 Resolution to Authorize Application for Office of Highway Safety Planning Strategic Traffic Enforcement Program.

WHEREAS, the Michigan State Police, Office of Highway Safety Planning has grant funds available for the Strategic Traffic Enforcement Program for the period October 1, 2024 through September 30, 2025; and
WHEREAS, the Sheriff is prepared to apply for the grant and coordinate the program, which will provide up to $30,000 of overtime for purposes of developing more comprehensive strategies to reduce fatal crashes and increase seat belt use; and
WHEREAS, there are no required matching funds.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Eaton County Sheriff Department be authorized to apply for the Strategic Traffic Enforcement Program through the Office of Highway Safety Planning; and
BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Controller be authorized to approve any necessary budget amendments to increase expenditures and increase grant revenue if the grant is approved by the Office of Highway Safety Planning; and
BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Chairperson of the Board of Commissioners or his designee is authorized to sign the necessary documents.

#24-4-29 Resolution to Approve Community Corrections Act 1988, P.A. 511 Grant Application.

WHEREAS, Eaton County has operated programs under the Community Corrections Act, 1988, P.A. 511; and
WHEREAS, the State of Michigan is making grant funds available for the period of October 1, 2024 to September 30, 2025; and
WHEREAS, the Eaton County Community Corrections Advisory Board will review on April 24, 2024 and is recommending, pending that review, the submission of a request for funds for the 2024/2025 fiscal year not to exceed $450,000.
NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Commissioners authorizes the submission of the above entitled grants; and
BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that if the grant is not continued or requires a County General Fund contribution, the continuation of the grant funded positions will be reviewed by the appropriate Committees to determine the necessity of General Fund commitment.
BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Controller be authorized to approve any necessary budget amendments to increase expenditures and increase grant revenue if the grant is approved by the State of Michigan; and
BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Chairman of the Board of Commissioners or his designee be authorized to sign all of the necessary contracts or documents.

#24-4-30 Resolution to Approve Michigan Drug Court Grant Program (MDCGP) Adult Circuit Drug Court Application.

WHEREAS, the State Court Administrative Office has grant funds available for the period of October 1, 2024 to September 30, 2025; and
WHEREAS, the Community Corrections Department operates an Adult Circuit Drug Court which is grant funded; and
WHEREAS, the grant would provide funding to continue the Adult Circuit Drug Court.
NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Commissioners authorize the Community Corrections Department to submit a grant application in an amount not to exceed $200,000 for the period of October 1, 2024 to September 30, 2025; and
BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that if the County's participation in the grant is discontinued or requires a County General Fund contribution, the continuation of the grant funded positions will be reviewed by the appropriate committees to determine the necessity of General Fund commitment; and

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BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Controller be authorized to approve any necessary budget amendments to increase expenditures and increase grant revenue if the grant is approved by the State of Michigan; and
BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Chairperson of the Board of Commissioners be authorized to sign any necessary documents; and
BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Eaton County Board of Commissioners hereby expresses its appreciation to the Mid-Michigan Treatment Court Foundation for its collaboration and support in addressing the needs of Eaton County Adult Circuit Drug Court participants supplemental to what the grant funds are able to provide.

#24-4-31 Resolution to Approve Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant (JAG) Adult Circuit Drug Court Application (ACDC).

WHEREAS, the Office of Drug Control Policy has Byrne Memorial Grant funds available through an inter-agency agreement with the Michigan State Court Administrative Office; and
WHEREAS, the Community Corrections Department operates an Adult Circuit Drug Court which is grant funded; and
WHEREAS, the grant would provide funding to continue the Adult Circuit Drug Court.
NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Commissioners authorize the Community Corrections Department to submit a grant application in an amount not to exceed $200,000 for the period of October 1, 2024 to September 30, 2025; and
BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that if the County's participation in the grant is discontinued or requires a County General Fund contribution, the continuation of the grant funded positions will be reviewed by the appropriate committees to determine the necessity of General Fund commitment; and
BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Controller be authorized to approve any necessary budget amendments to increase expenditures and increase grant revenue if the grant is approved by the State of Michigan; and
BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Chairperson of the Board of Commissioners be authorized to sign any necessary documents; and
BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Eaton County Board of Commissioners hereby expresses its appreciation to the Mid-Michigan Treatment Court Foundation for its collaboration and support in addressing the needs of Eaton County Adult Circuit Drug Court participants supplemental to what the grant funds are able to provide.

#24-4-32 Resolution to Approve Michigan Drug Court Grant Program (MDCGP) District Hybrid Court Application.

WHEREAS, the Eaton County Trial Courts, through the Community Corrections Department and the District Court Probation Department, has operated a District Court sobriety program for approximately twenty years; and
WHEREAS, the State Court Administrative Office is making grant funds available for the period of October 1, 2024 to September 30, 2025; and
WHEREAS, the District Court seeks to expand the program with grant funds to provide treatment and tether services.

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NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Commissioners authorize the District Court Department to submit a grant application in an amount not to exceed $100,000; and
BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that if the grant is not continued or requires a County appropriation, the continuation of the grant funded positions will be reviewed by the appropriate committees to determine the necessity of the General Fund commitment; and
BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Controller be authorized to approve any necessary budget amendments to increase expenditures and increase grant revenue if the grant is approved by the State of Michigan; and
BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Chairperson of the Board of Commissioners or his designee be authorized to sign any necessary contracts or documents; and
BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Eaton County Board of Commissioners hereby expresses its appreciation to the Mid-Michigan Treatment Court Foundation for its collaboration and support in addressing the needs of Eaton County District Court Sobriety Court participants supplemental to what the grant funds are able to provide.

#24-4-33 Resolution to Authorize Application for Swift and Sure Sanctions Probation Program (SSSPP) Application.

WHEREAS, the State Court Administrative Office has Swift and Sure Sanctions Probation Program Grant funds available; and
WHEREAS, Eaton County currently operates a Swift and Sure Sanctions Probation Program; and
WHEREAS, the Community Corrections Department is desirous of continuing the program focusing on high-risk felony probationers with a demonstrated history of probation failures due to behavioral noncompliance or three or more probation violations. This grant would provide funding to operate the Swift and Sure Sanctions Probation Program (SSSPP); and
WHEREAS, the SSSPP primary goal is to increase compliance with probation terms by imposing certain, swift, and consistent sanctions for probation violations; and
WHEREAS, the grant funding request be in an amount not to exceed $200,000, with no County match for the award period of October 1, 2024 through September 30, 2025.
NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Commissioners authorize the Community Corrections Department to submit the SSSPP grant application; and
BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that if the County's participation in the grant is discontinued or requires a County General Fund contribution, the continuation of the grant funded positions will be reviewed by the appropriate committees to determine the necessity of General Fund commitment; and
BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Controller be authorized to approve any necessary budget amendments to increase expenditures and increase grant revenue if the grant is approved by the State of Michigan; and
BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Chairperson of the Board of Commissioners be authorized to sign any necessary documents; and
BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Eaton County Board of Commissioners hereby expresses its appreciation to the Mid-Michigan Treatment Court Foundation for its collaboration and support in addressing the needs of Eaton County Swift and Sure

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Sanctions Probation Program participants supplemental to what the grant funds are able to provide.

#24-4-34 Resolution to Approve Michigan Drug Court Grant Program (MDCGP) Felony Sobriety Court Application.

WHEREAS, the Eaton County Circuit Court through the Eaton County Community Corrections Department, has operated a Felony Sobriety drug court grant for approximately fifteen years; and
WHEREAS, the State Court Administrative Office is making grant funds available for the period of October 1, 2024 to September 30, 2025; and
NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Commissioners authorize the Community Corrections Department to submit a grant application in an amount not to exceed $200,000; and
BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that if the grant is not continued or requires a County appropriation, the continuation of the grant funded positions will be reviewed by the appropriate committees to determine the necessity of the General Fund commitment; and
BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Controller be authorized to approve any necessary budget amendments to increase expenditures and increase grant revenue if the grant is approved by the State of Michigan; and
BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Chairperson of the Board of Commissioners or his designee be authorized to sign any necessary contracts or documents; and
BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Eaton County Board of Commissioners hereby expresses its appreciation to the Mid-Michigan Treatment Court Foundation for its collaboration and support in addressing the needs of Eaton County Felony Sobriety Court participants supplemental to what the grant funds are able to provide.

#24-4-35 Resolution to Approve Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant (JAG) Felony Sobriety Court Application.
WHEREAS, the Office of Drug Control Policy has Byrne Memorial Grant funds available through an inter-agency agreement with the Michigan State Court Administrative Office; and
WHEREAS, the Community Corrections Department operates an Adult OUIL III Drug Court which is grant funded; and
WHEREAS, the grant would provide funding to continue the Adult OUIL III Drug Court.
NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Commissioners authorize the Community Corrections Department to submit a grant application in an amount not to exceed $200,000 for the period of October 1, 2024 to September 30, 2025; and
BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that if the County's participation in the grant is discontinued or requires a County General Fund contribution, the continuation of the grant funded positions will be reviewed by the appropriate committees to determine the necessity of General Fund commitment; and
BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Controller be authorized to approve any necessary budget amendments to increase expenditures and increase grant revenue if the grant is approved by the State of Michigan; and
BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Chairperson of the Board of Commissioners be authorized to sign any necessary documents; and

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BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Eaton County Board of Commissioners hereby expresses its appreciation to the Mid-Michigan Treatment Court Foundation for its collaboration and support in addressing the needs of Eaton County Felony Sobriety Court participants supplemental to what the grant funds are able to provide.

#24-4-36 Resolution to Approve Michigan Veterans Treatment Court Grant Program (MVTCGP) Application.

WHEREAS, the Eaton County Trial Courts began operating a Veterans' Treatment Court (J. Sauter Veterans Treatment Court) in the fall of 2013; and
WHEREAS, the State of Michigan is making grant funds available for the period of October 1, 2024 to September 30, 2025 with no required cash match.
NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Commissioners authorize the Community Corrections Department to submit a grant application in an amount not to exceed $200,000 which includes funding of a case manager; and
BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that if the grant is not continued or requires a County appropriation, the continuation of the grant funded positions will be reviewed by the appropriate committees to determine the necessity of the General Fund commitment; and
BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Controller be authorized to approve any necessary budget amendments to increase expenditures and increase grant revenue if the grant is approved by the State of Michigan; and
BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Chairperson of the Board of Commissioners or his designee be authorized to sign any necessary contracts or documents; and
BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Eaton County Board of Commissioners hereby expresses its appreciation to the Mid-Michigan Treatment Court Foundation for its collaboration and support in addressing the needs of Eaton County Felony Sobriety Court participants supplemental to what the grant funds are able to provide.

#24-4-37 Resolution to Authorize Application for an Office of Highway Safety Planning (OHSP) Grant Felony Sobriety.

WHEREAS, the Eaton County Trial Courts, through the Eaton County Community Corrections Department, has operated an Adult OUIL III Drug Court for approximately twenty years; and
WHEREAS, the United States Office of Highway Safety Planning through the State of Michigan is making grant funds available for the period of October 1, 2024 to September 30, 2025; and
NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Commissioners authorize the Community Corrections Department to submit a grant application in an amount not to exceed $200,000; and
BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that if the grant is not continued or requires a County appropriation, the continuation of the grant funded positions will be reviewed by the appropriate committees to determine the necessity of the General Fund commitment; and
BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Controller be authorized to approve any necessary budget amendments to increase expenditures and increase grant revenue if the grant is approved by the State of Michigan; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Chairperson of the Board of Commissioners or their designee be authorized to sign any necessary contracts or documents.

#24-4-38 Resolution to Authorize Application for an Office of Highway Safety Planning (OHSP) Grant District Hybrid Court

WHEREAS, the Eaton County Trial Courts, through the Eaton County Community Corrections Department and the District Court Probation Department, has operated a District Court Sobriety drug court grant for approximately twenty years; and
WHEREAS, the United States Office of Highway Safety Planning through the State of Michigan is making grant funds available the period of October 1, 2024 to September 30, 2025; and
NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Commissioners authorize the Community Corrections Department to submit a grant application in an amount not to exceed $100,000; and
BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that if the grant is not continued or requires a County appropriation, the continuation of the grant funded positions will be reviewed by the appropriate committees to determine the necessity of the General Fund commitment; and
BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Controller be authorized to approve any necessary budget amendments to increase expenditures and increase grant revenue if the grant is approved by the State of Michigan; and
BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Chairperson of the Board of Commissioners or their designee be authorized to sign any necessary contracts or documents.

Commissioner Brehler seconded the 11 resolutions listed above. Carried unanimously.

Commissioner Barnes moved the approval of #24-4-39 Resolution to Approve Application for State Disaster Emergency Contingency Fund Grant Assistance for August 2023 Storms.

WHEREAS, Eaton County, Michigan, is a political subdivision within the State of Michigan with an official Emergency Operations plan in compliance with Section 19 of the Emergency Management Act, Act 390, Public Acts of 1976, as amended; and
WHEREAS, Eaton County sustained severe losses of major proportions brought on by the August 24 and 25, 2023 storms, resulting in the following conditions: 67.54% of the residents in Eaton County experienced an interruption in their power supply, this also resulted in extensive damage, inflicted upon the county's infrastructure. Multiple compromised powerlines impeded roadways and posed hazards to public safety. Additionally, debris management measures were significant and required a robust cleanup effort; and
WHEREAS, Eaton County and the Emergency Management Office certify that the Eaton County Emergency Operations Plan was implemented at the onset of the disaster throughout specific areas of Eaton County, and all applicable disaster relief forces identified therein were exhausted; and
WHEREAS, as a direct result of the disaster, public damage and expenditures were extraordinary and place an unreasonable great financial burden on Eaton County; and

WHEREAS, Eaton County is requesting to apply for State Disaster Emergency Contingency Grant funding one hundred and thirty-seven thousand and nine hundred and thirty-nine dollars ($137,939).
NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Eaton County Board of Commissioners requests the Governor authorize a grant to the County of Eaton from the State Disaster Contingency Fund pursuant to Section 19, Act 390, Public Acts of 1976, as amended; and
BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Chairperson of the Board of Commissioners or his designee is authorized to execute for and on behalf of Eaton County the application for financial assistance and to provide to the State any information required for that purpose.
Seconded by Commissioner Toomey. Carried unanimously.

Commissioner Droscha moved the approval of #24-4-40 Resolution to Approve Email and Messaging Use Policy.

WHEREAS, the Technology Services Department has developed an Email and Messaging Use Policy as part of a comprehensive Information Security Policy Manual development to achieve compliance with IRS Pub 1075 Guidelines for the receipt and storage of Federal Tax Information (FTI) within the County-operated technology network utilized by the Friend of the Court; and
WHEREAS, the proposed Email and Messaging Use Policy has been submitted to and reviewed by the Information Technology and Communication Committee; and
WHEREAS, the Information Technology and Communication Committee recommends the approval of the Email and Messaging Use Policy as submitted by the Technology Services Department.
NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Commissioners approves the Email and Messaging Use Policy, effective immediately.
Seconded by Commissioner Lautzenheiser. Carried unanimously.

Commissioner Droscha moved the approval of #24-4-41 Resolution to Approve Software Usage Policy.
WHEREAS, the Technology Services Department has developed a Software Usage Policy as part of a comprehensive Information Security Policy Manual development to achieve compliance with IRS Pub 1075 Guidelines for the receipt and storage of Federal Tax Information (FTI) within the County-operated technology network utilized by the Friend of the Court; and
WHEREAS, the proposed Software Usage Policy has been submitted to and reviewed by the Information Technology and Communication Committee; and
WHEREAS, the Information Technology and Communication Committee recommends the approval of the Software Usage Policy as submitted by the Technology Services Department.
NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Commissioners approves the Software Usage Policy, effective immediately.
Seconded by Commissioner Hansen. Carried unanimously.

Commissioner Rogers moved the approval of #24-4-42 Resolution to Authorize Preparation of a Material Management Plan (MMP) for Eaton County.

WHEREAS, the Michigan Department of Environment, Great Lakes & Energy (EGLE) is overseeing the transition from solid waste disposal to a new materials management system that will be geared toward seeking alternatives to landfilling, reducing environmental impacts, contributing to a circular economy, and identifying the highest and best use for all materials including recyclables, organics, and solid wastes; and

WHEREAS, amendments to Part 115, Solid Waste Management, of the Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Act, 1994 PA 451, went into effect on March 29, 2023 and require all counties to prepare a Materials Management Plan (MMP); and

WHEREAS, the EGLE Director officially initiated the MMP process as of January 8, 2024 and requires all County Board of Commissioners to respond within 180 days; and

WHEREAS, Eaton County intends to submit a Notice of Intent to EGLE within 180 days identifying the Eaton County Board of Commissioners as the County Approval Agency (CAA) which is the entity that assumes responsibility for the MMP and is authorized to approve the MMP.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Eaton County Board of Commissioners accepts the CAA responsibilities and approves the submission of a Notice of Intent to EGLE to prepare an MMP.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Eaton County Board of Commissioners authorizes the Chair of the Board to execute the Notice of Intent for Eaton County and act as the CAA primary contact.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Controller/Administrator be authorized to approve any necessary budget amendments to increase grant revenue and expenditures.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Chairperson of the Board of Commissioners or his designee is authorized to sign any necessary documents.

Seconded by Commissioner Brehler. Carried unanimously.

Commissioner Rogers moved the approval of #24-4-43 Resolution in Opposition to the FY 2025 Governor's Recommended Budget for the Reduction of Operational Funding to the Michigan Conservation Districts and the Elimination of Local Administration of the Michigan Agriculture Environmental Assurance Program (MAEAP).

WHEREAS, on February 7, 2024, Governor Whitmer released her Executive Budget Recommendation for fiscal year 2025 which included under the Michigan Department of Agriculture and Rural Development (MDARD) recommended budget a $1,000,000.00 cut to Michigan Conservation District's operating budget.

WHEREAS, the fiscal year 2025 budget recommendation for MDARD also recommended the termination of local Conservation District Technicians who administer the Michigan Agriculture Environmental Assurance Program and replace them with 24 State employees.

WHEREAS, this recommendation undermines the local conservation delivery system led by local Conservation Districts covering all 83 Michigan counties using the

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voluntary, non- regulatory, educational approach used all across the country to address natural resources concerns at the local level.
WHEREAS, Michigan passed Public Act 297 of 1937 to establish Conservation District's as local units of State Government to work with landowners in every county to address natural resource concerns driven by a five member publicly elected Board of Directors. These Boards establish conservation priorities based on their local needs and voluntarily work with landowners to address critical natural resource concerns, the only organization that can do this on private land with the trust of the landowner.
WHEREAS, Michigan Conservation Districts have been critically underfunded for decades. This has left many Conservation Districts without staff to implement programs or provide assistance. Because of this, Michigan Conservation Districts experience high employee turnover which undermines the success of programs and the ability to administer assistance to the public.
WHEREAS, Michigan cannot effectively allocate federal funds from the Inflation Reduction Act and Title II of the Farm Bill due to the lack of funding provided by the State of Michigan. This leaves critical federal dollars on the table that is reallocated to other States that can deliver Farm Bill dollars more effectively.
NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the County of Eaton requests that the FY 2025 budget maintain the operational budget for Michigan Conservation District's at $3,000,000.00 and maintain the Michigan Agriculture Environmental Assurance Program (MAEAP) at its current capacity with local technicians employed by Conservation Districts.
BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the County of Eaton implores the legislature to properly fund Michigan Conservation Districts and work with MDARD and the Michigan Association of Conservation Districts (MACD) to find or develop a restricted funding source to provide Conservation District's with a yearly allocation of $13,000,000.00.
BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that copies of this resolution be provided to Governor Gretchen Whitmer, Senator Sarah Anthony, Representatives Angela Witwer, Rachelle Smit, Gina Johnson, and Emily Dievendorf, as well as the Michigan Department of Agriculture and Rural Development Director Tim Boring and Deputy Director Kathy Angerer and the Michigan Association of Counties.
Seconded by Commissioner Pearl-Wright. Carried unanimously.

Commissioner Mulder moved the approval of #24-4-44 Resolution to Accept September 30, 2022 Eaton County Audit.

WHEREAS, the firm of Rehmann is completing an audit of Eaton County for the year ending September 30, 2023; and
WHEREAS, the Ways and Means Committee received a preliminary draft of the financial statements and discussed the result of the audit.
NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Eaton County Board of Commissioners approve the submission of the September 30, 2023 Eaton County audit upon issuance of the final report as required by Michigan Department of Treasury.
Seconded by Commissioner Brehler. Carried unanimously. (On file)

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Director of Equalization Tim Vandermark presented the 2024 Equalization L4024 Report. Commissioner Mulder moved the approval of the 2024 Equalization L4024 Report. Seconded by Commissioner Droscha. Carried unanimously. (On file)

Commissioner Mulder moved the approval of #24-4-45 Resolution to Approve the Appraiser Contractual Services Agreement.

WHEREAS, the Equalization Department has utilized an independent contractor to provide appraisal services to assist in completing the required annual appraisal of property within the County during the equalization process; and
WHEREAS, the Department wishes to continue to utilize these services and is requesting authorization to enter into an agreement with Dougherty Assessing; and
WHEREAS, the Ways and Means Committee has reviewed and is recommending the approval of the appraisal services contract (attached) for a one year period commencing April 17, 2024; and
WHEREAS, the proposed contract is for the maximum not-to-exceed amount of $24,700.
NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, the Board of Commissioners approves the contract for appraisal services with Accurate Assessing LLC; and
BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the Equalization Director is authorized to execute the contract renewal agreement on behalf of the County.
Seconded by Commissioner Droscha. Carried unanimously. (On file)

Commissioner Mulder moved the approval of #24-4-46 Resolution to Authorize Application for Indigent Defense Commission – Public Defender Grant and Compliance Plan.

WHEREAS, the County adopted a compliance plan as required by the Michigan Indigent Defense Commission Act established the Michigan Indigent Defense Commission (MIDC), PA 93 of 2013, on November 15, 2017; and
WHEREAS, the Michigan Indigent Defense Commission has Indigent Defense Grant funds available; and
WHEREAS, Eaton County has operated a Public Defender's Office under MIDC since 2020; and
WHEREAS, the grant funding request in an amount not to exceed $3,000,000, with a County match based on state guidance for the award period of October 1, 2024 through September 30, 2025.
NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Commissioners authorize the Public Defender's Office to submit the Indigent Defense grant application; and
BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that if the County's participation in the grant is discontinued or requires additional County General Fund contribution, the continuation of the grant-funded positions will be reviewed by the appropriate committees to determine the necessity of General Fund commitment; and
BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Controller be authorized to approve any necessary budget amendments to increase expenditures and increase grant revenue if the grant is approved by the State of Michigan; and
BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Chairperson of the Board of Commissioners be authorized to sign any necessary documents.

Seconded by Commissioner Haskell. Carried unanimously.

Commissioner Rogers moved the approval #24-4-47 Resolution Pledging Full Faith and Credit to the Belaire Hills Drainage District.

WHEREAS pursuant to a petition filed with the Drain Commissioner of the County of Eaton, State of Michigan (the "Drain Commissioner"), proceedings have been taken under the provisions of Act 40, Public Acts of Michigan, 1956, as amended (the "Act"), for the making of certain intra-county drain improvements referred to as the Belaire Hills Drain Maintenance and Improvement Project (the "Project"), which is being undertaken by the Belaire Hills Drain Drainage District (the "Drainage District") in a Special Assessment District (the "Special Assessment District") established by the Drainage District; and

WHEREAS, the Project is necessary for the protection of the public health, and in order to provide funds to pay the costs of the Project, the Drain Commissioner intends to issue the Drainage District's bonds (the "Bonds"), in one or more series, in an amount not to exceed $1,400,000 pursuant to the Act; and

WHEREAS, the principal of and interest on the Bonds will be payable from assessments to be made upon public corporations and/or benefited properties in the Special Assessment District; and

WHEREAS, the Eaton County Board of Commissioners (the "Board") may, by resolution adopted by a majority of the members of the Board, pledge the full faith and credit of the County for the prompt payment of the principal of and interest on the Bonds pursuant to Section 276 of the Act; and

WHEREAS, the pledge of the full faith and credit of the County to the Bonds will reduce the cost of financing the Project and will be a benefit to the people of the County.

NOW, THEREFORE, IT IS RESOLVED as follows:

1. The County pledges its full faith and credit for the prompt payment of the principal of and interest on the Bonds in a par amount not to exceed $1,400,000. The County shall immediately advance sufficient moneys from County funds, as a first budget obligation, to pay the principal of and interest on any of the Bonds should the Drainage District fail to pay such amounts when due. The County shall, if necessary, levy a tax on all taxable property in the County, to the extent other available funds are insufficient to pay the principal of and interest on the Bonds when due.

2. Should the County advance County funds pursuant to the pledge made in this Resolution, the amounts shall be repaid to the County from assessments or reassessments made upon benefited properties in the Special Assessment District as provided in the Act.

3. The Chairperson of the Board, the County Controller/Administrator, the County Clerk, the County Treasurer and any other official of the County, or any one or more of them ("Authorized Officers"), are authorized and directed to take all actions necessary or desirable for the issuance of the Bonds and to execute any documents or certificates necessary to complete the issuance of the Bonds, including, but not limited to, any applications including the Michigan Department of Treasury, Application for State Treasurer's Approval to Issue Long-Term Securities, any waivers, certificates, receipts, orders, agreements, instruments, and any certificates relating to federal or state securities laws, rules, or regulations and to participate in the preparation of a

DRAFT

preliminary official statement and a final official statement for the Bonds and to sign such documents on behalf of the County and give any approvals necessary therefor.

4. Any one of the Authorized Officers is hereby authorized to execute a certificate of the County to comply with the continuing disclosure undertaking of the County with respect to the Bonds pursuant to paragraph (b)(5) of SEC Rule 15c2-12 issued under the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended, and amendments to such certificate from time to time in accordance with the terms of such certificate (the certificate and any amendments thereto are collectively referred to herein as the "Continuing Disclosure Certificate").

5. All resolutions and parts of resolutions are, to the extent of any conflict with this resolution, rescinded to the extent of the conflict.

Seconded by Commissioner Toomey. Carried unanimously.

Commissioner Mulder moved the approval of #24-4-48 Resolution to Approve FY 2023/2024 Budget Amendments

WHEREAS, the Eaton County 2023/2024 Appropriations Act of September 20, 2023, states that any amendment to increase a salary and/or a Capital Outlay line-item in excess of $2,500.00 or any amendment to increase the total budget of any fund or department in excess of $2,500.00 shall be amended by the Board of Commissioners, except that any amendment to decrease the General Fund Contingency shall be approved by the Board of Commissioners; and

WHEREAS, such amendments are needed in order to comply with the Uniform Budgeting and Accounting Act of 1978, P.A. 621.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the following budget amendments be approved and added to the 2023/2024 Eaton County Budget:

GENERAL FUND

BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS 101.101

Increase	Professional Services	$ 5,000
Increase	Use of Fund Balance	$ 5,000

To increase budget for Capital Council of Governments (CAPCOG) increase for annual dues.

SHERIFF'S OFFICE 101.301

No Budgetary Change	Wage and Fringe Benefits	$ 0

To amend the position allocation list as requested by Public Safety to increase the rank of the current detective sergeant to a detective lieutenant.

Seconded by Commissioner Pearl-Wright. Carried unanimously.

Commissioner Mulder moved the approval of claims as audited by the Ways & Means Committee for $13,337,003.99 and to accept the report of previously authorized payments.

Seconded by Commissioner Droscha. Carried unanimously.

Limited Public Comment: Justin Kilgore spoke regarding the second annual Earth Day celebration to be held at the Lansing Mall Barnes & Noble on April 20, 2024.

County resident Jackie Blanc spoke in support of selling and removing the adjacent structure to the Lincoln Brick property. She also spoke in support of a tornado shelter at the Lincoln Brick facility.

Russ Hicks stated that April is National Dam Safety Awareness Month, and May 31 is National Dam Safety Awareness Day. He spoke regarding the safety of Eaton County dams.

Director Rachel Cuschieri-Murry thanks the Commissioner for approving the resolution opposing the FY 2025 governor's recommended budget for the reduction of operational funding to the Michigan conservation districts. She also noted a new outbreak of an invasive plant species.

Administrator's Report: Controller Sobie thanked public, the Commissioners and the Stability Workgroup for their support of the public townhalls. She also spoke in regarding initial budget requests from departments. Her office will be working closely with departments as the budget process continues. This will be a difficult budget year, so the board will be making difficult decisions.

Commissioner Comments: Commissioner Mulder thanked the Controller's office staff for their work on the recent townhalls

Commissioner Barnes stated the Vermontville Syrup Festival will be held April 26-28.

Commissioner Toomey stated that the Windsor Township/Dorothy Hull Library Annual Clean-up Day will be held on May 18th.

Commissioner Mott thanked the Eaton County Sheriff Department and Scott Brooks for their participation in an active violence educational workshop, held for superintendents, elected officials and administrators. It provided valuable information for all.

There was no Unfinished Business or Old Business.

New Business: Commissioner Brehler moved to enter into closed session at 8:13 p.m. under Section 15.268 (8e) of the Open Meetings Act to discuss insulin price fixing with Attorney Lisa Esser from Sommers PC.
Seconded by Commissioner Toomey.

Roll call vote. Yeas: Commissioners Barnes, Mulder, Haskell, Pearl-Wright, Mudry, Brehler, Droscha, Toomey, Hansen, Lautzenheiser, Mott, Holmes, Rogers and Mott. Nays: None. Carried unanimously. Absent: Commissioner Augustine.

Regular session resumed at 8:33 p.m.

Commissioner Brehler moved the approval of #24-4-49 Resolution Authorizing Legal Counsel to Initiate Lawsuit(S) Against Companies Concerning Their Alleged Manipulation of the Market for Insulin and Insulin-Analog Diabetes Medications.

DRAFT

WHEREAS, diabetes is a public health epidemic, with more than 10% of the U.S. population having been diagnosed with diabetes and nearly double that number have prediabetes; and
WHEREAS, due to the prevalence and severity of diabetes, insulin is a necessary, life-saving medicine; and
WHEREAS, insulin was discovered in 1921, was harvested from animals until 1978 when the first biosynthetic human insulin was developed, and very few scientific advances in insulin have occurred since the 1980s; and
WHEREAS, despite the prominence of the disease and the long-understood treatment with insulin, the costs associated with diabetes treatment in the United States have skyrocketed in the last 20 years, and since 2003, the list price of certain insulins has increased by more than 1,000%, greatly outpacing the inflation rate for consumer goods and services; and
WHEREAS, a 2022 Yale study found that 14% of insulin users in the United States face "catastrophic" levels of spending on insulin, meaning they spent at least 40% of their post-subsistence income on insulin; and
WHEREAS, a 2020 study of 2018 insulin pricing found that the average manufacturer price per standard unit across all insulins in the United States was just over $98, but the price in other countries ranged between about $5 and $15; and
WHEREAS, on January 14, 2021, after a two-year investigation which aimed to shed light on how drug manufacturers price insulin medication, the role played by pharmacy benefit managers (PBMs), and the financial and contractual relationships between these entities, the U.S. Senate Finance Committee on Finance published at 90-page report titled, "Insulin: examining the factors driving the rising cost of a century old drug" (the "Senate Report"); and
WHEREAS, the Senate Report noted, among other things that "manufacturers aggressively raised the WAC [the list price (the Wholesale Acquisition Cost)] of their insulin products absent significant advances in the efficacy of the drugs"; and
WHEREAS, the Senate Report also discussed the flow of money between manufacturers and PBMs, finding that "relatively little is publicly known about these financial relationships and the impact they have on insulin costs borne by consumers, even though PBMs play a major role in the drug supply and payment chain by negotiating drug rebates and discounts with manufacturers and managing drug benefits for health care payers," including Eaton County; and
WHEREAS, 99% of the market for insulin products is controlled by three manufacturers, Eli Lilly, Novo Nordisk, and Sanofi-Aventis, and three PBMs, CVS Caremark, Express Scripts, and OptumRx, control 89% of the PBM market; and
WHEREAS, state and local governments around the country have filed lawsuits against Eli Lilly, Novo Nordisk, Sanofi-Aventis, CVS Health, Express Scripts, and OptumRx, alleging that they conspired to raise the list prices for insulin products, resulting in increased profits for the pharmaceutical companies at the expense of self-funded health care payers like Eaton County; and
WHEREAS, it has been estimated self-funded health care payers like Eaton County have been overcharged for insulin by at least 75%; and
WHEREAS, it is prudent for Eaton County to explore every option available to recover overpayments and combat abusive and unlawful market manipulation in the pharmaceutical industry, including litigation against pharmaceutical companies

and/or PBMs whose actions may have contributed to or exacerbated inflated prices for insulin medications within Eaton County.
NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the County of Eaton, Michigan hereby authorizes the County Controller/Administrator at their discretion, to select outside counsel and to enter into a contingency fee arrangement with outside counsel, whereby outside counsel will not be compensated unless Eaton County receives a financial benefit as a result of the proposed claims, to commence a lawsuit exclusively on behalf of Eaton County, against any pharmaceutical company, PBM, and/or other entity that engages in market manipulation practices that inflated the prices for insulin medication within Eaton County; and
BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the County Controller/Administrator is authorized and requested to provide a report to the Eaton County Board of Commissioners as soon as practicable if outside counsel is engaged with regular updates as the litigation progresses.
Seconded by Commissioner Toomey. Yeas: Commissioners Barnes, Haskell, Pearl-Wright, Youngquist, Mudry, Brehler, Droscha, Toomey, Hansen, Lautzenheiser, Holmes, Rogers and Mott. Nays: Commissioner Mulder. Motion carried.

Chairman Mott adjourned the meeting to Wednesday, May 15, 2024 at 7:00 p.m.

_____ _____

Chairman of the Board of Commissioners Clerk of the Board of Commissioners

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EATON COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
SPECIAL MEETING
APRIL 17, 2024

The Eaton County Board of Commissioners met for a special meeting at the County Facilities in the City of Charlotte on Wednesday, April 17, 2024, including the availability of virtual attendance by the public.

Chairman Mott called the meeting to order at 5:13 p.m.

Roll Call. Commissioners present: Blake Mulder, Jeanne Pearl-Wright, Joseph Brehler, Brian Droscha, Jacob Toomey, Scott Hansen, Frank Holmes, Barbara Rogers and Jim Mott. Commissioner Barnes arrived after roll call.

Commissioners absent: Terrance Augustine, Brandon Haskell, Trevor Youngquist, Mark Mudry, and Brian Lautzenheiser

Chairperson Mott thanked those attending online and in person and then thanked those who attended the previous Special Meeting on March 20, 2024. He gave brief remarks explaining the purpose of the meeting. Chairperson Mott presented on a recent financial history of the County finances and on the Financial Stability Work Group analysis of the County's current financial situation. He stated that the Work Group will submit a report on May 10, 2024, to the Ways and Means Committee. He stated that the report will provide recommendations to address a revenue shortage. Chairperson Mott stated that the county needs to raise revenue, or services will have to be reduced.

Chairperson Mott explained that this meeting was specifically meant for questions and interaction between the Board and residents in attendance. He then opened the floor for questions and comments.

Members of the public spoke and asked questions related to County operations and staffing, financials, and future planning; Commissioner comments were made, and discussion was held on several topics.

Chairperson Mott adjourned the meeting at 6:33 p.m.

_____ _____

Chairperson, Board of Commissioners Clerk of the Board of Commissioners

Ingham County Board of Commissioners

CHAIRPERSON
RYAN SEBOLT
DISTRICT 9

VICE-CHAIRPERSON
CHRIS TRUBAC
DISTRICT 3

VICE-CHAIRPERSON PRO TEM
RANDY MAIVILLE
DISTRICT 1

KARLA RUEST
DISTRICT 2

TODD TENNIS
DISTRICT 4

MYLES JOHNSON
DISTRICT 5

VICTOR CELENTINO
DISTRICT 6

THOMAS MORGAN
DISTRICT 7

ROBERT PEÑA
DISTRICT 8

GABRIELLE LAWRENCE
DISTRICT 10

MARK GREBNER
DISTRICT 11

IRENE CAHILL
DISTRICT 12

SIMAR PAWAR
DISTRICT 13

MARK POLSDOFER
DISTRICT 14

MONICA SCHAFER
DISTRICT 15

INGHAM COUNTY COURTHOUSE
P.O. BOX 319
MASON, MICHIGAN 48854-0319

TELEPHONE: 517 676-7200
FAX: 517 676-7264
web site: www.ingham.org

BECKY BENNETT
DIRECTOR

April 9, 2024

Commissioner Jim Mott, Chairperson
Eaton County Board of Commissioners
1045 Independence Blvd.
Charlotte, MI 48813

RE: Multicounty Materials Management Planning

Dear Chairperson Mott:

In accordance with updates to Part 115, Solid Waste Management, of the Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Act, (1994 PA 451), counties that intend to submit a Materials Management Plan (MMP) must include documentation of correspondence with adjacent counties, to gauge interest in preparing a multi-county plan. This letter fulfills that requirement.

We would like to inform you that per Resolution #24-149 Resolution of Intent to Prepare a Materials Management Plan for Ingham County, Ingham County anticipates submitting a single county MMP to the Michigan Department of Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy (EGLE) to best meet the needs of our residents, businesses, and municipalities. However, we recognize that there is value in sharing information across the region and anticipate reaching out to surrounding counties during the planning process.

In addition, we are compiling a contact list of individuals to be notified of public meetings and other communications associated with our plan. Please confirm that you are willing to receive notice by electronic mail and confirm your contact information.

If there are other individuals in your county who would like to be notified, please provide the following: name, title, mailing address, email address, phone number, and preference to be notified either via email or U.S. mail.

To comply with EGLE requirements, please provide a written response that documents your response to this letter by May 9, 2024. Please feel free to contact Morgan Feldpausch at MFeldpausch@ingham.org or (517) 676-7279 with any questions or to further discuss the upcoming Materials Management planning efforts. Thank you in advance for your cooperation.

Sincerely,

Ryan Sebolt, Chairperson
Ingham County Board of Commissioners

Enclosure: Resolution #24-149 Resolution of Intent to Prepare a Materials Management Plan for Ingham County

c: Jared Bogdanov-Hanna, Environmental Sustainability Director, Eaton County

ADOPTED – MARCH 26, 2024
AGENDA ITEM NO. 25

Introduced by the Human Services Committee of the:

INGHAM COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

RESOLUTION OF INTENT TO PREPARE A MATERIALS MANAGEMENT PLAN FOR INGHAM COUNTY

RESOLUTION #24 – 149

WHEREAS, Michigan's Solid Waste Program has been updated with the passage of significant amendments to Part 115, Solid Waste Management, of the Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Act, 1994 PA 451, as amended, that became effective on March 29, 2023; and

WHEREAS, the amendments require that existing county Solid Waste Management Plans (SWMP) be replaced with new Materials Management Plans (MMP) that focus on sustainable materials management approaches, such as recycling and composting, instead of just landfilling waste; and

WHEREAS, on January 8, 2024, the Department of Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy (EGLE) initiated the materials management planning process, requiring counties to submit a Notice of Intent (NOI) to prepare an MMP by July 6, 2024; and

WHEREAS, county boards of commissioners, or elected executives, are given the first opportunity to assume authority over MMP development and implementation as the County Approval Agency (CAA), which is defined by EGLE as the county board of commissioners, or elected executives, or other acceptable entity, that assumes responsibility and is authorized to approve the MMP, by submitting an NOI for preparing the MMP; and

WHEREAS, if Ingham County accepts this authority, an NOI is required to be submitted by July 6, 2024 in order to prepare an MMP; and

WHEREAS, if Ingham County accepts this authority, the CAA has 120 days after the NOI is filed to identify and appoint the Designated Planning Agency (DPA); and

WHEREAS, the DPA is defined by EGLE as the agency and a specific individual of the agency designated by the CAA that shall serve as the primary government resource in the planning area for the administering and developing the MMP; and

WHEREAS, if Ingham County accepts this authority, the CAA has 180 days after the NOI is filed to identify and appoint the Materials Management Planning Committee (MMPC); and

WHEREAS, the MMPC is defined by EGLE as a permanent body that is appointed by the CAA to direct the DPA in the preparation, coordination, and in ensuring fulfillment of the MMP; and

WHEREAS, guidance was sought from Ingham County's Board of Health and Ingham County's Environmental Affairs Commission; and

WHEREAS, Ingham County's Board of Health and Ingham County's Environmental Affairs Commission have formally recommended that Ingham County Board of Commissioners assume authority over MMP development and implementation by accepting the CAA responsibilities and that the Ingham County Board of Commissioners develop a single-county MMP.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Ingham County Board of Commissioners accepts the County Approval Agency (CAA) responsibilities and approves the submission of a Notice of Intent (NOI) to the Department of Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy (EGLE) to prepare an MMP.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Ingham County Board of Commissioners authorizes the Ingham County Controller's Office, in conjunction with the Board of Commissioners' Office, to prepare the NOI and fulfill the communication and publication requirements regarding the NOI once filed that are identified in Part 115.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Ingham County Board of Commissioners authorizes the Ingham County Controller's Office to consult with each adjacent county, on behalf of the County Approval Agency (CAA), to fulfill the multicounty planning consideration requirements that are identified in Part 115 in a manner that is consistent with this resolution.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Ingham County Board of Commissioners authorizes the Ingham County Controller's Office, in conjunction with the Board of Commissioners' Office, to begin the work necessary to prepare for the appointment of the Designated Planning Agency (DPA) and the Materials Management Planning Committee (MMPC) to fulfill the requirements that are identified in Part 115.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Chairperson of the Board of Commissioners is hereby authorized to sign any necessary documents in accordance with this resolution on behalf of the County after approval as to form by the County Attorney.

HUMAN SERVICES: Yeas: Cahill, Morgan, Peña, Pawar, Ruest
Nays: None **Absent:** Tennis, Trubac **Approved 03/18/2024**

A RESOLUTION REQUESTING THE MICHIGAN LEGISLATURE SUPPORT A SIGNIFICANT INCREASE IN FUNDING FOR MICHIGAN 2-1-1 IN THE FISCAL YEAR 2025 BUDGET

WASHTENAW COUNTY BOARD OF COMISSIONERS

APRIL 17, 2024

WHEREAS, our local United Way for Southeastern Michigan, is the operator of Michigan 2-1-1 for Washtenaw, Wayne, Macomb, Oakland and Lapeer Counties; and,

WHEREAS, Michigan 2-1-1 is a service provided at no cost to Michigan residents, and connects them with thousands of health and human services agencies and resources right in their communities - quickly, easily, and confidentially; 24 hours a day, 365 days a year via phone, email, live chat, and online databases; and,

WHEREAS, Michigan 2-1-1 has supported Washtenaw County during natural disasters, including regional flooding, power outages, extreme weather conditions and global crises, including providing information about COVID-19 testing and vaccination locations; and

WHEREAS, nearly 6,000 individuals from Washtenaw County have contacted Michigan 2-1-1 for assistance with housing, tax preparation, job training, utility assistance, food, and other resources in just the last year alone; and

WHEREAS, Washtenaw County recognizes United Way for Southeastern Michigan's 2-1-1 service as an essential part of our human service infrastructure, connecting individuals and families in need with critical assistance in times of crisis.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Washtenaw County Board of Commissioners requests the Michigan Legislature to support an additional $7 million in funding for Michigan 2-1-1 in the FY2025 budget.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the Washtenaw County Board of Commissioners directs the County Clerk to send a copy of this resolution to the Washtenaw County delegation of both the Michigan Senate and House of Representatives; the Majority Leader of the Senate; the Speaker of the House; Governor Gretchen Whitmer; and as a communication to other Michigan Counties.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the Washtenaw County Board of Commissioners directs the County Administrator to instruct the counties' contracted lobbying firm to advocate on behalf of this legislation in the Michigan House of Representatives and the Michigan State Senate.

COMMISSIONER	Y	N	A	COMMISSIONER	Y	N	A	COMMISSIONER	Y	N	A
Beeman	X			Maciejewski	X			Somerville	X		
Hodge	X			Rabhi	X						
LaBarre	X			Sanders	X						
Lyte	X			Scott	X						

CLERK/REGISTER'S CERTIFICATE - CERTIFIED COPY ROLL CALL VOTE: 9 0 0

STATE OF MICHIGAN)

COUNTY OF WASHTENAW) SS.

I, Lawrence Kestenbaum, Clerk/Register of said County of Washtenaw and Clerk of Circuit Court for said County, do hereby certify that the foregoing is a true and accurate copy of a resolution adopted by the Washtenaw County Board of Commissioners at a session held at the County Administration Building in the City of Ann Arbor, Michigan, on April 17th, 2024, as it appears of record in my office. In Testimony Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand and affixed the seal of said Court at Ann Arbor, this 18th day of April 2024.

LAWRENCE KESTENBAUM, Clerk/Register

BY:_____
Deputy Clerk

Res. No. 24-089

5102 (Rev. 01-19)

STATE OF MICHIGAN
DEPARTMENT OF TREASURY
LANSING

GRETCHEN WHITMER
GOVERNOR

RACHAEL EUBANKS
STATE TREASURER

April 10, 2024

Eaton County Board of Commissioners
1045 Independence Blvd.
Charlotte, MI 48813

Dear Eaton County Board of Commissioners,

Public Act 12 of 2024 signed by the Governor on March 12, 2024, amended the General Property Tax Act to allow a county to opt out of the requirement to appoint a Designated Assessor.

This Act provides that if a county decides to opt out of the requirement to appoint a Designated Assessor the State Tax Commission will appoint an individual to serve if an assessing district is not in substantial compliance per Public Act 660 of 2018 (MCL 211.10g).

In the event the State Tax Commission appoints a Designated Assessor the local unit will be responsible for covering all expenses related to the Designated Assessor appointed to oversee and manage the annual assessment roll.

Additionally, if the county does not appoint a Designated Assessor statute requires the Commission to appoint one if the local unit is in noncompliance.

Your county currently operates under an interlocal agreement with an appointed Designated Assessor. The county has the option to elect to opt out of appointing a Designated Assessor and have the Commission appoint one when one is required.

To opt out of a Designated Assessor the County must provide the following:

- Provide the State Tax Commission with a Petition to Opt-Out of County Designated Assessor and Interlocal Opt-Out Agreement. The interlocal Opt-Out agreement must be endorsed by the county's Board of Commissioners and a majority of the assessing districts within the county.

The opt-out petition, Form 6091, and Interlocal Opt-Out Agreement Template can be found on the State Tax Commission website: www.michigan.gov/statetaxcommission

Please contact state-tax-commission@michigan.gov with any questions or concerns.

Sincerely,

David A. Buick
Executive Director, State Tax Commission

Cc: Timothy Vandermark, Equalization Director

1323 SOUTH COUNTY, LLC
11562 W. Parmalee Road, Middleville, MI 49333

May 10, 2024

Dear Board of Commissioners,

As the owners of the parcels on Cochran Road just north of I-69 we are writing to address the 2024 Draft Master Plan that is being considered for adoption. The Draft Master Plan contains a Future Land Use map which designates key parcels on Cochran Road for future General Business use. We believe an industrial use would better serve the general goals articulated in the body of the Master Plan and offer a host of additional benefits not created by the current General Business designation.

An industrial use would be a better neighbor for adjacent parcels in the area. As a farm family, we connect with the community's strong roots in agriculture and understand agriculture preservation is of high importance. Placing General Business uses like gas stations, shopping centers, and fast-food restaurants next to farm fields can be problematic. Commercial uses only serve to increase the strain on the area, contributing to traffic loads and further development demands. For example, the Master Plan on page 12-15 states that the intent of the General Business zoning is to provide for businesses that generate significant traffic. An increase in traffic was one of the common concerns voiced by neighboring land owners. In contrast, the intent of the industrial district is to provide employment opportunities for county residents.

By contrast, industrial uses are well suited to be next to agriculture. The noise, dust, and odors associated with farming don't bother industry. Industrial users in this location would constrain the need for continued residential and commercial sprawl in this area, reducing overall traffic volumes and providing a better experience for neighbors who value less hectic environments.

In listening to neighboring land owners, it appears that a number of these neighbors believe that the choice being discussed is a choice between an agricultural designation or an industrial designation. We are convinced that if it were more clearly understood that the present choice is between a general business designation and an industrial designation, there would be more public support for the industrial designation.

An industrial use would be equally or less taxing on utility and drainage systems than commercial uses. And in a developed condition, with required stormwater detention infrastructure, water will be held back during storm events more than the current unrestrained stormwater runoff.

In addition to the clear community planning benefits, there are economic benefits to the County. The Michigan Economic Development Corporation (MEDC), Lansing Economic Area Partnership (LEAP), and other economic agencies in Michigan are constantly getting requests from companies who desire to locate and manufacture here but cannot find readily available land. These facilities are a far cry from some of our impressions of industrial manufacturing.

These are clean, highly automated facilities with extremely good working environments. Jobs modern manufacturing provide are solid, high-paying career opportunities in contrast to the types of jobs that come with strip malls and big box retail.

For these reasons we request the Board move to send the Draft Master Plan back to the Planning Commission for further review and consideration.

As you know, our team has been in frequent contact over a number of months with the County Planning staff, Township leadership, and community stakeholders. We are eager to dialogue, answer questions, and work together to provide the best outcomes for the community. We are eager to invest in a thriving Eaton County and look forward to a continued partnership.

Sincerely,

Ryan Suwyn

May 15, 2024
Eaton County Board of Commissioners
1045 Independence Boulevard
Board of Commissioners Room
Charlotte, MI 48813

Dear Eaton County Board of Commissioners:

The Lansing Economic Area Partnership (LEAP) is pleased to provide this letter of information in regard to the proposal set forth by Advantage CRE. LEAP is the regional economic development organization responsible for the growth of all people and business in the Lansing tri-county region of Ingham, Eaton, and Clinton counties in the state of Michigan, designated as the lead economic development organization for Region 7 of one of the Governor's ten Collaborative Development Council (CDC) region.

We write this letter in a strictly informative manner based on what we are seeing in the region regarding industrial demand. The escalating demand for industrial land, driven by sector expansion, has outpaced the available supply, which will have impacts on the growth potential of existing company expansions, population growth reversal, school enrollment, sustainability, and deterring new investment. This scarcity not only can pause economic development but also jeopardizes our region's competitiveness and ability to attract and retain businesses. Martin Commercial writes in their recent industry report, "Vacancy rates rose from 3.5% to 5.6%; however industrial occupier trends remain positive and there are few quality options for users in the market." This has dramatic impacts on the region as you can imagine.

To remedy this situation, I urge the Board of Commissioners to consider initiatives aimed at expanding the industrial land inventory while listening to local community concerns as well. By addressing this challenge head-on together, we can foster a more vibrant economy, create jobs, and ensure the long-term prosperity of our community.

Please contact our office should you require additional information or have any questions at (517) 285-6360.

Sincerely,

Robert L. Trezise, Jr.
President & CEO
Lansing Economic Area Partnership (LEAP)

1000 S Washington Avenue, Suite #201 | Lansing, Michigan, 48910-1682
P: (517) 702-3387 | F: (517) 702-3390 | purelansing.com

EATON COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

RESOLUTION OF APPRECIATION FOR
CHRISTOPHER BURTON
SHERIFF'S OFFICE
MAY 15, 2024

WHEREAS, Christopher Burton will be retiring from Eaton County on May 31, 2024; and

WHEREAS, Christopher worked in the Sheriff's Office as a Detective and Sheriff's Deputy from June 1, 1999, and is retiring with 25 years of service; and

WHEREAS, Christopher has provided dedicated and honorable service to the residents and employees of Eaton County; and

WHEREAS, the Eaton County Board of Commissioners seeks to recognize and express appreciation for Christopher's years of public service.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Commissioners expresses its sincere gratitude for the years of exceptional service Christopher provided to Eaton County; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that this resolution of appreciation and support be duly recorded and attached to the permanent records of the County on this 15th day of the month of May in the year 2024.

_____
Jim Mott
Chairman of the Board of Commissioners

_____
Diana Bosworth
Clerk of the Board of Commissioners

EATON COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

RESOLUTION OF APPRECIATION FOR
KATHY BOND
CIRCUIT COURT
MAY 15, 2024

WHEREAS, Kathy Bond will be retiring from Eaton County on May 31, 2024; and

WHEREAS, Kathy worked in the Circuit Court as a Court Recorder from January 2, 2015, and is retiring with more than 9 years of service; and

WHEREAS, Kathy has provided dedicated and honorable service to the residents and employees of Eaton County; and

WHEREAS, the Eaton County Board of Commissioners seeks to recognize and express appreciation for Kathy's years of public service.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Commissioners expresses its sincere gratitude for the years of exceptional service Kathy provided to Eaton County; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that this resolution of appreciation and support be duly recorded and attached to the permanent records of the County on this 15th day of the month of May in the year 2024.

_____
Jim Mott
Chairman of the Board of Commissioners

_____
Diana Bosworth
Clerk of the Board of Commissioners

EATON COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

MAY 15, 2024

RESOLUTION TO APPROVE THE INTERGOVERNMENTAL CONTRACT FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A SUBSTANCE USE DISORDER OVERSIGHT POLICY BOARD

Introduced by the Health & Human Services Committee

WHEREAS, the Board of Commissioners previously approved an intergovernmental contract to establish a Substance Use Disorder Oversight Policy Board to oversee the administration of County P.A. 2 funds provided to the Substance Abuse Coordinating Agency, Mid-State Health Network; and

WHEREAS, the Health and Human Services Committee has reviewed and is recommending the approval of a three year renewal of the Intergovernmental Contract for the County's participation in the Substance Use Disorder Oversight Policy Board.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, the Board of Commissioners approves the intergovernmental contract; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the Chairperson of the Board of Commissioners is authorized to sign any necessary documents on behalf of the County.

MSHN
Mid-State Health Network

MSHN 2024 SUBSTANCE USE DISORDER (SUD) OVERSIGHT POLICY ADVISORY BOARD

INTERGOVERNMENTAL AGREEMENT

Background: Mid-State Health Network (MSHN) is a Community Mental Health Regional Entity formed under the Mental Health Code and PA500/501 of 2012 and designated as Region 5 under the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services' (MDHHS) Prepaid Inpatient Health Plan (PIHP) structure in Michigan. MSHN represents 21 Michigan counties, and is designated by MDHHS to coordinate the provision of Substance Use Disorder (SUD) services within its region. Per MDHHS requirement, Region 5 established its SUD Oversight Policy Advisory Board in 2013 through contractual agreement with each of MSHN's 21-counties, designating membership of one (1) representative from each county. Pursuant to the Mental Health Code, and MDHHs requirement, the Intergovernmental Agreement for MSHN's SUD Oversight Policy Board was fully executed in July of 2021, for a term of three (3) years.

Renewing MSHN's Intergovernmental Agreement:

- The Intergovernmental Agreement is a contractual agreement authorized and undertaken pursuant to Section 287 of the Michigan Mental Health Code (Public Act 2258 of 1974); the Michigan Transfer of Functions and Responsibilities Act (Public Act 8 of 1967) and the Michigan Intergovernmental Contracts between Municipal Corporations Act (Public Act 35 of 1951)
- The Intergovernmental Agreement is a contractual agreement which sets forth the terms and conditions of the SUD Oversight Policy Board pursuant to MCL 330.1287(5).
- MSHN, as a MDHHS-designated community mental health entity is required, under MCL 33o0.1287(5), to maintain the contractual agreement between it and each of the 21 counties within Region 5. Counties include: Arenac, Bay, Clare, Clinton, Eaton, Gladwin, Gratiot, Hillsdale, Huron, Ingham, Ionia, Isabella, Jackson, Mecosta, Midland, Montcalm, Newaygo, Osceola, Saginaw, Shiawassee and Tuscola.
- MSHN's SUD Oversight Policy Advisory Board has reviewed the contract for renewal, and authorized distribution to each of MSHN's 21-counties.
    - Revision to add language of alternate appointments and voting members in Section 2.2: Appointment/Composition.
    - Revision to Section 2.3: Term, to identify the term period reflected in the MSHN Bylaws.
    - Addition of non-discrimination language to Section 2.7: Compliance with Laws.

REQUESTED ACTION BY FRIDAY, APRIL 12, 2024: The Intergovernmental Agreement must be renewed/fully executed prior to the current agreement's expiration date of July 2024.

- To fully execute, the Intergovernmental Agreement requires signature by each county's administrator or authorized designee.
- Return completed agreement to:
    - Mid-State Health Network
      Attention: Sheryl Kletke: Sheryl.Kletke@midstatehealthnetwork.org
      530 W. Ionia Street, Suite F
      Lansing, MI 48933

INTERGOVERNMENTAL CONTRACT FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A SUBSTANCE USE DISORDER OVERSIGHT POLICY BOARD

This Contract (this "Contract") is made as of the date it is fully executed and signed, by and among Mid-State Health Network ("MSHN"), Arenac County, Bay County, Clare County, Clinton County, Eaton County, Gladwin County, Gratiot County, Hillsdale County, Huron County, Ingham County, Ionia County, Isabella County, Jackson County, Mecosta County, Midland County, Montcalm County, Newaygo County, Osceola County, Saginaw County, Shiawassee County and Tuscola County (individually referred to as the "County," and collectively referred to as the "Counties"). This Contract is authorized and undertaken pursuant to Section 287 of the Michigan Mental Health Code (Public Act 258 of 1974, as amended the "Code"), the Michigan Intergovernmental Transfer of Functions and Responsibilities Act (Public Act 8 of 1967) and/or the Michigan Intergovernmental Contracts between Municipal Corporations Act (Public Act 35 of 1951).

RECITALS

MSHN is a community mental health regional entity formed under the Mental Health Code, MCL 330.1204b, that has submitted its Application For Participation as a Prepaid Inpatient Health Plan ("PIHP") under 42 CFR Part 438.

The Counties are located in a region designated by the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services ("MDHHS") as Region 5 under MDHHS's restructuring of PIHPs in Michigan.

Under 2012 PA 500 and 2012 PA 501, the coordination of the provision of substance use disorder services will be transferred, no later than October 1, 2014, from existing coordinating agencies to community mental health entities designated by MDHHS to represent a region of community mental health authorities, community mental health organizations, community mental health services programs or county community mental health agencies, as defined under MCL 330.1100a.

MSHN represents twelve (12) community mental health organizations in Region 5 and qualifies as a MDHHS-designated community mental health entity to coordinate the provision of substance use disorder services in Region 5.

MSHN, as a MDHHS-designated community mental health entity, is required, under MCL 330.1287(5) to establish a Substance Use Disorder Oversight Policy Board (SUD Policy Board) through a contractual agreement, under appropriate law, between MSHN and each of the Counties in Region 5.

MSHN and the Counties desire to enter into this Contract to establish a SUD Policy Board.

NOW, THEREFORE, in furtherance of the foregoing and for good and valuable consideration, the receipt and sufficiency of which are hereby acknowledged, the parties hereto agree as follows:

ARTICLE I

PURPOSE

Section 1.1 PURPOSE. The purpose of this Contract is to set forth the terms and conditions for the establishment of a SUD Policy Board pursuant to MCL 330.1287(5).

ARTICLE II

SUD POLICY BOARD

Section 2.1 FUNCTIONS AND RESPONSIBILITIES. The SUD Policy Board shall have the following functions and responsibilities:

2.1.1 Approval of any portion of MSHN's budget that contains 1986 PA 2 (MCL 211.24e(11)), funds ("PA 2 Funds") for the treatment or prevention of substance use disorders which shall be used only for substance use disorder treatment and prevention in the Counties from which the PA 2 Funds originated;

2.1.2 Advise and make recommendations regarding MHSN's budgets for substance use disorder treatment or prevention using non-PA 2 Funds; and

2.1.4 Advise and make recommendations regarding contracts with substance use disorder treatment or prevention providers.

2.1.5 In addition, the SUD Policy Board may be assigned by MSHN to advise and make recommendations to MSHN regarding any other matters as agreed to by the Counties and MSHN including advising and making recommendations to MSHN on issues regarding:

2.1.5.1 Methods, policies or practices to ensure quality of SUD services including culturally competent policy and practices for the delivery of those services;

2.1.5.2 Methods, policies or practices to ensure that SUD services made available through the PIHP/Regional Entity are accessible, responsive to regional needs, available to all segments of the community, and are delivered in a comprehensive manner;

2.1.5.3 Reviewing and/or providing recommendations regarding the strategic plan developed by the PIHP/Regional Entity to address the prevalence of SUD in the service areas from a recovery-oriented systems of care (ROSC) perspective and approach;

2.1.5.4 Reviewing and/or providing recommendations regarding the establishment of sustainability plans for ROSC initiatives to include prevention, treatment and recovery supports;

2.1.5.5 Reviewing and/or providing recommendations to expand and coordinate resources and activities with other agencies, community organizations and individuals to support the mission of the PIHP/Regional Entity where ROSC are concerned;

2.1.5.6 Methods, policies or practices to provide an opportunity for public comment, and receive and review comments on matters relevant to SUD prevention, treatment and recovery within the communities serviced by the PIHP/Regional Entity;

2.1.5.7 Reviewing and/or providing recommendations on the annual application for the federal block grant, as well as the renewal and issuance of SUD services licenses;

2.1.5.8 Reviewing and/or providing recommendations on the progress and effectiveness of the delivery of SUD services in the region;

Section 2.2 APPOINTMENT/COMPOSITION. The Board of Commissioners of each of the Counties shall appoint one (1) voting member of the MSHN SUD Policy Board and one (1) alternate. The Board of Commissioners may appoint County Commissioners or others, as allowed by Michigan law, that it deems best represents the interests of its County. While the appointment decision is vested within the sole authority of the each County Board of Commissioners, Parties to this Agreement acknowledge that MDHHS encourages appointments which represent the cultural diversity of the area served, appointments of persons in recovery from a substance use disorder, underserved populations and other related constituencies such as education, health, and social services agencies; advocacy organizations; public or private substance abuse prevention, treatment or recovery providers; members of the general public, including civic organizations and the business community. The alternate shall be a voting member only if representing in the absence of the appointed member.

Section 2.3 TERM. The term of membership for a member of the MSHN SUD Policy Board shall be three (3) years, beginning in September and ending in August. Members may be reappointed to additional or successive terms in the discretion of the respective Board of Commissioners.

Section 2.4 VACANCIES. A vacancy on the SUD Policy Board shall be filled by the County that originally filled the vacated position in the same manner as an appointment.

Section 2.5 REMOVAL. By majority vote of the Board of Commissioners, a County that appointed a SUD Policy Board member may remove its appointee at any time with or without cause. The SUD Policy Board is responsible for informing the relevant County of any lack of participation or attendance by the County's appointed SUD Policy Board member.

Section 2.6 ETHICS AND CONFLICTS OF INTEREST. The SUD Policy Board shall adhere to all conflict of interest and ethics laws applicable to public officers and public servants, serving as members of the SUD Policy Board.

Section 2.7 COMPLIANCE WITH LAWS. MSHN, the Counties and the SUD Policy Board shall fully comply with all applicable laws, regulations and rules, including without limitation 1976 PA 267 (the "Open Meetings Act"), 1976 PA 422 (the "Freedom of Information Act"), 2012 PA 500, 2012 PA 501 and 1986 PA 2. MSHN and the Counties, as required by law, shall not discriminate against any Board member or applicant for appointment to the Board because of race, color, religion, sex (including gender identity or expression, sexual orientation and pregnancy), genetic information, national origin, age, disability, veteran status, marital status, or any other characteristic protected by law that is unrelated to the individual's ability to perform the duties of a particular job. Breach of this section shall be regarded as a material breach of this Agreement.

Section 2.8 BYLAWS. The SUD Policy Board shall adopt Bylaws which may be amended by the SUD Board as provided in those Bylaws subject to the review and approval of MSHN.

ARTICLE III

MSHN

Section 3.1 FUNDING. Each County will provide MSHN funding, as required by Section 24e of the General Property Tax Act (MCL 211.24e as amended) to be used only for substance abuse prevention and treatment programs in each County. MSHN shall ensure that funding dedicated to substance use disorder services shall be retained for substance use disorder services and not diverted to fund services that are not for substance use disorders. MCL 330.1287(2).

ARTICLE IV

TERM AND TERMINATION AND DISPUTE RESOLUTION

Section 4.1 TERM. The Term of this Contract shall commence as of the date it is fully executed and signed by all parties and shall continue for three years unless terminated at an earlier date as provided in Section 4.2. This Agreement is subject to the precondition that this Agreement be approved by concurrent resolution by each and every County. A copy of this Agreement once approved will be filed with the Secretary of State for the State of Michigan.

Section 4.2 TERMINATION. Any party may terminate its participation as a Party to this Contract at any time for any or no reason by giving all other parties thirty (30) days written notice of the termination. Any notice of termination of this Contract shall not relieve either party of its obligations incurred prior to the effective date of such termination.

Section 4.3 DISPUTE RESOLTUION. The Chief Executive Officer of MSHN will attempt to resolve disputes through discussion with the Chairperson of the SUD Policy Board or County Controller or Administrator, as needed. Occasionally disputes may arise between the SUD Policy Board and MSHN, or one or more of the Counties and MSHN, arising out of and relating to this Agreement or a breach thereof which cannot be resolved through amicable discussion. In such cases, if the dispute remains unresolved:

4.3.1 If the dispute is between MSHN and the SUD Policy Board, the governing board of either party may by majority vote request a meeting of designated representatives of the MSHN Board and SUD Policy Board in an effort to resolve the matter. Any mutual agreement by the parties will be reduced to writing and voted upon by each Party's governing board. If no mutual agreement is reached, the decision of MSHN as adopted by a majority vote of the MSHN Board will be deemed final.

4.3.2 If the dispute is between MSHN and one or more of the Counties, the governing board of either party may by majority vote request a meeting of designated representatives of the MSHN Board and representatives of one or more County Boards in an effort to resolve the matter. Any mutual agreement by the parties will be reduced to writing and voted upon by each Party's governing board. If MSHN or one or more of the Counties remain dissatisfied, the Parties may mutually agree to non-binding mediation. If non-binding mediation is agreed to, the Parties may mutually agree upon a mediator or submit a request that mediation be administered by the American Arbitration Association under its Mediation Procedures before resorting to arbitration, litigation, or some other

dispute resolution procedure. The Parties recognize that mediation is a non-binding process to assist them to resolve their disputes by making their own free and informed choices, and that the mediator will have no authority to impose a settlement on any party but only to discuss and suggest options for resolution. If the Parties do not agree to mediation, or if the Parties do not reach a mutually agreeable settlement through mediation within 30 days after initiation of mediation, the Parties may pursue any other dispute resolution or legal recourse as provided by law. The mediation process will take place at a reasonably convenient location to be agreed upon by the parties or determined by the mediator. At the option of the Parties, mediation sessions may take place by telephone or video conference or online when the technology is available. Administrative fees and mediator compensation for the process will be paid equally by the Parties to the dispute.

ARTICLE V

LIABILITY

Section 5.1 LIABILITY/RESPONSIBILITY. No party shall be responsible for the acts or omissions of the other party or the employees, agents or servants of any other party, whether acting separately or jointly with the implementation of this Contract. Each party shall have the sole nontransferable responsibility for its own acts or omissions under this Contract. The parties shall only be bound and obligated under this Contract as expressly agreed to by each party and no party may otherwise obligate any other party.

ARTICLE VI

MISCELLANEOUS

Section 6.1 AMENDMENTS. This Contract shall not be modified or amended except by a written document signed by all parties hereto.

Section 6.2 ASSIGNMENT. No party may assign its respective rights, duties or obligations under this Contract.

Section 6.3 NOTICES. All notices or other communications authorized or required under this Contract shall be given in writing, either by personal delivery or certified mail (return receipt requested) and shall be deemed to have been given on the date of personal delivery or the date of the return receipt of certified mail.

Section 6.4 ENTIRE AGREEMENT. This Contract shall embody the entire agreement and understanding between the parties hereto with respect to the subject matter hereof. There are no other agreements or understandings, oral or written, between the parties with respect to the subject matter hereof and this Contract supersedes all previous negotiations, commitments and writings with respect to the subject matter hereof.

Section 6.5 GOVERNING LAW. This Contract is made pursuant to, and shall be governed by, construed, enforced and interpreted in accordance with, the laws and decisions of the State of Michigan.

Section 6.6 BENEFIT OF THE AGREEMENT. The provisions of this Contract shall not inure to the benefit of, or be enforceable by, any person or entity other than the parties and

any permitted successor or assign. No other person shall have the right to enforce any of the provisions contained in this Contract including, without limitation, any employees, contractors or their representatives.

Section 6.7 ENFORCEABILITY AND SEVERABILITY. In the event any provision of this Contract or portion thereof is found to be wholly or partially invalid, illegal or unenforceable in any judicial proceeding, such provision shall be deemed to be modified or restricted to the extent and in the manner necessary to render the same valid and enforceable, or shall be deemed excised from this Contract, as the case may require. This Contract shall be construed and enforced to the maximum extent permitted by law, as if such provision had been originally incorporated herein as so modified or restricted, or as if such provision had not been originally incorporated herein, as the case may be.

Section 6.8 CONSTRUCTION. The headings of the sections and paragraphs contained in this Contract are for convenience and reference purposes only and shall not be used in the construction or interpretation of this Contract.

Section 6.9 COUNTERPARTS. This Contract may be executed in one or more counterparts, each of which shall be considered an original, but together shall constitute one and the same agreement.

Section 6.10 EXPENSES. Except as is set forth herein or otherwise agreed upon by the parties, each party shall pay its own costs, fees and expenses of negotiating and consummating this Contract, the actions and agreements contemplated herein and all prior negotiations, including legal and other professional fees.

Section 6.11 REMEDIES CUMULATIVE. All rights, remedies and benefits provided to the parties hereunder shall be cumulative, and shall not be exclusive of any such rights, remedies and benefits or of any other rights, remedies and benefits provided by law. All such rights and remedies may be exercised singly or concurrently on one or more occasions.

Section 6.12 BINDING EFFECT. This Contract shall be binding upon the successors and permitted assigns of the parties.

Section 6.13 NO WAIVER OF GOVERNMENTAL IMMUNITY. The parties agree that no provision of this Contract is intended, nor shall it be construed, as a waiver by any party of any governmental immunity or exemption provided under the Mental Health Code or other applicable law.

ARTICLE VII

CERTIFICATION OF AUTHORITY TO SIGN THIS CONTRACT

The persons signing this Contract on behalf of the parties hereto certify by said signatures that they are duly authorized to sign this Contract on behalf of said parties, and that this Contract has been authorized by said parties pursuant to formal resolution(s) of the appropriate governing body(ies), copies of which shall be provided to MSHN.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the parties hereto have entered into, executed and delivered this Contract as of the dates noted below.

MID-STATE HEALTH NETWORK REGIONAL ENTITY

By: _____ Date: _____

Its: _____

ARENAC COUNTY

By: _____ Date: _____

Its: _____

BAY COUNTY

By: _____ Date: _____

Its: _____

CLARE COUNTY

By: _____ Date: _____

Its: _____

CLINTON COUNTY

By: _____ Date: _____

Its: _____

EATON COUNTY

By: _____ Date: _____

Its: _____

GLADWIN COUNTY

By: _____ Date: _____

Its: _____

GRATIOT COUNTY

By: _____ Date: _____

Its: _____

HILLSDALE COUNTY

By: _____ Date: _____

Its: _____

HURON COUNTY

By: _____ Date: _____

Its: _____

INGHAM COUNTY

By: _____ Date: _____

Its: _____

IONIA COUNTY

By: _____ Date: _____

Its: _____

ISABELLA COUNTY

By: _____ Date: _____

Its: _____

JACKSON COUNTY

By: _____ Date: _____

Its: _____

MECOSTA COUNTY

By: _____ Date: _____

Its: _____

MIDLAND COUNTY

By: _____ Date: _____

Its: _____

MONTCALM COUNTY

By: _____ Date: _____

Its: _____

NEWAYGO COUNTY

By: _____ Date: _____

Its: _____

OSCEOLA COUNTY

By: _____ Date: _____

Its: _____

SAGINAW COUNTY

By: _____ Date: _____

Its: _____

SHIAWASSEE COUNTY

By: _____ Date: _____

Its: _____

TUSCOLA COUNTY

By: _____ Date: _____

Its: _____

EATON COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

MAY 15, 2024

RESOLUTION TO APPROVE AN AMENDMENT TO THE INTERGOVERNMENTAL SERVICE AGREEMENT WITH WAVERLY COMMUNITY SCHOOLS

Introduced by the Public Safety Committee

WHEREAS, the Waverly Community Schools has requested an amendment to extend the agreement dated November 22, 2022, that the Eaton County Sheriff provide the District with a deputy sheriff assigned as a school resource officer; and

WHEREAS, the school district has agreed to continue to fully fund the addition of a position to the Eaton County Sheriff's Office for the requested assignment until June 30, 2026; and

WHEREAS, the Sheriff and Public Safety Committee have reviewed the proposed service agreement amendment and are recommending its approval.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, the Eaton County Board of Commissioners approves the intergovernmental service agreement amendment between Eaton County, the Sheriff's Office and Waverly Community Schools; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the Chairman of Board of Commissioners is authorized to execute the intergovernmental service agreement amendment on behalf of the County.

ADDENDUM TO THE PROFESSIONAL SERVICES AGREEMENT (the "Agreement")
Between
Waverly Community Schools (the "District")
And
the County of Eaton (the "County")

The purpose of this Addendum is to extend the Agreement, between the District and the County, dated November 22, 2022. The Addendum affects only the specific items outlined below. The parties agree to the following regarding:

Section 3 – Term

This agreement shall renew on June 21, 2024 and continue through June 30, 2026. This agreement can be extended by written consent of both parties.

WAVERLY COMMUNITY SCHOOLS

By:_____ Dated: _____
Its: Superintendent of Schools

COUNTY OF EATON

By:_____ Dated: _____
Its: Controller

By:_____ Dated: _____
Its: Sheriff

EATON COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

MAY 15, 2024

RESOLUTION TO APPROVE AMENDMENT TO THE EATON COUNTY 9-1-1 PLAN (ADMINISTRATIVE FINDINGS)

WHEREAS, Eaton County has adopted a Final 911 Service Plan ("Plan") pursuant to the Emergency Telephone Service Enabling Act, 1986 PA 32, as amended ("Act"); and

WHEREAS, the Plan requires the Board to enact Administrative Findings to identify the list of PSAPs, public agencies dispatched, and dispatch methods.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the following is the current list of public agencies currently dispatched and their dispatch methods:

Law Enforcement			
PSAP Area	**Public Agency[3]**	**Dispatch**	**Backup PSAP[4]**
County of Eaton	Michigan State Police (MSP)	Direct	
County of Eaton	Eaton County Sheriff's Department (ECSD)	Direct	
Primarily Geographic Boundaries of Entity, but Subject to Closest Car Concept	Bellevue Police Department (BPD)	Direct	
Primarily Geographic Boundaries of Entity, but Subject to Closest Car Concept	Charlotte Police Department (CPD)	Direct	
Primarily Geographic Boundaries of Entity, but Subject to Closest Car Concept	Eaton Rapids Police Department (ERPD)	Direct	
Primarily Geographic Boundaries of Entity, but Subject to Closest Car Concept	Grand Ledge Police Department (GLPD)	Direct	

[3] Depending on reciprocal aid agreements, authorization by the identified public agency and/or emergencies, ECEC has the right and authority to dispatch directly, by transfer or by relay methods, public agencies that are outside of the District and not specifically identified in this Appendix.

[4] This Plan anticipates that many neighboring 911 centers could serve as a backup, especially if NexGen is implemented. The Board will enter into reciprocal agreements to cover back up in the event of particular need.

Primarily Geographic Boundaries of Entity, but Subject to Closest Car Concept	Lansing Police Department (LPD)	Direct by Ingham County Central Dispatch as Primary PSAP	
Primarily Geographic Boundaries of Entity, but Subject to Closest Car Concept	Olivet Police Department (OPD)	Direct	
Fire Services			
PSAP Area	**Public Agency[3]**	**Dispatch**	**Backup PSAP[4]**
Primarily Geographic Boundaries of Entity, but Subject to Closest Car Concept	Benton Township Fire Department (BTFD)	Direct	
Primarily Geographic Boundaries of Entity, but Subject to Closest Car Concept	Castleton Maple Grove Nashville Fire Department (NFD)	Direct by Barry County Central Dispatch Authority	
Primarily Geographic Boundaries of Entity, but Subject to Closest Car Concept	Charlotte Fire Department (CFD)	Direct	
Primarily Geographic Boundaries of Entity, but Subject to Closest Car Concept	Delta Township Fire Department (DTFD)	Direct	
Primarily Geographic Boundaries of Entity, but Subject to Closest Car Concept	Eaton Rapids Fire Department (ERFD)	Direct	
Primarily Geographic Boundaries of Entity, but Subject to Closest Car Concept	Eaton Rapids Township Fire Department (ERTFD)	Direct	
Primarily Geographic Boundaries of Entity, but Subject to Closest Car Concept	Grand Ledge Area Emergency Services Authority (GLAESA)	Direct	
Primarily Geographic Boundaries of Entity, but Subject to Closest Car Concept	Hamlin Township Fire Department (HTFD)	Direct	
Primarily Geographic Boundaries of Entity, but Subject to Closest Car Concept	Lansing Fire Department (LFD)	Direct by Ingham County Central Dispatch as Primary PSAP	

Primarily Geographic Boundaries of Entity, but Subject to Closest Car Concept	Olivet Fire Department (OFD)	Direct by Eaton County Emergency Communications as Primary PSAP and Calhoun County Consolidated Dispatch Authority	
Primarily Geographic Boundaries of Entity, but Subject to Closest Car Concept	Roxand Township Fire Department (RTFD)	Direct	
Primarily Geographic Boundaries of Entity, but Subject to Closest Car Concept	Springport Regional Fire Department (SRFD)	Direct by Jackson County Central Dispatch as Primary PSAP	
Primarily Geographic Boundaries of Entity, but Subject to Closest Car Concept	Sunfield Sebewa Danby Fire Department (SFD)	Direct by Eaton County Emergency Communications as Primary PSAP and Ionia County Central Dispatch	
Primarily Geographic Boundaries of Entity, but Subject to Closest Car Concept	Vermontville Fire Department (VFD)	Direct	
Emergency Medical Services			
PSAP Area	**Public Agency[3]**	**Dispatch**	**Backup PSAP[4]**
Primarily Geographic Boundaries of Entity, but Subject to Closest Car Concept	Benton Township EMS (BTEMS)	Direct	
Primarily Geographic Boundaries of Entity, but Subject to Closest Car Concept	Castleton Maplegrove Nashville Area EMS (NEMS)	Direct by Eaton County Emergency Communications as Primary PSAP and Barry County Central Dispatch Authority	
Primarily Geographic Boundaries of Entity, but Subject to Closest Car Concept	Delta Township EMS (DTEMS)	Direct	
Primarily Geographic Boundaries of Entity, but Subject to Closest Car Concept	Eaton Area EMS (EAEMS)	Direct	
Primarily Geographic Boundaries of Entity, but Subject to Closest Car Concept	Grand Ledge Area Emergency Services Authority (GLAESA)	Direct	

Primarily Geographic Boundaries of Entity, but Subject to Closest Car Concept	Portland City EMS (PEMS)	Direct by Eaton County Emergency Communications as Primary PSAP and Ionia County Central Dispatch	
Primarily Geographic Boundaries of Entity, but Subject to Closest Car Concept	Vermontville EMS (VEMS)	Direct	
Miscellaneous			
PSAP Area	**Public Agency[3]**	**Dispatch**	**Backup PSAP[4]**
County of Eaton	Eaton County Road Commission (ECRC)	Direct	
County of Eaton	Eaton County Emergency Management (ECEM)	Direct	
County of Eaton	Eaton County Animal Control (ECAC)	Direct	
County of Eaton	Department of Natural Resources (DNR)	Direct	

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, these Administrative Findings shall modify, amend, replace, or supersede any prior resolution or Administrative Finding.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the Eaton County Board of Commissioners approves the amendments to the Eaton County 9-1-1 Plan (Administrative Findings).

[3] Depending on reciprocal aid agreements, authorization by the identified public agency and/or emergencies, ECEC has the right and authority to dispatch directly, by transfer or by relay methods, public agencies that are outside of the District and not specifically identified in this Appendix.

[4] This Plan anticipates that many neighboring 911 centers could serve as a backup, especially if NexGen is implemented. The Board will enter into reciprocal agreements to cover back up in the event of particular need.

May 15, 2024

PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE APPOINTMENTS

Community Corrections Advisory Board

Amanda Pollard – Probate Court

EATON COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

MAY 15, 2024

RESOLUTION TO ACCEPT MAY 15, 2024
EATON COUNTY MASTER PLAN

Introduced by the Public Works and Planning Committee

WHEREAS, the Eaton County Planning Commission provided notice explaining their intent to amend the Eaton County Comprehensive Development Plan (the "Master Plan"); and

WHEREAS, each local unit of government under the jurisdiction of the Eaton County Planning Commission has participated in the consideration and preparation of the draft Master Plan; and

WHEREAS, The Eaton County Construction Code & Planning and Zoning Department held a visioning workshop in the County for the purpose of gathering public input on development goals and objectives; and

WHEREAS, a draft Master Plan was created per the Michigan Planning Enabling Act, PA 33 of 2008, as amended; and

WHEREAS, the Eaton County Board of Commissioners had an opportunity to review and comment on the draft Master Plan and approved its distribution for public comment; and

WHEREAS, the draft Master Plan was distributed for public comment, followed by a public hearing duly noticed and held by the Eaton County Planning Commission on April 23, 2024 to receive comments; and

WHEREAS, the Planning Commission adopted the Eaton County Master Plan on April 23, 2024.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that:

1. The Eaton County Board of Commissioners officially endorses this resolution of acceptance and supports the Eaton County Planning Commission to begin implementation of the Master Plan, including the land use plan, accompanying maps, and descriptive text as provided for in Act 33 of the Public Acts of 2008, as amended.

2. All resolutions and parts of resolutions insofar as they conflict with the provisions of this resolution are hereby rescinded.

At the regular meeting of the Eaton County Board of Commissioners on **May 15, 2024** the Resolution regarding the acceptance of the Eaton County Master Plan was adopted.

Those voting Aye:_____

_____

Those voting Nay:_____

Abstention: _____

Absent: _____

Motion carried.

_____
Jim Mott, Chairman
Eaton County Board of Commissioners

I, Diana Bosworth, the duly qualified and acting Clerk of Eaton County, Michigan DO HEREBY CERTIFY that the foregoing is a true and complete copy of certain proceedings taken by the Eaton County Board of Commissioners of said County at a regular meeting held on the 15th day of May 2024.

_____
Diana Bosworth, Clerk
Eaton County Board of Commissioners

EATON COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

MAY 15, 2024

RESOLUTION TO APPROVE MICHIGAN DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENT GREAT LAKES AND ENERGY RURAL ELECTRONICS COLLECTION AND INFRASTRUCTURE RECYCLING GRANT AMENDMENT

Introduced by the Public Works and Planning Committee

WHEREAS, Eaton County was awarded a Rural Electronic Collection and Infrastructure Recycling Grant for funding up to a maximum of $32,000; and

WHEREAS, the original grant award would have increased the capacity for and availability of electronics recycling in a permanent location via Delta Township's monthly collections for all county residents; and

WHEREAS, it has proven cost-prohibitive to administer the program as initially approved in a permanent location; and

WHEREAS, the Resource Recovery Department is requesting to amend the grant to instead obtain a mobile recycling trailer in order to fulfill the intent of the original award to increase the capacity and availability of electronics recycling; and

WHEREAS, the match requirement of up to $8,000 will be achieved by a combination of in-kind matching from program labor and cash matching through electronic material recycling cost reimbursements.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, the Board of Commissioners approves this amendment to the Rural Electronic Collection and Infrastructure Recycling Grant; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the Chairperson of the Board of Commissioners, or his designee, is authorized to sign any necessary grant documents.

EATON COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

MAY 15, 2024

RESOLUTION TO APPROVE ENTERING INTO MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING BETWEEN EATON COUNTY RESOURCE RECOVERY DEPARTMENT AND CALHOUN COUNTY RECYCLING AND SOLID WASTE DEPARTMENT

Introduced by the Public Works and Planning Committee

WHEREAS, the Calhoun County Recycling and Solid Waste Department has requested a material management partnership with the Eaton County Resource Recovery Department due to current material storage deficiencies and vendor difficulties in Calhoun County; and

WHEREAS, Calhoun County will reimburse Eaton County the rate of (cost/pound) for recycled plastics collected in Calhoun County and delivered by Calhoun County to Eaton County's Sunfield Recycling Center, and relinquish any claim to the materials upon their eventual resale to market; and

WHEREAS, the Eaton County Resource Recovery Department and the Public Works and Planning Committee have reviewed the proposed Memorandum of Understanding and are recommending its approval.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the County of Eaton approves entering into a Memorandum of Understanding with Calhoun County, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Controller be authorized to approve any necessary budget amendments; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Chairperson of the Board of Commissioners be authorized to sign any necessary documents.

Memorandum of Understanding

Between

Eaton County Resource Recovery Department

And

Calhoun County Recycling and Solid Waste Department

This Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) sets forth the terms and understanding between Eaton County, through its Resource Recovery Department, and Calhoun County, through its Recycling and Solid Waste Department.

Background
Due to current material storage deficiencies and vendor difficulties, Calhoun County Recycling and Solid Waste Department has requested material management partnership with Eaton County Resource Recovery Department.

Purpose
This MOU will establish financial responsibility in which Calhoun County Recycling and Solid Waste will reimburse Eaton County Resource Recovery for the handling and marketing of predetermined recycled plastics collected at the Marshall Recycling Center and delivered by Calhoun County to Eaton County's Sunfield Recycling Center.

Specificity
This memorandum applies only to the counties, sites, and materials referenced above.

Funding Liability
Calhoun County Recycling and Solid Waste will reimburse Eaton County Resource Recovery the rate of (cost/pound) for recycled plastics collected in Calhoun County and delivered by Calhoun County to Eaton County's Sunfield Recycling Center, and relinquish any claim to the materials upon their eventual resale to market.

Duration
This MOU is at-will and may be modified by mutual consent of authorized officials from both Eaton County and Calhoun County. This MOU shall become effective upon signature by the authorized officials from Eaton County and Calhoun County, and will remain in effect until modified or terminated by any one of the partners by mutual consent. In the absence of mutual agreement by the authorized officials from Eaton County and Calhoun County, this MOU shall end January 31, 2025.

Contact Information
Kathy-Sue Vette
Chairman
Calhoun County Board of Commissioners

Signature: _____ Date: _____

Partner
Jim Mott
Chairman
Eaton County Board of Commissioners

Signature: _____ Date: _____

EATON COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

MAY 15, 2024

RESOLUTION TO APPROVE THE APPOINTMENT OF THE DESIGNATED PLANNING AGENCY (DPA) FOR THE EATON COUNTY MATERIALS MANAGEMENT PLAN

Introduced by the Ways and Means Committee

WHEREAS, amendments to Part 115, Solid Waste Management, of the Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Act, 1994 PA 451, went into effect on March 29, 2023, which requires all counties to prepare a Materials Management Plan (MMP) under the direction of the State of Michigan's Department of Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy (EGLE); and

WHEREAS, Eaton County identifies the Eaton County Board of Commissioners as the County Approval Agency (CAA), which is the entity that assumes responsibility and authority for the MMP; and

WHEREAS, the CAA must appoint an entity along with a specific individual to become the Designated Planning Agency (DPA) which shall serve as the primary governmental entity that will develop and administer the MMP.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, the Eaton County Board of Commissioners, as the CAA for the MMP, hereby appoints the Eaton County Department of Resource Recovery as the Designated Planning Agency (DPA).

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that all notices to the DPA shall be directed to the Eaton County Director of Environmental Sustainability.

EATON COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

MAY 15, 2024

RESOLUTION TO APPROVE 2024 (CYCLE 2) EATON COUNTY PARKS COMMUNITY GRANT PROGRAM RECOMMENDATIONS

Introduced by the Public Works and Planning Committee

WHEREAS, the Eaton County Parks and Recreation Millage was passed by voters on November 8, 2022; and

WHEREAS, a portion of these funds have been set aside for the development of a competitive grant for communities within Eaton County; and

WHEREAS, twelve grant applications (from nine communities) were submitted to the Eaton County Parks Department for review by the Grant Program Scoring Committee, and

WHEREAS, the Grant Program Scoring Committee recommends the allocation of the available $400,000 in grant funds for three applications; and

WHEREAS, the Public Works and Planning Committee reviewed the recommended grant awards at its regular meeting held on May 8, 2024.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, the following grant awards be approved for the period of July 1, 2024 through September 30, 2025; and

Grant Applicant	Grant Request	Recommended Grant Funds
Oneida Township	*$60,000*	*$60,000*
Delta Township	*$150,000*	*$150,000*
City of Eaton Rapids	*$400,000*	*$190,000*
TOTAL	***$610,000***	***$400,000***

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the Chairperson of the Board of Commissioners be authorized to sign the necessary grant agreements; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the Controller's Office is authorized to reimburse the grantees based upon submission of documented expenses that are consistent with the approved grant budget.

EATON COUNTY PARKS

133 Fitzgerald Park Dr.
Grand Ledge, MI 48837
(517) 627-7351 office
(517) 627-4234 fax
www.eatoncountyparks.org

To: Eaton County Public Works and Planning Committee
From: Parks Community Grant Program Scoring Committee
Subject: Parks Community Grant Recommendations Cycle 2 – FY2024-25
Date: May 08, 2024

On March 1, 2024 Eaton County communities were invited to apply and participate in the second cycle of the Parks Community Grants Program. The County received twelve applications from nine communities by the deadline of April 19, 2024.

The Board Chair's Workgroup, the Grant Program Scoring Committee, met on April 29, to review applications and make award recommendations to the Public Works and Planning Committee. Members of the Scoring Committee are:

- Jim Mott (Chairperson, Board of Commissioners);
- Terrance Augustine (Commissioner);
- Brian Droscha (Commissioner);
- Brandon Haskell (Commissioner);
- Rachel Cuschieri-Murray (Executive Director, Eaton Conservation District);
- Barbara Fulton (Executive Director, Eaton Community Health);
- Tim Cattron (Member of the Eaton County Planning Commission)

The Board of Commissioners allocated $400,000 from the Parks Millage for this grant cycle, applicants requested a total of $1,733,089. Project applications were evaluated by the Scoring Committee using a predetermined scoring system, along with other established application criteria.

The Scoring Committee is recommending three applications totaling $400,000 be awarded funding. All three projects meet the intent of both the millage and the grant program. Their recommendations are:

Grant Applicant	Grant Request	Recommended Funding	Community Match	Project Cost
Oneida Township - *Development of new park on township property*	*$60,000*	*$60,000*	*$32,804*	*$92,804*
Delta Township - *New playground structure (including an ADA element) to replace existing, with surfacing and sidewalks around the perimeter at Sharp Park*	*$150,000*	*$150,000*	*$250,000*	*$400,000*
City of Eaton Rapids - *Acquisition of property with a building for a Community and Recreation Center*	*$400,000*	*$190,000*	*$495,000*	*$685,000*

EATON COUNTY PARKS

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Below is a full list of all twelve applications received.

2024 Eaton County Parks Community Grant Request Summary					
Local Unit	**Project**	**Grant Request**	**Match**	**Match %**	**Project Amount**
Bellevue Village	Village of Bellevue Jefferson Multi-Season Sports Park	$154,640	$0	0%	$154,640
Delta Township	Sharp Park ADA Playground	$150,000	$250,000	63%	$400,000
Eaton Rapids, City 1	Community & Recreation Center	$400,000	$285,000	42%	$685,000
Eaton Rapids, City 2	Eaton Rapids Downtown Sound	$58,671	$30,000	34%	$88,671
Eaton Rapids, City 3	ER Dog Park and Bridge Repair	$66,778	$10,000	13%	$76,778
Eaton Rapids Twp	Oak Ridge Park Pavilion/Restroom	$72,500	$0	0%	$72,500
Grand Ledge, City 1	Grand Ledge Ball Park Phase II	$346,500	$149,000	30%	$495,500
Grand Ledge, City 2	Grand Ledge Ball Park Permanent ADA Restrooms	$185,000	$99,578	35%	$284,578
Hamlin Township	Hamlin Smithville Park	$10,000	$5,000	33%	$15,000
Olivet, City	Rotary Park Structure Replacement	$29,000	$0	0%	$29,000
Oneida Township	Deer Park	$60,000	$30,000	32%	$92,804
Vermontville, Village	Third Street Lions Park	$200,000	$0	0%	$200,000
Totals		**$1,733,089**	**$858,578**		**$2,594,471**

Year	Taxable Value	Total Inc	Percentage
1980	743,799,721	101,615,148	15.82%
1981	825,841,388	82,041,667	11.03%
1982	919,580,860	93,739,472	11.35%
1983	963,707,658	44,126,798	4.80%
1984	969,722,042	6,014,384	0.62%
1985	993,284,613	23,562,571	2.43%
1986	1,041,017,543	47,732,930	4.81%
1987	1,083,558,831	42,541,288	4.09%
1988	1,159,969,473	76,410,642	7.05%
1989	1,225,171,173	65,201,700	5.62%
1990	1,308,017,284	82,846,111	6.76%
1991	1,395,702,885	87,685,601	6.70%
1992	1,430,346,076	34,643,191	2.48%
1993	1,531,994,782	101,648,706	7.11%
1994	1,617,670,055	85,675,273	5.59%
1995	**1,684,981,176**	**67,311,121**	**4.16%**
1996	1,759,716,269	74,735,093	4.44%
1997	1,867,816,263	108,099,994	6.14%
1998	1,984,609,654	116,793,391	6.25%
1999	2,104,926,375	120,316,721	6.06%
2000	2,214,220,187	109,293,812	5.19%
2001	2,416,754,096	202,533,909	9.15%
2002	2,578,352,783	161,598,687	6.69%
2003	2,724,098,997	145,746,214	5.65%
2004	2,868,821,143	144,722,146	5.31%
2005	3,028,456,717	159,635,574	5.56%
2006	3,229,545,910	201,089,193	6.64%
2007	3,410,687,085	181,141,175	5.31%
2008	3,495,892,357	85,205,272	2.50%
2009	3,509,609,434	13,717,077	0.39%
2010	3,374,454,592	-135,154,842	-3.85%
2011	3,296,889,014	-77,565,578	-2.30%
2012	3,255,104,932	-41,784,082	-1.27%
2013	3,254,216,961	-887,971	-0.03%
2014	3,278,204,542	23,987,581	0.74%
2015	3,353,542,662	75,338,120	2.30%
2016	3,357,399,826	3,857,164	0.12%
2017	3,448,054,657	90,654,831	2.70%
2018	3,612,437,369	164,382,712	4.77%
2019	3,729,654,169	117,216,800	3.24%
2020	3,875,873,723	146,219,554	3.92%
2021	3,989,658,346	113,784,623	2.94%
2022	4,208,049,009	218,390,663	5.47%
2023	4,482,141,299	274,092,290	6.51%
2024	4,821,905,506	339,764,207	7.58%

Taxable Value Increases

SEV was used prior to 1995 to calculate taxes

Average Increase since taxable value was implemented.

3.74%

31.7% spread between Taxable and SEV

L-4046

Taxable Valuations, Eaton County

Issued under the General Property Tax Act, Section 211.27d. Filing is mandatory.

Statement of taxable valuation in the year 2024. File this form with the State Tax Commission on or before the fourth Monday in June.

REAL PROPERTY Taxable Valuations as of the Fourth Monday in May. **(Do not Report Assessed Valuations or Equalized Valuations on This Form.)**

Township or City	(Col. 1) Agricultural	(Col. 2) Commercial	(Col. 3) Industrial	(Col. 4) Residential	(Col. 5) Timber-Cutover	(Col. 6) Developmental	(Col. 7) Total Real Property
Bellevue	13,527,721	4,134,304	0	81,499,750	0	0	99,161,775
Benton	17,991,212	4,359,910	0	100,940,192	0	0	123,291,314
Brookfield	16,741,309	120,776	168,220	43,428,669	0	0	60,458,974
Carmel	13,951,486	870,243	0	100,666,837	0	0	115,488,566
Chester	23,705,242	215,612	0	47,575,119	0	0	71,495,973
Delta	2,325,193	569,229,598	127,704,423	1,049,105,216	0	5,557,496	1,753,921,926
Eaton	12,377,006	5,519,858	938,057	146,281,752	0	0	165,116,673
Eaton Rapids	16,992,138	3,079,667	0	155,049,357	0	0	175,121,162
Hamlin	13,270,446	1,425,039	1,201,154	120,611,817	0	0	136,508,456
Kalamo	21,336,284	267,379	0	45,274,793	0	0	66,878,456
Oneida	20,113,748	12,281,462	5,644,059	153,602,116	0	0	191,641,385
Roxand	24,629,338	2,645,148	0	47,663,663	0	0	74,938,149
Sunfield	19,441,083	3,047,338	3,550,354	54,904,561	0	0	80,943,336
Vermontville	16,735,892	3,130,761	209,915	49,961,008	0	0	70,037,576
Walton	13,021,838	1,143,801	707,012	66,163,554	0	0	81,036,205
Windsor	11,806,786	30,324,000	19,411,757	264,016,123	0	0	325,558,666
Charlotte	0	59,534,326	29,184,457	177,381,855	0	0	266,100,638
Eaton Rapids	0	23,955,501	12,014,146	102,584,908	0	0	138,554,555
Grand Ledge	0	75,930,001	3,656,983	216,710,502	0	0	296,297,486
Lansing	0	18,009,937	50,825,091	40,126,639	0	0	108,961,667
Olivet	0	3,483,032	301,832	15,330,937	0	0	19,115,801
Potterville	0	9,105,282	11,580,152	44,099,577	0	0	64,785,011
Total for County	257,966,722	831,812,975	267,097,612	3,122,978,945	0	5,557,496	4,485,413,750

REAL PROPERTY Taxable Valuations as of the Fourth Monday in May. **(Do not Report Assessed Valuations or Equalized Valuations on This Form.)**							
Township or City	(Col. 1) Agricultural	(Col. 2) Commercial	(Col. 3) Industrial	(Col. 4) Residential	(Col. 5) Timber-Cutover	(Col. 6) Developmental	(Col. 7) Total Real Property

INSTRUCTIONS: This form is used to report total Taxable Valuations, by classiciation, for each township and city within the county. The Taxable Valuations reported here are the final Taxable Valuations as of the fourth Monday in May, NOT the Tentative Taxable Valuations. Final Taxable Valuations may be different from Tentative Taxable Valuations when a township or city receives a county and/or state equalization factor more or less than was used to calculate Tentative Taxable Valuations

NOTE: Where there is a partial Homeowner's Principal Residence Exemption or partial qualified agricultural property exemption, split the taxable value between Homeowner's Principal Residence (column 15) and Non-Homestead (column 18)

Report the Taxable Valuations for the six classifications of real property in columns 1 through 6 on page 1. Then report the Total Taxable Valuations for real property in column 7 on page 1.
Report the Taxable Valuations for the five classifications of Personal Property in columns 8 through 12 on page 2. Then enter the total Taxable Valuations for personal property in column 13 on page 2.
Add the total Taxable Valuations for real property (column 7, page 1) and personal property (column 13, page 2) and enter in column 14 on page 3.
Report the Total Taxable Valuations of entire township or city for Homeowner's Principal Residence, Qualified Agricultural property and Qualified Forest Property in column 15, and Non-Homestead and Non-Qualified Agricultural Personal Property, and Non-Qualified Forest property except Commercial and Industrial Personal Property, in column 18. Report the Total Taxable Value of Commercial Personal Property in column 16. Report the Total Taxable Value of Industrial Personal property in column 17.

Taxable Valuations, Eaton County

L-4046

Issued under the General Property Tax Act, Section 211.27d. Filing is mandatory.

Statement of taxable valuation in the year 2024. File this form with the State Tax Comission on or before the fourth Monday in June.

PERSONAL PROPERTY Taxable Valuations as of the Fourth Monday in May. **(Do not Report Assessed Valuations or Equalized Valuations on This Form.)**

Township or City	(Col. 8) Agricultural	(Col. 9) Commercial	(Col. 10) Industrial	(Col. 11) Residential	(Col. 12) Utility	(Col. 13) Total Personal Property
Bellevue	0	191,308	0	0	9,914,505	10,105,813
Benton	0	1,186,300	1,500	0	5,673,300	6,861,100
Brookfield	0	29,132	0	0	2,108,698	2,137,830
Carmel	0	184,250	0	0	5,062,690	5,246,940
Chester	0	0	0	0	5,292,500	5,292,500
Delta	0	71,321,135	88,204,716	0	19,504,900	179,030,751
Eaton	0	747,000	0	0	9,845,500	10,592,500
Eaton Rapids	0	645,500	0	0	5,362,600	6,008,100
Hamlin	0	387,500	88,100	0	3,738,800	4,214,400
Kalamo	0	451,400	0	0	1,492,200	1,943,600
Oneida	0	2,467,900	3,423,000	0	7,457,300	13,348,200
Roxand	0	179,900	0	0	2,008,400	2,188,300
Sunfield	0	1,172,450	288,850	0	2,615,950	4,077,250
Vermontville	0	957,500	116,400	0	3,070,300	4,144,200
Walton	0	212,936	45,762	0	4,502,885	4,761,583
Windsor	0	5,675,900	1,556,900	0	13,807,200	21,040,000
Charlotte	0	11,513,600	0	0	9,162,300	20,675,900
Eaton Rapids	0	1,545,700	461,200	0	1,931,200	3,938,100
Grand Ledge	0	5,481,300	0	0	6,759,900	12,241,200
Lansing	0	8,085,100	2,242,000	0	3,040,100	13,367,200
Olivet	0	54,565	0	0	1,641,924	1,696,489
Potterville	0	1,184,000	0	0	2,395,800	3,579,800
Total for County	0	113,674,376	96,428,428	0	126,388,952	336,491,756

Taxable Valuations, Eaton County

L-4046

Statement of taxable valuation in the year 2024. File this form with the State Tax Commission on or before the fourth Monday in June.

(Do not Report Assessed Valuations or Equalized Valuations on This Form.)					
Township or City	(Col. 14) Total Real and Personal Property Taxable Valuations	(Col. 15) Homeowner's Principal Residence & Qualified Agricultural & Qualified Forest Property Taxable Valuations	(Col. 16) Commercial Personal Property Taxable Valuations	(Col. 17) Industrial Personal Property Taxable Valuations	(Col. 18) Non-Homestead and Non-Qualified Agricultural and Non-Qualified Forest Personal Property Taxable Valuations except Commercial and Industrial
Bellevue	109,267,588	83,881,033	191,308	0	25,195,247
Benton	130,152,414	112,034,686	1,186,300	1,500	16,929,928
Brookfield	62,596,804	54,778,591	29,132	0	7,789,081
Carmel	120,735,506	107,182,270	184,250	0	13,368,986
Chester	76,788,473	67,069,131	0	0	9,719,342
Delta	1,932,952,677	988,845,200	71,321,135	88,204,716	784,581,626
Eaton	175,709,173	149,166,645	747,000	0	25,795,528
Eaton Rapids	181,129,262	163,662,978	645,500	0	16,820,784
Hamlin	140,722,856	125,855,687	387,500	88,100	14,391,569
Kalamo	68,822,056	62,727,937	451,400	0	5,642,719
Oneida	204,989,585	167,121,520	2,467,900	3,423,000	31,977,165
Roxand	77,126,449	67,659,887	179,900	0	9,286,662
Sunfield	85,020,586	66,439,151	1,172,450	288,850	17,120,135
Vermontville	74,181,776	58,564,314	957,500	116,400	14,543,562
Walton	85,797,788	72,762,320	212,936	45,762	12,776,770
Windsor	346,598,666	258,262,962	5,675,900	1,556,900	81,102,904
Charlotte	286,776,538	157,135,924	11,513,600	0	118,127,014
Eaton Rapids	142,492,655	87,756,943	1,545,700	461,200	52,728,812
Grand Ledge	308,538,686	193,948,749	5,481,300	0	109,108,637
Lansing	122,328,867	31,684,311	8,085,100	2,242,000	80,317,456
Olivet	20,812,290	12,985,808	54,565	0	7,771,917
Potterville	68,364,811	38,749,948	1,184,000	0	28,430,863
Totals for County	4,821,905,506	3,128,275,995	113,674,376	96,428,428	1,483,526,707

Print or Type Name of County Equalization Director	Signature	Date
		Date

(Do not Report Assessed Valuations or Equalized Valuations on This Form.)					
Township or City	(Col. 14) Total Real and Personal Property Taxable Valuations	(Col. 15) Homeowner's Principal Residence & Qualified Agricultural & Qualified Forest Property Taxable Valuations	(Col. 16) Commercial Personal Property Taxable Valuations	(Col. 17) Industrial Personal Property Taxable Valuations	(Col. 18) Non-Homestead and Non-Qualified Agricultural and Non-Qualified Forest Personal Property Taxable Valuations except Commercial and Industrial

EATON COUNTY
2024 Tax Limitation Valuations

Form L-4028 Complete Millage Reduction Computation (Sec. 211.34D M.C.L.)

Code Number	Taxing Jurisdiction	2023 Taxable	Losses Taxable	Additions Taxable	2024 Taxable	2024 MRF
23	**Eaton County**	**4,479,791,223**	**33,512,425**	**154,453,706**	**4,818,584,730**	**1.0000**
23	**Eaton minus rz**	**4,476,415,155**	**33,512,425**	**154,453,706**	**4,815,039,859**	**1.0000**
23-130	Bellevue Twp	101,700,114	303,117	2,945,785	109,267,588	**1.0000**
23-070	Benton Twp	120,002,674	216,661	3,765,673	130,152,414	**.9961**
23-150	Brookfield Twp	58,247,968	349,106	534,604	62,596,804	**.9805**
23-100	Carmel Twp	112,366,962	119,970	2,086,983	120,735,506	**.9943**
23-060	Chester Twp	71,839,812	177,070	1,032,363	76,788,473	**.9942**
23-050	Delta Charter Twp	1,811,216,014	22,230,040	73,484,930	1,931,457,968	**1.0000**
23-110	Eaton Twp	163,264,145	396,497	4,042,478	175,709,173	**.9971**
23-120	Eaton Rapids Twp	167,817,759	158,775	4,238,318	181,129,262	**.9961**
23-160	Hamlin Twp	130,024,601	64,309	3,255,075	140,722,856	**.9936**
23-090	Kalamo Twp	63,432,609	175,042	1,673,114	68,822,056	**.9901**
23-030	Oneida Twp	189,951,569	953,841	5,277,023	204,989,585	**.9946**
23-020	Roxand Twp	71,237,230	89,102	1,515,854	77,126,449	**.9890**
23-010	Sunfield Twp	79,112,268	1,348,920	2,876,448	85,020,586	**.9949**
23-050	Vermontville Twp	69,261,568	201,671	1,511,739	74,141,576	**.9993**
23-140	Walton Twp	80,556,687	72,629	866,193	85,797,788	**.9960**
23-080	Windsor Twp	317,356,088	1,609,090	12,425,989	346,598,666	**.9930**
23-200	Charlotte City	260,407,733	2,689,992	14,689,802	286,543,071	**.9964**
23-300	Eaton Rapids City	131,915,407	644,809	2,612,243	141,872,855	**.9907**
23-400	Grand Ledge City(IC)	290,781,906	1,202,386	4,392,490	308,538,686	**1.0000**
23-500	Lansing City	109,701,050	473,923	7,526,900	122,328,867	IC
23-500	**Lansing minus rz**	**106,324,982**	**473,923**	**7,526,900**	**118,783,996**	**IC**
23-600	Olivet City	18,590,745	11,575	1,310,423	20,812,290	1.0000
23-700	Potterville City	61,006,314	23,900	2,389,279	67,432,211	.9854
23-131	Bellevue Village	23,706,470	33,575	680,455	26,051,673	.9806
23-081	Dimondale Village	40,093,286	63,709	601,143	43,257,767	.9863
23-021	Mulliken Village	14,348,738	73,635	225,795	15,646,062	.9729
23-011	Sunfield Village	13,368,608	12,250	1,283,070	15,534,046	.9850
23-051	Vermontville Village	16,251,517	95,593	357,412	17,243,767	1.0000
ER District Library		429,757,767	867,893	10,105,636	463,724,973	.9937
Charlotte District Library		536,038,840	3,206,459	20,819,263	582,987,750	.9962
Benton/Potterville District Library		181,008,988	240,561	6,154,952	197,584,625	.9925
Mulliken District Library		71,237,230	89,102	1,515,854	77,126,449	.9890
Sunfield District Library		79,112,268	1,348,920	2,876,448	85,020,586	.9949
Capital Area District Library		51,756,785	53,423	2,084,600	64,384,602	IC
Grand Ledge District Library (IC)		480,733,475	2,156,227	9,669,513	513,528,271	.9974
Delta District Library(IC)		1,863,466,198	22,650,540	78,927,230	1,983,708,152	1.0000
Delta Lib minus RZ		**1,860,090,130**	**22,650,540**	**78,927,230**	**1,980,332,084**	1.0000
Charlotte DDA		8,626,894	120,190	184,800	9,372,465	.9731

(IC) indicates a taxing jurisdiction located in more than one county. Valuations are for this county only. Fraction is based on entire valuations located in the several counties involved.
Note: The Millage Reduction Fraction (MRF) shall not exceed 1.0000 beginning in 1994 and for all future years due to Public Act 145 of 1993.
Delta Library adds City of Lansing Grand Ledge Schools for 425 agreement.

EATON COUNTY
2024 Tax Limitation Valuations
For Local School Operating Millage (Non-Homestead)

Form L-4028 Complete Millage Reduction Computation (Sec. 211.34D M.C.L.)

Code Number	School District	2023 Taxable	Losses Taxable	Additions Taxable	2024 Taxable	2024 MRF
23030	Charlotte	165,049,649	501,668	5,892,059	177,439,458	1.0000
23050	Eaton Rapids(IC)	86,951,620	249,966	1,570,357	92,620,373	1.0000
23060	Grand Ledge (IC)	599,882,323	548,535	32,129,201	653,077,652	1.0000
23060	**GL minus RZ**	596,506,255	548,535	32,129,201	649,532,781	1.0000
23065	Maple Valley (IC)	19,104,750	98,992	385,550	20,491,333	.9907
23090	Potterville	44,807,434	180,500	1,613,300	49,284,658	.9839
23490	Strange #3	4,179,260	115,200	126,600	4,143,093	1.0000
23010	Bellevue (IC)	20,882,256	92,219	650,710	21,993,581	1.0000
23080	Olivet (IC)	26,706,040	175,591	1,978,260	29,578,422	1.0000
33020	Lansing	21,163,950	35,700	2,237,795	24,483,002	IC
33070	Holt	23,386,324	82,643	270,927	24,788,072	IC
33215	Waverly (IC)	327,960,445	1,091,700	12,939,600	352,312,825	1.0000
34090	Lakewood	17,488,407	112,294	248,750	18,331,711	IC
34110	Portland	75,600	-	-	79,380	IC
38150	Springport	280,765	305	9,800	297,593	IC

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Note: The Millage Reduction Fraction (MRF) shall not exceed 1.0000 beginning in 1994 and for all future years due to Public Act 145 of 1993.

EATON COUNTY
2024 Tax Limitation Valuations
For Local School Operating Millage (All Properties)

Form L-4028 Complete Millage Reduction Computation (Sec. 211.34D M.C.L.)

Code Number	School District	2023 Taxable	Losses Taxable	Additions Taxable	2024 Taxable	2024 MRF
23030	Charlotte	679,290,986	3,578,499	25,923,318	741,783,221	.9921
23050	Eaton Rapids(IC)	532,816,318	1,733,320	10,850,015	572,751,330	1.0000
23060	Grand Ledge(IC)	1,638,131,010	9,055,534	63,953,938	1,763,914,938	1.0000
23060	**GL minus RZ**	1,634,754,942	9,055,534	63,953,938	1,756,667,331	1.0000
23065	Maple Valley (IC)	136,189,514	347,629	3,165,343	146,754,331	.9916
23090	Potterville	157,418,705	389,647	6,229,275	173,844,734	.9846
23490	Strange #3	7,518,043	115,200	172,000	7,733,585	1.0000
23010	Bellevue (IC)	97,846,410	193,676	2,841,637	105,792,087	.9903
23080	Olivet (IC)	166,351,494	483,973	3,369,926	178,752,038	.9976
33020	Lansing	78,113,198	77,823	4,977,610	87,796,515	IC
33070	Holt	139,970,292	214,652	1,247,601	148,735,753	IC
33215	Waverly (IC)	747,742,090	16,010,489	30,134,434	789,925,275	1.0000
34090	Lakewood	91,452,549	1,433,178	2,706,339	97,643,796	IC
34110	Portland	75,600	0	0	79,380	IC
38150	Springport	3,830,607	30,705	14,565	4,050,547	IC
Intermediate Schools						
23	Eaton (IC)	3,151,364,576	15,219,829	110,293,889	3,406,782,139	.9987
23	**Eaton minus RZ**	3,147,988,508	15,219,829	110,293,889	3,399,534,532	.9997
13	Calhoun	264,197,904	677,649	6,211,563	284,544,125	IC
38	Jackson	3,830,607	30,705	14,565	4,050,547	IC
33	Ingham	965,825,580	16,302,964	36,359,645	1,026,457,543	IC
34	Ionia	91,528,149	1,433,178	2,706,339	97,723,176	IC
Others						
Eatran, 911 and Jail		4,479,791,223	33,512,425	154,453,706	4,818,584,730	1.0000
Lansing Comm. College		2,603,956,590	25,358,498	100,313,583	2,790,372,481	IC
LCC minus RZ		2,600,580,522	28,573,801	100,313,583	2,786,996,413	IC
Capital Reg. Airport Auth.		109,701,050	473,923	7,526,900	122,328,867	IC
CATA		109,701,050	473,923	7,526,900	122,328,867	IC
Grand Ledge Fire Dis		480,733,475	2,156,227	9,669,513	513,528,271	.9983

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Note: The Millage Reduction Fraction (MRF) shall not exceed 1.0000 beginning in 1994 and for all future years due to Public Act 145 of 1993.

EATON COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

MAY 15, 2024

RESOLUTION TO APPROVE ENTERING INTO EARLY BARGAINING WITH YOUTH FACILITY BARGAINING UNITS

Introduced by the Ways and Means Committee

WHEREAS, the Eaton County Board of Commissioners received requests for entering into early bargaining on the Collective Bargaining Agreements covering the employees in the Youth Facility; and

WHEREAS, the requests received are from the designated bargaining agents representing employees covered under the Governmental Employee Labor Council of the Police Officers Labor Council; and

WHEREAS, the Eaton County Board of Commissioners acknowledges the request received and the ongoing retention and recruitment difficulties the County has had with employees in the Youth Facility.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, the Eaton County Board of Commissioners authorizes the Controller/Administrator to enter into early bargaining with this group.

Governmental Employees
Labor Council

May 6, 2024

Mr. Ben Dawson
Human Resource Director / Deputy Administrator
1045 Independence Blvd.
Charlotte Mi. 48813

Dear Mr. Dawson:

Please be advised that the Governmental Employees Labor Council (GELC) is agreeable to begin bargaining a successor collective bargaining agreement (CBA) at this time. The GELC is also agreeable that any improvements to wages, benefits, and other terms and conditions of employment be effective immediately upon the ratification of both parties, including before the expiration of the current CBA, which is set to expire on September 30,2024.

Sincerely,

Jim Stachowski
POLC/GELC Director

667 E. Big Beaver,
Suite 205 Troy, MI
48083-1413
(248) 524-3200
Fax: (248) 524-2752

EATON COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

RESOLUTION PLEDGING FULL FAITH AND CREDIT TO BANK INTERCOUNTY DRAIN DRAINAGE DISTRICT NOTE OR NOTES

RESOLUTION # _____

Minutes of a regular meeting of the Board of Commissioners of Eaton County, Michigan, held on _____, 2024, at _____ _.m., local time.

PRESENT: Commissioners _____

_____

ABSENT: Commissioners _____

The following resolution was offered by Commissioner _____ and supported by Commissioner _____:

WHEREAS, pursuant to a petition filed with the Drain Commissioner of the County of Eaton, State of Michigan, proceedings have been taken under the provisions of Act 40, Public Acts of Michigan, 1956, as amended (the "Act"), for the making of certain improvements to the Bank Intercounty Drain (the "Project"), which is being undertaken by the Bank Intercounty Drain Drainage District (the "Drainage District"); and

WHEREAS, the Project is necessary for the protection of the public health, and in order to provide funds to pay preliminary costs of the Project, the Drainage Board for the Drain Drainage District intends to issue the Drainage District's note or notes (the "Note") in an amount not to exceed $2,282,000 pursuant to Section 434 of the Act; and

WHEREAS, the principal of and interest on the Note will be payable from bonds to be issued by the Drainage District to provide the permanent financing for the Project (the "Bonds"); and

WHEREAS, for purposes of the issuance of the Note, five percent (5%) of the cost of the Project was apportioned by the Drainage Board for the Drainage District to the County of Ingham and ninety-five percent (95%) of the cost of the Project was apportioned by the Drainage Board to the County of Eaton (the "County"); and

WHEREAS, the Drainage Board deems it advisable and necessary to request that this Board adopt a resolution pledging the limited tax full faith and credit of the County on the Note to the extent that the cost of the Project has been apportioned to the County; and

WHEREAS, the Eaton County Board of Commissioners (the "Board") may, by resolution adopted by a majority vote of two-thirds of the members of the Board, pledge the full faith and credit of the County for the prompt payment of the principal of and interest on the Note pursuant to Section 434 of the Act; and

WHEREAS, the pledge of the full faith and credit of the County to the Note will reduce the cost of financing the Project and will be a benefit to the people of the County.

NOW, THEREFORE, IT IS RESOLVED as follows:

1. The County pledges its full faith and credit for the prompt payment of 95% of the principal of and interest on the Note and any Note issued to refinance the Note, and the County agrees that in the event that the Bonds are not issued prior to the date on which the principal of and interest on the Note (or a Note issued to refinance the Note) are due and that moneys are not otherwise available to the Drainage District on such date to pay such principal and interest, the County will immediately make such advancement from general funds of the County to the extent necessary to pay the County's share of the principal of and interest on the Note (or a note issued to refinance the Note) when due. The ability of the County to levy taxes to pay its share of the principal of and interest on the Note (or a note issued to refinance the Note) shall be subject to constitutional and statutory limitations on the taxing power of the County. The Note may be issued as part of one or more note issues.

2. In the event that, pursuant to said pledge of full faith and credit, the County advances County funds to pay any part of the principal of and interest due on the Note, the County shall take all actions and proceedings and pursue all remedies permitted or authorized by law for the reimbursement of such sums so paid.

3. The Chairperson of the Board, the County Controller/Administrator, the County Clerk, the County Treasurer and any other official of the County, or any one or more of them ("Authorized Officers"), are authorized and directed to take all actions necessary or desirable for the issuance of the Note and to execute any documents or certificates necessary to complete the issuance of the Note, including, but not limited to, any applications including the Michigan Department of Treasury Application for State Treasurer's Approval to Issue Long-Term Securities, any waivers, certificates, receipts, orders, agreements, instruments, and any certificates relating to federal or state securities laws, rules, or regulations, and to sign such documents and give any approvals necessary therefor.

4. This resolution shall become effective only if the Board of Commissioners of the County of Ingham adopts a resolution substantially in the form of this resolution that pledges the limited tax full faith and credit of the County of Ingham to the payment of the principal of and interest on the Note when due to the extent of its apportioned share of the cost of the Project.

5. All resolutions and parts of resolutions are, to the extent of any conflict with this resolution, rescinded to the extent of the conflict.

YEAS: Commissioners _____

_____

NAYS: Commissioners _____

ABSTAIN: Commissioners _____

RESOLUTION DECLARED ADOPTED.

Diana Bosworth, County Clerk
County of Eaton

CERTIFICATION

I, Diana Bosworth, the duly qualified and acting Clerk of Eaton County, Michigan (the "County") do hereby certify that the foregoing is a true and complete copy of a resolution adopted by the Board of Commissioners at a meeting held on _____, 2024, the original of which is on file in my office. Public notice of said meeting was given pursuant to and in compliance with Act 267, Public Acts of Michigan, 1976, as amended.

Diana Bosworth, County Clerk
County of Eaton

Dated: _____, 2024

EATON COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

MAY 15, 2024

RESOLUTION TO APPROVE 2023/2024 BUDGET AMENDMENTS

Introduced by the Ways and Means Committee

Commissioner Mulder moved the approval of the following resolution. Seconded by Commissioner Pearl-Wright.

WHEREAS, the Eaton County 2023/2024 Appropriations Act of September 20, 2023, states that any amendment to increase a salary and/or a Capital Outlay line-item in excess of $2,500.00 or any amendment to increase the total budget of any fund or department in excess of $2,500.00 shall be amended by the Board of Commissioners, except that any amendment to decrease the General Fund Contingency shall be approved by the Board of Commissioners; and

WHEREAS, such amendments are needed in order to comply with the Uniform Budgeting and Accounting Act of 1978, P.A. 621.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the following budget amendments be approved and added to the 2023/2024 Eaton County Budget:

GENERAL FUND

BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS 101.101

Decrease	Transfers In – American Rescue Plan Act	$ 3,082,500
Increase	Federal Revenue – American Rescue Plan Act	$ 3,082,500

To amend the budget for recognition of American Rescue Plan Act revenues within the General Fund for revenue replacement.

CONTROLLER'S OFFICE 101.172

Increase	Professional Services	$ 55,500
Increase	Fund Balance Carryover	$ 55,500

To increase the budget for professional services to provide technical expertise and assistance with filing for Inflation Reduction Act funding.

SHERIFF'S OFFICE 101.301

Decrease	Supplies	$ 5,400
Increase	Capital Outlay	$ 5,400

To amend the budget for the replacement of equipment approved in the original budget as final equipment costs exceed the County's capitalization threshold.

SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS

COMPUTER FUND 226

Increase	Capital Outlay	$ 10,000
Increase	Transfers In	$ 10,000

REGISTER OF DEEDS TECH 256

Increase	Fund Balance Carryover	$ 10,000
Increase	Transfers Out	$ 10,000

To increase the budget to replace obsolete equipment as recommended by Technology Services.

AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN ACT 282

Decrease	Transfers Out – General Fund	$ 3,082,500
Decrease	Federal Revenue	$ 3,082,500

To amend the budget for recognition of American Rescue Plan Act revenues within the General Fund for revenue replacement.

EATON COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

MAY 15, 2024

RESOLUTION TO ALTER THE FIXED SEPARATE TAX LIMITATION AND TO CREATE A COUNTY ADVISORY TAX LIMITATION COMMITTEE

WHEREAS, the Property Tax Limitation Act, being Public Act 62 of 1933 (MCL 211.201 et seq), allows for separate tax limitations; and

WHEREAS, the Eaton County voters approved such a separate limitation in 1978; and

WHEREAS, Board of Commissioners has the authority to initiate a review and vote of the electorate as to the appropriateness of altering or extending the current fixed millage limitations pursuant to Section 5k of Property Tax Limitation Act (being MCL 211.205k); and

WHEREAS, that upon resolving to alter or extend the fixed millage limitation, the Board of Commissioners is to then notify persons and bodies having appointive powers of the resolution so that a County Advisory Tax Limitation Committee can be created to review and provide a recommendation as to the County fixed millage limitations.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Eaton County Board of Commissioners resolves to initiate the statutory procedure to consider altering the existing Eaton County fixed separate tax limitations of the County and the townships and Intermediate School Districts in the County.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an Eaton County Advisory Tax Limitation Committee shall be created composed of the following:

(a) The County Treasurer.

(b) The Chairperson of the Finance Committee of the County Board of Commissioners.

(c) The Intermediate School District Superintendent or her representative.

(d) A resident of a municipality within the County who shall be selected by the Probate Judge of the County.

(e) A member not officially connected with or employed by any local or county unit, who shall be selected by the Board of County Commissioners.

(f) A member who shall be a township supervisor and who shall be selected by a majority of the township supervisors in the County.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that, as required by statute, the County Advisory Tax Limitation Committee shall meet within ten (10) days of its selection and shall prepare separate tax limitations for the County and the townships and Intermediate School Districts in the County, aggregating not more than 9.7 mills that the majority of the committee considers will provide for the financial needs of the County, townships, and Intermediate School Districts.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the separate tax limitations shall be promptly transmitted to the County Board of Commissioners and the functions of the County Advisory Tax Limitation Committee shall then cease.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Eaton County Board of Commissioners will then propose a resolution submitting the question of adopting separate tax limitations to a vote of the registered and qualified electors of the Eaton County.

2024 FINANCIAL STABILITY REPORT

Prepared by

FINANCIAL STABILITY WORK GROUP

Chairperson Jim Mott
Commissioner Joe Brehler
Commissioner Terrance Augustine
Commissioner Blake Mulder

For Review May 10, 2024

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Section Title	Page
EXECUTIVE SUMMARY	1
EXPENSES AND REVENUE ANALYSIS	5
Overview of Expenses	5
Expenses by Function	6
10-Year Summary of Expenses	7
Municipal Employees Retirement System (MERS) of Michigan	9
Overview of Influences on Revenue	11
The Headlee Amendment and Proposal A	12
Development Agreements, Tax Increment Financing Authority (TIFA)	13
Disabled Veteran Property Tax Exemption	14
Existing Millages	14
American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA)	14
ECONOMIC CONDITIONS ANALYSIS	16
Overview of County Government in Michigan	16
Overview of Economic Trends	17
National Population	17
Generations in the U.S.	17
Labor Market	18
Consistent Increases in Life Expectancy	20
Declining Birth Rate and Household Size	21
Analysis of Population	24
Overview of Economic Conditions	24
Inflation Rates	24
Interest Rates	25
Housing Market Inventory and Prices	27
Analysis of Economic Conditions	28
2024-2030 Capital Improvement Plan	Separate Document
2018 Preliminary Progress Report – Financial Stability Work Group	Separate Document

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

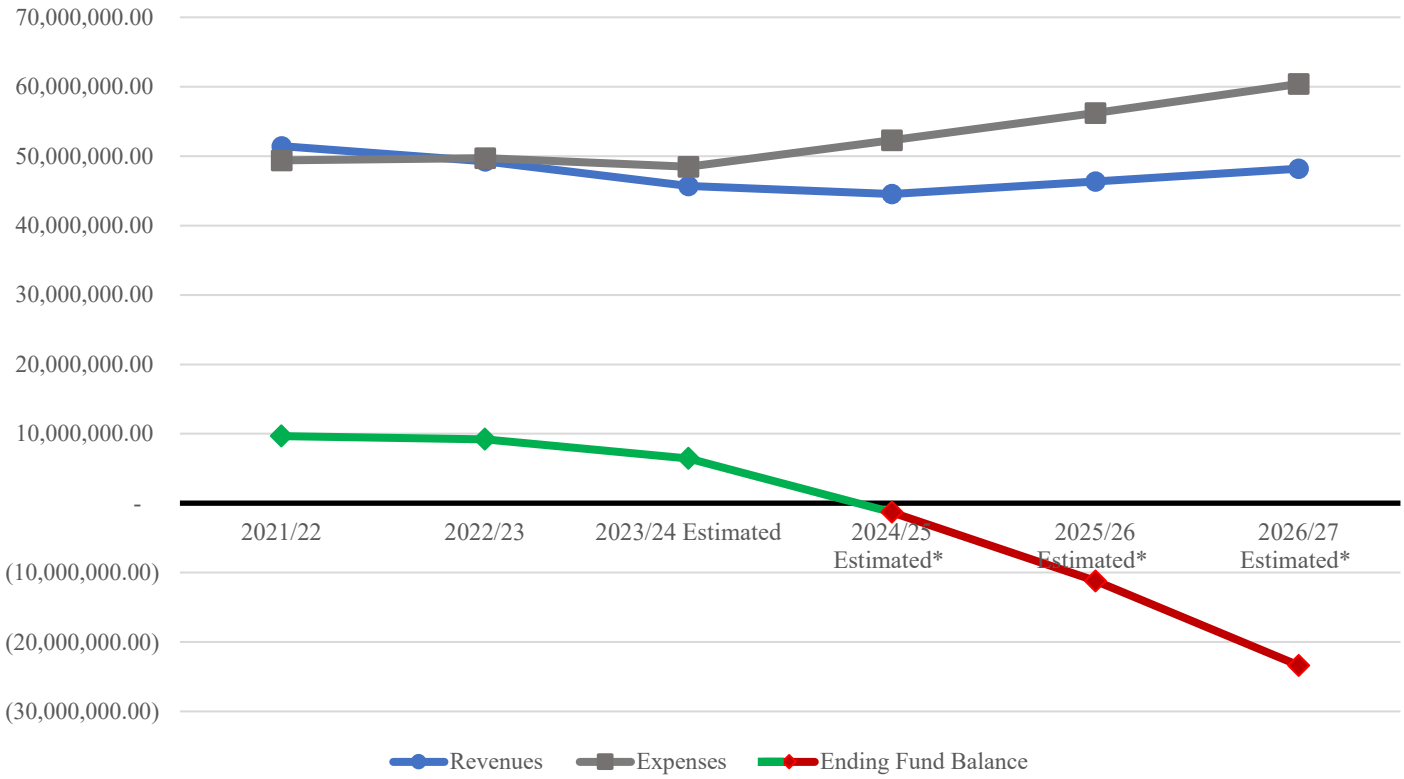
The Chairperson's Financial Stability Work Group (the Work Group) has been working to analyze and define Eaton County's long-term financial outlook due to a projected revenue shortfall. After a full review of current and historical revenue and expenditures, future projections, capital improvements, staffing, technology, and security needs, the Work Group has concluded the County does not have enough revenue to cover the cost of current operations and financial obligations. There is a projected $1.3 million shortfall in Fiscal Year (FY) 2024/25.

As illustrated in Figure 1.1, expenditures began to outpace revenue in FY 2022/23, with a compounding effect year after year. FY 2021/22 through FY 2023/24, the County used $10.0 million of American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funding to sustain operations. However, as of FY 2024/25, these federal funds are no longer available to cover the cost of general operations. The County's General Fund Balance—the fund used to pay for general County operations and services—does not have the needed $1.3 million in FY 2024/25 to cover the shortfall, nor will it be able to cover the projected $11.2 million shortfall in FY 2025/26 or the projected $23.4 million shortfall in FY 2026/27 (these figures are preliminary estimates based on historical revenue and expenses and are subject to change).

Without additional revenue, the County cannot maintain service levels or staffing levels as of FY 2024/25, nor can it address future crises, add additional services, adjust wages to a comparable level to keep up with regional competition, or fund capital projects.

FIGURE 1.1 – PROJECTED REVENUES OVER EXPENSES, 2021 TO 2027

*Estimated fiscal years are based on 5-year historical changes and are not final until each future budget is adopted, including the 2024/25 budget.



Steps Taken to Reduce Spending and Future Liabilities

In 2001, the County eliminated spousal coverage for the retirees' health benefit, and then in 2007 eliminated the benefit for all future employees. In addition, beginning in July 2024, the County changed how it purchases retiree coverage and will be moving to a Medicare Advantage Plan model for retirees still eligible for the benefit. This change has led to a funded ratio of 64.8 percent, up from 32.3 percent, which helps ensure the longevity of this benefit with the current assets set aside in the retirees' healthcare trust fund. This change will help protect the benefits that current retirees receive, reduce the County's unfunded liability, and save on the County's annual costs.

In 2017, the County reduced its pension obligation by lowering employee multipliers. These changes in how pension payments are calculated at the time of retirement will reduce the required payment for the County in future fiscal years but will not have an immediate effect on growing retirement expenses, which have increased $4.3 million in the past five years, representing a 135.2 percent increase.

A further burden on the County's revenue stems from losses caused by three Headlee rollbacks (1993, 1999, 2000), which reduced the amount of taxes the County is allowed to collect. Since 1993, the cumulative effect of these rollbacks amounts to the County losing $23.2 million. The County attempted to reset the millage rate, eliminating these rollbacks in 2000 and 2006, but both attempts failed at the ballot. The long-term effects of these rollbacks have further exacerbated the County's revenue dilemma.

Historically, the County has avoided addressing revenue shortfalls directly due to the struggle to fill positions such as public safety (e.g., Prosecuting Attorney's Office, Sheriff's Office), maintenance, and judiciary (e.g., Trial Courts, Youth Facility). In addition to struggling to fill open positions within public safety, the County has not been able to increase staffing to address increased workloads and demands on offices. The impact continues to strain all operations, especially in public safety. These unfilled positions, however, have made it possible for the County to previously balance its budget without needing to secure additional revenue streams, but this is not a sustainable solution as the County needs these positions filled in order to sustain current operations. This will require assessing compensation structure and wage rates to ensure the County is at a comparable level to keep up with regional competition.

Although the County has historically budgeted for ongoing maintenance of facilities and technology infrastructure to balance prior budgets, it has often deferred or found ways to get by with as minimal investments as possible. However, this practice of repurposing, reusing, and holding over items and projects is no longer sustainable as existing facilities and technology infrastructure reach the end of their useful life. County operations require building and maintaining appropriate infrastructure in order to provide services in a secure and accessible manner for residents. Though these costs may seem inconsequential to some, the County has an obligation to provide residents and employees with access to services while addressing security risks and adhering to growing state and federal requirements. All levels of government are facing global cybersecurity threats, including Eaton County. Threats such as these will continue to grow with the proliferation of artificial intelligence and other advances in technology. These modern challenges necessitate a change in County facilities and technology infrastructure.

The majority of infrastructure additions (youth facility expansion, energy efficiency upgrades, and the use of solar technology to reduce energy expenses) were only made possible by state and federal grant funding. Further purchases and improvements in facilities, technology, and security have not been addressed due to a lack of funding. While the County has historically budgeted for ongoing maintenance, the most recent Capital Improvement Plan states the County should invest an estimated $13.8 million above and beyond previous budgets for technology and facilities alone. These estimates do not include the staff time required to develop, administer, and maintain County infrastructure projects.

In the FY 2023/24 budget cycle, forecasting exact personnel costs is difficult due to all seven of the County's union agreements expiring in 2024. These contracts have historically included cost-of-living adjustments. However, the current 40-year high inflation rate has eliminated the County's ability to add appropriate increases, forcing employees to shoulder the burden these past three years. The County successfully bargained both of its Sheriff's Office contracts with the intention of bolstering its ability to retain and recruit quality sheriff deputies, but still, public safety employees at the County continue to leave for other law enforcement positions that offer more in terms of pay and flexibility of hours.

Process and Public Engagement

The Work Group held a series of town hall-style meetings with local leaders, internal staff, and the general public over a four-month period in 2024. These engagements provided valuable insight into public and local municipal governments' expectations of county government, as well as concerns and misconceptions about what Eaton County currently offers its residents. The Work Group considered these insights as it drafted its analysis and recommendations.

Conclusion

The County has projected a $1.3 million shortfall in FY 2024/25, which will compound to a $23.4 million shortfall within two fiscal years, despite cost-saving measures taken over the last several years. Without additional revenue, the County will be forced to reduce the level of services it provides to address the shortfalls in each fiscal year.

The compounding nature of the shortfalls will lead to drastic changes in what services the County can provide to residents. These changes may include a reduction in the level of public safety available and a reduction in any non-constitutionally mandated services the County currently provides. Reductions could lead to a combination of eliminating vacant positions, employee layoffs, reductions in hours of operation, and/or the sale of assets. Apart from securing additional revenue, the only path forward is a significant reduction in County staff and services, which will impact all residents of Eaton County.

Recommendations
The Financial Stability Work Group has considered the following actions in an attempt to give voters of Eaton County a choice to fully fund County operations as they currently exist:

1. Propose to Alter the Fixed Separate Tax Limitation
    - *Corresponding Action*: Pass a resolution to form a County Advisory Tax Limitation Committee to review the current millage allocation. This committee will be made up of local elected and appointed officials, as well as the general public. This group will make a recommendation to place a question on the November ballot to increase the County's ability to levy a sufficient tax allocation to cover operating expenses.
2. Propose a Dedicated Millage for General Operations or Other Specified Purpose
    - *Corresponding Action*: Pass a resolution authorizing the Board to propose a millage; this proposal will be placed on the ballot in November 2024.
3. Make Significant Reductions in Service Levels and Staffing
    - *Corresponding Action:* Changes may include reducing non-constitutionally mandated services, eliminating vacant positions, employee layoffs, reductions in hours of operation, and/or selling assets.

Based on these options, the Work Group recommends that the Eaton County Board of Commissioners adopt a resolution to begin altering the Fixed Separate Tax Limitation. The current rate has remained unchanged since 1978 despite economic pressures and the ever-growing cost of County operations and services.

The Eaton County Board of Commissioners acknowledges that the same economic forces affecting the County's finances are also felt by residents and community members. Regardless of the Board's decision, the County needs additional revenue to maintain services as they exist today. This Work Group does not propose these recommendations lightly but feels it is important the voters have a chance to weigh in before any major changes or reductions are made. Ultimately, the voters have the final say on what levels of service they expect from their County government.

EXPENSES AND REVENUE ANALYSIS

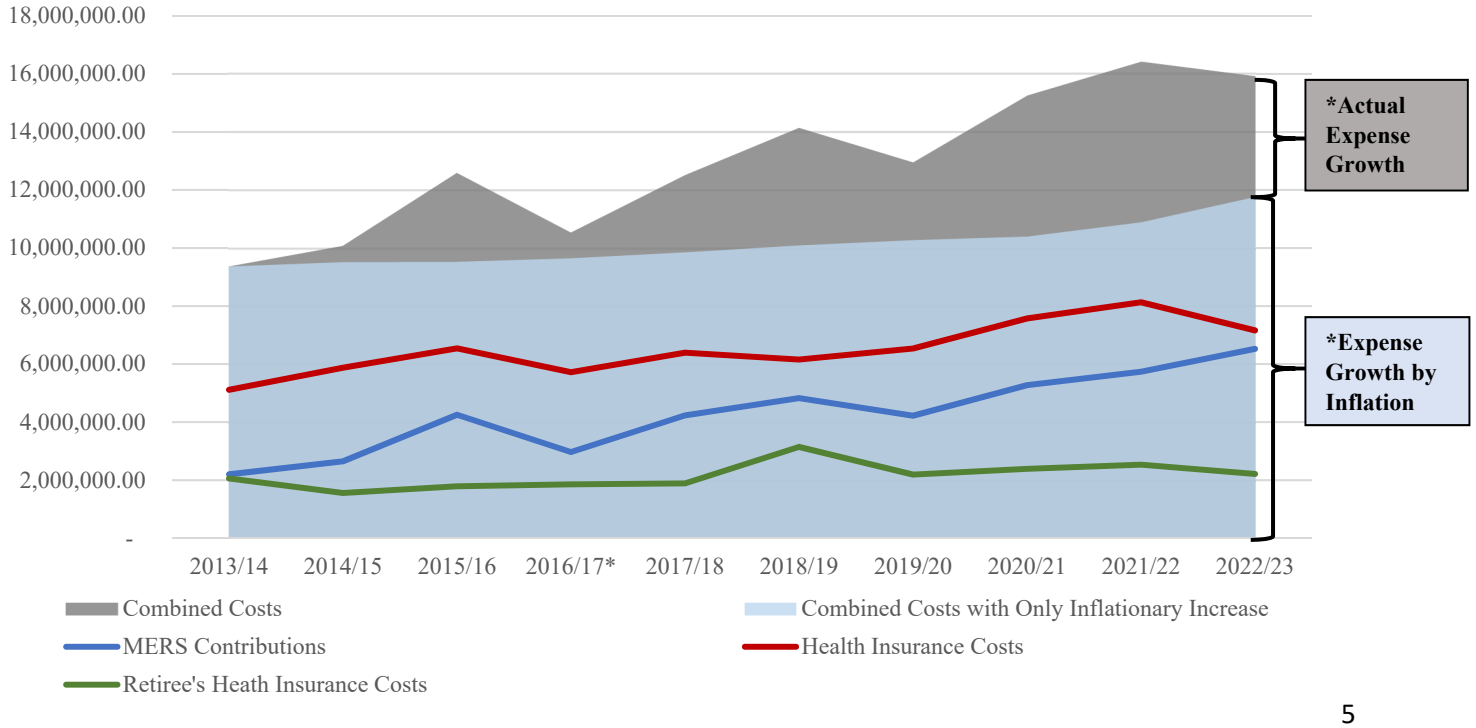
Overview of Expenses

A critical part of any organization's financial analysis is a thorough review of expenses. In 2023, the National Index places the 10-year cumulative rate of inflation at 34.7 percent. While all expenses have grown for Eaton County each Fiscal Year (FY), specific segments have grown at a greater rate than inflation (e.g., employee benefits, technology and software, physical infrastructure). Below are the most significant increases over a 10-year period (see Figure 5.1):

1. Technology infrastructure expenses have experienced an average increase of 30.6 percent, which is under the rate of inflation, but the forecasted growth of spending for software and hardware is anticipated to begin outpacing inflation.
    - In the most recent Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) it was estimated that $4.1 million in investments will be necessary for technology infrastructure over the next six years. This is above and beyond the historical investment for ongoing maintenance set aside for technology infrastructure.
2. Facilities infrastructure expenses have experienced an average increase of 55.3 percent.
    - In the recent CIP it was estimated that $9.7 million toward capital improvement investments for facilities over the next six years. This is above and beyond the historical investment for ongoing maintenance for facilities infrastructure.
3. Health insurance expenses for the County grew by $2.1 million, which represents an increase of 40.0 percent over the last 10 years.
4. Retirement expenses have increased by $4.3 million, which represents an increase of 196.7 percent over the last 10 years.

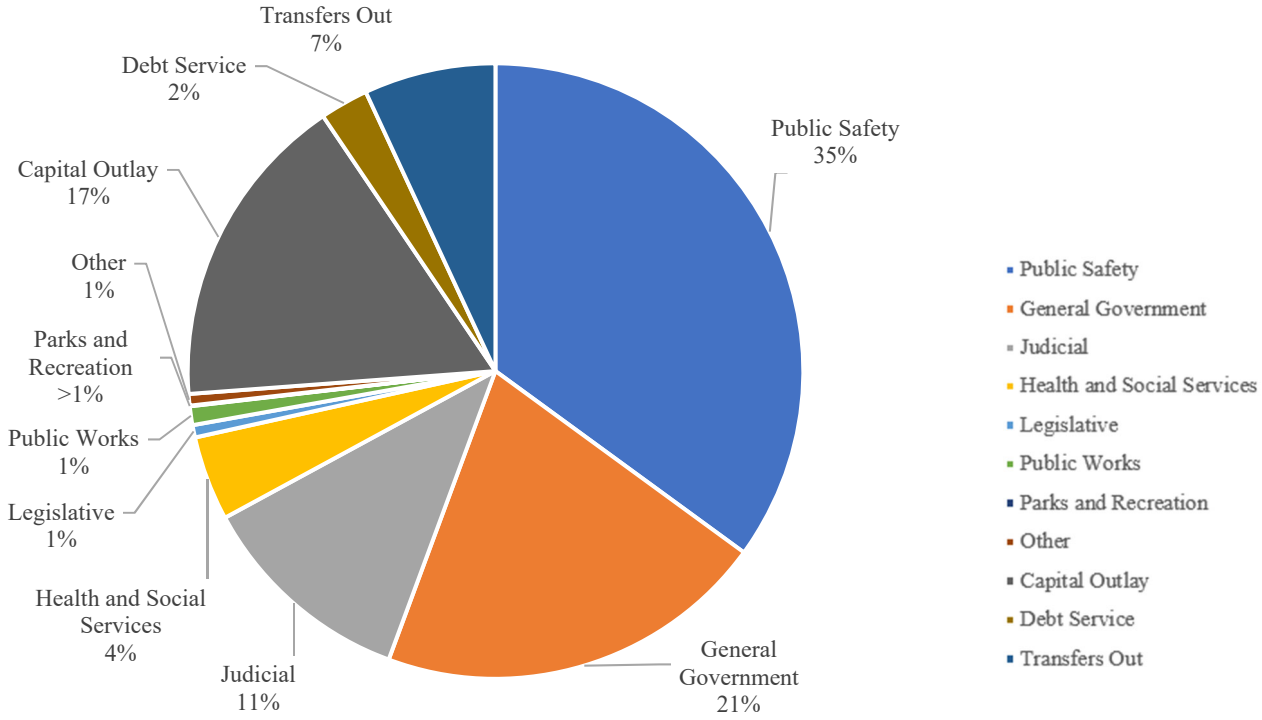
All of these increases have and will continue to put pressure on an already stretched budget.

FIGURE 2.1 – 10 YEAR COMPARISON OF EXPENSE GROWTH COMPARED TO THE RATE OF INFLATION



*This represents the contrast between actual growth of expenses when compared to the rate of inflation. The actual growth of these expenses (from FY 2013/14) far exceeded the rate of inflation over the 10-year period.

FIGURE 2.2 – EXPENSES BY FUNCTION – FY 2022/23



Expenses by Function: The County uses functions to define specific segments of work areas. These functions are defined by the State of Michigan to allow users of financial statements to look at many different municipalities and see similar information. For FY 2022/23, the four major expense functions were Public Safety, General Government, Judicial, and Capital Outlay. These expenses include personnel, supplies, services, and training.

KEY TERMS

Government Accounting Standards Board (GASB): A private, non-governmental organization that creates accounting reporting standards, or generally accepted accounting principles, for state and local governments in the United States.

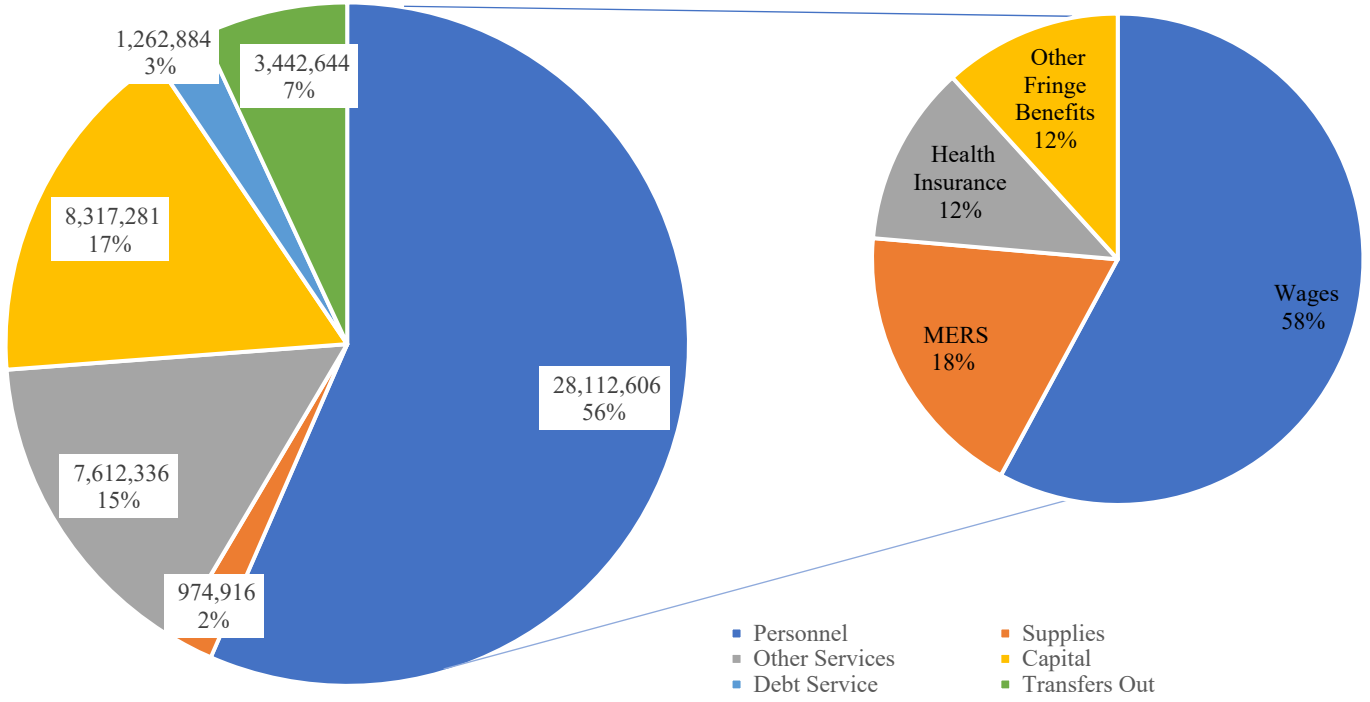
Capital Outlay: One-time, large expenses, also known as capital expenses. GASB Standards 87 and 96 altered how the county records capital outlay expenses.

Public safety represents 35.1 percent of the County's expenses for the most recently audited fiscal year. Despite the significant percentage of total expenses, public safety continues to experience hiring and retention difficulties, which has led to a reduction in shift coverage for large portions of the County.

Personnel costs account for 56.5 percent of the County's general fund expenses in FY 2022/23 ($28.1 million). In FY 2013/14, personnel costs were $20.6 million, and other services (e.g., professional services, training, utilities) were 17 percent ($8.3 million). As a service-oriented organization, the County's greatest asset is its employees. Without the appropriate amount of quality staff, the County cannot continue to meet its service obligations to the public in terms of both capacity and quality. With personnel costs making up such a large part of County's general fund expenses, this demonstrates how the significant changes in required contributions to MERS

FIGURE 2.3 – EXPENSES BY CATEGORY FY 2022/23

PERSONNEL EXPENSES FY 2022/23



has increasingly impacted the County's general operating budget. In spite of changes that reduce future pension payments, none will have an immediate effect on growing retirement expenses, which have increased $4.3 million in the past five years, representing a 135.2 percent increase.

Given that the bulk of County expenses are tied to personnel expenses, these categories are particularly sensitive to fluctuations in employee benefit costs (e.g., wages, health insurance, MERS contributions). The County has consistently paid its MERS obligation but has still dealt with an increase of 196.7 percent. In total, the County has contributed $42.9 million to MERS in the last 10 years.

10-Year Summary of Expenses: Figure 2.2 illustrates expenses by function within the County's general fund, and Figure 2.3 illustrates expenses by Category. Tables 2.1 break down total revenue and expenses by percentage of the total budget.

In FY 2013/14, the County's expenditures were $34.0 million. For this year, the top three functions of personnel costs associated with it were $13.3 million in expenses for public safety (39.0 percent), $7.1 million (20.9 percent) for general government, and $5.1 million (15.0 percent). for judicial services. Capital outlay made up $3.2 million (9.2 percent) of total expenditures. In FY 2013/14, the County had 374.5 total FTE, with 279.5 supported by the general fund. As of FY 2022/23, it has 384.4 total FTE with 275.6 supported by the general fund. While personnel expenses have grown substantially from 2013/14 to 2022/23, the County has not significantly increased staff nor been able to utilize general fund sources to increase it.

TABLE 2.1 – REVENUE AND EXPENSES

Revenue	FY 2013/14	FY2022/23	Difference	Percent
Taxes	17,372,258	23,474,872	6,102,614	35.1%
Licenses and Permits	193,763	222,831	29,068	15.0%
Federal Revenue	833,153	6,835,567	6,002,414	720.4%
State Revenue	4,247,439	5,297,176	1,049,737	24.7%
Local Unit Contributions	3,150,625	4,725,466	1,574,841	50.0%
Charges for Services	3,016,909	2,294,202	-722,707	-24.0%
Fines and Forfeitures	337,574	191,590	-145,984	-43.2%
Interest and Rents	264,894	1,144,981	880,087	332.2%
Refunds and Reimbursements	208,682	374,020	165,338	79.2%
Transfers In & Other Financing Sources	4,486,932	4,695,769	208,837	4.7%
Total Revenue	34,112,229	49,256,474	15,144,245	

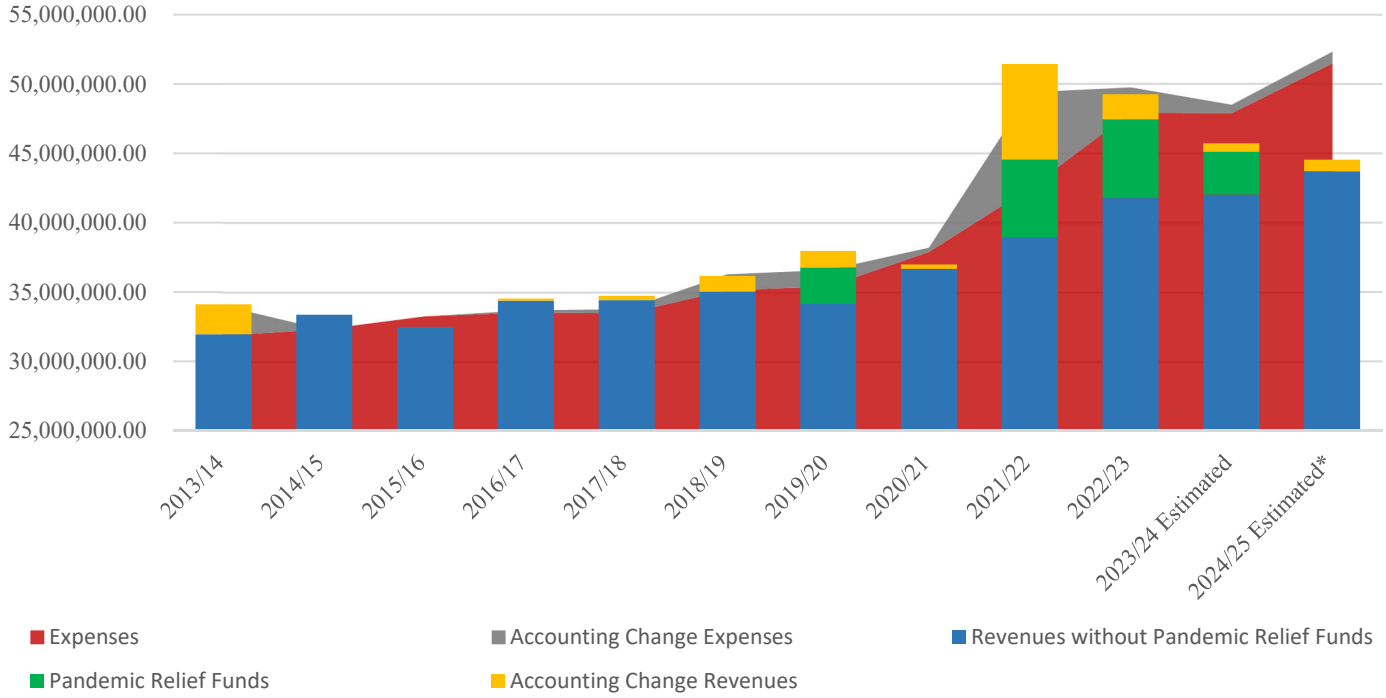
Expense Functions	FY 2013/14	FY 2022/23	Difference	Percent
Public Safety	13,288,391	17,421,218	4,132,827	31.1%
General Government	7,110,554	10,244,080	3,133,526	44.1%
Judicial	5,102,581	5,692,869	590,288	11.6%
Health and Social Services	1,844,320	2,210,244	365,924	19.8%
Legislative	259,165	323,194	64,029	24.7%
Public Works	489,638	489,290	(348)	-0.1%
Parks and Recreation	404,628	17,000	(387,628)	-95.8%
Other	52,369	301,963	249,594	476.6%
Capital Outlay	3,202,149	8,317,281	5,115,132	159.7%
Debt Service	875,000	1,262,884	387,884	44.3%
Transfers Out	1,407,230	3,442,644	2,035,414	144.6%
Total Expenses	34,036,025	49,722,667	15,686,642	

KEY TERMS

Government Accounting Standards Board (GASB): A private, non-governmental organization that creates accounting reporting standards, or generally accepted accounting principles, for state and local governments in the United States.

Another major expense is capital outlay, which varies greatly year over year. In the current fiscal year audit process, capital outlay expenses show a significant increase in spending. This change is due to the Government Accounting Standards Board (GASB) implementation of new standards. These standards require the County to record the full cost of certain purchases in the year they are acquired, even if these items will be paid for over many years. For purposes of this analysis, these changes were removed so that current figures and estimates matched the methods used in prior years (see Figure 2.4). Without these changes being accounted for, they would create the impression of an increase in both expenses and revenues without any actual increase in cash flow or current-year expenses for assets paid for over a multi-year period.

FIGURE 2.4 – REVENUES IN RELATION TO EXPENSES – FY 2013/14 TO 2022/23



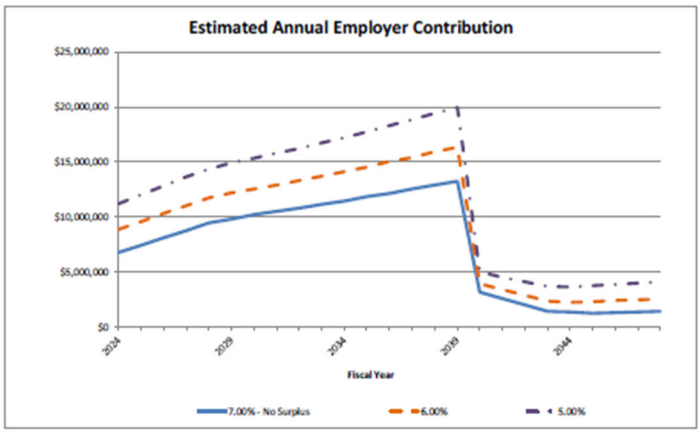
Municipal Employees Retirement System (MERS) of Michigan: County expenses related to pension retirement is one of the categories of expenses growing at a rate significantly higher than inflation, with the required contributions by the County growing by 196.7 percent over the past 10 years[1]. MERS is an independent, professional retirement services company that was created to administer retirement plans for Michigan's local units of government on a not-for-profit basis. MERS partners with municipalities and their employees across the state, offering various retirement solutions.

1. Many factors can contribute to an increase in required contributions from the County to MERS (e.g. age of retiree and beneficiary population, investment performance, changes to pension plans), the most impactful being the recent State requirement that all municipal pensions be 100 percent funded by 2038. This requirement places significant pressure on all municipal employers to fund the difference by any market variation over the next 14 years, leading to a ballooning required contribution amount for many municipalities.
2. The MERS fixed amortization policy has been implemented to reduce payment volatility and ensure that liabilities are fully funded by 2038. This policy is in line with best practices and serves to secure the long-term financial health of the system. The requirement to be fully funded by 2038 is in accordance with the Protecting Local Government Retirement and Benefits Act (Public Act 202 of 2017). This act is meant to serve as a way to provide oversight and support to local government retirement systems.

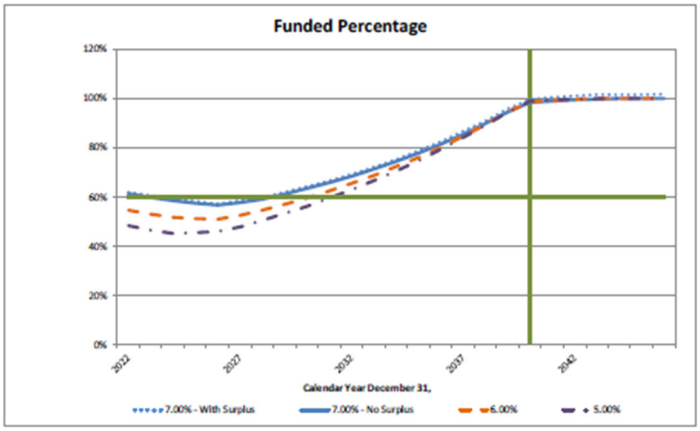
[1] Retrieved through the MERS Annual Actuarial Evaluations.

3. Figure 2.5 is an illustration of how the County's required payments are forecasted to increase over the next 14 years to meet the funding requirements set by the State of Michigan to reach 100 percent funding by 2038[2].

FIGURE 2.5 – EATON COUNTY ESTIMATED EMPLOYER CONTRIBUTION AND FUNDED PERCENTAGE



NOTE: All projected contributions are shown with no phase-in. Projected employer contributions do not reflect the use of any assets from the Surplus division(s).



NOTE: All projected funded percentages are shown with no phase-in. Assumes assets from the Surplus division(s) will not be used to lower employer contributions during the projection period. The green indicator lines have been added at 60% funded and 18 years following the valuation date for PA 202 purposes.

4. Regardless of the factors contributing to a change in municipal required contributions, these benefit payments are not something a unit of government can reduce or change retroactively, as retiree and beneficiary benefits are protected under Article IX § 24 of the Michigan Constitution[3]. In the case of many employees, these benefits are also protected by one of seven of the County's Collective Bargaining Agreements.
5. In 2017, the County reduced its pension obligation by lowering employee multipliers. These changes impact how pension payments are calculated at the time of retirement. This will reduce the required payment for the County in future fiscal years but will not have an immediate effect on growing retirement expenses.

Figure 2.6 illustrates the funded ratio history for Eaton County going back to 1995. Over the 28-year period, the average funding ratio is 63.6 percent, with the County's funding ratio peaking in 1996 at 70.0 percent. In the most recent (2022) annual evaluation, the County's assets were sufficient enough to cover 62.0 percent of the current accrued liability.

Statewide Summary for Municipal Funding Ratios

According to MERS shared as of 2022, 94 Michigan municipal pension systems are 100 percent

[2] MERS Annual Actuarial Valuation Report December 31, 2022.

[3] https://www.legislature.mi.gov/Laws/MCL?objectName=mcl-Article-IX-24#:~:text=24.,be%20diminished%20or%20impaired%20thereby.

funded; 105 are in the 90th percentile; 138 in the 80th percentile; 185 in the 70th percentile; 126 in the 60th percentile; 63 in the 50th percentile and 35 are below the 50th percentile for their funded ratio.

FIGURE 2.6 – EATON COUNTY HISTORY FOR PLAN ASSETS TO LIABILITIES AND FUNDED RATIO, 1995 TO 2022

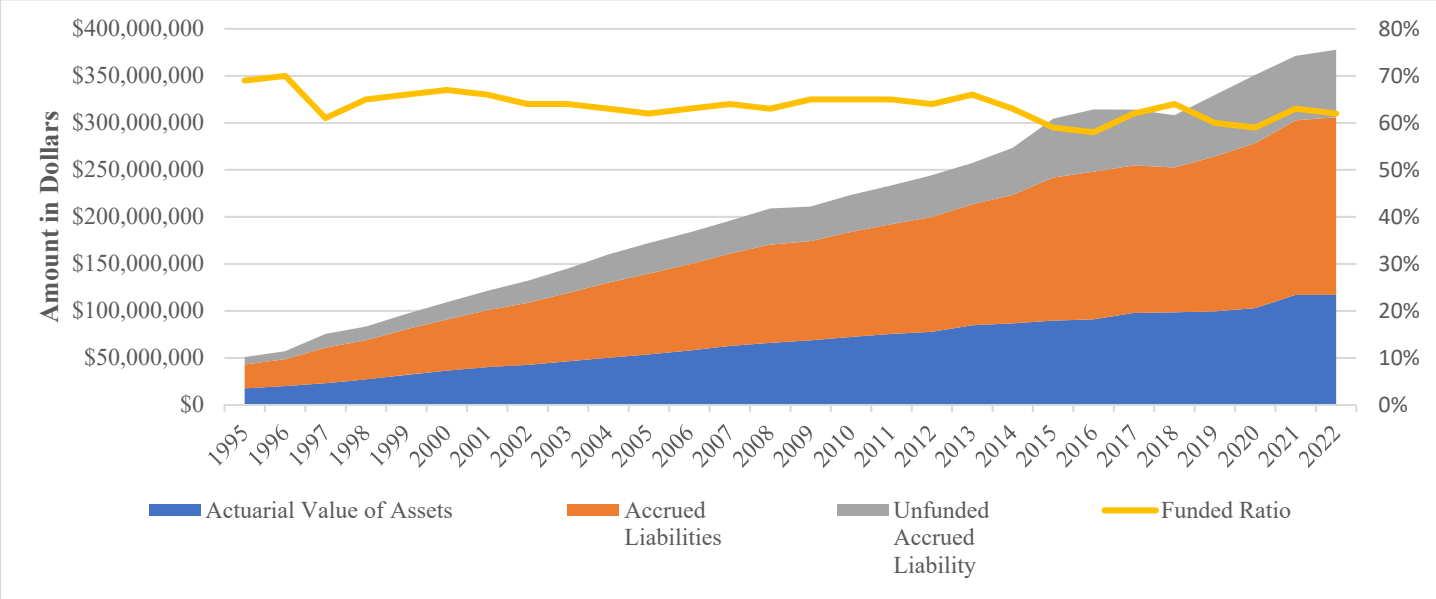


FIGURE 2.7 – STATEWIDE SUMMARY OF MUNICIPAL FUNDED RATIOS IN 2022

Funded Ratio	Number of Municipalities	Percent by Group
100%	90	11.5%
90%-99%	107	14.0%
80%-89%	135	18.1%
70%-79%	184	25.7%
60%- 69%	126	17.6%
50%-59%	68	8.7%
40%-49%	23	2.8%
30%-39%	9	1.1%
20%-29%	4	0.5%
10%-19%	0	0.0%

In 2022, the funded ratio for Eaton County was 62%.

Overview of Influences on Revenue: Municipal revenue is regulated by the Michigan Constitution, restricting how county government can fund itself. Based on FY 2023/24, 46.3 percent of the County budget consists of general operating revenue derived from property taxes. Any reduction in property tax revenue for the County has a significant impact on its ability to sustain operations.

KEY TERMS

Taxable Value: The value used for determining the property owner's tax liability. Multiplying the taxable value by the local millage rate will determine tax liability. Taxable value increases from year to year by the rate of inflation or 5 percent[3], whichever is lower. Transfers of ownership and improvements to the property will increase the taxable value more than the rate of inflation, but never more than the assessed value[4].

The Headlee Amendment and Proposal A: In 1978, Michigan voters approved the Headlee Amendment, which limits the total amount of taxes that can be collected by Michigan governments, stipulating that tax revenue cannot grow faster than the rate of inflation.
If the revenue collected from property taxes exceeds the limits set by Headlee, local governments must *roll back* tax rates to bring revenue in line with the limit[4]. Therefore, communities with substantial market growth in existing property tax values have been penalized by being forced to roll back their millage rates, leading to a reduction in property tax revenue.

KEY TERMS

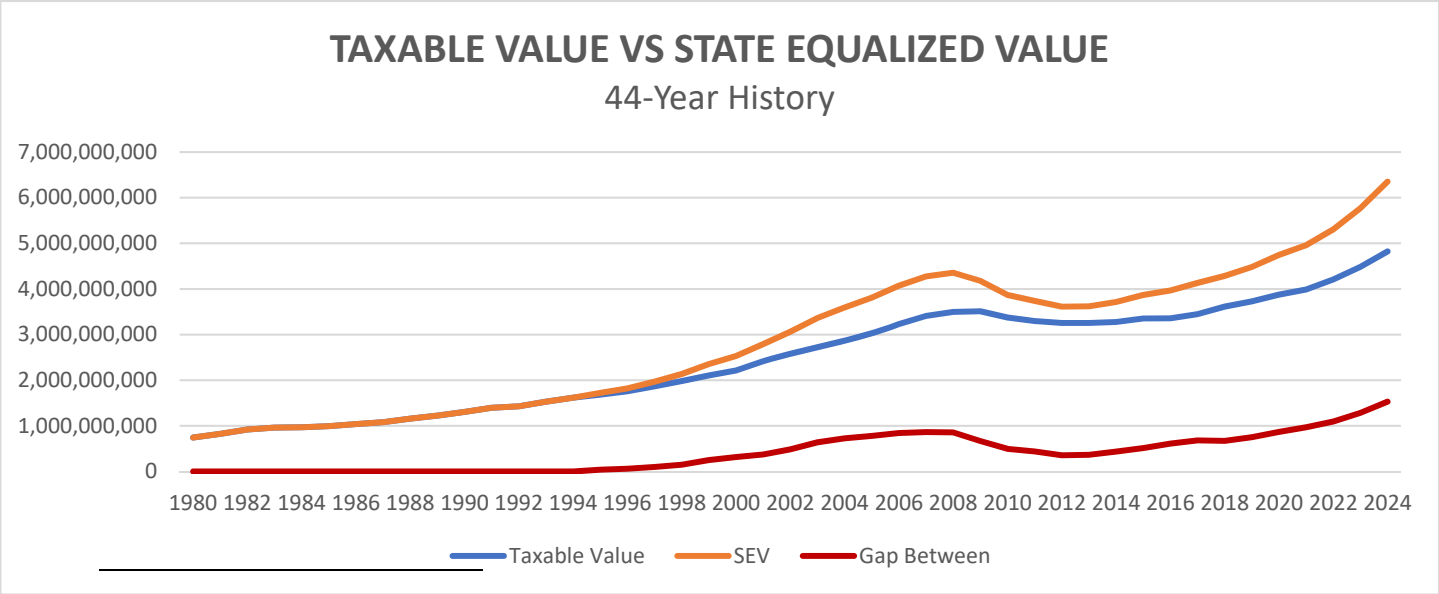
State Equalized Value: The assessed value that has been adjusted following county and state equalization processes. The County Board of Commissioners and the Michigan State Tax Commission must review local assessments and adjust (equalize) them if they are above or below the constitutional 50 percent level of assessment[6].

Headlee Rollbacks: A constraint mechanism built into Proposal A that reduces a locals taxing authority. The only way for a local unit of government to restore its taxing authority is if they get approval from the voters authorizing them back to original level[5].

In March 1994, Michigan voters approved another amendment known as Proposal A[5]. Prior to this, property taxes were based on State Equalized Value (SEV)[6]. With Proposal A, property taxes are now based on Taxable Value instead of SEV, and locals are required to get authorization from voters to restore their taxing authority to the original millage rate. The process of calculating taxable value and SEV is performed each year by the County in coordination with the Michigan Department of Treasury.

Headlee rollbacks and Proposal A have led to a $23.2 million revenue loss for Eaton County since their implementation. In addition, the gap between taxable value and SEV has continued to grow, sitting at 31.7 percent as of 2024. This represents an additional reduction in revenue for the County since the implementation of Proposal A.

FIGURE 2.8 – HISTORY OF TAXABLE VS STATE EQUALIZED VALUE 1980 TO 2024



[4] https://www.canr.msu.edu/news/what_is_the_headlee_amendment_and_how_does_it_affect_local_taxes
[5] https://www.canr.msu.edu/news/a_refresher_on_proposal_a_and_local_property_taxes
[6] https://charlottemi.gov/faq/what-do-the-terms-assessed-value-state-equalized-value-and-taxable-value-on-my-notice-of-assessment-mean-3/

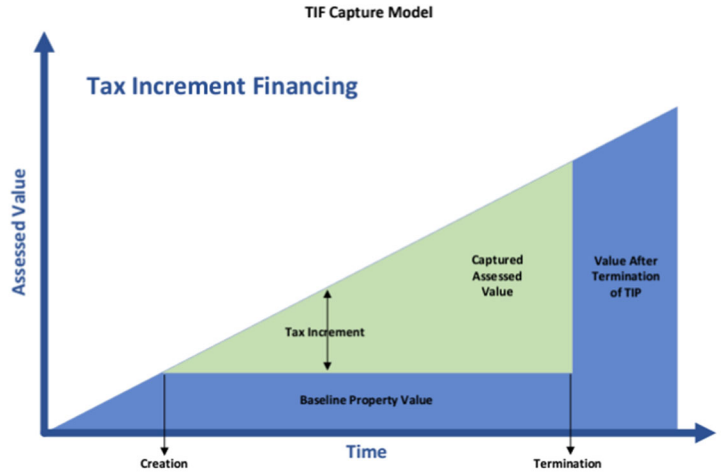
In summary, the Headlee Amendment serves as a mechanism to control the growth of government spending in Michigan, including at the county level. While it was aimed to promote fiscal responsibility, it also poses challenges for county governments in funding essential services—such as public safety and critical infrastructure—and managing their budgets within the constraints imposed by the amendment. Many expenditures are not under the control of the County Board (e.g., tax captures, contractual services, tech expenditures, facility repairs, maintenance).

Development Agreements, Tax Increment Financing Authority (TIFA)

Tax increment finance authorities (TIFAs) are entities that "capture" increases in property tax revenue in designated tax increment finance (TIF) districts. TIFA districts include Downtown Development Authority (DDA), Corridor Improvement Authority (CIA), and Local Development Finance Authority (LDFA). As the increase in property values in a TIFA district is expected to be attributable to the development in that area, any tax revenue increases beyond the original property value will go to the TIFA. The base value therefore does not experience any growth over the course of the capture period[7]. Businesses generally continue to pay full property taxes, so the tax base of the district area does not decrease. However, the County does not receive the increased revenue from development in that district (see Figure 2.9) [8].

If a TIFA district was established before 1994, it is a permanent district with locked geographic boundaries based on when it was created. For any expansion beyond that zone, the County has the right not to participate in the expanded district unless it is a renaissance zone. Permanent TIFA districts in the County are located in the cities of Charlotte, Eaton Rapids, Potterville, and Grand Ledge. The effect of different tax districts (e.g., TIFA, DDA, LDFA) is they reduce the amount of money that passed through to the County. From 2019-2023, the cumulative effect on county funding has been a loss of $1.7 million in general operating funding for the County, and another $1.3 million towards dedicated millages.

FIGURE 2.9 – TAX INCREMENT FINANCING REVENUE CAPTURE MODEL

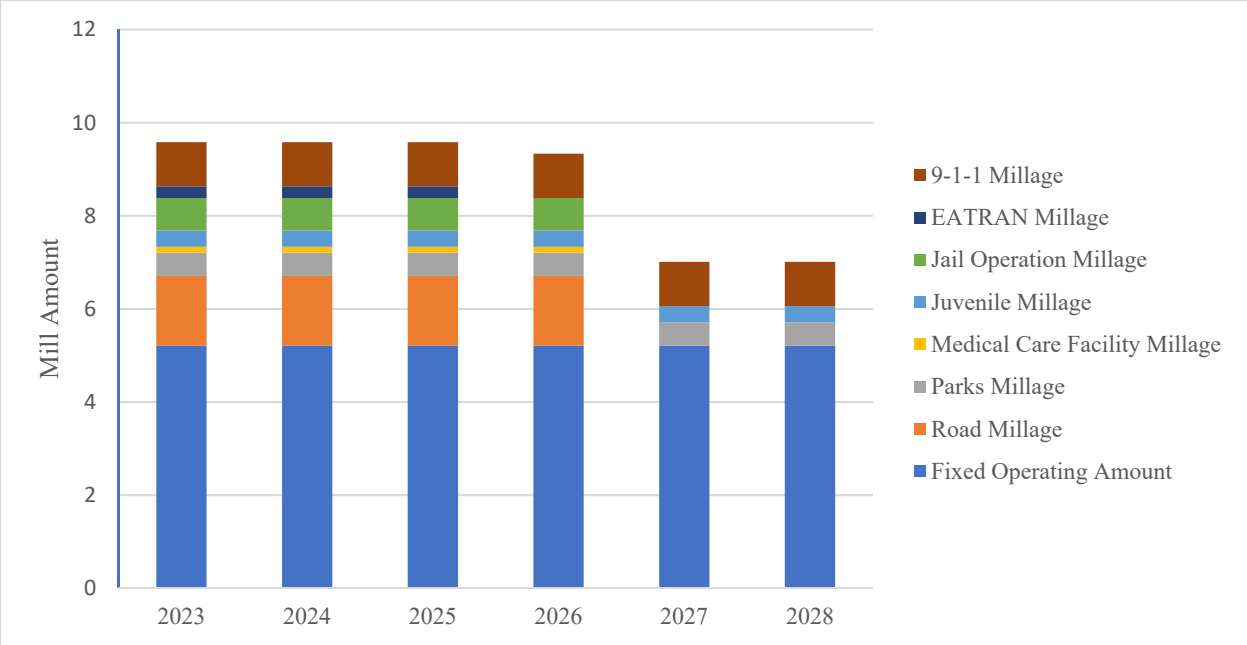


[7] https://www.house.mi.gov/hfa/PDF/FiscalSnapshot/Tax_Increment_Financing_Authority_TIFs_Jan2023.pdf
[8] https://www.michiganbusiness.org/495973/globalassets/documents/reports/fact-sheets/conditionallandusetransferpa425.pdf

Disabled Veteran Property Tax Exemption
Qualifying service members, veterans, and surviving spouses are able to claim a property tax credit in Michigan for their primary residence. While the Board of Commissioners supports any and all attempts to assist veterans and their families, this specific benefit represents an unfunded mandate by the State of Michigan. The State directly reduced property tax revenue to municipalities, including counties, without providing any replacement revenue.

Existing Millages
For any dedicated millage, funds can only be used for the purpose specified in the millage as approved by the voters. While these funds do not go to support the County's general operating services, without a dedicated millage, these areas would require funding from the County's general operating fund to sustain services. Several millages are set to expire within the next few fiscal years, potentially applying further pressure to the County operating budget should they not be renewed (see Figure 2.10).

FIGURE 2.10 –CURRENT MILLAGES WITH EXPIRATION



General Overview of American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA)
ARPA was a $1.9 trillion stimulus bill signed into law in March 2021 to assist the country's recovery from the economic and health effects of the COVID-19 pandemic and subsequent recession. ARPA provided for direct economic stimulus payments to individual taxpayers with incomes of $75,000 or less. The Act allocated $350 billion in assistance to state and local governments, $14 billion for vaccine distribution, and $130 billion to schools to help them safely re-open for in-person instruction. The Act included $300 billion in unemployment benefits and expanded child tax credit. In addition, the Act called for the distribution of $50

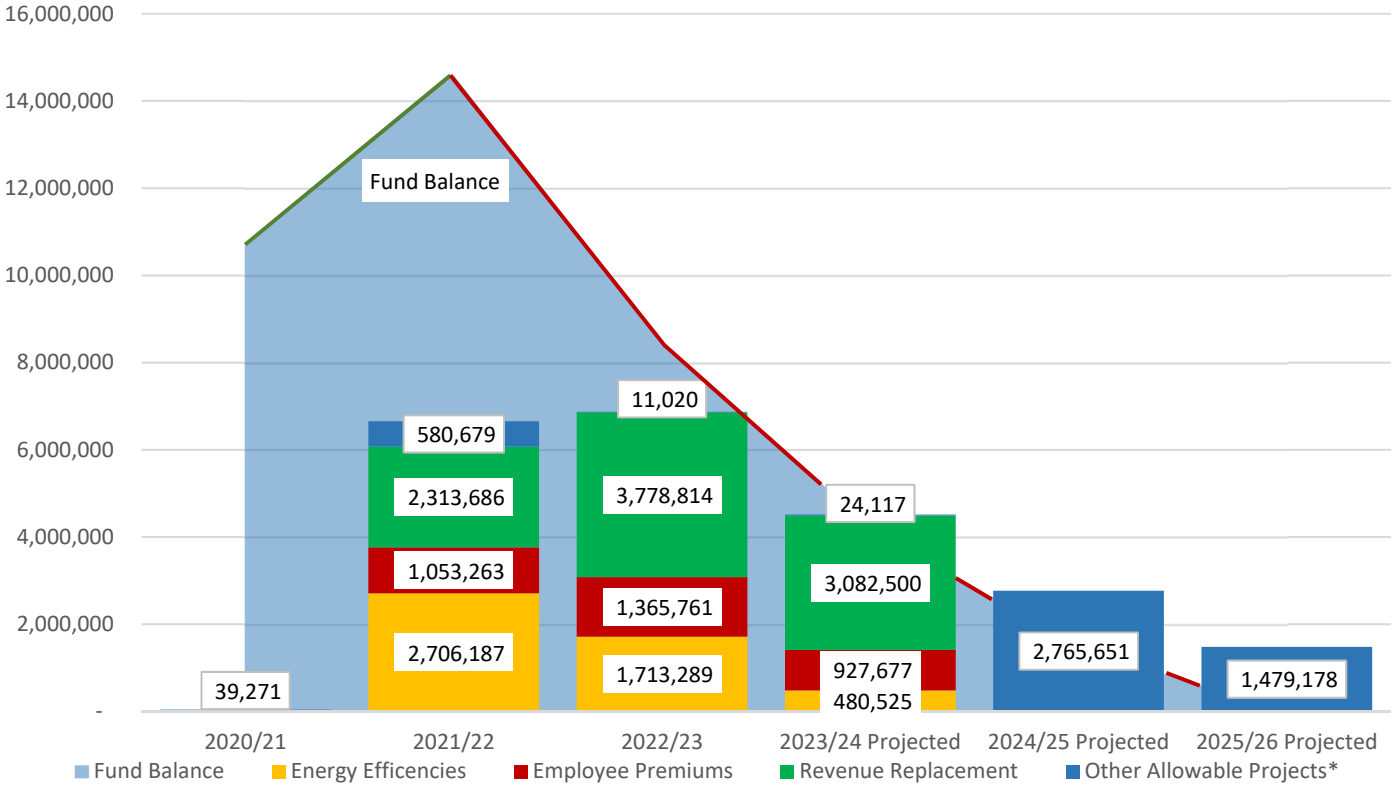
KEY TERMS

Lost Revenue: An allowance of up to $10.0 million in allocating ARPA funding that public sector recipients could use in replacement of revenue lost due to the public health emergency and recipients are permitted to use that amount (not to exceed the award amount) to fund "government services." This standard allowance is available for all eligible employers.

billion to small businesses and another $25 billion for relief for small and mid-sized restaurants. The Act expanded eligibility for Affordable Care Act (ACA) subsidies and gave states incentives to expand Medicaid[9].

The County utilized a total of $10.0 million in ARPA funding to balance its budget from FY 2021/22 through FY 2022/23. As of FY 2024/25, ARPA funding is no longer available for the County to utilize in balancing its budget (See Figure 2.11)[10].

FIGURE 2.11 – ARPA SPENDING AND ALLOCATION SUMMARY



*Other Allowable Projects includes projects which may need to be allocated or reallocated: Broadband allocation $2,675,788; Use of interest revenue $698,489

[9] https://www.nlc.org/covid-19-pandemic-response/american-rescue-plan-act/arpa-local-relief-frequently-asked-questions/#:~:text=The%20Final%20Rule%20was%20released,outlined%20in%20the%20Final%20Rule.
[10] https://home.treasury.gov/news/featured-stories/fact-sheet-the-american-rescue-plan-will-deliver-immediate-economic-relief-to-families

ECONOMIC CONDITIONS ANALYSIS

Overview of County Government in Michigan

County government exists to extend some powers of state government throughout Michigan. For example, the state requires county prosecutors to enforce the state criminal laws, registers of deeds offices receive and maintain proper land records and other property-related documents, county clerks administer elections for the state and exercise other duties of particular interest to the state, and counties support public health service agencies such as community crisis centers[1]. In addition, county drain commissioners strive to balance the need for proper drainage with water quality and natural resource management cost-effectively, resulting in public health benefits[2].

Counties carry out several programs and services that benefit the local population, including[1]:

- 9-1-1 Services;
- Law Enforcement and Jail Services;
- Prosecution and Victim Advocacy;
- Elections;
- Trial Courts and Specialty Treatment Courts;
- Emergency Management;
- Veteran Services;
- Land Records;
- Parks and Recreation;
- Code Enforcement.

Counties have the right to sue and be sued, enter into their own contracts, hold real and personal property, borrow money for legal purposes, perform acts necessary to safeguard county property and conduct county affairs. Each county has a board that serves as the legislative body with certain responsibilities related to its budgets and ordinance-making powers[1].

The board is responsible for setting policy (passing resolutions is its main device for stating its policies), providing legislative oversight, and providing constituent services. County boards serve as a funding unit for Trial Courts in that they appropriate money for the budgets of lower-level courts. Many judges have offices and courtrooms in county buildings, but the judicial branch operates separately[1].

[1] https://micounties.org/about-county-government-2/
[2] https://macdc.us/wp-content/uploads/2016/10/02-MACDC-Fact-Sheet.pdf

Overview of Economic Trends

National Population: The United States (U.S) has long had a population imbalance problem looming. This dynamic is playing out nationally and at the state and local level, with a tightening labor market, growing burdens on U.S. retirement systems, and shifts in the overall economy. See Figure 3.1 through Figure 3.3 for more details of how these demographic shifts have played out over the past 20 years.

Generations in the U.S.: Currently, the U.S. population consists of the Greatest Generation (1901-1927), the Silent Generation (1928-1945), the Baby Boomer Generation (1946-1964), the Generation X (1965-1980), the Millennial Generation (1981-1996), Generation Z (1997-2010), and Generation Alpha (2011-2024)[3].

As demonstrated in Figure 3.1 through Figure 3.3, the size of the Baby Boomer population was a historic turning point in the U.S. birth rate; this generation represents a transition where the U.S. population is moving from the shape of a right side up pyramid to an inverted pyramid.

For the first time in U.S. history, the population in retirement will be larger than the number of workers in the generations immediately following. This will have two significant side effects:

1. The members of the active workforce supporting the retirement costs associated with citizens who have dropped out of the U.S. workforce will be smaller than those they are supporting;

FIGURE 3.1 – U.S. POPULATION BY AGE AND GENDER 2000

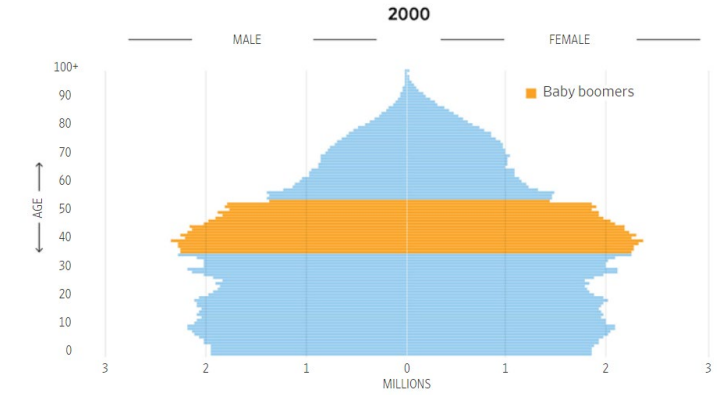


FIGURE 3.2 – U.S. POPULATION BY AGE AND GENDER 2010

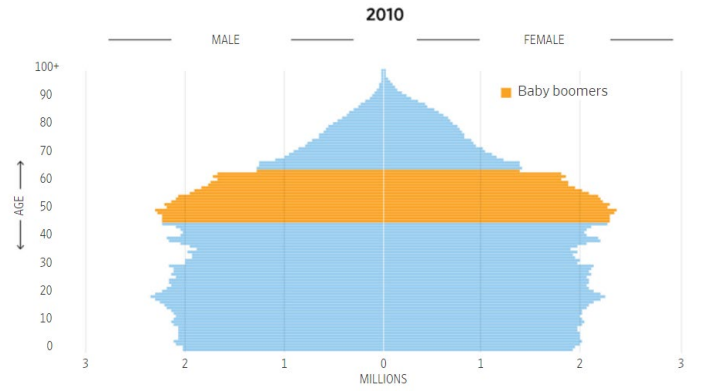
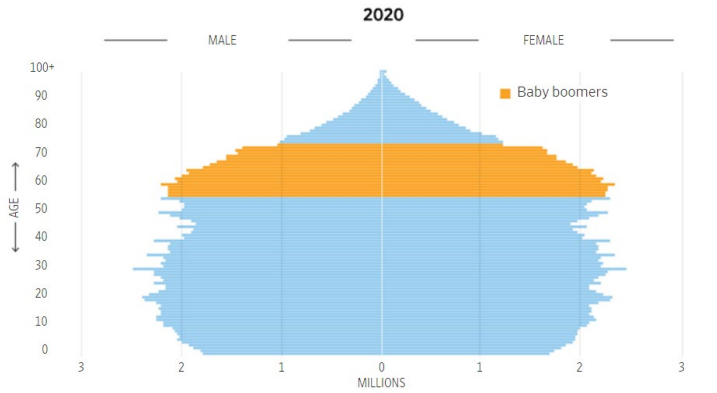


Figure 3.3 – U.S. POPULATION BY AGE AND GENDER 2020



Note: Generational age defined by the Census Bureau.

Source: September 25, 2023. Wall Street Journal. Why America Has a Long-Term Labor Crisis, in Six Charts

[3] https://www.ama.org/marketing-news/generational-insights-and-the-speed-of-change/

2. Over the next 6 years, there will continue to be a mass exodus of workers out of the U.S. labor force.

As of January 2024, 44% of baby boomers are at retirement age, with millions more to follow. According to the U.S. Census Bureau, baby boomers—an estimated 73 million people—will all be older than 65 by the year 2030. The baby boomers have long been known as the largest generation; a title Millennials have only recently surpassed as the nation's largest living adult generation[4].

A secondary effect of baby boomers retiring from the U.S. labor force is the strain being created for public and private employers across the U.S., particularly in fields requiring staffing with specific expertise. Eaton County has been wrestling with the effect of this strain, struggling to find qualified candidates in areas such as accounting, attorneys, construction trades, executive leadership, information technology, law enforcement, tax assessing, among others.

This strain has also placed significant pressure on wages across industries as employers are forced to compete for the same dwindling pool of qualified candidates. Increases in wages have contributed to the stubborn inflationary pressures seen in the U.S. This effect will continue to grow as more people retire and this strain expands to encompass any position that requires a clean criminal history, any minimum level of education, or a license to practice in the field.

Labor Market: The U.S. economy is a superbly complex system, and the government routinely measures the economy's health and makes that information available to its citizens. The Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) specializes in tracking labor market activity, working conditions, productivity, and price changes. This analysis includes two measures of the labor market: the U.S. unemployment rate and the U.S. labor participation rate.

Unemployment Rate: Unemployment is among the most widely reported metrics for measuring slack in the U.S. labor market. This metric is not meant to be considered in a vacuum, but it is a necessary measurement. Its usefulness increases when viewed in relation to other relevant economic measures to gauge the overall health of the U.S. economy.

KEY TERMS

Labor Force: The labor force is the sum of the employed and unemployed.

Unemployment Rate: According to the BLS, the unemployment rate represents the number of unemployed people as a percentage of the labor force. In the Current Population Survey, people are classified as not in the labor force if:

1. They were not employed during the survey reference week;
2. They had not actively looked for work (or been on temporary layoff) in the last 4 weeks

People are not considered in the labor force if they do not meet the criteria classifying them as either employed or unemployed, as defined above.

Civilian Noninstitutional Population: Persons 16 years of age to 64 years of age residing in the 50 states and the District of Columbia. The metric only counts populations who are not inmates of institutions (e.g., penal and mental facilities, homes for the aged), and who are not on active duty in the Armed Forces.

[4] https://www.pewresearch.org/short-reads/2020/04/28/millennials-overtake-baby-boomers-as-americas-largest-generation/

Trends in Unemployment Rates: Unemployment rates vary by cities, counties, states, and regions. When reviewing unemployment trends, the data collected included data from Eaton County, the State of Michigan, and the national average back to 1978. Table 3.1 summarizes the past 10 years of unemployment data for these three levels of analysis. This data shows the County consistently has a lower unemployment rate than the State's average. The County unemployment rate compared to the National rate typically varies within a 0.1 percent difference. However, during COVID the County had a higher rate of 0.4 percent. Figure 3.4 includes all available data back to 1978—the County did not begin recording local unemployment data until 1989—the same trends seen in Table 3.1 are also present in Figure 3.4. The County's unemployment rate is consistently lower than the State's average, except beginning in 2022 with the aftermath of the COVID-19 recession.

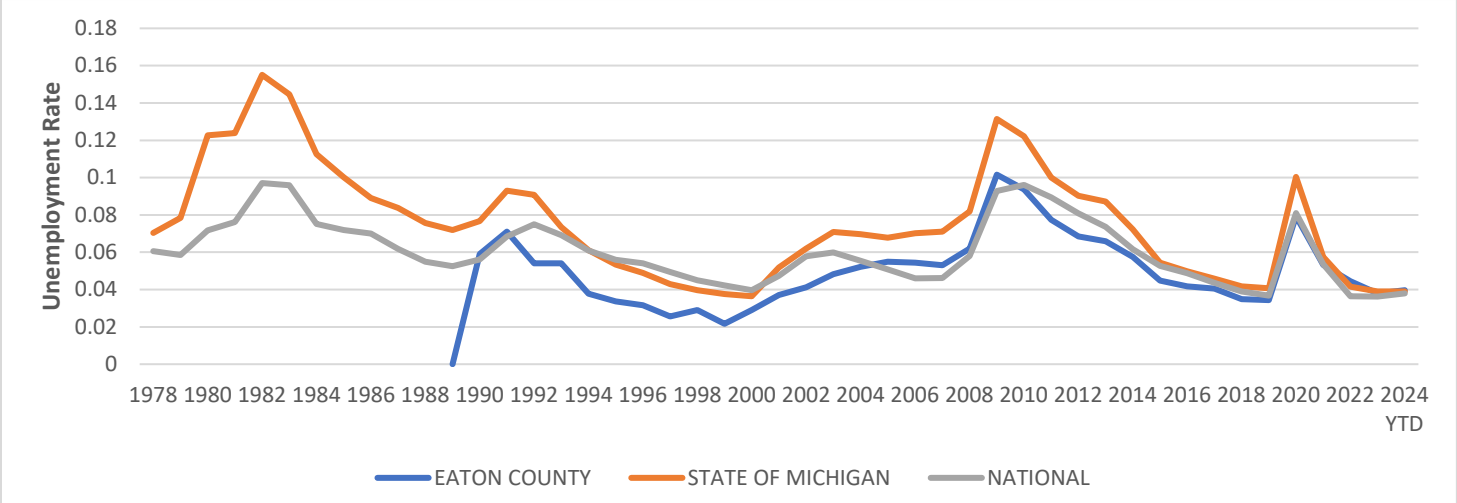
TABLE 3.1 – 10-YEAR AVERAGES OF UNEMPLOYMENT

	1-Year	3-Year	5-Year	10-Year
EATON COUNTY	3.7%	4.5%	5.0%	4.7%
MICHIGAN	3.9%	4.5%	5.6%	5.4%
NATIONAL	3.7%	4.1%	4.9%	4.8%

When compared with the national average, it appears the County is more sensitive to economic downturns. For example, the recessions in the early 1990s, early 2000s, the great recession of 2008, and COVID-19 recession of 2020 demonstrate a trend where County unemployment was greater than the national average. It is worth noting that the State of Michigan has a fairly consistent trend of having a higher rate of unemployment than the national average, except from the period of 1991 through 2000.

The relevance of this information is low unemployment puts pressure on wages across industries as employers are forced to compete for the same dwindling pool of qualified candidates, and increases in wages contribute to inflationary pressures in the U.S.

FIGURE 3.4 – NATIONAL AND LOCAL UNEMPLOYMENT RATES 1978 TO 2024

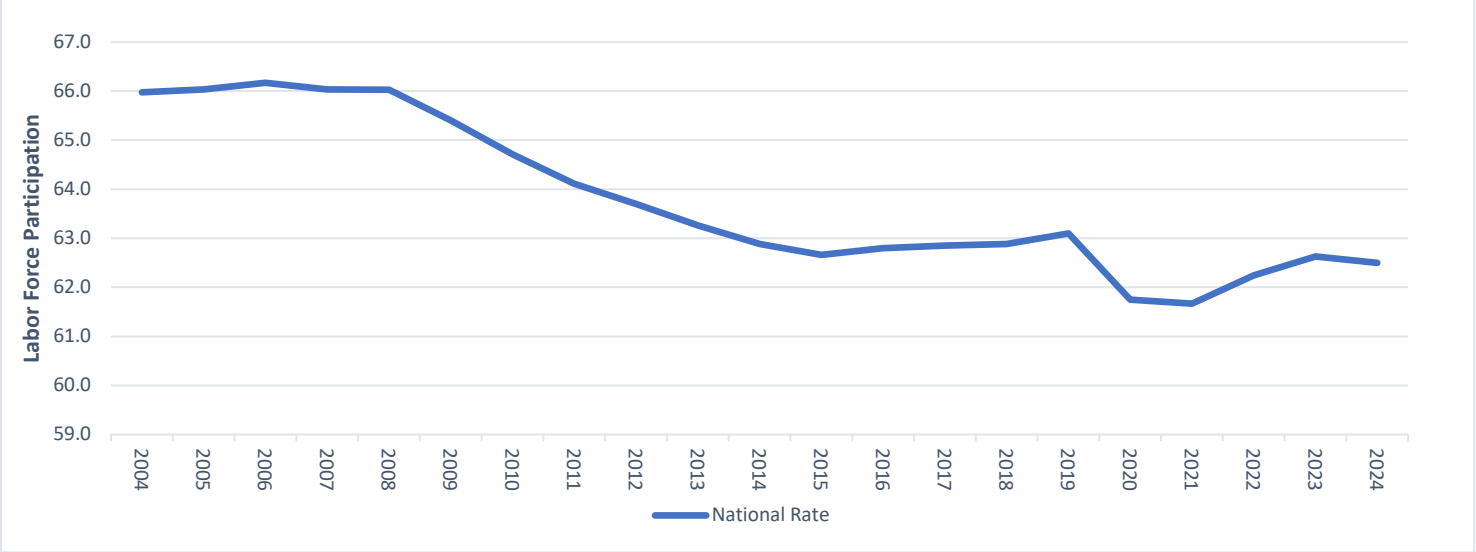


Labor Participation Rate: Another helpful metric for measuring slack in the U.S. labor market is the civilian labor force participation rate[5]. The labor force participation rate represents the number of people in the labor force as a percentage of the civilian noninstitutional population. The participation rate is the percentage of the population either working or actively looking for work[6]. The data collected is only available nationally and goes back to 2004 (see Figure 3.5). Any reduction in the labor force participation rate puts pressure on wages across industries as employers are forced to compete for the same dwindling pool of qualified candidates, and wage increases contribute to inflationary pressures in the U.S.

Trends in Labor Participation Rate

1. The U.S. had a labor participation rate of 62.5 percent in 2024.
2. The U.S. labor participation rate has decreased 3.5 percent over the past 20 years.
3. The U.S. labor participation rate has decreased by 0.6 percent since 2019, demonstrating a failure to fully recover from the COVID-19 recession.

FIGURE 3.5 – CIVILIAN LABOR FORCE PARTICIPATION RATE 2004 TO 2024



Consistent Increases in Life Expectancy: Since the early 1900s, the U.S. has seen a significant increase in its life expectancy; then, from 1995 to 2019, the U.S. had a fairly consistent average life expectancy of 77.8 years. From 2019 to 2022, average life expectancy decreased by 1.3 years, representing one of the most significant reductions in life expectancy in U.S. history. In 2021, life expectancy was at its lowest point in nearly two decades[7]. The effect of the significant

[5] Department of Labor. Frequently Asked Questions. https://webapps.dol.gov/dolfaq/go-dol-faq.asp?faqid=111&topicid=6&subtopicid=118

[6] Bureau of Labor and Statistics. Definitions. https://www.bls.gov/cps/definitions/

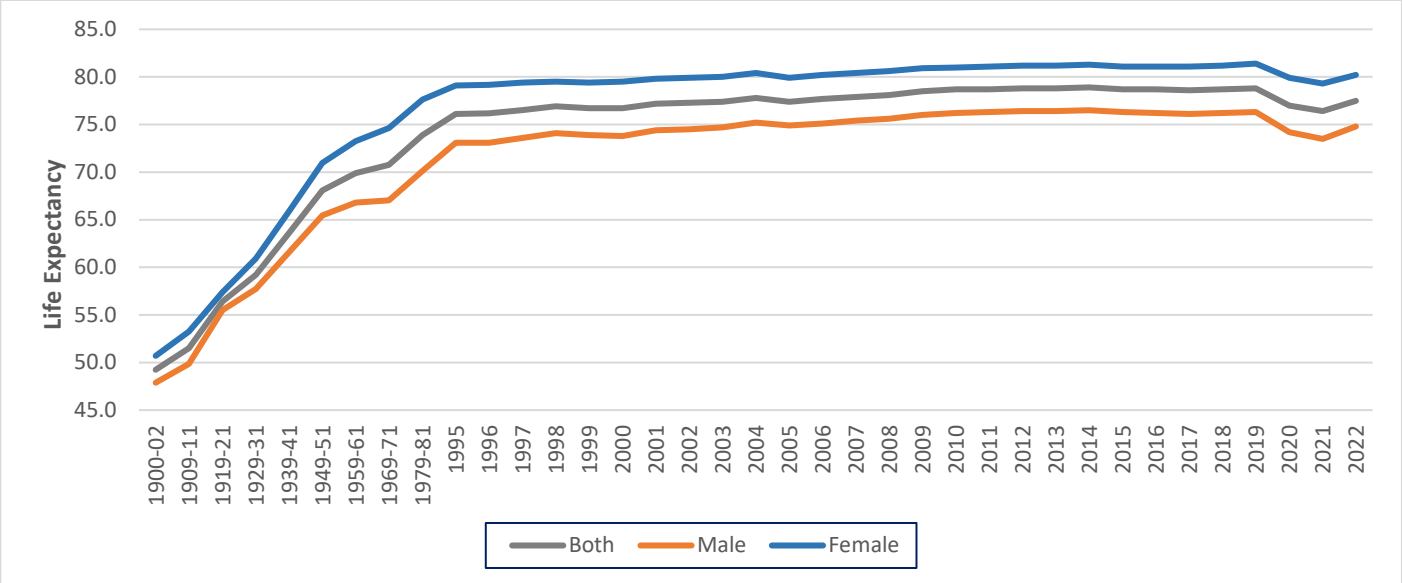
[7] Harvard School of Public Health. What's behind 'shocking' U.S. life expectancy decline—and what to do about it. Available from: https://www.hsph.harvard.edu/news/hsph-in-the-news/whats-behind-shocking-u-s-life-expectancy-decline-and-what-to-do-about-it/

increase in life expectancy over the past 100 years has led to growing burdens on the U.S. retirement systems. The reality of a healthier and longer-living population of retirees contributes to the growing expenses of the County's retirement obligations[8].

Trends in the U.S. Life Expectancy Age

1. In 2022, the U.S. had a life expectancy of 77.5 years old.
2. Since 2019, the U.S. had a decrease in the average life expectancy of 1.3 years, largely due to the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic.

FIGURE 3.6 – THE HISTORY OF U.S. LIFE EXPECTANCY 1900 TO 2022



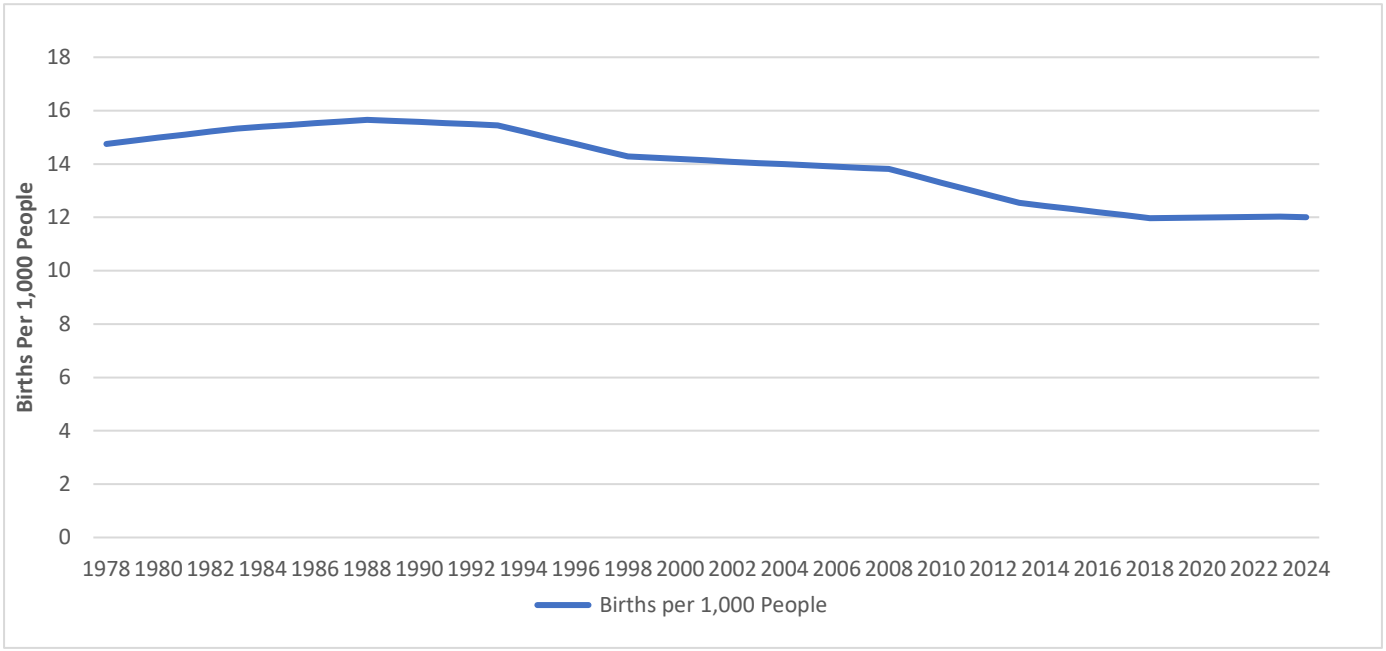
Declining Birth Rate and Household Size: Another set of indicators demonstrating long-term trends in demographics that are beginning to affect the U.S. labor market is the decline in U.S. population growth. The two metrics helpful for assessing this are the U.S. birth rate and the average household size. Both measures show a consistent reduction and symbolize the underlying population forces contributing to the change in the U.S. population structure, as shown in Figure 3.1 through Figure 3.3. This consistent reduction in population measures perpetuates the trend that the size of the U.S. retiree population will be larger than the number of workers still in the labor force supporting the costs associated with U.S. retirement infrastructure.

U.S. Birth Rate

1. The U.S. had a birth rate of 12.01 per 1,000 population in 2024[7].
2. The U.S. birth rate has decreased 3.4 percent over the past 10 years[7].
3. The U.S. birth rate has decreased 18.6 percent since 1978 (see Figure 3.7) [7].

[8] National Center for Health Statistics. Health, United States, 2023. Hyattsville, MD. Available from: https://www.cdc.gov/nchs/hus/data-finder.htm.

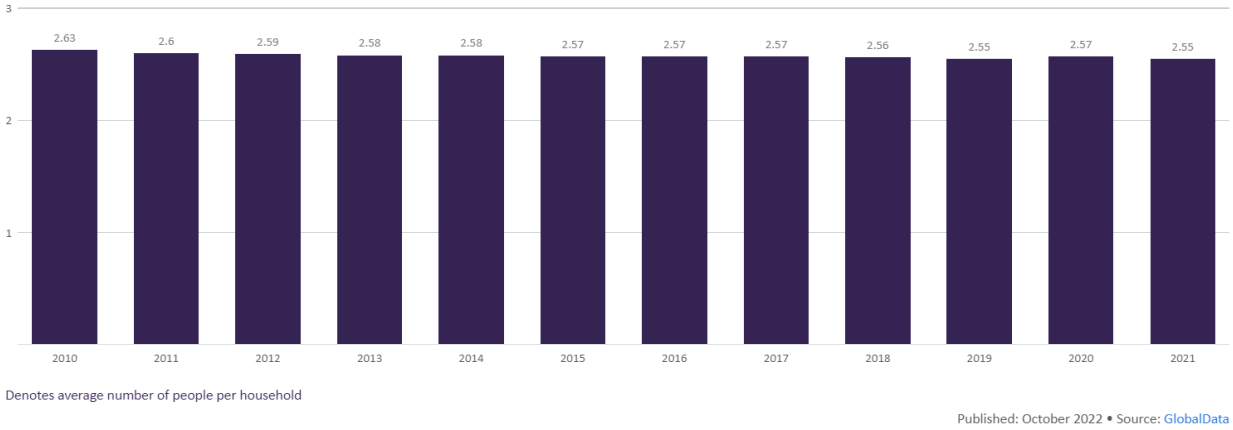
FIGURE 3.7 – U.S. BIRTH RATE PER 1,000 POPULATION 2004 TO 2024



Average U.S. Household Size

1. The U.S. had an average household size of 2.55 people in 2021[9].
2. Average household size in the U.S. decreased by 0.8 percent in 2021[8].
3. Between 2010-2021, the average U.S. household size decreased by 3.0 percent (see Figure 3.8)[9].

FIGURE 3.8 – AVERAGE HOUSEHOLD SIZE IN THE U.S. 2010 TO 2021



General Overview of Eaton County Population

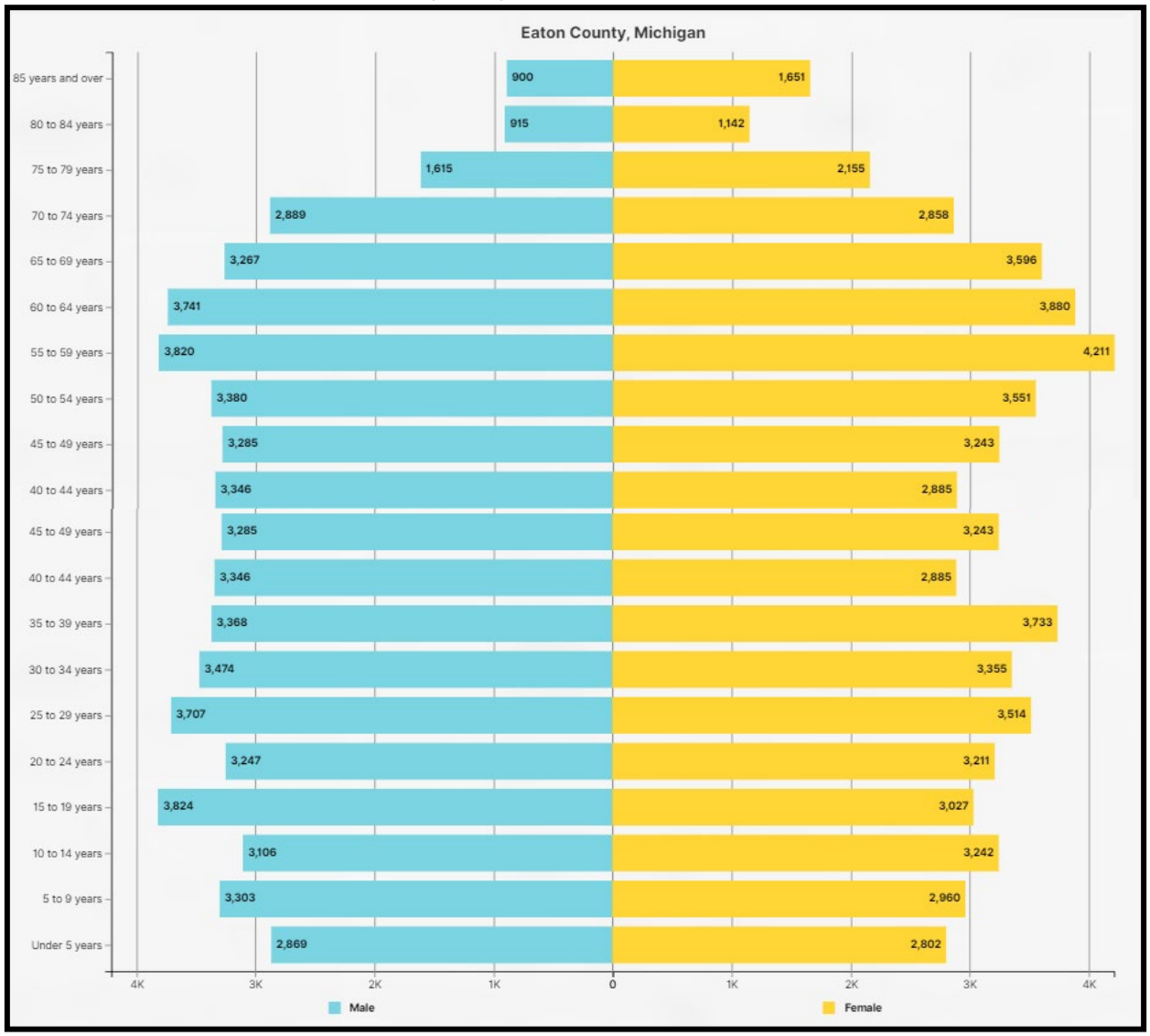
1. The County had a population of 108,820 people in 2023.

[9] Global Data, Average Size of Households in the United States (2010 - 2021)

2. The County had 47,497 total housing units and 44,942 total households in 2022, with 1.4 percent moving from a different state in that year[13].
3. The median age of residents in Eaton County is 42.0 as of 2022[13].

FIGURE 3.9 – EATON COUNTY POPULATION BY AGE AND GENDER

2022 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates



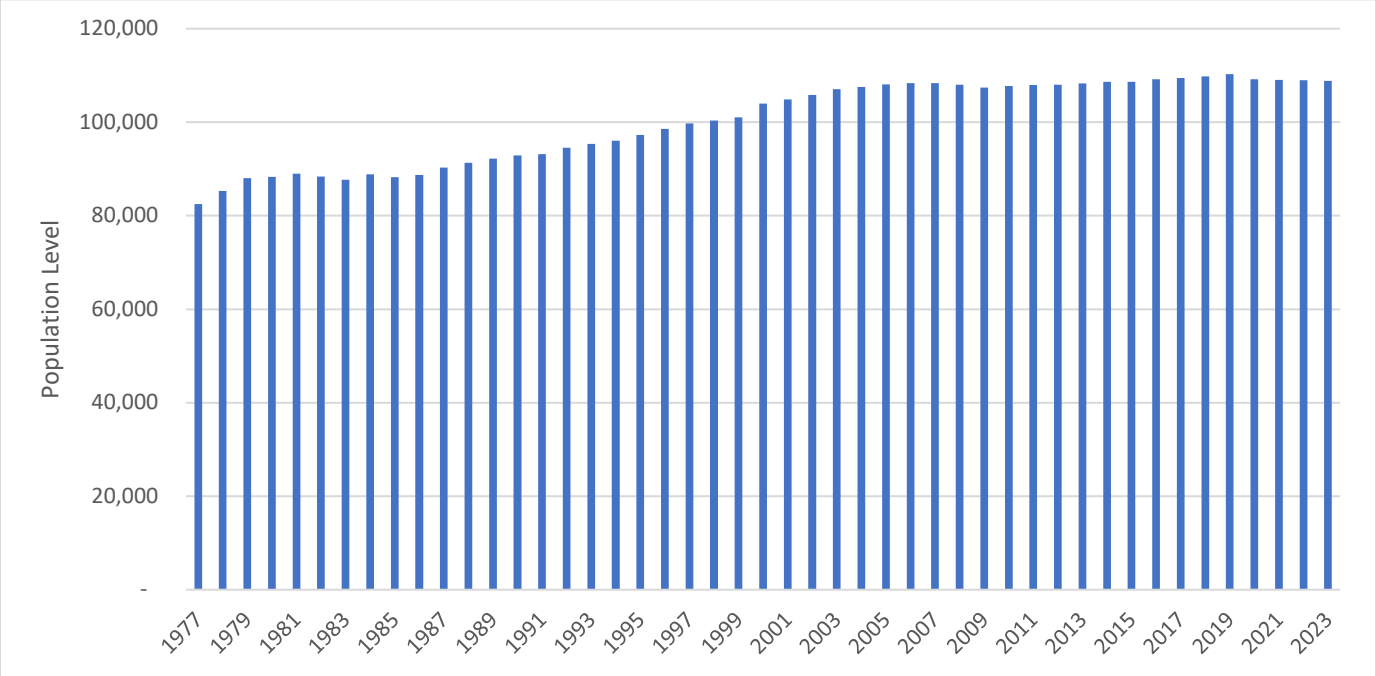
Changes in Eaton County Population[10]

1. The County population peaked in 2019 at 110,268; it has decreased by 1.3 percent in 2023.
2. The early 1990s recession, the great recession of 2008, and the COVID-19 recession are examples where the County population level either decreased or growth slowed

[10] U.S. Census Bureau. Eaton County Community Profile. July, 2023. https://data.census.gov/profile/Eaton_County,_Michigan?g=050XX00US26045

significantly, demonstrating a population sensitivity to economic downturns (see Figure 3.12).

FIGURE 3.10 – HISTORY OF COUNTY POPULATION LEVELS, 1978 TO 2023



Analysis of Population: A number of factors contribute to the hiring crisis in the U.S today. Some of these problems are symptomatic of larger national trends caused by baby boomers transitioning into retirement and a reduction in U.S. population growth overall. Upon reviewing the historic records of unemployment, labor participation, life expectancy, birth rate, and household size, the County determined these trends will continue to drive a short supply of qualified candidates to act as the next generation of public servants. These forces have placed significant pressure on wages across industries as employers are forced to compete for the same dwindling pool of qualified candidates. This has hindered the County's ability to build a sustainable workforce and required it to reshape strategies to successfully attract and retain talent.

KEY TERMS

U.S. Inflation Index: Inflation measures how the price of a set of goods and services can change over a certain period. This is assessed monthly, but is usually reviewed as a change year-over-year.

Detroit Index: A regional indicator used to track prices in the Detroit-Warren-Dearborn area, as measured by the Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers. This is sometimes used to assess how regional inflation may vary from the national measure.

Overview of Economic Conditions

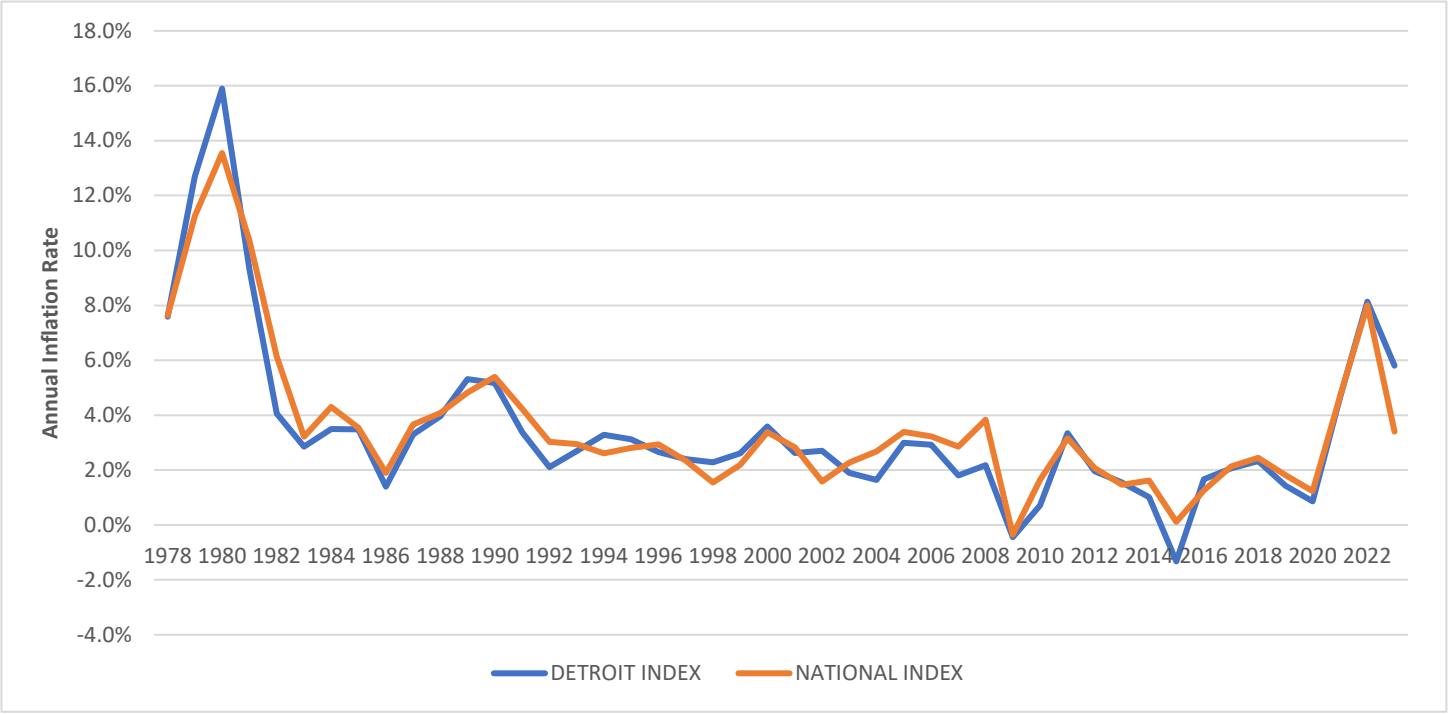
Inflation Rate:

1. There was an annual increase in 2022 the national inflation Index of 8.0 percent for the U.S., and 8.1 percent in the Detroit Index.
2. There was an annual increase in 2022 the national inflation Index of 8.0 percent for the U.S., and 8.1

percent in the Detroit Index. This represents the highest rate of increase in inflation since 1981 (see Figure 3.9).

3. Inflation has affected the purchasing power of the U.S. dollar over the past 10 years: $1.32 in 2023 is the equivalent of $1.00 in 2014 dollars.
4. The effect of national inflation on the purchasing power of the U.S. dollar over the past 45 years is the value of $4.99 in 2023, which is the equivalent of $1.00 in 1978 dollars.

FIGURE 3.11 – 45-YEAR HISTORY OF U.S. INFLATION 1978 TO 2023



Interest Rates: The U.S. Federal Reserve's response to a 40-year high inflation rate has driven increased interest rates on both consumer and commercial financing. One of the main tools the Federal Reserve uses to keep inflation at its normal 2.0 percent target is raising the federal funds rate. Given the volatility around inflation the Federal Reserve has aggressively raised the federal funds rate—tightening monetary policy in March 2022—lifting the rate from nearly zero to almost 5.5 percent, leading to increases in interest rates across the economy. In spite of this tightening the economy has been surprisingly buoyant. Whether the economy's resiliency will continue in 2024 remains an open question[11].

KEY TERMS

The Federal Reserve: This is the central banking system of the U.S. that was created in 1913, with the enactment of the Federal Reserve Act, after a series of financial panics led to the central control of the monetary system.

Monetary Policy: A policy adopted by the monetary authority of a nation to affect monetary and other financial conditions to accomplish broader objectives like reducing high employment and/or establishing inflationary stability.

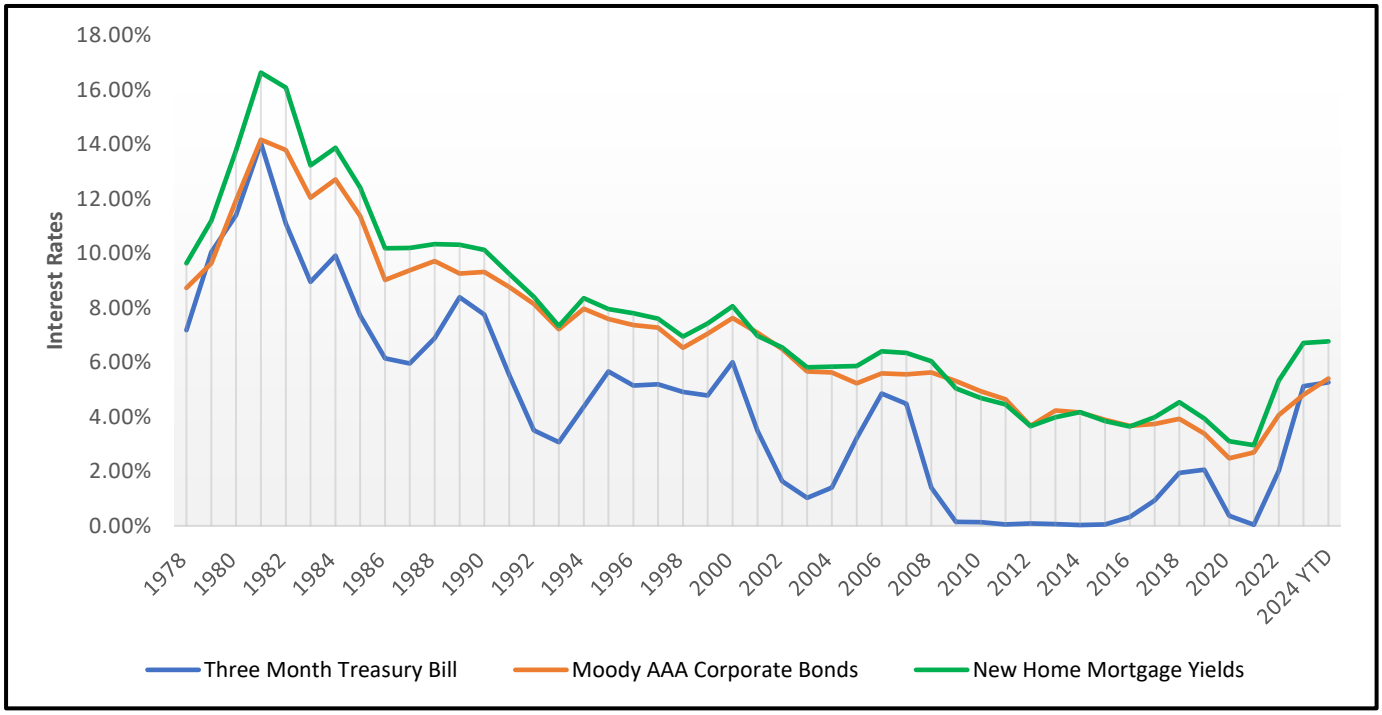
[11] Federal Reserve Bank of Dallas. U.S. 30-year mortgage predominance doesn't seem to delay impact of Fed rate hikes. January 16, 2024. https://www.dallasfed.org/research/economics/2024/0116

The economy is expected to grow more slowly in 2024 and 2025 than it did in 2023 due to the higher interest rates. This increased cost of lending should decrease business and residential investment. Economist also expect consumer spending will grow more slowly as consumers respond and deplete cash balances built up during 2020 and 2021. Slowing demand and lowering investment levels should reduce job growth and inflationary pressures on the economy[11].

KEY TERMS

Federal Funds Rate: The overnight interest rate at which banking institutions lend to one another banking institutions. This rate is established by the central bank. All annual percentage yields for consumer and commercial loans are impacted by the federal funds rate; which effectively dictates the cost of money in the U.S. economy.

FIGURE 3.12 – 45-YEAR HISTORY OF SELECTED INTEREST RATES



Effect of Federal Funds Rate on Consumers

1. The interest rate on a conventional 30-year mortgage declined to 6.82 percent in March 2024 from its peak in October 2023 of 7.62 percent[12].
2. Despite a steady decline since October 2023, the March reading matched the same rate as in December[12].
3. These rates represent the highest levels since 2000. By comparison, mortgage rates reached their lowest level in December 2020, bottoming out at 2.68 percent; this was the lowest rates had been since 1971[12].

[12] Senate Fiscal Agency. Michigan Economic Indicators – November 2023.

Housing Market Inventory and Prices:

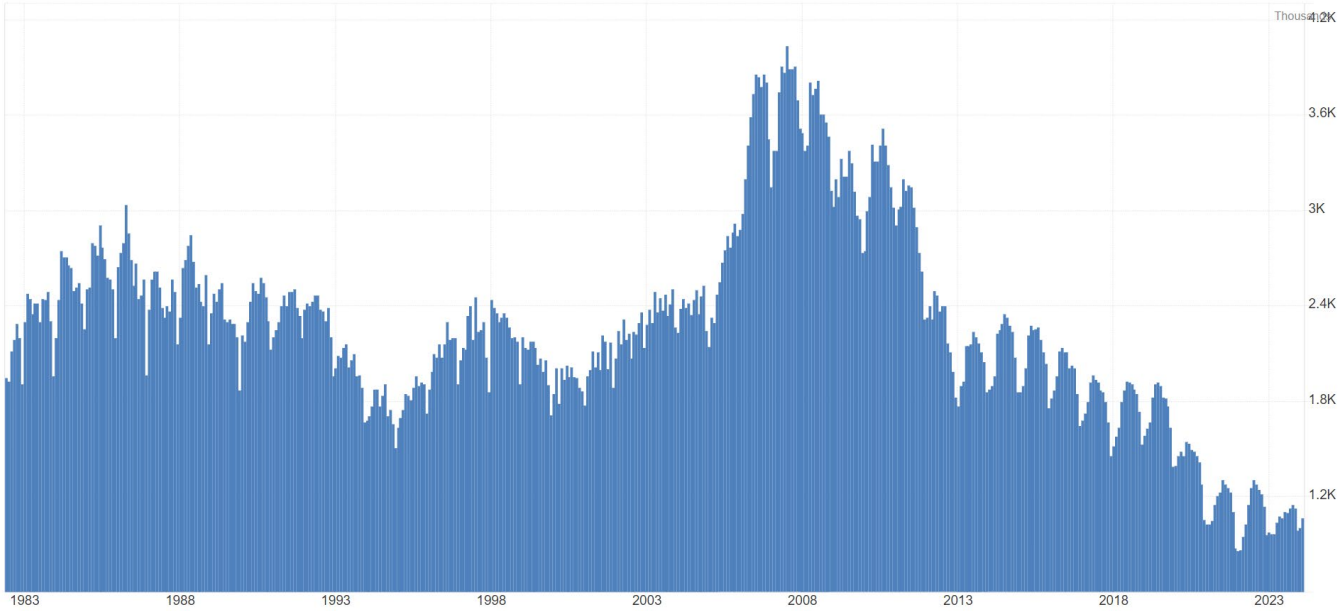
1. In 2023, the housing inventory for new listings in Michigan was 10,457. This data goes as far as 2017, but the State has seen a dramatic decrease in inventory since peaking in 2018 at 15,193.
2. In December 2023, there were 714,176 active sale listings for homes nationwide, down from 1.0 million in December 2019[13].
3. Between 2000 and 2020, the total number of owner-occupied households increased by nearly 3,000 in Eaton County, but as a percentage of all households, owner-occupied houses accounted for 1.54 percent less of all households[14].
4. Between 2000 and 2020, the total number of owner-occupied households changed varied by unit of government in the County over the same time period, with the City of Olivet, Village of Vermontville, Vermontville Township, and Village of Bellevue all seeing declines of over 10 percent, while Eaton Rapids Township, Hamlin Township, Roxand Township, and the Village of Dimondale all saw an increase over 20 percent[14].
5. The County saw significant increases in home prices between 2021 and 2022 when the price of a mortgage increased by 32.6 percent, while median home values increased by 18.1 percent[14].

KEY TERMS

Housing Inventory: The number of active sale listings for homes in a local area

Housing Tenure: Refers to whether housing units are owner- or renter-occupied.

FIGURE 3.13 – HISTORY OF U.S. NATIONAL HOUSING INVENTORY, 1983 TO 2023



[13] The Mortgage Reports, Why Is Housing Inventory So Low? Understanding the U.S. Housing Shortage. February 27, 2024

[14] Eaton County Master Plan Update. 2024-2044.

6. The County was generally in the middle when compared with regionally comparable counties—Barry, Calhoun, Clinton, Ingham, Ionia, and Jackson—in terms of changes in mortgage costs and home values, with Calhoun County seeing the largest increases, and Clinton County seeing the smallest. Table 3.2 and Figure 3.13 display the changes in mortgage costs. Table 3.3 and Figure 3.14 display the change in median home values between 2021 and 2022[14].

TABLE 3.2 – ONE-YEAR CHANGE IN COSTS FOR MORTGAGE

County	Mortgage Costs		Change in Dollars	Percent Changed
	2021	2022		
Eaton	$690	$915	$225	32.6%
Barry	$652	$910	$258	39.6%
Calhoun	$480	$824	$344	71.7%
Clinton	$782	$915	$133	17.0%
Ingham	$596	$786	$190	31.9%
Ionia	$542	$746	$204	37.6%
Jackson	$583	$741	$158	27.1%
Average	$618	$834	$216	36.8%

FIGURE 3.14 – ONE-YEAR PERCENT CHANGE IN COSTS FOR MORTGAGE

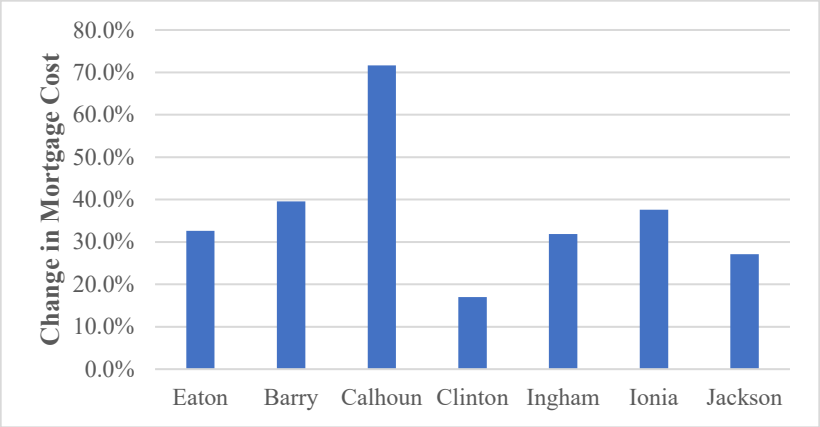
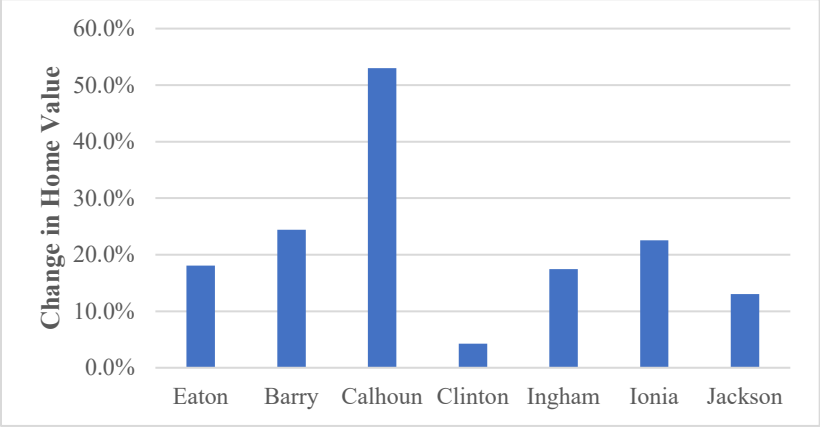


TABLE 3.3 – ONE-YEAR CHANGE IN HOME VALUES

County	Median Home Value		Change in Dollars	Percent Changed
	2021	2022		
Eaton	$183,526	$216,656	$33,130	18.1%
Barry	$173,258	$215,516	$42,258	24.4%
Calhoun	$127,538	$195,160	$67,622	53.0%
Clinton	$207,831	$216,656	$8,825	4.2%
Ingham	$158,358	$185,952	$27,594	17.4%
Ionia	$144,163	$176,628	$32,465	22.5%
Jackson	$155,118	$175,349	$20,231	13.0%
Average	$164,256	$197,417	$33,161	21.8%

FIGURE 3.15 – ONE-YEAR PERCENT CHANGE IN HOME VALUES



Analysis of Economic Conditions Overview: A number of factors contribute to the economic conditions County government has been navigating. Some of these issues are symptomatic of larger national trends caused by demographic shifts and imbalances in supply and demand in different segments of the economy. Upon reviewing historical data for inflation, interest rates, and housing inventory, it is clear the County is experiencing a combination of economic factors that are affecting its ability to build a sustainable workforce and pay for critical infrastructure investments.

Eaton County Payment Report

For the month of May, 2024

Board Payments on 05/15/2024

Organization	Organization Description	# of Payments	Amount to be Paid
General Fund			
101	General Fund	1	4,792.44
101.101.00	Board of Commissioners	2	2,103.75
101.172.00	Controller's Office	1	33.33
101.215.00	County Clerk	1	80.83
101.228.00	Technology Services	1	110.00
101.265.00	Building & Grounds	14	35,876.89
101.281.31	Judicial - Circuit Court	16	9,858.26
101.281.36	Judicial - District Court	9	9,755.35
101.281.41	Judicial - Friend of the Court	3	3,197.69
101.281.48	Judicial - Probate Court	46	4,912.63
101.281.49	Judicial - Juvenile Court	121	21,108.98
101.296.29	Prosecutor	22	1,551.46
101.296.32	Prosecutor - Economic Crimes	2	78.33
101.301.01	Sheriff	35	23,729.82
101.301.03	Sheriff - Delta	42	16,333.90
101.301.43	Sheriff - Animal Control	5	2,154.87
101.301.51	Sheriff - Corrections	58	20,115.40
101.631.00	Substance Abuse	1	70,274.40
101.648.00	Medical Examiner	3	27,797.02
101.689.00	Veteran Services	16	3,877.30
101.721.00	Community Development	4	200.31
	General Fund Totals	403	257,942.96
226	Computer Fund	7	25,960.03
228	Solid Waste Ordinance	8	30,583.59
249	Construction Code	3	8,012.37
260	Indigent Defense	15	30,078.45
261	Central Dispatch	7	9,662.40
264	Local Corrections Officer Training	1	2,632.00
265	Drug Law Enforcement - Sheriff	1	990.00
272	Adult Circuit Drug Court	1	1,700.00
273	DWI Sobriety Court	1	2,550.00
274	Swift & Sure Sanctions	1	637.50
292	Child Care Fund	3	2,497.50
701	Trust & Agency	1	450.00
	Total Payments	452	373,696.80

Eaton County Payment Report

For the month of May, 2024

Immediate Payments from 04/01/2024 to 04/30/2024

Organization	Organization Description	# of Payments	Amount Paid
General Fund			
101	General Fund	157	42,019.97
101.101.00	Board of Commissioners	2	25.68
101.172.00	Controller's Office	4	551.78
101.215.00	County Clerk	3	585.65
101.215.07	County Clerk - Elections	2	160.95
101.228.00	Technology Services	4	2,147.66
101.253.00	Treasurer	6	1,112.16
101.257.00	Equalization	5	910.40
101.265.00	Building & Grounds	32	24,672.18
101.281.31	Judicial - Circuit Court	387	15,381.45
101.281.36	Judicial - District Court	8	2,209.31
101.281.41	Judicial - Friend of the Court	1	121.39
101.281.48	Judicial - Probate Court	1	202.96
101.281.49	Judicial - Juvenile Court	13	2,287.60
101.281.50	Judicial - Circuit Court Probation	1	14.15
101.296.29	Prosecutor	30	32,514.41
101.296.32	Prosecutor - Economic Crimes	6	2,019.71
101.296.34	Prosecutor - Child Support	1	35.00
101.301.01	Sheriff	12	30,406.61
101.301.03	Sheriff - Delta	5	3,313.16
101.301.43	Sheriff - Animal Control	4	1,194.83
101.301.51	Sheriff - Corrections	8	40,127.67
101.442.00	Drain	7	17,201.43
101.689.00	Veteran Services	1	14.00
101.689.89	Veteran Services Grant	2	429.01
101.711.00	Register of Deeds	1	100.60
101.721.00	Community Development	6	566.79
	General Fund Totals	709	220,326.51
208	Parks & Recreation	54	12,310.71
226	Computer Fund	2	13,899.04
227	Landfill	1	31,158.37
228	Solid Waste Ordinance	6	1,604.85
236	Community Development Block Grant	2	19,910.00
245	Remonumentation	2	1,881.49
249	Construction Code	4	1,430.26
260	Indigent Defense	2	501.40
261	Central Dispatch	18	8,715.79
263	Concealed Pistol Licenses	1	688.38

Eaton County Payment Report

For the month of May, 2024

Immediate Payments from 04/01/2024 to 04/30/2024

Organization	Organization Description	# of Payments	Amount Paid
272	Adult Circuit Drug Court	4	1,438.00
273	DWI Sobriety Court	4	2,517.00
274	Swift & Sure Sanctions	4	1,112.00
275	Veteran's Court	3	716.00
276	Community Corrections	6	5,510.02
277	Residential Substance Abuse Treatment	2	7,711.10
278	Hybrid Sobriety Court	2	1,140.00
282	American Rescue Plan	1	1,327.09
290	MDHHS	2	193.85
292	Child Care Fund	50	1,054,701.13
293	Soldiers & Sailors	6	900.00
296	Juvenile Millage	1	935.95
297	911 Surcharge	6	5,268.59
510	Home Tax Exemption Audit	3	1,541.66
513	Foreclosing Governmental Unit	7	4,879.29
670	Health Insurance	12	5,747.97
677	Workers Compensation	3	8,630.03
679	Life & Disability Insurance	2	2,838.70
680	Dental Insurance	9	30,921.78
693	20X3 Delinquent Tax	6	1,158.71
701	Trust & Agency	132	146,494.04
703	Current Tax Collections	2	62,674.92
704	Trust & Agency - Payroll	13	4,677.41
706	Donations - Juvenile Court	1	100.00
711	Trust & Agency - Probate Court	4	11,148.98
720	Donations - Sheriff	2	280.59
801	Drain	80	940,192.90
	Total Payments	1,168	2,617,184.51

Eaton County Payment Report

For the month of May, 2024

Electronic Payments from 04/01/2024 to 04/30/2024

Organization	Organization Description	# of Payments	Amount Paid
General Fund			
101	General Fund	1	17,000.00
101.101.00	Board of Commissioners	2	(952.55)
101.172.00	Controller's Office	7	38,699.85
101.215.00	County Clerk	2	127.04
101.215.07	County Clerk - Elections	1	80.98
101.228.00	Technology Services	9	1,535.14
101.253.00	Treasurer	4	156.79
101.257.00	Equalization	4	1,524.01
101.265.00	Building & Grounds	22	1,992.49
101.281.31	Judicial - Circuit Court	12	906.56
101.281.36	Judicial - District Court	4	320.40
101.281.41	Judicial - Friend of the Court	1	31.75
101.281.48	Judicial - Probate Court	4	1,211.51
101.281.49	Judicial - Juvenile Court	4	2,228.20
101.296.29	Prosecutor	4	1,386.36
101.296.32	Prosecutor - Economic Crimes	1	1,890.42
101.296.35	Prosecutor - Crime Victims	2	421.00
101.301.01	Sheriff	59	40,771.50
101.301.03	Sheriff - Delta	37	43,471.05
101.301.43	Sheriff - Animal Control	4	4,351.94
101.301.51	Sheriff - Corrections	24	28,177.26
101.442.00	Drain	5	3,279.44
101.689.00	Veteran Services	3	180.98
	General Fund Totals	216	188,792.12
201	Road Commission	7	2,019,436.07
208	Parks & Recreation	28	5,923.31
221	Barry-Eaton Health Department	7	887,650.74
226	Computer Fund	11	1,353.72
228	Solid Waste Ordinance	6	387.90
249	Construction Code	13	6,177.23
260	Indigent Defense	2	218.88
261	Central Dispatch	28	7,005.11
264	Local Corrections Officer Training	1	1,241.88
265	Drug Law Enforcement - Sheriff	1	332.52
273	DWI Sobriety Court	1	60.00
275	Veteran's Court	4	558.68
276	Community Corrections	1	65.78
278	Hybrid Sobriety Court	1	120.54

Eaton County Payment Report

For the month of May, 2024

Electronic Payments from 04/01/2024 to 04/30/2024

Organization	Organization Description	# of Payments	Amount Paid
287	Homeland Security	26	11,982.38
292	Child Care Fund	67	8,856.29
387	Dental Clinic	2	67,381.25
512	Medical Care Facility	7	2,064,694.09
656	Retirement	1	822,601.37
670	Health Insurance	1	693,907.00
676	Retiree's Health Insurance	5	48,294.98
678	Unemployment	1	1,810.00
679	Life & Disability Insurance	1	2,167.20
701	Trust & Agency	3	251,229.69
704	Trust & Agency - Payroll	54	832,794.98
706	Donations - Juvenile Court	1	69.88
707	Donations - Youth Facility	2	311.85
851	Drain Debt	1	500.00
	Total Payments	499	7,925,925.44

Board Payments on 05/15/2024	373,696.80
Immediate Payments from 04/01/2024 to 04/30/2024	2,617,184.51
Electronic Payments from 04/01/2024 to 04/30/2024	7,925,925.44
Employee Payroll - see attached report	1,849,859.65
Total	12,766,666.40

As reviewed and approved by the Ways and Means Committee 5/10/2024

Committee Members: Mulder, Rogers, Lautzenheiser, Augustine, Pearl-Wright, and Brehler

EATON COUNTY

MASTER PLAN

2024-2044

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Eaton County Planning Commission

Brian Ross, Chairperson
Ben Tirrell, Vice Chairperson
Mike Hosey, Secretary
Tim Cattron
Lisa Lawitzke
Zac Dillinger
Bruce Porter
Frank Holmes, Board of Commissioners Ex Officio
Scott Hansen, Board of Commissioners Ex Officio

Eaton County Board of Commissioners

Tim Barnes, District 1
Blake Mulder, District 2
Terrance Augustine, District 3
Brandon Haskell, District 4
Jeanne Pearl-Wright, District 5
Trevor TJ Youngquist, District 6
Mark Mudry, District 7
Joseph C. Brehler, District 8
Brian Droscha, District 9
Jacob Toomey, District 10
Scott Hansen, District 11
Brian Lautzenheiser, District 12
Jim Mott, District 13 - Chairperson
Frank Holmes, District 14
Barbara A. Rogers, District 15 - Vice Chairperson

Township Board of Trustees Participating in County Zoning

Bellevue Township
Brookfield Township
Carmel Township
Chester Township
Eaton Township
Eaton Rapids Township
Kalamo Township
Roxand Township
Sunfield Township
Vermontville Township
Walton Township

Participating Stakeholder Organizations

MSU Extension
Olivet Community Schools
Charlotte Community Library
Maple Valley School District
Tri-County Regional Planning Commission
Eaton County Conservation District
Lansing Economic Area Partnership
Capital Area Transportation Authority
Eaton Transportation Authority
Michigan Department of Transportation
Eaton County Drain Commissioners Office
Eaton County Road Commission
City of Charlotte

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Acknowledgments i

Table of Contents ii

Chapter 1: Introduction

- Why Plan? 1-2
- Planning Process 1-2
- Eaton County Planning Context 1-3
- About County Zoning 1-3

Chapter 2: Public Engagement

- Eaton County Stakeholder Meetings 2-2
    - • Best Assets and Biggest Challenges 2-2
    - • Common Themes 2-3
- Stakeholder Specific Questions 2-5
    - • Township Stakeholder Focus Group 2-5
    - • Regional Entities Stakeholder Focus Group 2-5
    - • Transportation and Public Services Stakeholder Focus Group 2-5
    - • Parks and Recreation Stakeholder Focus Group 2-5
    - • Education Stakeholder Focus Group 2-5
- Community Survey 2-7
- Response Rate 2-7
- Survey Results 2-7

Chapter 3: Population Characteristics

- Regional Context 3-2
- Population Distribution 3-3
- Household and Population Change 3-5
- Age 3-10
- Education 3-11
- Race 3-12

Chapter 4: Housing

- Eaton County Housing Characteristics 4-2
  - • County-Wide Housing Market Information 4-2
  - • Year Housing Unit Built 4-4
  - • Housing Tenure 4-6
  - • Change in Assessed Value 4-8
- Eaton County Housing Programs 4-10
- Emergency Repair Program 4-10
- Eaton County Housing and Shelter Continuum of Care Committee 4-10
- Housing Services 4-10
  - • Subsidized Housing 4-10
  - • Mainstream Voucher Program 4-10
  - • Foreclosure Prevention/Homelessness Prevention Programs 4-11
- SIREN/Eaton Shelter 4-11
- Senior Housing 4-11
- Historic Preservation 4-11

Chapter 5: Economy and Agriculture

- Employment Mix 5-3
- Employment Trends 5-4
- Income 5-8
- Commuting Patterns and Workplace 5-9
- Agriculture 5-10
- Economic Development Activities 5-13
  - • Economic Development Partnerships 5-13
  - • Eaton County Economic Development Role 5-13
  - • Economic Development Opportunities 5-14
  - • Workforce Development 5-14

Chapter 6: Natural Features and Resources

- Geology 6-2
- Topography 6-4
- Soils 6-4

- Pre-Settlement Vegetation 6-6
- Current Landcover 6-8
- Water Resources 6-10
    • Upper Grand River Watershed Plan 6-12
    • Thornapple River (Lower Grand River) Watershed Plan 6-13
    • Battle Creek River Watershed 6-14
    • Lakes 6-15
    • Wetlands 6-15
    • Groundwater Resources 6-17
- Potential Conservation Areas 6-19
    • Green Infrastructure 6-19

Chapter 7: Parks and Recreation

- Administration 7-2
- County Parks 7-2
- Local Parks 7-5
- Major Assets in County 7-7
- Five-Year Plan and Millage 7-7
- Partnerships 7-7
- Programs and Expansion 7-8
- School and College Recreation Opportunities 7-8
- 2021-2025 Parks and Recreation Plan Goals 7-11
    • Goal 1: Infrastructure Improvements 7-11
    • Goal 2: Fiscal Responsibility 7-11
    • Goal 3: Public Awareness 7-11
    • Goal 4: Partnerships and Collaboration 7-11
    • Goal 5: Connectivity 7-11
    • Goal 6: Recreational and Interpretive Programming 7-11
    • Goal 7: Maintenance and Operations 7-11
    • Goal 8: Preservation and Conservation 7-11
- Connection Between Parks Plan and Master Plan 7-11

Chapter 8: Transportation

- Planning Process....8-2
- Roadway Network....8-2
- Roadway Classification and Responsibility....8-2
- Administrative Jurisdiction....8-2
- National Functional Classification....8-3
    - • Interstates....8-3
    - • Principal Arterials....8-3
    - • Minor Arterials....8-3
    - • Major and Minor Collectors....8-3
    - • Local Roads....8-3
    - • Private Roads....8-3
- Status of Roadways....8-5
- Rights-of-Ways....8-5
- Roadway Deficiencies....8-5
- Pavement Conditions....8-6
- Proposed Improvements....8-6
- Rail Lines....8-8
- Airports....8-8
- Public Transportation....8-8
    - • Eaton County Transit System....8-8
    - • Capital Area Transportation Authority....8-9
- Improvements to Existing Transit Service....8-9
- Non-Motorized Transportation....8-9
- Opportunities for Change....8-10
    - • Access Management....8-11
    - • Traffic Calming....8-11
    - • Private Roads....8-11
- Non-Motorized Transportation and Trail Connectivity....8-11

Chapter 9: Public Services

- Local Governmental Offices....9-2

- Emergency Services 9-2
- Schools 9-2
- Public Utilities 9-3
- Public Wastewater Systems 9-3
- Public Water Systems 9-3
- Solid Waste 9-4

Chapter 10: Intergovernmental Cooperation

- Information Sharing and Training 10-2
- Planning and Zoning 10-2
- Economic Development 10-3
- Transportation 10-3
- Shared Services 10-3
- Parks, Recreation, and Natural Resources 10-4

Chapter 11: Taking Action

- Overall Goals 11-2
- Planning Commission and Community Development Objectives 11-3
- Implementation Strategy 11-6

Chapter 12: Land Use

- Existing Land Use 12-2
- Land Use Change 12-4
- Change in Property Class 12-5
- Building Permits 12-9
- Future Land Use 12-11
    - • Eaton County Master Plan Land Use Classifications 12-13
    - • Future Land Use Map 12-15
- Zoning Plan 12-17
    - • Recommended Zoning Ordinance Amendments 12-17
- Annual Report 12-17
- Five-Year Review 12-18
    - • Standards for Review 12-18

Appendix

- Township Future Land Use and Zoning Map A-2

List of Tables

- Table 1-1: Master Plan Update Schedule 1-2
- Table 3-1: County Population Change 3-3
- Table 3-2: Population Distribution 3-3
- Table 3-3: Change in Households and Population 3-6
- Table 3-4: Median Age 3-10
- Table 3-5: Percent Change in Age Distribution 3-11
- Table 3-6: Education 3-12
- Table 3-7: Race 3-13
- Table 4-1: Change in Mortgage Cost 4-2
- Table 4-2: Change in Home Value 4-3
- Table 4-3: Year Housing Unit Built 4-4
- Table 4-4: Housing Tenure 4-6
- Table 4-5: Change in Property Values 4-8
- Table 5-1: Michigan and Eaton County Employment Mix 5-3
- Table 5-2: Change in Total Employment 5-4
- Table 5-3: Industry Mix and Change 2011-2021 5-6
- Table 5-4: Household Income Distribution 5-8
- Table 5-5: Change in Median Income 5-8
- Table 6-1: Lakes 6-15
- Table 6-2: Wetland Areas 6-15
- Table 6-3: Potential Conservation Areas 6-19
- Table 7-1: County-Owned Parks and Recreation 7-2
- Table 7-2: Local Parks Inventory 7-5
- Table 7-3: Public School Recreational Facilities 7-9

List of Figures

- Figure 3-1: Change in Households and Populations, Townships Only 3-6

- Figure 3-2: Change in Households and Population, Townships Only 3-7
- Figure 3-3: Change in Households and Populations, Cities Only 3-7
- Figure 3-4 Change in Households and Population, Villages Only 3-7
- Figure 3-5: Percent Change in Age Distribution 2000-2020 3-11
- Figure 3-6: Educational Attainment 3-12
- Figure 4-1: Change in Mortgage Cost Q1 2021 - Q1 2022 4-3
- Figure 4-2: Change in Home Value Q1 2021 - Q1 2022 4-3
- Figure 5-1: Prime Farmland Map 5-2
- Figure 5-2: Eaton County Employment Mix, 2021 5-4
- Figure 5-3: Percent Change in Total Employment 5-5
- Figure 5-4: Percent Change Industry Sectors, Michigan and Eaton County 5-6
- Figure 5-5: Total Change in Employment, Eaton County 5-7
- Figure 5-6: Worker Inflow and Outflow 5-9
- Figure 5-7: Eaton County Employment Locations 5-10
- Figure 5-8: Farm Operations by Size 2007 and 2017 5-11
- Figure 5-9: Acres in Farms 5-11
- Figure 5-10: Acres of Cropland Harvested 5-12
- Figure 5-11: Value of Sales for Agricultural Operations 5-12
- Figure 5-12: Average Size of Agricultural Operations 5-13
- Figure 6-1: Ledges along the Grand River in Grand Ledge 6-2
- Figure 6-2: Eaton County Geology 6-3
- Figure 6-3: Eaton County Soils (Source: USDA) 6-5
- Figure 6-4: Pre-Settlement Vegetation 6-7
- Figure 6-5: Eaton County Land Cover, 2021 6-8
- Figure 6-6: Land Cover 6-9
- Figure 6-7: Eaton County Watersheds and Water Features 6-11
- Figure 6-8: Wetland Areas in Eaton County 6-16
- Figure 6-9: Ground Water Recharge Rates 6-18
- Figure 6-10: Potential Conservation Areas 6-21
- Figure 8-1: National Functional Classification 8-4

- Figure 8-2: Road Mileage 8-5
- Figure 8-3: PASER Ratings 8-6
- Figure 8-4: TIP Projects in Eaton County 8-7
- Figure 8-5: Regional Trails..... 8-10
- Figure 12-1: Existing Land Use 12-2
- Figure 12-2: Existing Land Use, 2021 12-2
- Figure 12-3: Land Use Change 2008-2022 12-4
- Figure 12-4: Change in Land Use..... 12-6
- Figure 12-5: Change in Property Classification 12-8
- Figure 12-6: Building Permits Issued..... 12-9
- Figure 12-7: Building Permits 12-10
- Figure 12-8: Zoning Plan Summary..... 12-17

List of Maps

- Map 3-1: Eaton County Location 3-2
- Map 3-2: Population Density..... 3-4
- Map 3-3: Percent Change in Population 2000-2020 3-8
- Map 3-4: Percent Change in Total Households 2000-2020 3-9
- Map 4-1: Percent of Housing Units Built Before 1980 4-5
- Map 4-2: Percent Change in the Number of Owner Occupied Housing Units 2000-2020 4-7
- Map 4-3: Change in Value of Real Property 2010-2021 4-9
- Map 7-1: County-Owned Parks and Recreation 7-4
- Map 12-1: Existing Land Use..... 12-3
- Map 12-2: Land Use Change..... 12-7
- Map 12-3: Composite Future Land Use..... 12-12
- Map 12-4: Future Land Use Map..... 12-16

CHAPTER 1

INTRODUCTION

Chapter 1 | Introduction

Why Plan?

In Michigan, communities are *enabled,* not required to prepare a master plan by the Michigan Planning Enabling Act, PA 33 of 2008. The Planning Enabling Act states,

> *A master plan shall address land use and infrastructure issues and may project 20 years or more into the future. A master plan shall include maps, plats, charts, and descriptive, explanatory, and other related matter and shall show the planning commission's recommendations for the physical development of the planning jurisdiction.*

Planning involves the conscious selection of policy choices that balance needs for growth, land preservation, and public facilities according to a public planning process. The master plan is an official Eaton County document that sets forth policies for the future of the community. The purpose of master planning is to identify a clear and compelling vision through a comprehensive set of goals and actions.

Planning Process

While planning is optional, change is inevitable. This master plan provides Eaton County with a lens through which to view the change that has occurred since the last county master plan was adopted in 2011, and a means to project growth and change over the next decade. The master planning process in Eaton County began in August 2022 with a kick-off meeting at the Eaton County Planning Commission, and concluded with adoption of the master plan by the Eaton County Board of Commissioners in Month, 2023. Table 1-1 provides a summary of the overall planning process undertaking by the planning commission.

Table 1-1: Master Plan Update Schedule

Month, Year	Activities
August, 2022	• Kick-Off Meeting
September, 2022	• Establish Public Input Process
October & November, 2022	• Chapter Updates: Community Characteristics, Housing, and Economy.
December 2022 & January 2023	• Stakeholder Input Sessions: o Townships under county zoning jurisdiction (x3) o Regional agencies o Parks, recreation, and environment o Education o Transportation and Public Services • Distribution of Short Community Survey • Press Release on Master Plan Update
February, 2023	• Existing Land Use Analysis
March, 2023	• Chapter Updates: Parks and Recreation, Intergovernmental Cooperation.
April, 2023	• Distribution of Full Community Survey • Training program and final stakeholder meeting.
May, 2023	• Natural Features
June, 2023	• Transportation and Public Services • Goals & Objectives
July – August, 2023	• Future Land Use • Implementation Plan
September – October, 2023	• Review of Future Land Use Plan with Townships

Table 1-1: Master Plan Update Schedule	
Month, Year	**Activities**
November, 2023	• Master Plan Open Houses (x3)
December, 2023	• Approval of draft Master Plan by Planning Commission
January, 2024	• Approval of Plan for formal review by County Board of Commissioners
March 2024	• Planning Commission Public Hearing and Final Adoption

Eaton County Planning Context

Eaton County is a unique planning jurisdiction, as one of just a handful of Michigan's 83 counties with zoning authority. The Eaton County Community Development Department administers the county zoning ordinance that applies to 11 of the county's 16 townships. In addition to the 5 townships with their own zoning authority, the county is also home to 6 villages and 5 cities with their own zoning authority. **This master plan applies to the entire county and balances the county's duty to serve all residents with its responsibility for zoning authority in 11 townships.** For example, the existing land use analyses considers the entire county, but the future land use analysis incorporates the future land use plans of each community generally, and the zoning plan applies only to the county's zoning jurisdiction.

The planning context in Eaton County varies widely based on geography. The northeast portion of the county that is a part of the Greater Lansing Metropolitan Area has seen significant growth pressure in recent years, and includes significant areas of new commercial and residential development, particularly in Delta Township. However, the southern and western portions of the county are characterized by agricultural land, natural areas, and small rural cities and villages. These communities have much different needs for county services and support related to planning and zoning than the larger more urban jurisdictions in the northeastern quadrant.

About County Zoning

As a "home rule" state, most zoning in Michigan is administered at the township, city, or village level, with relatively few counties with zoning authority. However, in other parts of the United States, particularly in western states, county zoning is the norm. While administering a county zoning ordinance can be challenge given the sheer geographic size of the area, it provides several benefits for local governments that participate:

- **Regional Land Use:** People do not live their lives according to political boundaries, and land use changes tend to evolve organically, with artificial political boundaries commonly presenting a barrier to consistent development along key corridors. County zoning removes these artificial boundaries between participating entities and creates greater consistency in land use patterns.

- **Development Process:** With such a large portion of the county under county zoning, there is consistency in the development process across a large geographic area of the county. Furthermore, rather than going between multiple jurisdictions to receive zoning, building, soil erosion, and health department reviews, all development reviews are completed by the county, and the review process is expedited as a result.

- **Shared Service:** Administering, maintaining, and enforcing a zoning ordinance is costly. It requires experienced staff, committed appointed planning commissioners and zoning board of appeals members, and legal assistance. In the case of county zoning, the county assumes this burden, rather than requiring each township to manage it on its own. This provides valuable economies of scale.

- **Intergovernmental Collaboration:** With county staff working closely with local elected officials, residents, and developers across the county, collaboration between local units and government and county staff becomes second-nature, which helps to ensure that county government is responsive to local needs.

The master plan serves as the legal basis for the county's zoning ordinance. It is one of the primary resources the County Planning Commission must reference when considering changes to the zoning ordinance or zoning map. While the county master plan does not provide guidance directly for other units of government under their own zoning jurisdiction, this plan should be considered as an important resource when evaluating land use decisions to ensure consistency in the application of land use regulations whenever possible.

CHAPTER 2

PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT

Chapter 2 | Public Engagement

Eaton County Stakeholder Meetings

Eaton County conducted seven stakeholder meetings from October 2022 through January 2023. Over the seven stakeholder meetings, a total of 36 stakeholders participated. Each stakeholder group was identified by county staff and Planning Commission members. **The stakeholder groups were:**

1. Townships under county zoning (x3).
2. Regional entities.
3. Transportation and public services.
4. Parks and recreation.
5. Education.
6. Municipalities not under county zoning (pending).

During the stakeholder meetings, the first two questions remained consistent, with the remaining questions tailored towards each stakeholder group. The stakeholders identified under county zoning met in person, while the stakeholders identified in the Parks and Recreation group, Transportation and Public Services group, Regional Entities group, and the Education group met virtually.

Best Assets and Biggest Challenges

The first question asked at every stakeholder meeting was, “What are the best assets and biggest challenges in Eaton County?” The answers given helped curate the common themes described below. Several assets and challenges were discussed between the various stakeholders, with six common themes coming to light in multiple groups.

Assets	Challenges
Access to open spaces: • Blue spaces – water resources • Green spaces • Access to parks, recreational areas, and trails	**Housing:** • Lack of available housing units • Lack of affordable housing • Lack of housing diversity
Proximity to large cities: • Lansing, Kalamazoo, Jackson • Mix of rural, suburban, and urban areas	**Retention of talent:** • Business retention • Specialized teachers
Internal and external collaboration: • Groups working together in critical issues • Regional entities working with the county • Coordinated permitting and review process at the county • Strong code enforcement	**Development and code enforcement:** • Resistance to downtown development and redevelopment • Curb appeal in rural areas and small communities • Challenges around code enforcement in rural areas • Blight and junk removal
Influx of: • Young adults and young families (25- to 45-year-old) with a mix of ethnic backgrounds into the county • People to rural and suburban areas post-COVID-19 that work from home • Manufacturing jobs	**Transportation** • Road maintenance in winter • Rural road maintenance year-round • Fixed transit routes do not reach rural areas – lack of connectivity between rural and urban areas through transportation • Historically, county borders seen as barriers for transportation

Assets	Challenges
	Access to essential services and utilities • Broadband connection/ high speed internet • Lack of childcare options • Lack of access to grocery stores outside of major urban areas
	Renewable energy: • Addressing solar development
	Infrastructure: • Aging infrastructure in small towns • Lack of area for new infrastructure
	Miscellaneous: • Center of the county geographically does not match the center of county in population • No large entertainment venues or sporting events

Common Themes

The existing parks and recreation, trails, and open spaces were identified as a major asset to the county for current residents as well as for attracting residents and tourists. In 2021, the county adopted a 5-Year Parks and Recreation Plan that identified many goals that were discussed during the stakeholder meeting with the Parks and Recreation group. In November of 2022, Eaton County residents passed a millage to achieve short- and long-term goals identified in the 2021 5-Year Parks and Recreation Plan.

A major challenge related to this asset was the lack of connectivity. This includes the need for better connection between existing trails, the need for a motor vehicle to access most parks, and the lack of safe walkways around the parks.

One of the goals identified in the Parks and Recreation Plan was establishing a trail system that connects recreational facilities and amenities throughout the county by land and water. The plan has multiple objectives in order to achieve a greater trail connection within the county. Solutions to these challenges could include adding protected sidewalks or trail pathways leading to parks that are close to existing trails. This increases access to the park for those without motor vehicles and also increases pedestrian and bicyclist safety with designated, protected walkways. The county can also use its ties with the Tri-County Regional Planning Commission (TCRPC) to help aid in developing a county-wide system to establish regional connectivity within its trails system. The county could also pursue a State and National Water Trail designation for the Grand River to conserve the natural environment along the waterway and increase access to recreational opportunities on and along the river.

Stakeholders from several groups discussed issues with the current motorized and non-motorized transportation and road maintenance throughout the county. Historically, the county lines acted as a barrier for transportation.

Issues were discussed related to the lack of safe, well-lit bus stops and the lack of bus routes in more rural areas of the county. Other issues were discussed related to maintenance of rural roads year-round and all roads during the winter months. One particular issue is a lack of winter maintenance which forces school districts to have more snow days. Solutions discussed include expanded public transportation, increasing revenue for infrastructure

maintenance, and new approaches to school bus routes, including increasing common stops. Common bus stops could also be dovetailed with new trails or pathways in the county.

Common Theme 3: Collaboration Between Agencies

All of the stakeholder groups discussed the willingness of the county to cooperate between internal departments as well as the county's willingness as a whole to work with outside agencies as an asset to the development of the county. Some of those agencies the county commonly works with include Capital Area Transportation Authority (CATA), Eaton County Transportation Authority (EATRAN), Tri-County Regional Planning Commission, Michigan Economic Development Corporation, Michigan Works! Association, Lansing Economic Area Partnership, and Continuum of Care. Continued relationships with the local and regional entities will help aid in the development of the county.

Common Theme 4: Access to Essential Services and Utilities

All stakeholder groups discussed the lack of access to essential services in rural areas as well as an overall lack of access to utilities. Stakeholder groups discussed the challenges related to physical distance between rural residents and services such as fire and police services as well as rural residents having to travel far distances to receive other goods and services. All groups discussed the lack of internet connection throughout the entire county. The Education Stakeholder group specifically discussed the challenges with internet access as well as ability of those using internet connection for children and families.

Solutions to limited access to broadband and internet connection may include increasing infrastructure to support county-wide broadband access. Another solution could include holding educational events on the use of broadband to help aid those who previously had a lack of access. Solutions related to the lack of access to goods and services may involve promoting farmers markets and local vendors at community events in rural areas where food deserts are common.

Common Theme 5: Retention of Businesses, Workers, and Teachers

Various groups expressed concerns related to retention of businesses in empty storefronts and downtown areas; retention of educated, specialized teachers; and retention of residents living in the county that also work in the county.

Historically, there has been a resistance in Eaton County towards new businesses filling vacant storefronts in village and city downtown areas. Concerns were raised regarding infill of new businesses related to aesthetics and general curb appeal. Filling vacant storefronts can increase the general aesthetic; however, having façade standards can help boost public interest while also maintaining the character of the existing downtown area. Other topics discussed were the increasing number of retired persons starting home occupations. These businesses tend to not need a storefront location since they are filling niche desires within a community.

The Education Stakeholder group discussed at length the challenges with retention of young, specialized teachers as well as young families. Common themes previously mentioned such as a lack of housing units and housing diversity, the lack of access to utilities and essential services, and issues with road maintenance are all factors affecting school districts within the county trying to retain young teachers. The Education group also discussed an additional challenge for teachers with young children for the lack of childcare options within the county.

Groups touched on future concerns of residents who live within Eaton County commuting outside of the county for work. The Regional Entities Stakeholder group touched on concerns related to a lack of employment base in the county, which forces residents to commute outside the county for work. Commuting and ride sharing has been made difficult due to the poor road maintenance, especially in the winter, and a lack of bus routes in rural areas, causing more people to be dependent on personal vehicles than using public transportation.

Common Theme 6: Lack of Housing

The Regional Entities Stakeholders, Education Stakeholders, and the Township Stakeholders discussed the lack of affordable housing and the lack of diverse housing stock within the county. The Regional Entities Stakeholders discussed the lack of housing as it relates to areas in the county seeing growth in manufacturing jobs. Between Eaton County and Clinton County, a large manufacturing plant is proposed that will increase the number of jobs and employees in the area. The lack of housing and diversity of housing is a concern due to the potential for a large influx of workers. The Regional Entities group also discussed concerns related to securing housing for recent graduates. With Michigan State University (MSU) in close proximity and Olivet College within the county, there are large classes of both undergraduate and graduate students graduating each year looking for both jobs and future housing. To capture those recent graduates, a more diversified option for housing is needed.

The Education Stakeholders discussed the lack of affordable housing as it relates to young teachers and families, similar to the challenges discussed in common theme 5. The Township Stakeholders discussed the lack of available land for development of housing, as well as the existing, aging housing stock in small cities and villages does not appeal to many age groups including young families.

Stakeholder Specific Questions

After discussing the best assets and biggest challenges, each group had its own list of pre-selected questions developed based on the previous Master Plan sections related to each groups' focus as well as an open-ended discussion.

Township Stakeholder Focus Group

On October 25, 2022, three sets of Township and Local Municipality Stakeholders discussed various topics related to ongoing challenges as well as current and future needs of the communities. The in-person format focused on housing, renewable energy, utilities, and farmland preservation. Participants included representatives from Vermontville, Roxand, Walton, Carmel, Bellevue, Hamlin, Eaton Rapids, and Sunfield.

Major topics mentioned in the meeting included:

- Use of solar and other renewable energy uses on agricultural land.
- Agriculture preservation and farmland preservation in rural areas.
- Code enforcement with issues related to blight and junk in rural areas.
- Lack of access to essential services and utilities, especially in more rural areas.
- Increased non-motorized pathways to increase connectivity between communities and parks.

Education Stakeholder Focus Group

On December 14, 2022, the Education Stakeholder group met virtually to discuss various topics related to education in the Master Plan. Education Stakeholders were identified based on the various K-12 school superintendents as well as Olivet College, community libraries, and MSU Extension offices related youth education. Representatives from MSU Extension, Olivet Community Schools, Charlotte Community Library, and Maple Valley Schools attended the virtual meeting. The Education Stakeholder group was asked a series of questions related to challenges facing pre-K to 12th grade education, post-secondary, and adult education how land use decisions and the physical environment affect education and what initiatives the county should be aware of and possibly invest in.

Major topics mentioned in the meeting included:

- Rural road maintenance year-round as well as all road maintenance during winter months.
- Access to affordable internet access as well as comfort of using internet access.
- Issues with a lack of bus drivers and the number of fixed routes.
- Access to mental health services post-COVID-19 for students, teachers, and families.

- Increases in trails, sidewalks, and pathways connecting schools, parks, and neighborhoods.
- Issues with student engagement in athletics and after-school programming post-COVID-19.

Parks and Recreation Stakeholder Focus Group

On January 3, 2023, the Parks and Recreation Stakeholder group met virtually to discuss various topics related to parks and recreation in the Master Plan. The Parks and Recreation Stakeholders that attended the virtual meeting included a current County Commissioner, TCRPC Environmental Sustainability Planner and GIS Coordinator, County Parks and Recreation Director, and a representative from the Eaton County Conservation District.

Major topics mentioned in the meeting included:

- More programming and holding more events in the parks as well as education on subjects such as invasive species to engage local residents as well as attracting tourism.
- Social media outreach and internet connection were discussed as well with concerns over ability to target key audiences for programming and events.
- Uneven distribution of volunteers with some areas of the county having a strong volunteer base where others do not, thus routine maintenance of trails and parks by volunteers is not equal throughout the county.
- The lack of connectivity between the existing trail system and the ongoing need for maintenance of the parks and trails.

The recent passage of the county parks and recreation millage was discussed alongside programs and initiatives the county should consider investing in. Goals for the county millage are discussed further in Chapter #, Parks and Recreation.

Regional Entities Stakeholder Focus Group

On January 3, 2023, the Regional Entities Stakeholder group met virtually to discuss various topics related to agency cooperation in the Master Plan. The Regional Entities Stakeholders included representatives of EATRAN, county employees, a representative of CATA, a representative of the Lansing Economic Area Partnership, and a representative of the Michigan Economic Development Corporation.

Discussion included topics related to challenges facing each agency, regional projects and programs, how land use decisions affect each agency, which elements of the physical environment the county should invest in or changes to support agency goals, and how trends in population and in-migration in the county affect agency work.

Major topics mentioned in the meeting included:

- Connectivity issues with increased manufacturing businesses coming into the county versus the lack of diverse housing options.
- Determining the need of service for rural areas of the county related to solid waste management.
- Formalizing sustainability planning and completing development certifications such as Redevelopment Ready Communities Certification.
- With an aging population, additional transit assistance is needed. Also, there has been an increase in entrepreneurial businesses from retired persons.

Transportation and Public Services Stakeholder Focus Group

On January 4, 2023, the Transportation and Public Services Stakeholder group met virtually to discuss various topics related to transportation and public services in the Master Plan. The Transportation and Public Services

Stakeholders included representatives from the Eaton County Drain Commissioner, Eaton County Road Commissioner, a representative from the City of Charlotte, and a representative from the Michigan Department of Transportation (MDOT).

Topics related to assets and challenges of Eaton County's transportation networks, possible improvement efforts both regionally and locally, and the current safety of motorized and non-motorized transportation in the county were discussed.

Major topics mentioned in the meeting included:

- Challenges with current and upcoming road projects, especially outreach related to road and ramp closures.
- Challenges with funding, renewal of existing millages, and distribution of funds based on need.
- Willingness of cooperation between external agencies and the county.
- Stakeholders spoke to needing a plan that identifies areas for sidewalks, pathways, and trails in development plans such as the Master Plan in order to be able to plan, fund, and develop the pathways.
- Effectiveness of public transportation routes post-COVID-19 with the desires of the public. Also, the potential for expansion of fixed routes for greater connectivity of rural areas to urban areas.

Community Survey

Eaton County conducted a survey of the community to gather input on resident's opinions regarding important aspects of the plan as well as feelings regarding the county's assets and opportunities. Full results of the community survey are available in the Appendix.

Response Rate

The community survey was promoted via press releases to local news outlets, posted on the county's website, shared via social media, and available in hard copy at the County Courthouse and at the Charlotte Public Library. The survey was also shared with a group of approximately 50 local officials that attended a Planning and Zoning Essentials training sponsored by Eaton County and conducted by the Michigan Association of Planning in April 2023. A total of 243 people responded to the survey.

- 67% of survey respondents have lived, worked, or owned a business in Eaton County for over 20 years.
- 54% of survey respondents live within a township, while 32% live within a city. The next most common connection to the county was working in the county, which accounted for 23% of respondents.
- Approximately 60% of respondents were over the age of 50.
- 85% of respondents own their home.
- 63% of survey respondents classified the area in which they live as "rural".

As the demographic analysis demonstrates, the group of people responding to the survey is not necessarily representative of the county as a whole. Generally, the county population is younger, with a median age of 41 and less likely to be homeowners, with approximately 72% of county households owner-occupied. Other key conclusions from the survey are summarized below.

Survey Results

The following bullets summarize key results of the survey. A complete summary of results is available in the Appendix.

- **Quality of Life:** Over 75% of survey respondents rated the quality of life in Eaton County as “good” or “excellent”.

- **Values:** When asked to select from a list of characteristics about the county they value, respondents expressed strong preferences for open spaces and natural areas. The three most common selections were rural/small town atmosphere (71%), open space and natural areas (55%) and Agricultural land (40%).

- **Preservation:** Respondents found preservation of agricultural land, open space, and water resources to be significantly more important than preservation of downtowns and residential neighborhoods.

- **Economy:** Responses around the economy were much more mixed.

  - 49% of respondents agree with the statement that the economy in Eaton County is headed in the right direction, with 31% of respondents neutral.
  - A larger percentage of respondents (40%) disagreed with the statement that most businesses can find employees in a reasonable amount of time than agreed with the statement (30%).
  - 56% of respondents felt that the county has an adequate supply of retail, restaurants, and service businesses, with just 24% disagreeing.
  - 58% of respondents felt that the county has enough large employers and industrial businesses to meet the community’s needs.

- **Transportation:** Like economic measures, responses related to transportation were also mixed. While most respondents (52%) agreed that people are able to access necessary services, fewer people (47%) felt that walking and biking is safe is most of the county. The same percentage of people (47%) felt that sidewalks are available where people need them. An even smaller percentage of people (32%) agreed with the statement that there is an adequate supply of trails in the county.

- **Housing:** Housing results were fairly consistent, with over 25% of respondents being neutral on all questions. Generally, there was concern with affordability for both rental and owner-occupied housing, with less than 40% of respondents agreeing that people can find affordable rental or ownership opportunities. When asked whether Eaton County should invest in affordable housing, 47% of respondents selected “yes:”, with 30% selecting “no”.

- **Public Services:** Between 27% and 20% of respondents did not have access to water, sewer, or high speed internet, with the vast majority of respondents stating that they had access to natural areas, cellular service, and recreational activities. However, 71% of respondents stated that they would like to see improved access to high-speed internet and cellular service.

- **Renewable Energy:** 57% and 59% of respondents, respectively, stated that they would not like to see more land in the county utilized for solar and wind energy.

CHAPTER 3

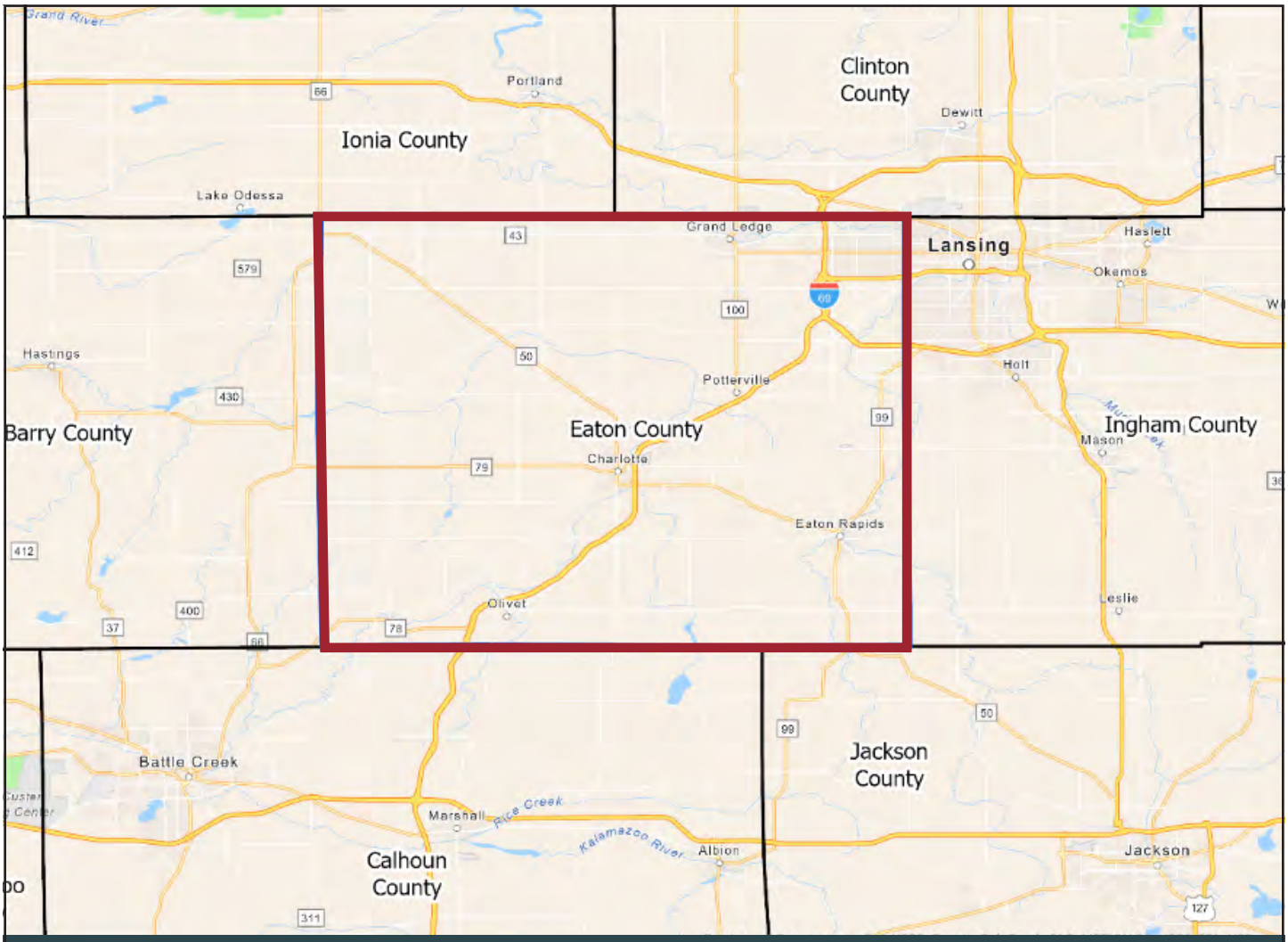
POPULATION CHARACTERISTICS

Chapter 3 | Population Characteristics

During any planning process, the first step is to take stock of current conditions and trends affecting an area. Understanding current conditions and how they evolved over time is critical to establishing future goals, while also evaluating the suitability and feasibility of future land use classifications.

This chapter provides an overview of general population and demographic changes in Eaton County, and the local units of government within the county and surrounding counties.

Regional Context



Map 3-1: *Eaton County Location*

Eaton County is a primarily rural county, with more urban and suburban areas in the northeast corner of the county that are part of the larger metropolitan Lansing region. The County seat is Charlotte, located in the center of the county, with other small villages and cities scattered throughout the county.

Eaton County is a part of Tri-County Region, composed of Eaton, Clinton, and Ingham Counties, each of which includes a portion of the City of Lansing, the primary urban center of the region. While the northern and eastern portions of Eaton County are strongly connected to Lansing, the southern and western areas of the county relate more closely to Battle Creek and Hastings. Map 3-1 displays all counties adjacent to Eaton.

Table 3-1 displays the change in population for Eaton County and all surrounding counties. Compared to surrounding counties, Eaton County is solidly in the middle in terms of population change since 2000, having

seen an increase of 5 percent over the time period. This is consistent with Eaton County's character of having a mix of rural and suburban/urban areas. The more urban counties in the table (Calhoun, Ingham, and Jackson) all saw significantly less growth, while the more rural counties (Barry, Clinton, and Ionia) each had larger increases in population. **Overall, Eaton County grew at a much faster rate, at 5 percent, than the State of Michigan as a whole, which grew by just 1.4 percent between 2000 and 2020.**

In the previous 2011 master plan, it was noted that according to 2006 Census estimates, Eaton County was projected to grow to 117,400 persons by 2020. This was likely due to projecting continued population growth that was seen throughout the 1990s that has slowed significantly since.

Table 3-1: County Population Change (Source 2000, 2010, and 2020 Decennial Census)

County	Year 2000	2010	2020	% Change 2000 – 2020
Eaton County	**103,655**	**107,759**	**109,175**	**5%**
Barry County	56,755	59,173	62,423	10%
Calhoun County	137,985	136,146	134,310	-3%
Clinton County	64,753	75,382	79,128	22%
Ingham County	279,320	280,895	284,900	2%
Ionia County	61,518	63,905	66,804	9%
Jackson County	158,422	160,248	160,366	1%

Population Distribution

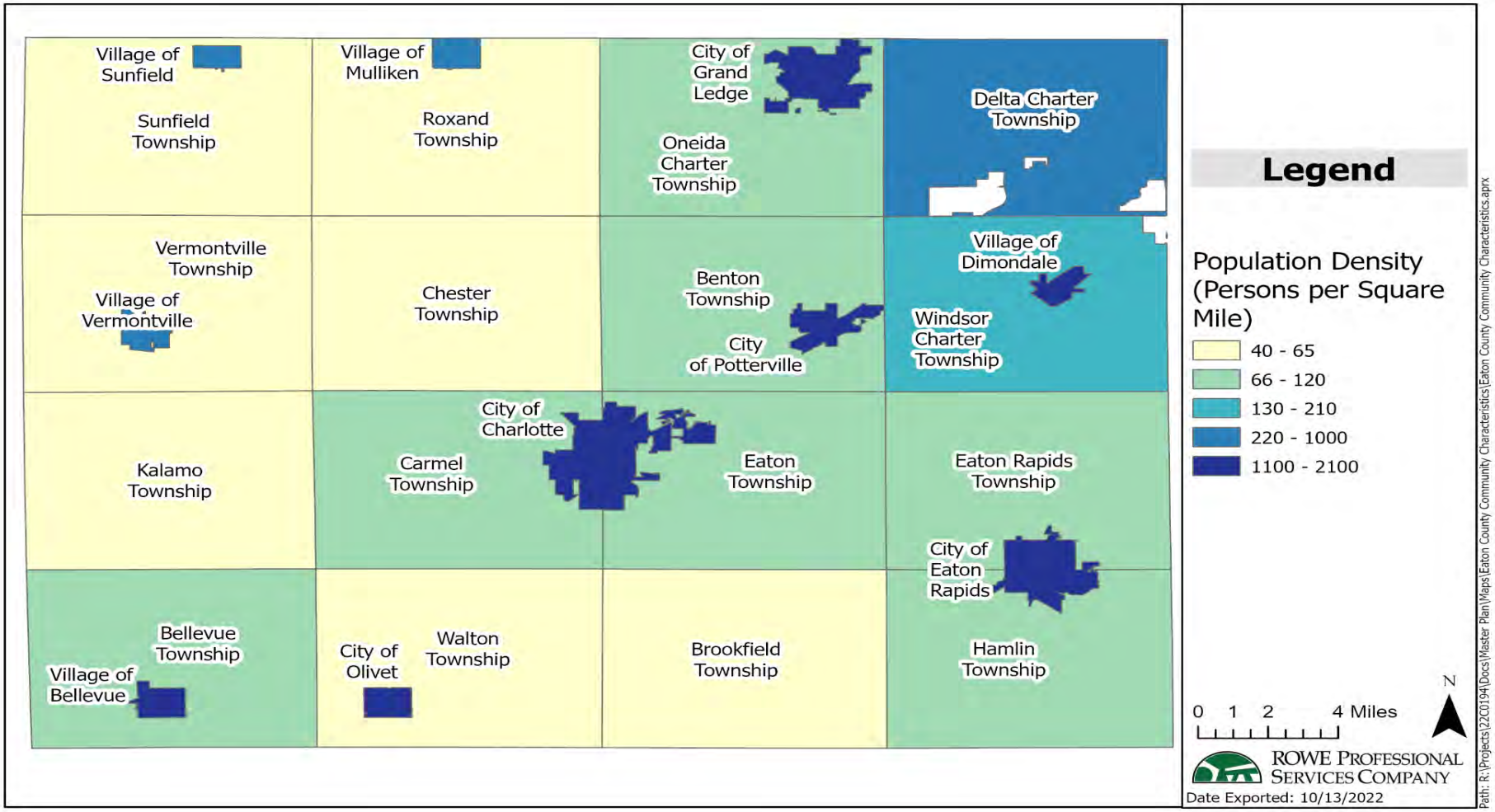
Table 3-2 displays the total population of each local unit of government in Eaton County according to the 2020 U.S. Decennial Census. Delta Township is the largest community in the county, with over 33,000 people, and the Village of Sunfield is the smallest, with just over 500 people. Map 3-2 displays the population density of each local unit of government in Eaton County. Generally, the population density is lower as one moves further from the Lansing area in the Northeast corner of the county.

Table 3-2: Population Distribution (Source 2020 Decennial Census)

Municipality	2020	Municipality	2020
Bellevue Township	3,200	Hamlin Township	3,227
Village of Bellevue	1,308	Kalamo Township	1,765
Benton Township	2,766	Village of Mulliken	525
Brookfield Township	1,467	City of Olivet	1,517
Carmel Township	2,839	Oneida Charter Township	3,986
City of Charlotte	9,299	City of Potterville	3,055
Chester Township	1,769	Roxand Township	1,748
Delta Charter Township	33,119	Sunfield Township	2,050
Village of Dimondale	1,134	Village of Sunfield	518
Eaton Township	4,007	Vermontville Township	1,947
City of Eaton Rapids	5,203	Village of Vermontville	716
Eaton Rapids Township	3,991	Walton Township	2,293
City of Grand Ledge	7,784	Windsor Charter Township	7,140

Source: 2020 Decennial U.S. Census

Map 3-2: *Population Density (Source 2020 Decennial Census)*



Household and Population Change

A household is defined as “all the persons who occupy a housing unit as their usual place of residence” by the U.S. Census Bureau. As populations age and change, changes of the characteristics of households have significant impacts on communities. A significant trend affecting many communities is the decrease in the number of people per household. This means that while total population may be stable or increasingly slowly, demand for additional housing units is growing. For example, between 2000 and 2020, the average size of a household in Michigan decreased by 8 percent, from 2.67 in 2000 to 2.45 in 2020. In Eaton County, over the same time period, the average household size decreased from 2.54 to 2.40, a 6 percent decrease.

Overall, the number of households is increasing at a faster rate than the population in Eaton County, with population increasing 5 percent between 2000 and 2020, but the number of households increasing by 12 percent. However, this change is not consistent across all units of government in the county. Table 3-3 *and* Figure 3-1 *through* Figure 3-3*: Change in Households and Populations, Cities Only*

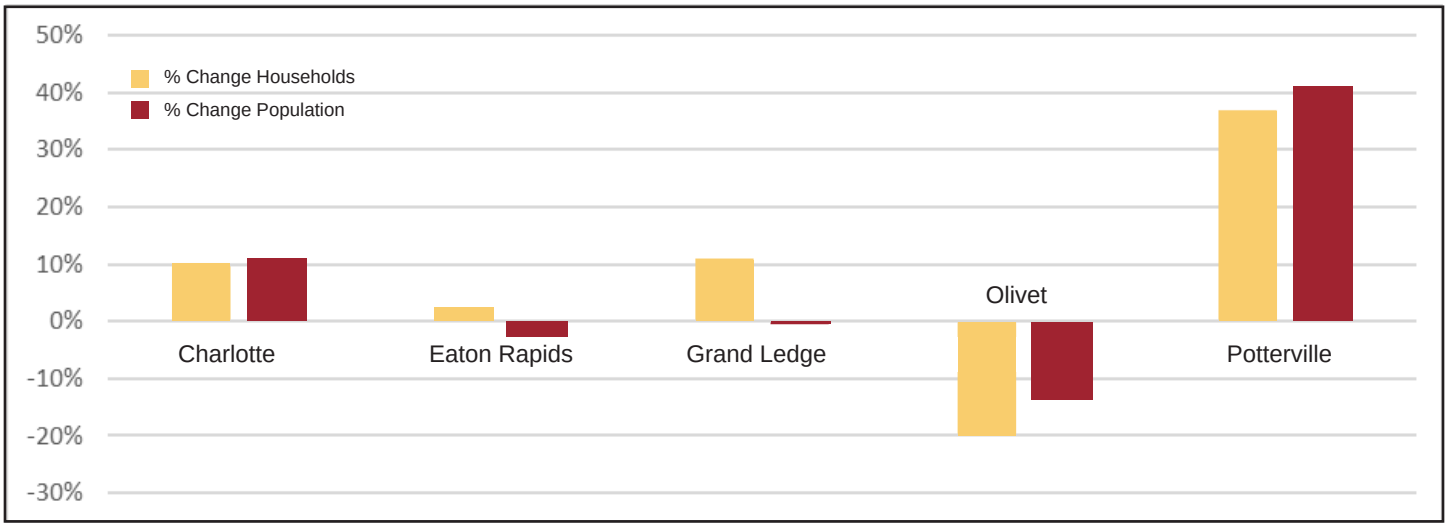


Figure 3-4 display the change in total households and population for each unit of government in the county, and the differences are significant.

For example, the Village of Bellevue; Bellevue and Eaton Townships; and Cities of Charlotte, Olivet, and Potterville all saw a greater change in population than households. In the Bellevue Township, the number of households decreased by 4 percent, while population increased by 2 percent. In contrast, Roxand Township experienced an 8 percent decrease in population, but a 21 percent increase in the number of households.

Table 3-3: Change in Households and Population

(Source: 2000 Decennial Census & 2016-2020 American Community Survey)

Community	Total Households (2000)	Total Households (2020)	% Change Households	Total Population (2000)	Total Population (2020)	%
Eaton County	40,167	45,037	12%	103,655	109,175	5%
Bellevue Township	1,161	1,113	-4%	3,144	3,200	2%
Village of Bellevue	526	451	-14%	1,365	1,308	-4%
Benton Township	991	1,044	5%	2,712	2,766	2%
Brookfield Township	538	606	13%	1,429	1,467	3%
Carmel Township	923	1,073	16%	2,626	2,839	8%
City of Charlotte	3,213	3,525	10%	8,389	9,299	11%

Table 3-3: Change in Households and Population (Source: 2000 Decennial Census & 2016-2020 American Community Survey)						
Community	Total Households (2000)	Total Households (2020)	% Change Households	Total Population (2000)	Total Population (2020)	%
Chester Township	648	694	7%	1,778	1,769	-1%
Delta Charter Township	12,559	15,282	22%	29,682	33,119	12%
Village of Dimondale	473	585	24%	1,342	1,134	-15%
Eaton Township	1,531	1,421	-7%	4,278	4,007	-6%
City of Eaton Rapids	2,061	2,104	2%	5,330	5,203	-2%
Eaton Rapids Township	1,328	1,590	20%	3,821	3,991	4%
City of Grand Ledge	3,267	3,629	11%	7,813	7,784	0%
Hamlin Township	1,045	1,271	22%	2,953	3,227	9%
Kalamo Township	622	684	10%	1,742	1,765	1%
Village of Muliken	190	221	16%	557	525	-6%
City of Olivet	482	388	-20%	1,758	1,517	-14%
Oneida Charter Township	1,352	1,483	10%	3,703	3,986	8%
City of Potterville	806	1,103	37%	2,168	3,055	41%
Roxand Township	658	794	21%	1,903	1,748	-8%
Sunfield Township	777	779	0%	2,177	2,050	-6%
Village of Sunfield	217	238	10%	591	518	-12%
Vermontville Township	749	722	-4%	2,100	1,947	-7%
Vermontville Village	282	276	-2%	789	716	-9%
Walton Township	699	809	16%	2,011	2,293	14%
Windsor Charter Township	2,781	2,960	6%	7,340	7,140	-3%

Map 3-3 and Map 3-4 display the percent change in households and population for each unit of government in Eaton County. As the maps show, there are many more units of government that saw larger increases in the number of households than population. These communities that have the greatest difference between change in households and change in population are also likely experiencing increased demand for housing.

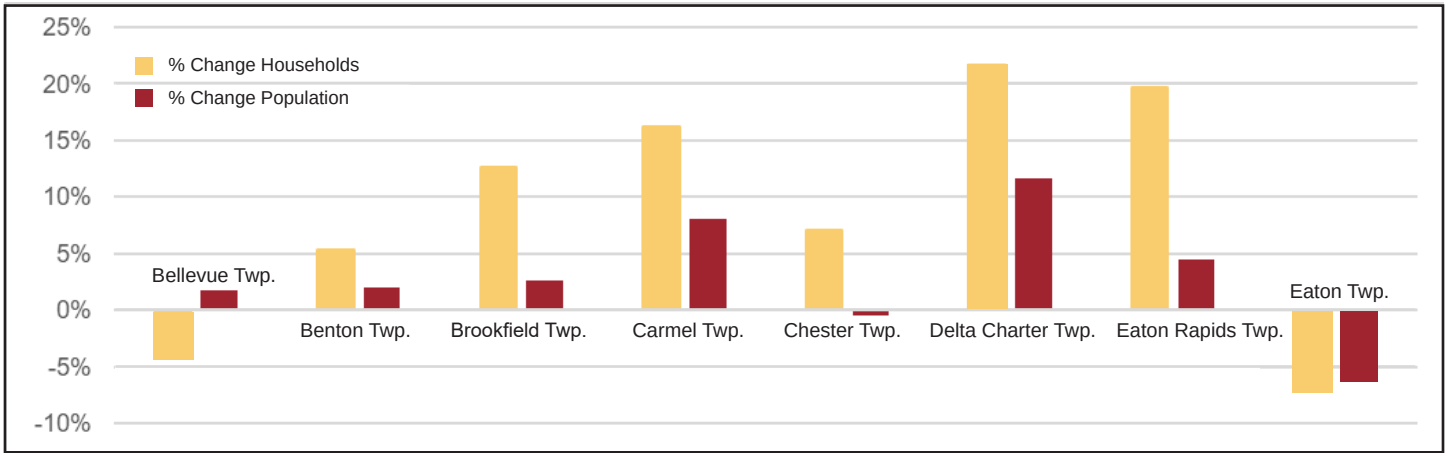


Figure 3-1: *Change in Households and Populations, Townships Only*

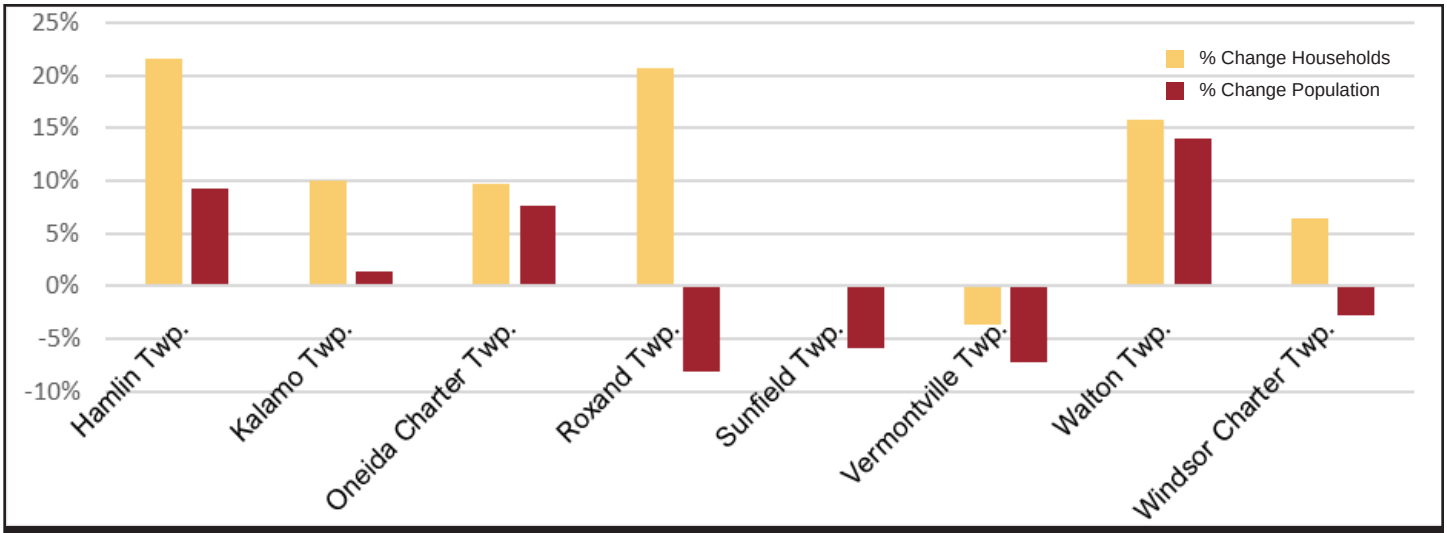


Figure 3-2: *Change in Households and Population, Townships Only*

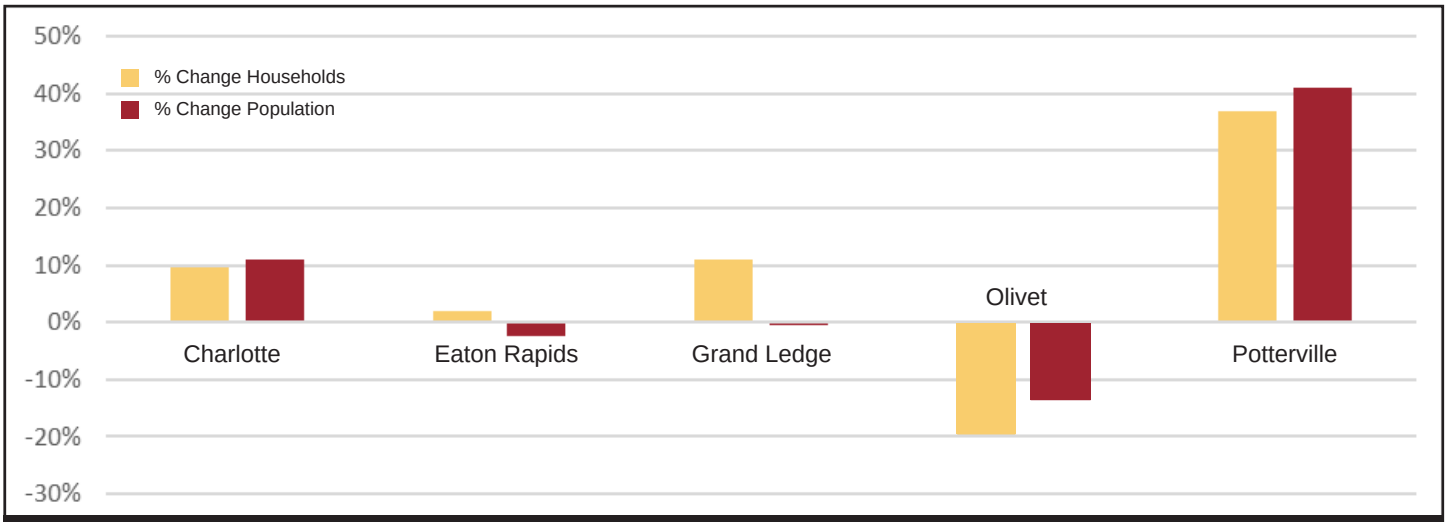


Figure 3-3: *Change in Households and Populations, Cities Only*

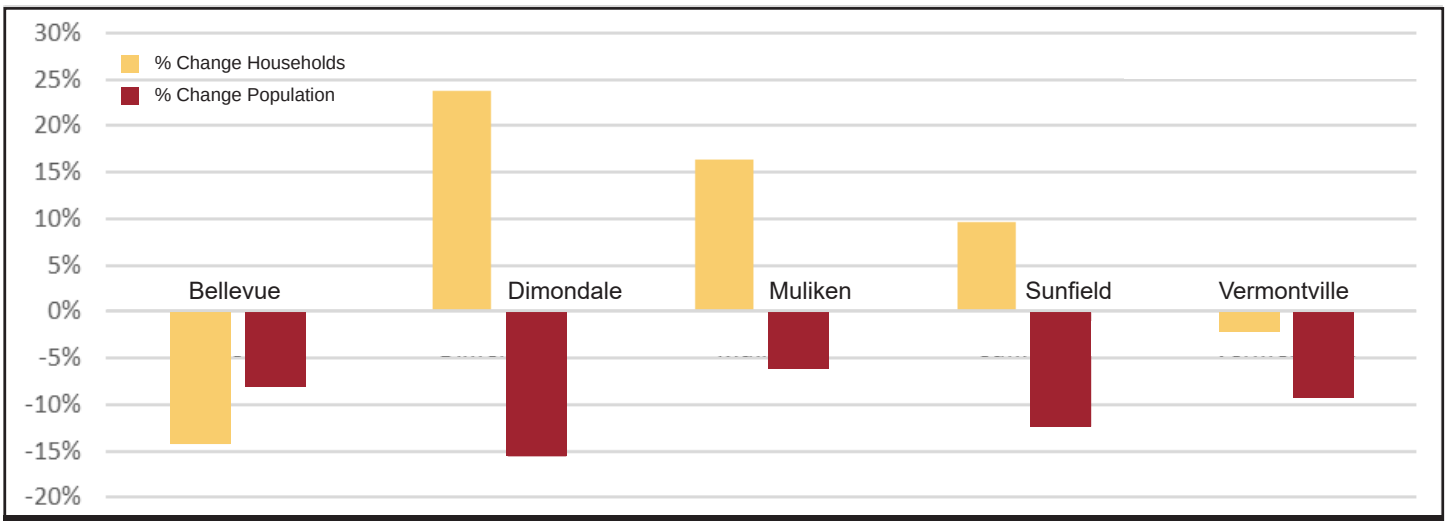


Figure 3-4: *Change in Households and Population, Villages Only*

Map 3-3: *Percent Change in Population 2000 – 2020 (Source 2000 & 2020 Decennial Census)*

Map 3-4: *Percent Change in Total Households 2000 – 2020 (Source 2000 and 2020 Decennial Census)*

Age

Like most of Michigan, Eaton County's population is aging. Since 2000, the median age in the county has increased from 36.4 years to 41.1 years, an increase of nearly 5 years. This is consistent with statewide and national trends; in Michigan during the same time period, the median age increased from 35.6 to 39.8, an increase of approximately 4 years. Median age across Eaton County has not increased similar for each community. The City of Olivet actually saw median age decrease over the 20-year period, while Chester Township saw an increase of over 10 years. In some communities, there are unique drivers for the change in age, for example, in Olivet the influence of Olivet College is likely driving the decrease in age.

Table 3-4
(Source: 2000 Decennial Census & 2016-2020 American Community Survey)

Community*	Median Age 2000	Median Age 2020	Change
Bellevue Township	36.9	38.6	1.7
Benton Township	39.4	43.7	4.3
Brookfield Township	38.8	46.5	7.7
Carmel Township	38.5	47.1	8.6
Chester Township	39.2	49.7	10.5
City of Charlotte	34.0	35.8	1.8
City of Grand Ledge	35.2	42.4	7.2
City of Olivet	21.7	20.8	-0.9
City of Potterville	29.2	30.3	1.1
Delta Charter Township	38.4	42.7	4.3
Eaton Rapids	31.9	38.5	6.6
Eaton Rapids Township	37.6	41.9	4.3
Eaton Township	37.5	42.0	4.5
Hamlin Township	36.8	44.4	7.6
Kalamo Township	36.9	40.1	3.2
Oneida Charter Township	40.5	49.1	8.6
Roxand Township	37.2	46.0	8.8
Sunfield Township	36.7	40.5	3.8
Vermontville Township	35.8	43.5	7.7
Village of Bellevue	35.1	36.8	1.7
Village of Diamondale	37.8	39.3	1.5
Village of Muliken	35.0	39.3	4.3
Village of Sunfield	31.9	40.4	8.5
Village of Vermontville	33.0	36.2	3.2
Walton Township	36.4	39.4	3.0
Windsor Charter Township	42.0	48.3	6.3

**Note, villages are included within townships by the U.S. Census Bureau, so township information reflects the characteristics of villages located within each township.*

As median age has generally increased across Eaton County communities, the distribution of population between age groups has changed as well. Table 3-5 and Figure 3-5 display the change in the percentage of the county's population accounted for by various age groups. Eaton County and the State of Michigan as a whole have seen a significant decrease in the percentage of the population between the ages of 35 and 54 and a subsequent increase in the 55 to 74 age group. In Eaton County, the percentage of the population between 35 and 54 decreased from 31.6 percent in 2000 to 24.7 percent in 2020.

Table 3-5: Percent Change in Age Distribution (Source: 2000 Decennial Census & 2016-2020 American Community Survey)						
	Eaton County			State of Michigan		
Age Group	2000	2020	Change	2000	2020	Change
Under 5 years	6.4%	5.5%	-0.9%	6.8%	5.7%	-1.1%
5 to 19 years	22.7%	17.9%	-4.8%	22.2%	18.7%	-3.5%
20 to 34 years	18.7%	19.0%	0.3%	20.2%	19.8%	-0.4%
35 to 54 years	31.6%	24.7%	-6.9%	29.9%	24.7%	-5.2%
55 to 74 years	15.3%	25.6%	10.3%	15.2%	24.1%	8.9%
75 and over	5.3%	7.3%	2.0%	5.8%	7.0%	1.2%

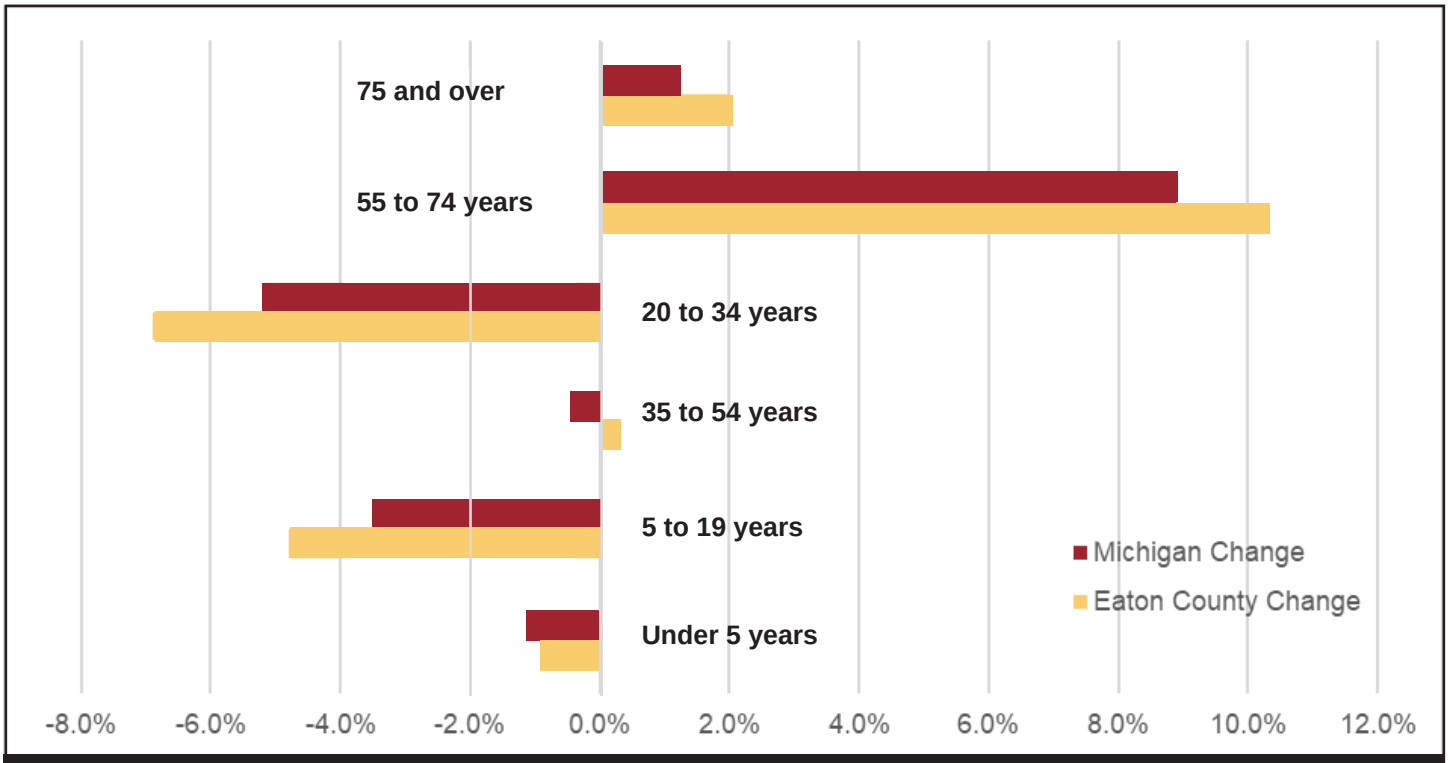


Figure 3-5: *Percent Change in Age Distribution 2000-2020*

Education

Compared to surrounding counties, Eaton County has a fairly even distribution in educational attainment. As Table 3-6 and Figure 3-6 show, Eaton County has a nearly equal proportion of its population with a high school diploma, some college, or a bachelor's degree or higher, similar to the State of Michigan as a whole. In contrast, many of the surrounding counties have very different characteristics, with a large proportion of the population with a high school diploma (Barry, Calhoun, Ionia) or a bachelor's degree or higher (Ingham).

Table 3-6: Education (Source: 2016-2020 American Community Survey)				
	Eaton County	Barry County	Calhoun County	Clinton County
Less than High School	6%	7%	9%	6%
High School Graduate	28%	38%	36%	27%
Some College	28%	24%	25%	25%
Associate's Degree	11%	11%	9%	11%
Bachelor's Degree or Higher	27%	20%	21%	31%
	Ingham County	Ionia County	Jackson County	Michigan
Less than High School	7%	10%	9%	9%
High School Graduate	22%	40%	33%	29%
Some College	24%	25%	26%	23%
Associate's Degree	9%	10%	10%	9%
Bachelor's Degree or Higher	38%	16%	21%	29%

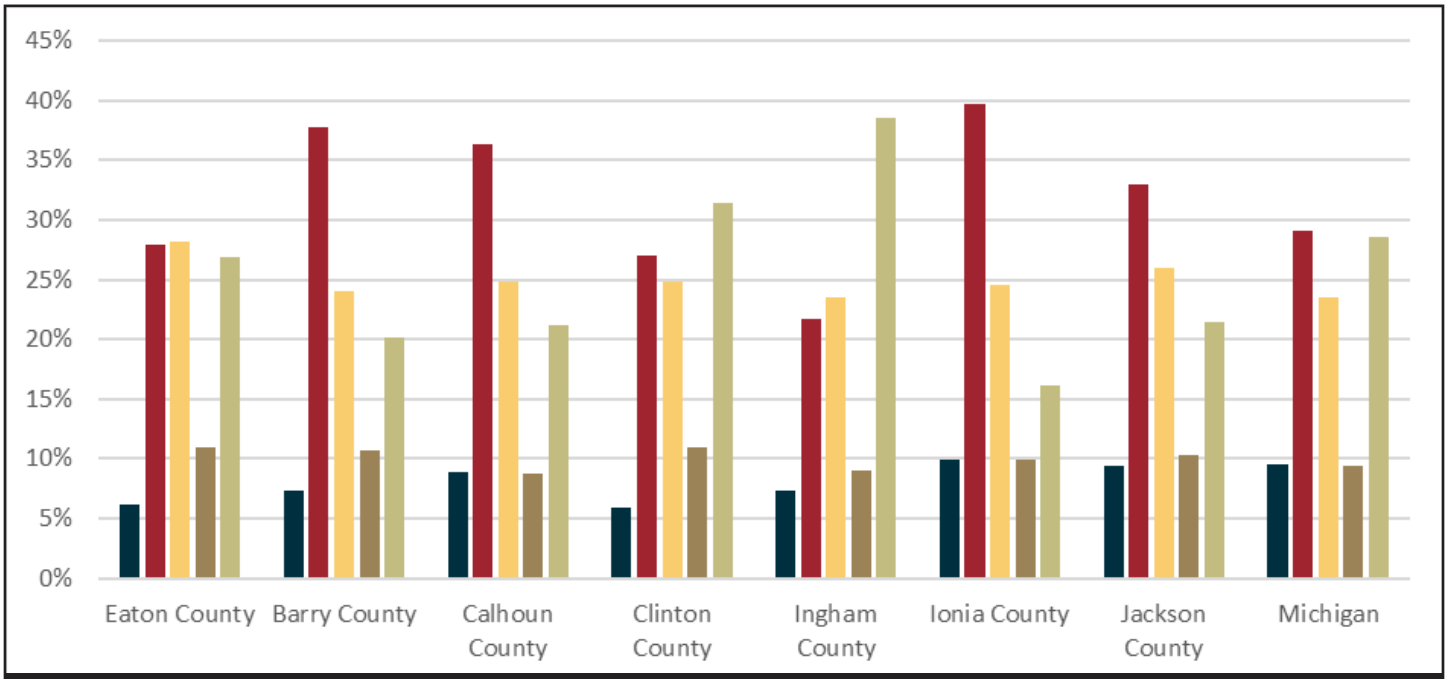


Figure 3-6: *Education*

Race

Eaton County is relatively homogeneous in terms of race, with nearly 80 percent of the county identifying as white alone. The next largest racial group in the county is people identifying as Black or African American, followed by people identifying as Hispanic or Latino. Compared to surrounding counties, Eaton County is more diverse than Barry, Ionia, and Clinton Counties, less diverse that Calhoun and Ingham, and similar to Jackson County.

Table 3-7: Race (Source: 2020 Decennial Census)				
	Eaton County	**Barry County**	**Calhoun County**	**Clinton County**
Hispanic or Latino	5.98%	3.43%	5.53%	4.98%
White alone	79.87%	90.96%	74.74%	85.83%
Black or African American alone	6.84%	0.47%	10.63%	2.07%
American Indian and Alaska Native alone	0.28%	0.35%	0.51%	0.30%
Asian alone	2.24%	0.39%	2.77%	2.36%
Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander alone	0.01%	0.02%	0.02%	0.03%
Some Other Race alone	0.32%	0.32%	0.41%	0.30%
Population of two or more races:	4.47%	4.05%	5.39%	4.13%
	Ingham County	**Ionia County**	**Jackson County**	**Michigan**
Hispanic or Latino	8.57%	5.04%	3.86%	5.60%
White alone	67.23%	86.25%	81.75%	72.40%
Black or African American alone	12.09%	4.81%	7.72%	13.48%
American Indian and Alaska Native alone	0.33%	0.37%	0.32%	0.47%
Asian alone	5.76%	0.34%	0.92%	3.30%
Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander alone	0.04%	0.01%	0.02%	0.03%
Some Other Race alone	0.51%	0.18%	0.29%	0.37%
Population of two or more races:	5.46%	3.01%	5.12%	4.36%

CHAPTER 4

HOUSING

Chapter 4 | Housing

Adjusting for changes in demand for housing and the needs among the county's population for quality, affordable housing is a critical role for the planning and development process. This is especially true for Eaton County, as the Community Development department also administers several housing programs for the county that dovetail with land use policies.

Eaton County Housing Characteristics

Housing information changes rapidly with shifts in the state, national, and global economy; as such, the source and purpose of housing data is important. This section includes information from the National Association of Realtors that compares price and sales data for real estate in Eaton County to surrounding counties. This information is timely, accurate, and should reflect the housing market as people in Eaton County are experiencing it in late 2022, the time this chapter was drafted.

Unfortunately, sales data from the National Association of Realtors is not available for local units of government, rather information is provided by the U.S. Census Bureau. Compared to information from the National Association of Realtors, the Census data is significantly less timely (it represents an average over a 5-year period) and it reflects values as reported by households. As such, Census data is utilized to report on the types of housing available in the county, and owner/renter households, rather than home value.

Lastly, change in taxable value is utilized to report on general trends in property values throughout the county.

County-Wide Housing Market Information

Like the rest of the United States, Eaton County saw significant increases in home prices between 2021 and 2022. According to the National Association of Realtors, the price of a mortgage increased by 33 percent between Q1 2021 and Q1 2022 in the county, while median home value increased by 18 percent. Eaton was generally in the middle of the surrounding counties in terms of change in mortgage cost and home value, with Calhoun County seeing the largest increases, and Clinton County seeing the smallest increases. Table 4-1 displays the change in mortgage costs between Q1 of 2021 and Q2 of 2022, with Figure 4-1 illustrating the percent change for each county.

Table 4-1: Change in Mortgage Cost
(Source: National Association of Realtors)

County	Q1 2021	Q1 2022	% Change
Eaton County	$690	$915	33%
Barry County	$652	$910	40%
Calhoun County	$480	$824	72%
Clinton County	$782	$915	17%
Ingham County	$596	$786	32%
Ionia County	$542	$746	38%
Jackson County	$583	$741	27%

Table 4-2 displays the change in home value between 2021 and 2022, with Figure 4-2 displaying the percent change for each county.

Table 4-2: Change in Home Value (Source: National Association of Realtors)			
County	**Q1 2021**	**Q1 2022**	**% Change**
Eaton County	$183,526	$216,656	18%
Barry County	$173,258	$215,516	24%
Calhoun County	$127,538	$195,160	53%
Clinton County	$207,831	$216,656	4%
Ingham County	$158,358	$185,952	17%
Ionia County	$144,163	$176,628	23%
Jackson County	$155,118	$175,349	13%

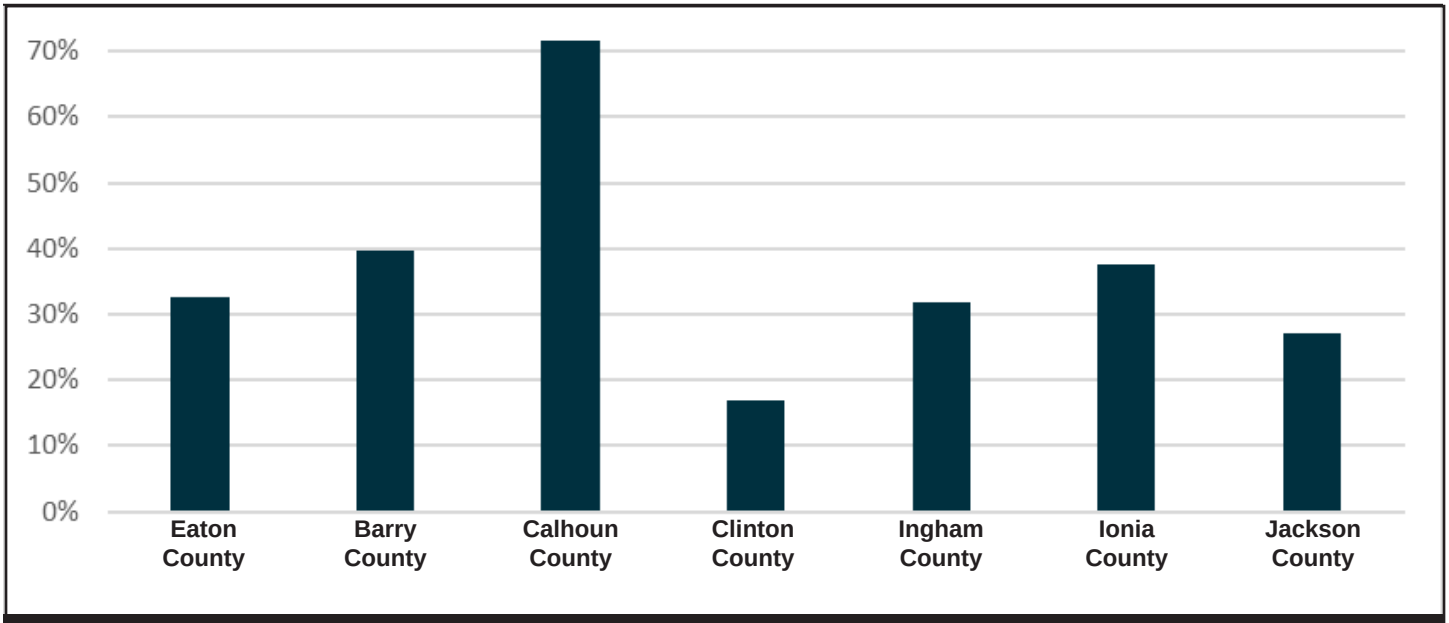


Figure 4-1: *Change in Mortgage Cost Q1 2021 - Q1 2022 (Source: National Association of Realtors)*

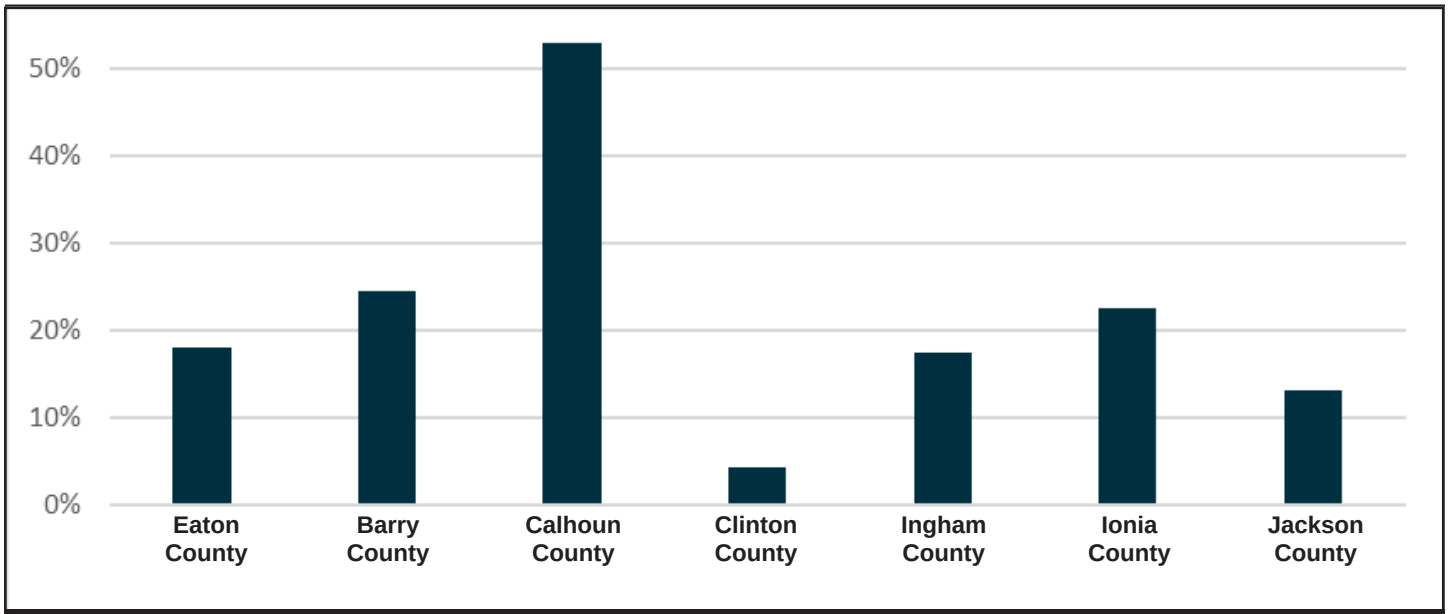


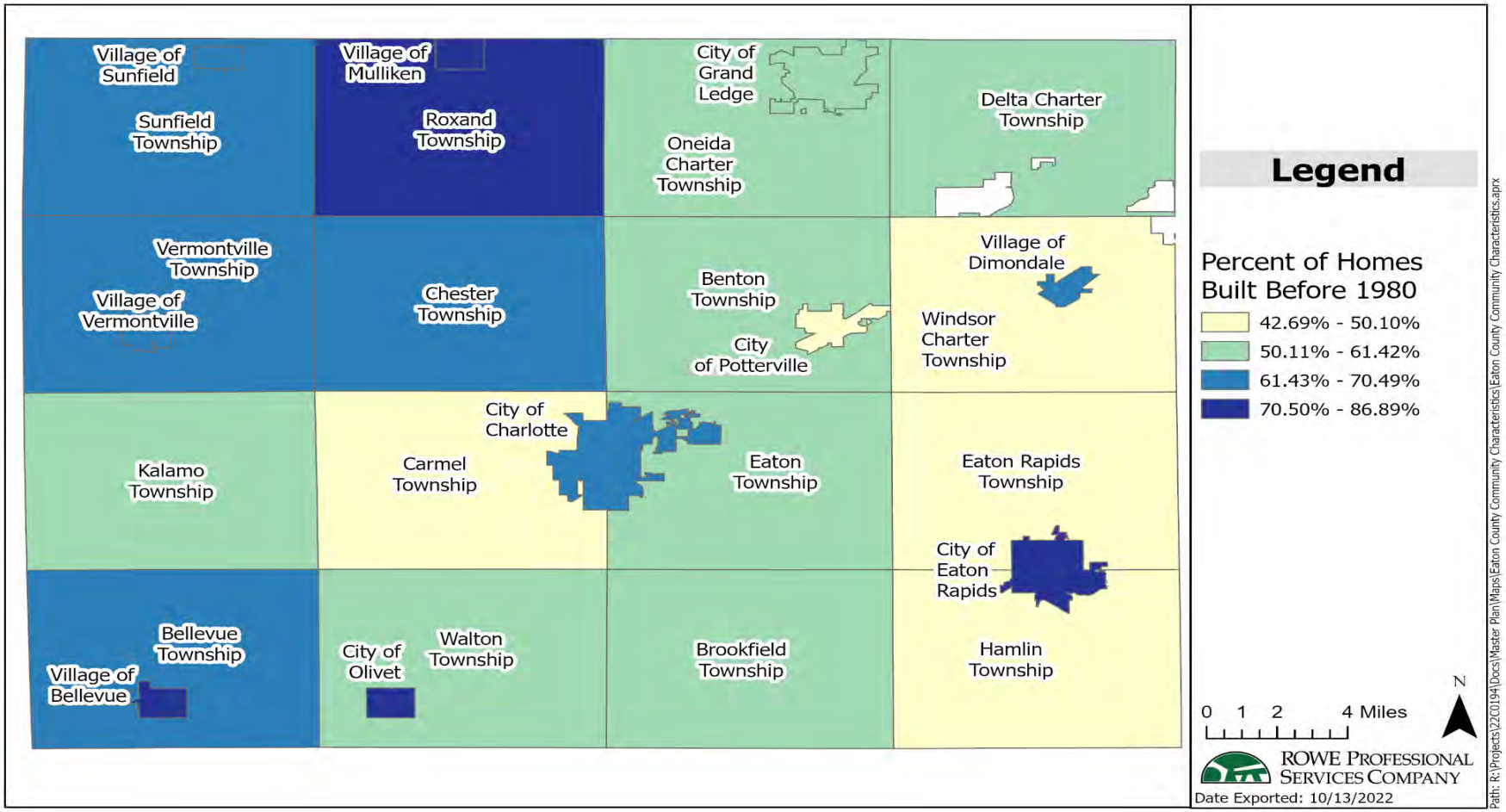
Figure 4-2: *Change in Home Value Q1 2021 - Q1 2022 (Source: National Association of Realtors)*

Year Housing Unit Built

The time of development for housing units throughout Eaton County varies widely, with some units of government having no new housing units built since 2010, while others have seen significant new housing added. In general, as one moves eastward in the county, the percentage of homes built before 1979 decreases (see Map 4-1).

Table 4-3: Year Housing Unit Built (Source: 2020 American Community Survey)			
	1979 or earlier	1980 to 2009	2010 or later
Bellevue Township	65.92%	31.27%	2.81%
Benton Township	54.70%	44.11%	1.19%
Brookfield Township	60.69%	37.89%	1.42%
Carmel Township	45.45%	54.04%	0.51%
Chester Township	63.79%	34.79%	1.41%
City of Charlotte	70.48%	29.31%	0.21%
City of Eaton Rapids	76.75%	22.39%	0.86%
City of Grand Ledge	60.84%	37.05%	2.11%
City of Lansing	63.10%	31.88%	5.01%
City of Olivet	85.34%	14.66%	0.00%
City of Potterville	48.79%	39.80%	11.41%
Delta Charter Township	53.95%	43.25%	2.80%
Eaton Rapids Township	46.90%	52.54%	0.56%
Eaton Township	57.48%	42.52%	0.00%
Hamlin Township	42.69%	56.74%	0.57%
Kalamo Township	53.03%	40.03%	6.94%
Oneida Charter Township	61.43%	36.59%	1.98%
Roxand Township	79.37%	19.54%	1.09%
Sunfield Township	68.02%	29.24%	2.74%
Vermontville Township	63.04%	35.19%	1.77%
Village of Bellevue	86.89%	11.19%	1.92%
Village of Dimondale	63.86%	36.14%	0.00%
Village of Mulliken	77.53%	22.47%	0.00%
Village of Sunfield	70.49%	27.46%	2.05%
Village of Vermontville	67.41%	32.59%	0.00%
Walton Township	55.06%	40.39%	4.55%
Windsor Charter Township	50.10%	44.89%	5.01%

Map 4-1: *Percent of Housing Units Built Before 1980 (Source: 2020 American Community Survey)*



Housing Tenure

The term “tenure” refers to whether housing units are owner- or renter-occupied. Between 2000 and 2020, the total number of owner-occupied households increased by nearly 3,000 in Eaton County, but as a percentage of all households, owner-occupied houses accounted for 1.54 percent less of all households. Again, this dynamic varies widely by unit of government in the county over the same time period, with the City of Olivet, Village of Vermontville, Vermontville Township, and Village of Bellevue all seeing declines of over 10 percent, while Eaton Rapids Township, Hamlin Township, Roxand Township, and the Village of Dimondale all saw an increase over 20 percent. This change is illustrated in Table 4-4 and Map 4-2.

Table 4-4: Housing Tenure

(Source: 2000 and 2020 Decennial Census)

	2000		2020		
	Owner Occ.	Renter Occ.	Owner Occ.	Renter Occ.	Change in Owner Occ. Housing
Eaton County	29,770	10,397	32,687	12,350	-1.54%
Bellevue Township	1,001	160	954	159	-4.70%
Benton Township	906	85	950	94	4.86%
Brookfield Township	484	54	563	43	16.32%
Carmel Township	852	71	1,010	63	18.54%
Chester Township	581	67	656	38	12.91%
City of Charlotte	2,164	1,049	2,169	1,356	0.23%
City of Eaton Rapids	1,410	651	1,339	765	-5.04%
City of Grand Ledge	2,163	1,104	2,420	1,209	11.88%
City of Olivet	216	266	179	209	-17.13%
City of Potterville	601	205	677	426	12.65%
Delta Charter Township	8,071	4,488	9,634	5,648	19.37%
Eaton Rapids Township	1,220	108	1,499	91	22.87%
Eaton Township	1,432	99	1,329	92	-7.19%
Hamlin Township	967	78	1,180	91	22.03%
Kalamo Township	576	46	622	62	7.99%
Oneida Charter Township	1,208	144	1,396	87	15.56%
Roxand Township	592	66	731	63	23.48%
Sunfield Township	667	110	635	144	-4.80%
Vermontville Township	656	93	584	138	-10.98%
Village of Bellevue	403	123	322	129	-20.10%
Village of Dimondale	413	60	509	76	23.24%
Village of Mulliken	175	15	205	16	17.14%
Village of Sunfield	167	50	155	83	-7.19%
Village of Vermontville	228	54	176	100	-22.81%
Walton Township	618	81	723	86	16.99%
Windsor Charter Township	2,596	185	2,663	297	2.58%

Map 4-2: *Percent Change in the Number of Owner Occupied Housing Units 2000-2020 (Source 2000 Decennial Census & 2020 American)*

Change in Assessed Value

The Michigan Department of Treasury reports assessed value is the total value for all townships and cities in each county through the state. This information provides a general understanding of recent private investments and increases in the value of property within each unit of government. It is important to note, this is not the value of total taxes assessed, but rather the total value of all property.

Table 4-5 displays the change in assessed value for real property (real estate) and personal property (commercial equipment) throughout Eaton County. Overall, each unit of government has seen increases in real property, with Roxand Township seeing the largest increase (41 percent) and the City of Olivet experiencing the smallest increase (8 percent). The value of personal property is quite different, with most townships seeing increases in assessed value, led by Bellevue Township with a 234 percent increase, while the City of Eaton Rapids saw a 71 percent decline.

Table 4-5: Change in Property Values (Source: Michigan Treasury)

	2010		2021			
Unit of Government	Real Property	Personal Property	Real Property	Personal Property	% Change Real Property	% Change Personal Property
Bellevue Township	94,238,588	3,111,190	114,492,533	10,402,467	21%	234%
Benton Township	110,044,600	6,179,900	140,926,052	9,613,400	28%	56%
Brookfield Township	68,164,301	1,506,418	83,385,573	2,051,783	22%	36%
Carmel Township	103,718,703	2,161,640	135,935,900	4,983,620	31%	131%
Chester Township	79,405,900	2,516,300	91,389,700	4,316,000	15%	72%
City of Charlotte	236,781,305	26,624,998	269,202,283	15,372,000	14%	-42%
City of Eaton Rapids	121,560,900	13,322,100	137,760,950	3,825,000	13%	-71%
City of Grand Ledge	220,882,900	10,429,800	278,506,400	10,938,900	26%	5%
City of Olivet	19,294,791	1,358,279	20,925,969	806,142	8%	-41%
City of Potterville	48,074,900	5,041,300	62,287,700	4,679,300	30%	-7%
Delta Township	1,265,604,300	112,300,600	1,623,382,400	188,037,300	28%	67%
Eaton Rapids Township	141,872,700	4,609,100	186,507,100	5,982,600	31%	30%
Eaton Township	130,684,900	5,865,942	175,904,160	10,401,250	35%	77%
Hamlin Township	120,991,950	3,353,100	148,715,600	4,078,900	23%	22%
Kalamo Township	66,835,000	1,127,100	84,863,600	1,678,300	27%	49%
Oneida Township	165,668,498	7,155,700	211,616,900	10,416,200	28%	46%
Roxand Township	76,036,000	1,471,900	107,546,300	1,997,600	41%	36%
Sunfield Township	81,545,050	3,430,500	108,196,800	3,188,750	33%	-7%
Vermontville Township	74,776,885	3,706,450	91,884,600	3,970,000	23%	7%
Walton Township	78,760,879	3,338,870	97,448,452	5,019,457	24%	50%
Windsor Township	248,716,318	11,392,100	332,238,100	15,610,300	34%	37%

Map 4-3: *Change in Value of Real Property 2010-2021 (Source: Michigan Department of Treasury)*

Eaton County Housing Programs

The Eaton County Community Development Department seeks to improve access to housing options and support residents in maintaining their homes through a combination of code enforcement and management of grant programs and other resources. While the department continues to maintain an emergency housing repair program, funds are extremely limited, and demand far exceeds resources each year. As an alternative, Eaton County focuses on partnering with other local and state agencies that have access to additional funds and resources to support the development of new housing as well as assisting existing residents and homeowners.

Emergency Repair Program

The Emergency Repair Program assists with repairs to single-family, owner-occupied homes of very low to low income households in the county when the problem is causing an immediate health and safety risk to the occupants and the structure of the home. These projects include the repair or replacement of leaking roofs, non-working furnaces, wells, and septic systems. Structural damage to the home may also be addressed and repaired. A deferred mortgage is recorded against the property for the amount invested into the home. Available funds vary by year, and funds are provided on a first come, first served basis.

Eaton County Housing and Shelter Continuum of Care Committee

The Continuum of Care Committee's (CoC) purpose is to assist, identify, and provide for the creation of a continuum of the care and assistance provided for short- and long-term housing and shelter needs for the households of limited resources in Eaton County. The CoC is a community-based association of organizations, agencies, and individuals concerned with housing and shelter needs in Eaton County.

The CoC integrates and evaluates the overall delivery of housing and shelter services and facilitates efforts to address housing and shelter issues for limited resource households. Their planning activities address all elements of a strategic and comprehensive approach to homelessness prevention, outreach, emergency shelter, transitional housing, essential services, and permanent supportive housing for households of limited resources.

Where unmet needs are identified by the CoC, the committee is responsible for assisting in the development of new services and for fostering collaborative responses between existing service providers. Where funding is available from state, local, or other agencies that require the evaluation of service provisions, consideration, or coordination of services, the CoC purpose is to facilitate the flow of that funding to serve the needs of households with limited resources in Eaton County. The CoC is committed to maintaining its own credibility as a collaborative organization and to establish trust among its members. The CoC may offer recommendations regarding funding applications and letters of support to its members who are applying for funding.

Housing Services

Eaton County is fortunate to have a number of housing services available through Housing Services Mid Michigan (HSMM). HSMM is a non-profit, grant-funded agency that provides a range of housing services, including homelessness assistance/prevention, housing vouchers, homebuyer education, supportive housing, and foreclosure prevention services.

Subsidized Housing

HSMM provides a listing of subsidized (income-based) apartment rentals, low-rent apartments, and senior housing complexes within both Eaton and Clinton Counties. In addition, HSMM prints weekly housing guides that list apartments available for immediate or near immediate occupancy.

Mainstream Voucher Program

The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development oversees the distribution of Section 8 Mainstream

Vouchers to public housing agencies throughout the country. This program enables families of a disabled person to lease affordable private housing of their choice.

Housing Services for Eaton County (HSEC) has been awarded 212 vouchers to serve disabled persons and their families within Eaton and Clinton Counties.

Participants of this program pay 30 percent of their income toward rent and utility payments. The voucher pays the difference directly to the landlord based on fair market rent and rent reasonableness. HSEC provides full case management to the program participants and supports participating landlords.

Foreclosure Prevention/Homelessness Prevention Programs

HSMM offers counseling services and advice for those facing foreclosure, eviction, and homelessness. The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development Continuum of Care Homeless Assistance Program indicated that in 2019, approximately 114 persons within Eaton County were homeless. These persons were either sheltered – living in emergency or transitional housing – or were unsheltered.

In addition to housing services, preservation of historic homes and resources has been a longstanding priority within Eaton County.

SIREN / Eaton Shelter

SIREN / Eaton Shelter serves survivors of domestic violence and homeless families in Eaton County. Their mission is to promote the elimination of domestic violence and homelessness by providing temporary housing, support, advocacy, education, and information to the community.

SIREN / Eaton Shelter provides the following services: confidential 24-hour domestic violence crisis line, emergency shelter and transitional housing, supportive counseling for residents and nonresidents, and weekly support/education group for adults and children who have experienced family violence. They also provide information and referrals to needed resources.

SIREN / Eaton Shelter houses more than 100 people (25 to 28 families) on a typical night. Close to two thirds (2/3) of those housed are young children seeking shelter with their parents. Approximately 40 percent of the people housed at SIREN are women and children who are homeless because they are fleeing family violence.

Senior Housing

Eaton County is home to over a dozen senior housing facilities. Depending on the facility, the minimum age of admittance is either 55 or 62 years. These facilities are generally located within cities or villages with access to public utilities, and clustered around Charlotte and the eastern half of the county.

With people between the ages of 55 and 74 accounting for over 25 percent of the population, supply and location of senior housing will be critical to allow residents to “age in place” and stay within their communities as they transition into new housing options that are designed for aging.

Historic Preservation

Historic preservation focuses on irreplaceable treasures and provides programs for protecting them. Historic resources enliven our surroundings and enrich our quality of life by maintaining a unique sense of place. Rehabilitating historic resources, preserving architectural details and materials that would be costly to replicate, and recycling and adapting old buildings creates economic, environmental, psychological, and social benefits.

Eaton County has an abundance of unique historic resources that bestow a sense of legacy. These valuable historic resources include buildings, structures, sites, objects, and open space that tell the story of our past and inform future generations about our founding values.

The Eaton County Historical Commission (ECHC) was created in 1976 to advance public knowledge of the history of Eaton County. Its mission is to foster public awareness of the county's rich and varied historical heritage; to encourage restoration and preservation of historic sites, structures, and artifacts; and to document and display them for the education and enjoyment of all Eaton County residents.

The ECHC has an annual grant program funding projects that promote, restore, or preserve the heritage of Eaton County. In addition, the ECHC recognizes organizations and/or individuals who have made outstanding contributions to the heritage of Eaton County through its Heritage Award each year.

The Tri-County Regional Planning Commission has developed maps of Eaton County's historical sites. The designations of the various sites range from sites listed on the National Register of Historic Places and the Michigan State Register of Historic Places. These historic sites are located in Delta, Chester, Eaton Rapids, Eaton, and Hamlin Townships; the Cities of Grand Ledge, Eaton Rapids, Potterville, and Charlotte; and the Villages of Sunfield, Vermontville, and Dimondale.

CHAPTER 5

ECONOMY AND AGRICULTURE

Chapter 5 | Economy and Agriculture

Eaton County, like most of Michigan, has a history of employment in manufacturing industries, many of which are related to the automotive industry. In addition to manufacturing history, Eaton County also has historically had a strong agricultural economy, primarily focused on production of field crops. Of the 370,545 acres in the county, as of 2017, over 210,120 acres (57 percent) is dedicated to agriculture according to the 2017 Agricultural Census.

Because agriculture accounts for such a large portion of Eaton County's land use, this chapter focuses on both traditional economic development regarding industry sectors that are large sources of employment, as well as the agricultural economy, which accounts for a much smaller share of overall employment, but has a disproportionate impact on land use compared to other industries. Figure 5-1 displays the soils in Eaton County classified as Prime Farmland as the areas in dark green. As the map shows, the vast majority of the county is classified as Prime Farmland.

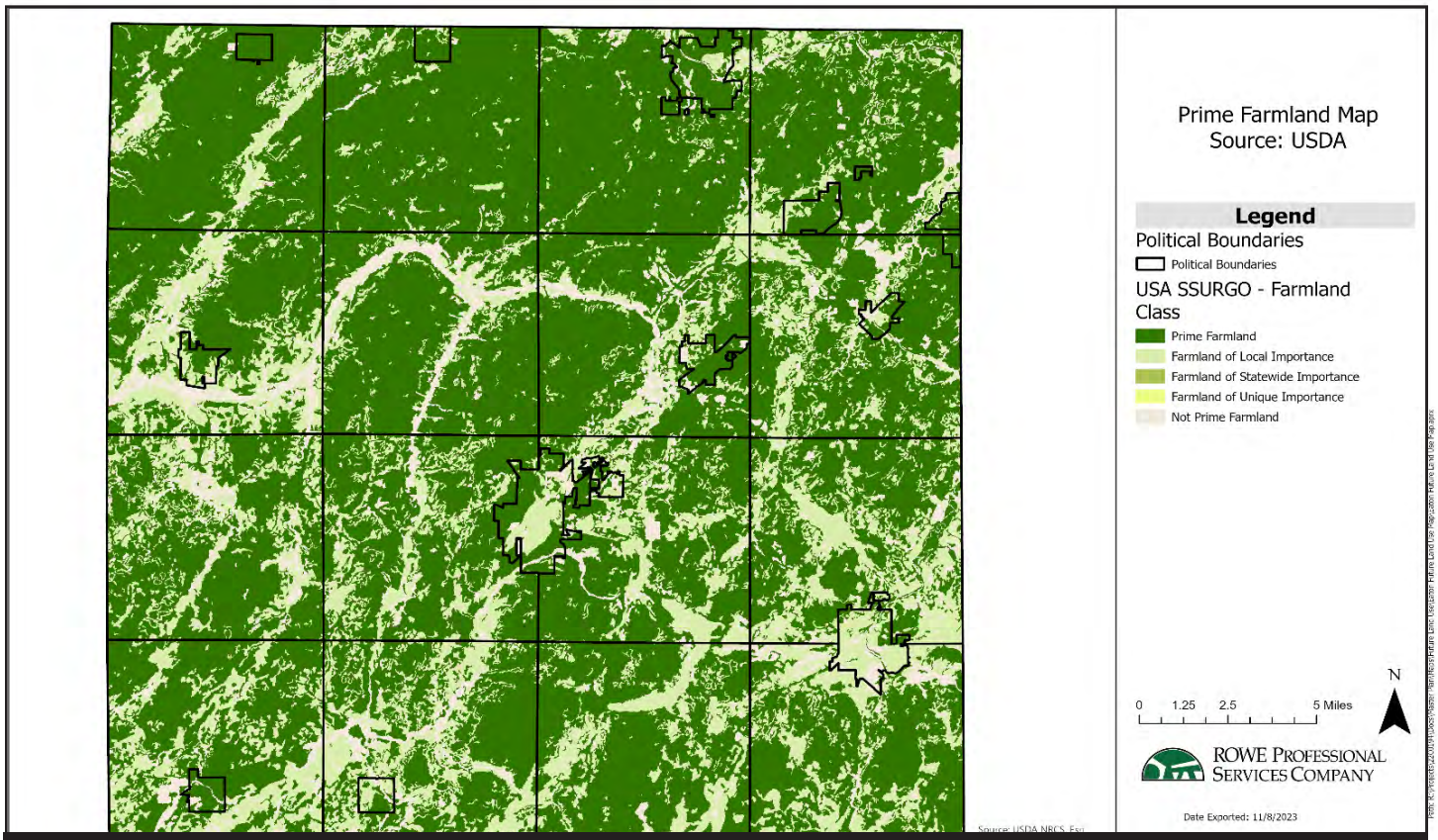


Figure 5-1: *Prime Farmland Map*

Employment Mix

The mix of employment across industries illustrates whether a local economy is consistent with state and national trends, or whether there are unique factors at play within a local economy that may provide unique opportunities or present challenges that need to be addressed.

According to the U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis (BEA), in 2021 Eaton County had a significantly larger share of total employment accounted for in the Transportation and Warehousing, Finance and Insurance, and Retail Trade industries than the State of Michigan, while the county has significantly less employment accounted for by the Healthcare and Social Assistance industry. Table 51 displays the percentage of total employment accounted for by each industry, while Figure 5-2 displays the same information. Note, industries that account for less than 1 percent of employment are not displayed in Figure 5-2.

Table 5-1: Michigan and Eaton County Employment Mix (Source: BEA)

NAICS Code	Industry	Michigan	Eaton County
70	Farm employment	1.08%	1.83%
80	Nonfarm employment	98.92%	98.17%
90	Private nonfarm employment	88.41%	88.01%
100	Forestry, fishing, and related activities	0.30%	0.25%
200	Mining, quarrying, and oil and gas extraction	0.20%	0.13%
300	Utilities	0.38%	-
400	Construction	5.28%	5.13%
500	Manufacturing	10.98%	11.59%
600	Wholesale trade	3.26%	-
700	Retail trade	9.96%	12.26%
800	Transportation and warehousing	4.38%	8.38%
900	Information	1.18%	1.73%
1000	Finance and insurance	5.14%	11.93%
1100	Real estate and rental and leasing	4.87%	3.40%
1200	Professional, scientific, and technical services	7.52%	-
1300	Management of companies and enterprises	1.43%	-
1400	Administrative and support and waste management and remediation servi	6.27%	4.48%
1500	Educational services	1.69%	1.54%
1600	Health care and social assistance	11.86%	5.83%
1700	Arts, entertainment, and recreation	1.75%	1.22%
1800	Accommodation and food services	6.30%	6.35%
1900	Other services (except government and government enterprises)	5.65%	6.04%
2000	Government and government enterprises	10.51%	10.16%
2001	Federal civilian	0.95%	0.34%
2002	Military	0.32%	0.36%
2010	State and local	9.24%	9.46%
2011	State government	3.13%	3.66%
2012	Local government	6.11%	5.79%

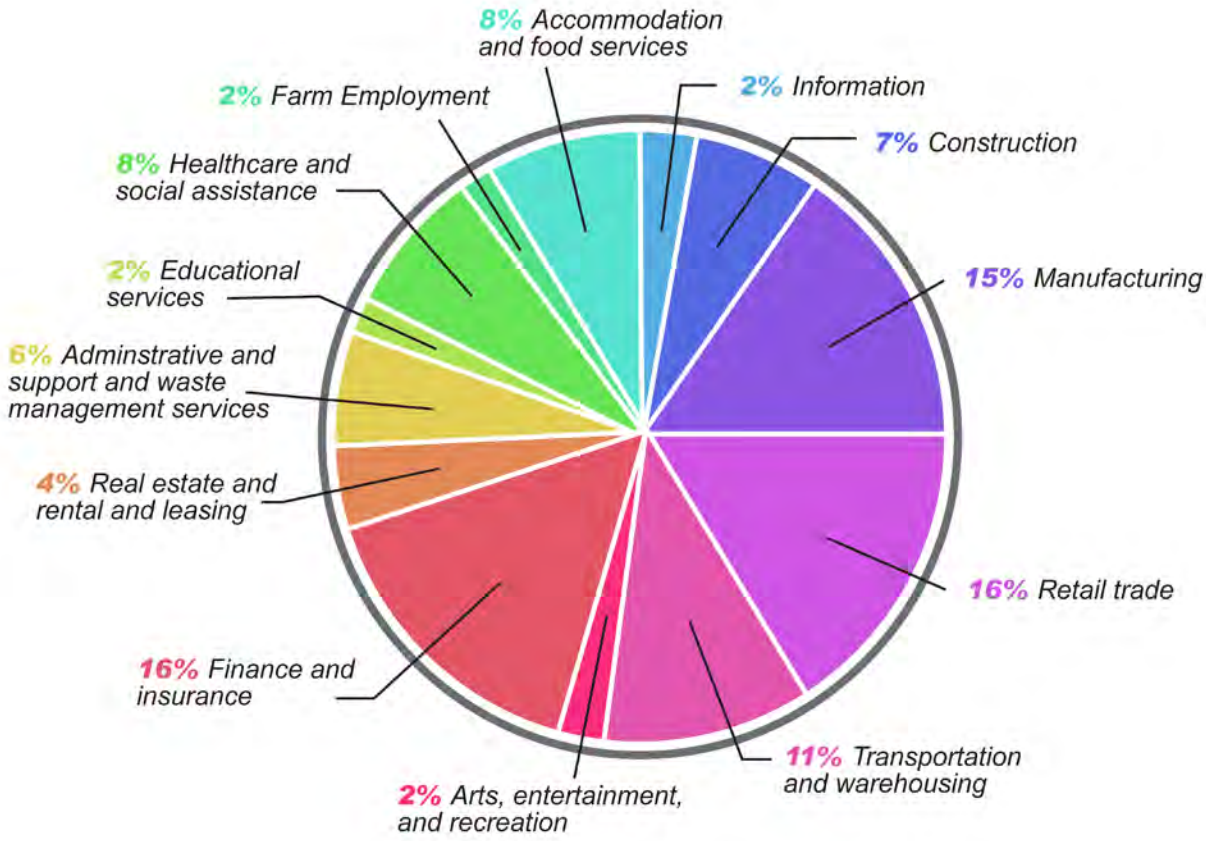


Figure 5-2: *Eaton County Employment Mix, 2021 (Source: BEA)*

Employment Trends

The employment mix of a local economy evolves over time. Sometimes this mix changes based on national or statewide trends, or other local factors may be at work. Evaluating the change in employment mix over time indicates where a local economy may have a unique competitive advantage, or where there may be vulnerabilities.

Eaton County is home to over 109,000 people and over 55,000 jobs. The total number of jobs in the county has significantly increased since 2011, growing by over 8,742 jobs and 19 percent. This is the largest percentage growth of any surrounding county other than Clinton County, and more than double the percentage increase for Michigan over the same time period. Table 5-2 displays the change in total jobs in surrounding counties and Michigan, while Figure 5-3 displays the percent change.

Table 5-2: Change in Total Employment (Source: BEA)

	2011	2016	2021	% Change 2011-2021
Michigan	5,165,348	5,575,782	5,579,513	8%
Eaton County	47,238	55,696	55,980	19%
Ingham County	189,792	188,406	182,586	-4%
Barry County	18,121	19,925	20,948	16%
Calhoun County	69,084	71,222	66,226	-4%
Clinton County	23,465	27,201	28,119	20%
Ionia County	26,254	26,572	25,616	-2%
Jackson County	72,195	75,586	74,093	3%

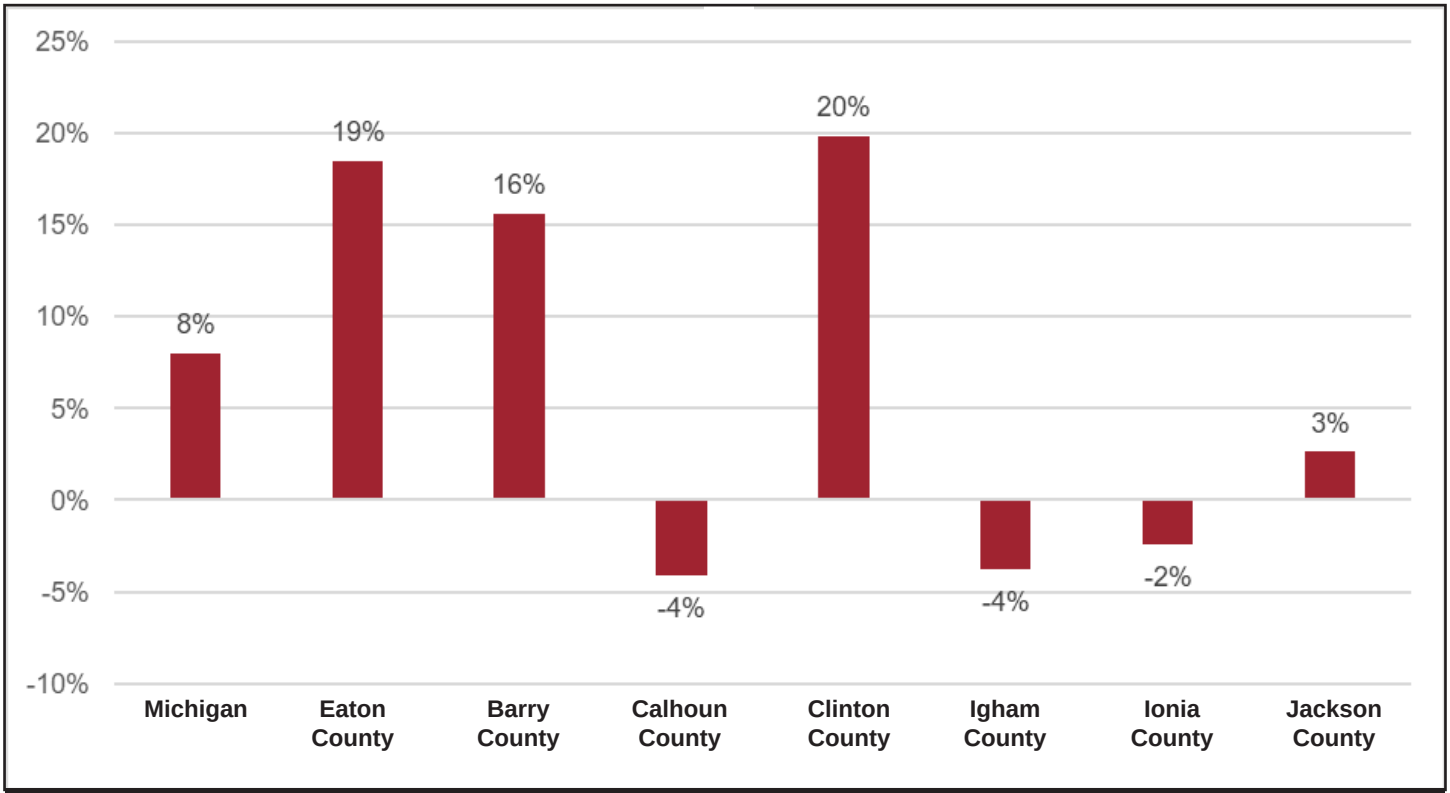


Figure 5-3: *Percent Change in Total Employment (Source: BEA)*

On the following pages, Table 53 displays employment across industry sectors in Michigan and Eaton County in 2011 and 2021, and change in each industry sector over the 10-year period. Figure 5-4 compares the percent change in each industry between Eaton County and Michigan, while Figure 5-5 displays total change in employment for all industry sectors in Eaton County.

During this time period, the change in employment was not equal across all industries. Eaton County saw significant increases in employment in Transportation and Warehousing; Information; Finance and Insurance; and Retail Trade. Each of these sectors also saw significant gains in terms of the actual number of employees as well.

Compared to Michigan as a whole, Eaton County saw much larger increases in Retail Trade and Food Service and Accommodations. There were several industries for which data was not available for Eaton County from the BEA, including Utilities; Wholesale Trade; Professional, Scientific, and Technical Services; and Management of Companies and Enterprises due to potential disclosure of confidential information. Combined, these industries for which no data is available account for approximately 10 percent of all employment in the county in 2021.

Table 5-3: Industry Mix and Change 2011-2021 (Source: BEA)

NAICS Code	Industry	Michigan			Eaton County			
		2011	2021	% Change Michigan	2011	2021	Total Change	% Change Eaton County
70	Farm employment	70,015	60,528	-14%	1,173	1,022	(151)	-13%
80	Nonfarm employment	5,095,333	5,518,985	8%	46,065	54,958	8,893	19%
90	Private nonfarm employment	4,464,001	4,932,619	10%	40,168	49,269	9,101	23%
100	Forestry, fishing, and related activities	15,417	16,965	10%	152	139	(13)	-9%
200	Mining, quarrying, and oil and gas extraction	17,040	11,175	-34%	118	73	(45)	-38%
300	Utilities	19,745	21,432	9%	-	-	-	-
400	Construction	222,628	294,806	32%	2,402	2,870	468	19%
500	Manufacturing	527,684	612,499	16%	6,020	6,490	470	8%
600	Wholesale trade	172,287	181,694	5%	-	-	-	-
700	Retail trade	544,484	555,828	2%	5,165	6,864	1,699	33%
800	Transportation and warehousing	134,217	244,523	82%	1,892	4,693	2,801	148%
900	Information	69,751	65,642	-6%	610	968	358	59%
1000	Finance and insurance	235,906	286,876	22%	5,195	6,677	1,482	29%
1100	Real estate and rental and leasing	229,902	271,524	18%	1,760	1,906	146	8%
1200	Professional, scientific, and technical services	355,566	419,471	18%	-	-	-	-
1300	Management of companies and enterprises	54,390	79,575	46%	-	-	-	-
1400	Administrative and support and waste management and remediation servi	358,122	349,850	-2%	3,298	2,510	(788)	-24%
1500	Educational services	102,841	94,438	-8%	806	861	55	7%
1600	Health care and social assistance	643,032	661,466	3%	3,018	3,262	244	8%
1700	Arts, entertainment, and recreation	99,000	97,668	-1%	654	685	31	5%
1800	Accommodation and food services	355,405	351,731	-1%	2,829	3,557	728	26%
1900	Other services (except government and government enterprises)	306,584	315,456	3%	2,999	3,382	383	13%
2000	Government and government enterprises	631,332	586,366	-7%	5,897	5,689	(208)	-4%
2001	Federal civilian	53,368	53,101	-1%	197	192	(5)	-3%
2002	Military	20,482	17,910	-13%	218	203	(15)	-7%
2010	State and local	557,482	515,355	-8%	5,482	5,294	(188)	-3%
2011	State government	176,640	174,601	-1%	1,934	2,051	117	6%
2012	Local government	380,842	340,754	-11%	3,548	3,243	(305)	-9%

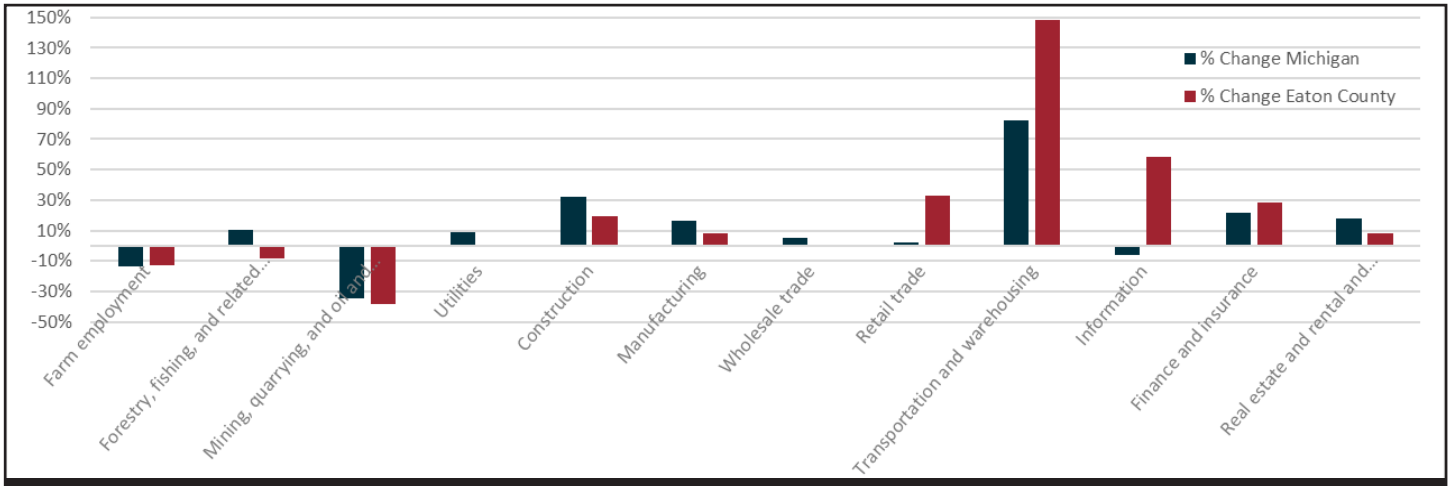
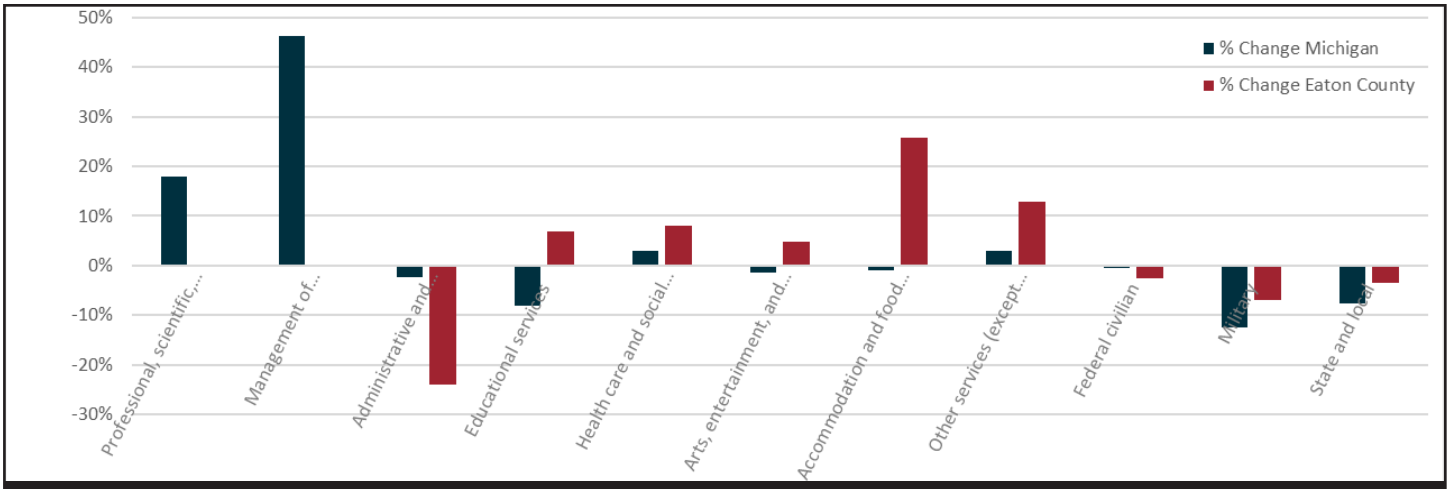


Figure 5-4: *Percent Change Industry Sectors, Michigan and Eaton County (Source: BEA)*



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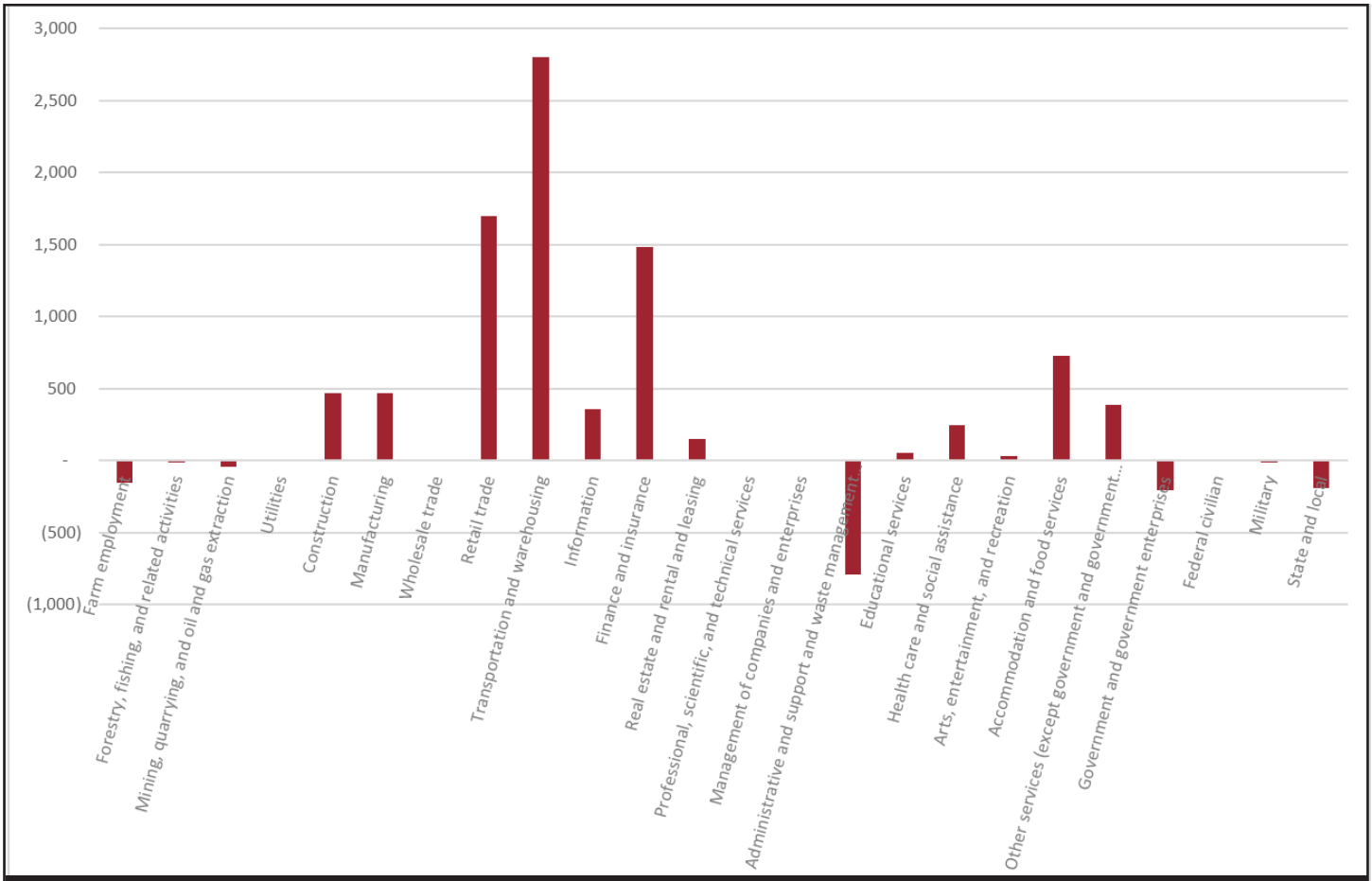


Figure 5-5: *Total Change in Employment, Eaton County (Source: BEA)*

Income

Income is an important measure of a local economy because it demonstrates whether residents are experiencing greater financial security and keeping up with national and statewide changes in income, or are falling behind. Generally, income is one of the most straightforward measures of the health of a local economy.

Table 5-4 displays the distribution of income among all households in Eaton County and the State of Michigan. Overall, Eaton County's median income is over $8,000 more than the State of Michigan as a whole, and this is reflected with a larger percentage of the population in most of the higher income levels. Although notably Michigan has a larger percentage of households with income over $200,000, even though median income is less.

Table 5-4: Household Income Distribution (Source 2020 American Community Survey)

	Eaton County	Michigan
Total	45,037	3,980,408
Less than $10,000	3.60%	6.40%
$10,000 to $14,999	3.00%	4.10%
$15,000 to $24,999	7.00%	9.20%
$25,000 to $34,999	8.30%	9.60%
$35,000 to $49,999	13.50%	13.30%
$50,000 to $74,999	20.60%	18.20%
$75,000 to $99,999	17.30%	12.90%
$100,000 to $149,999	16.90%	14.60%
$150,000 to $199,999	6.00%	5.90%
$200,000 or more	3.90%	5.70%
Median income (dollars)	67,440	59,234
Mean income (dollars)	82,176	80,803

While recent changes in income and inflation in 2021 and 2022 are not reflected in the information contained in this section, the median income in Eaton County and Michigan as a whole increased by 22 and 23 percent, respectively between 2010 and 2020 (see Table 5-5). While this increase is significant, it is less than the increase for the United States as a whole, where median income increased by 25 percent in the same time period. Importantly, income is just one reflection of household stability. The other is the cost of living. Between 2010 and 2020, the consumer price index increased by 18.94 percent, meaning that households in Eaton County experienced increased spending power during this time period.

Table 5-5: Change in Median Income (Source: American Community Survey)

	2010 Median Income	2020 Median Income	% Change
Michigan	$48,432	$59,234	22%
Eaton County	$54,885	$67,440	23%
Barry County	$51,869	$65,557	26%
Calhoun County	$42,568	$50,219	18%
Clinton County	$58,016	$72,490	25%
Ingham County	$45,808	$55,253	21%
Ionia County	$46,454	$60,139	29%
Jackson County	$46,117	$54,511	18%

Commuting Patterns and Workplace

According to the U.S. Census Bureau, as of 2019, very nearly the same number of people commute to Eaton County for work as leave the county. As Figure 56 shows, 26,723 workers commute to the county for work, while 27,279 commute outside the county and 10,513 people both live and work within the county. This distribution reflects Eaton County's status as being located adjacent to a major employment center in the Lansing Metro area.

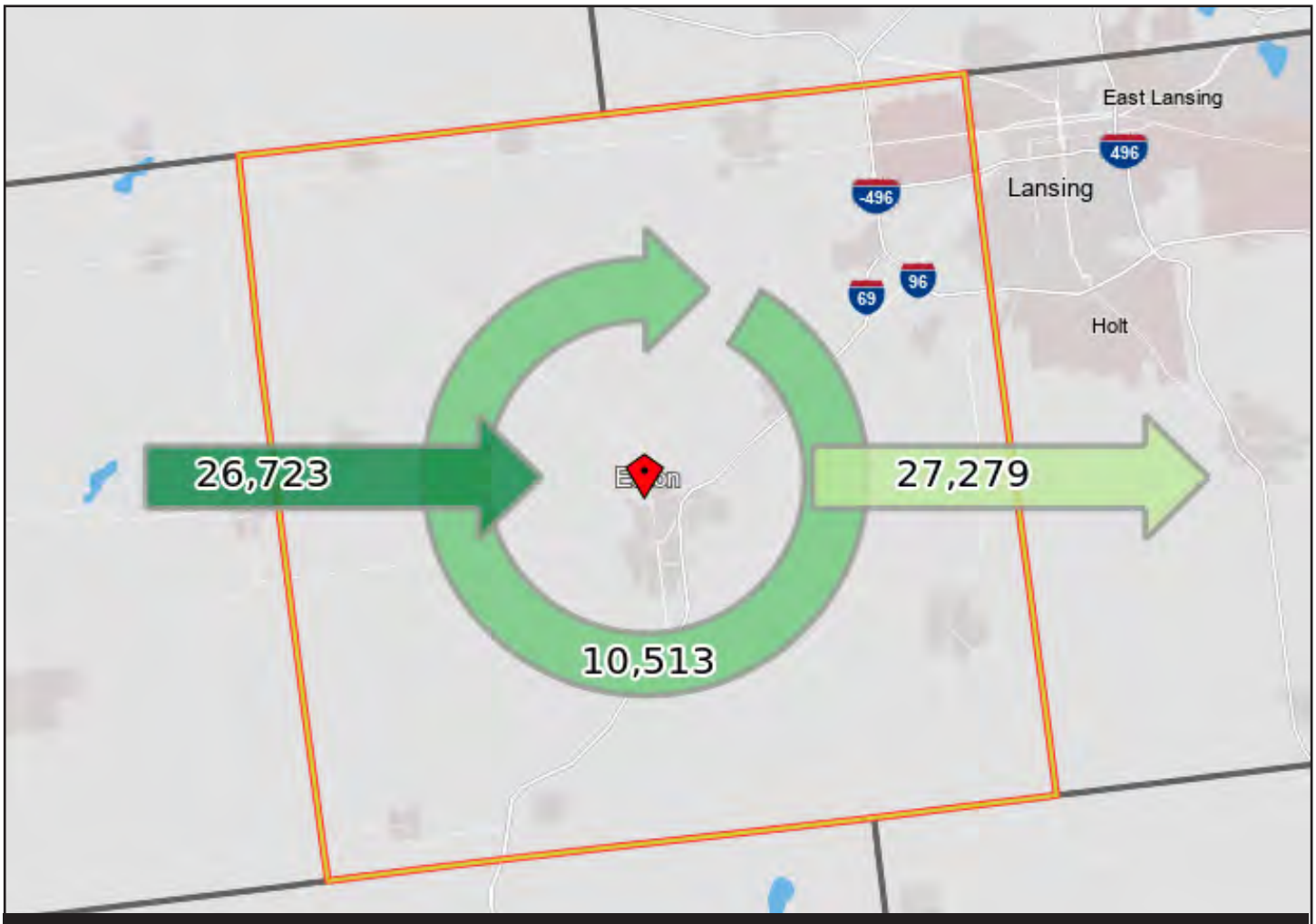


Figure 5-6: *Worker Inflow and Outflow (Source: 2019 Local Employer and Household Dynamics Survey)*

Places of employment in Eaton County are centralized around urban areas and locations with the necessary infrastructure to support industry. As Figure 5-7 shows, employment is focused in the northeastern portion of the county and around the cities of Charlotte, Grand Ledge, and Eaton Rapids, with smaller employment centers in villages in the southwest and northwest quadrants of the county.

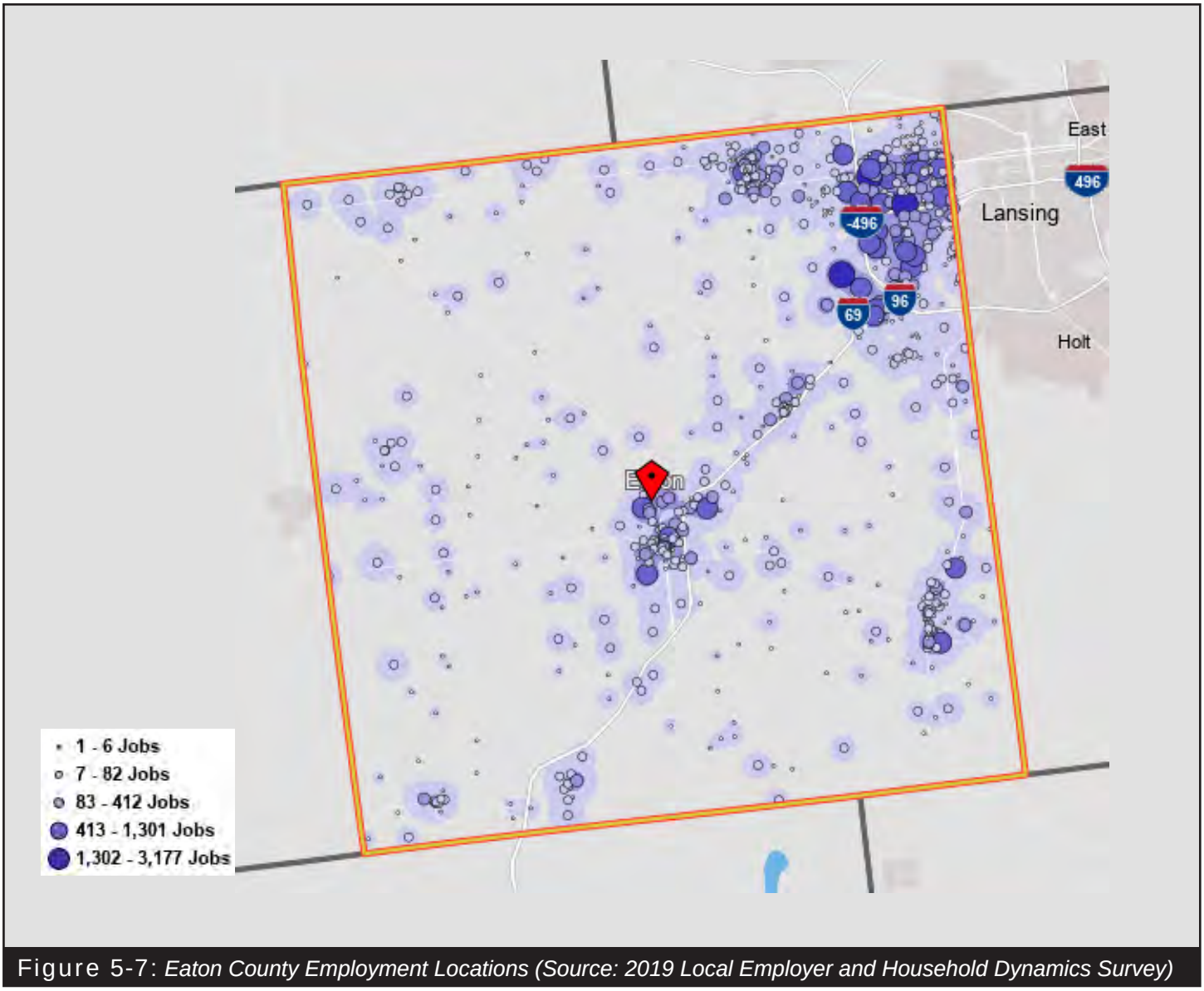


Figure 5-7: *Eaton County Employment Locations (Source: 2019 Local Employer and Household Dynamics Survey)*

Agriculture

While it accounts for just 2 percent of total employment in the county, agriculture has a major impact on Eaton County's land use decisions. The U.S. Department of Agriculture conducts a Census of Agriculture every five years, with the most recently available data from 2017. Agricultural Census data for 2022 will likely be available sometime in late 2023 or 2024. According to the 2017 Agricultural Census, Eaton County is home to 962 farm operations, with an average size of 218 acres. Of the 962 operations, 826 (86 percent) were cropland operations.

The number and average size of agricultural operations in Eaton County reflects a significant change over time. In 2007, there were 1,231 operations in the county with an average size of 181 acres. The biggest declines have been in the number of operations between 10 and 179 acres, while the number of operations between 180 and 499 acres and 500 to 999 acres has increased slightly (see Figure 5-8).

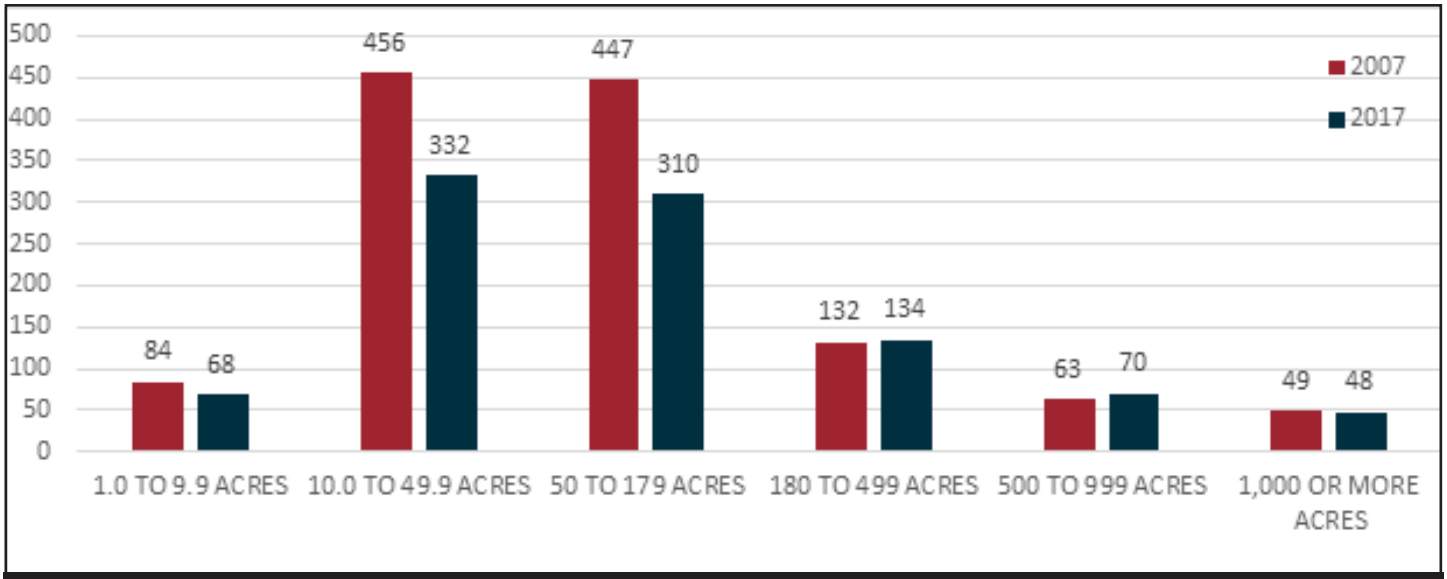


Figure 5-8: *Farm Operations by Size 2007 and 2017 (Source: Agricultural Census)*

Over time, the number of acres in farms in Eaton County has also declined, while agriculture accounted for 210,120 acres in 2017 according to the Agricultural Census, this was a substantial decline from previous years. In 1992, agriculture accounted for 233,921 acres, a decrease of over 23,000 acres over the 25-year period (see Figure 4-9).

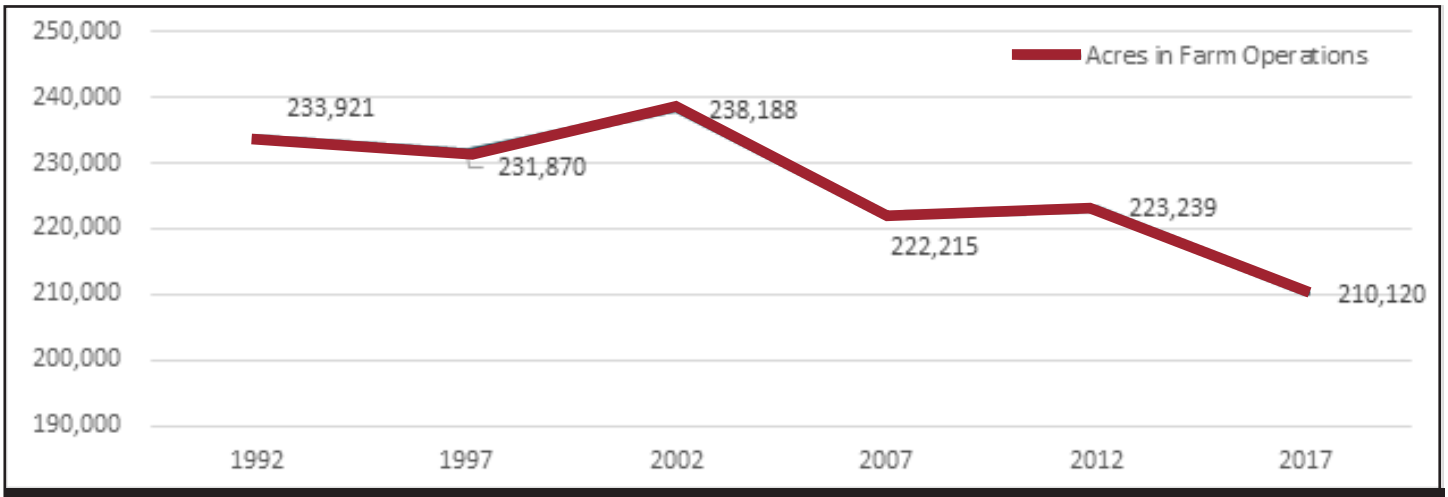


Figure 5-9: *Acres in Farms (Source Agricultural Census)*

While the number of agricultural operations and total acres in farms have both declined in Eaton County, the acres harvested has increased. In 1992, 160,758 acres were harvested and in 2017 168,296 acres were harvested, an increase of over 7,500 acres. Additionally, the market value of sales of agricultural products has increased significantly. In 1992, the average market value of sales for agricultural operations in Eaton County was $44,170 and in 2017, the value was $86,595, an increase of 96 percent. Over the same period of time, the consumer price index increased by 76 percent.

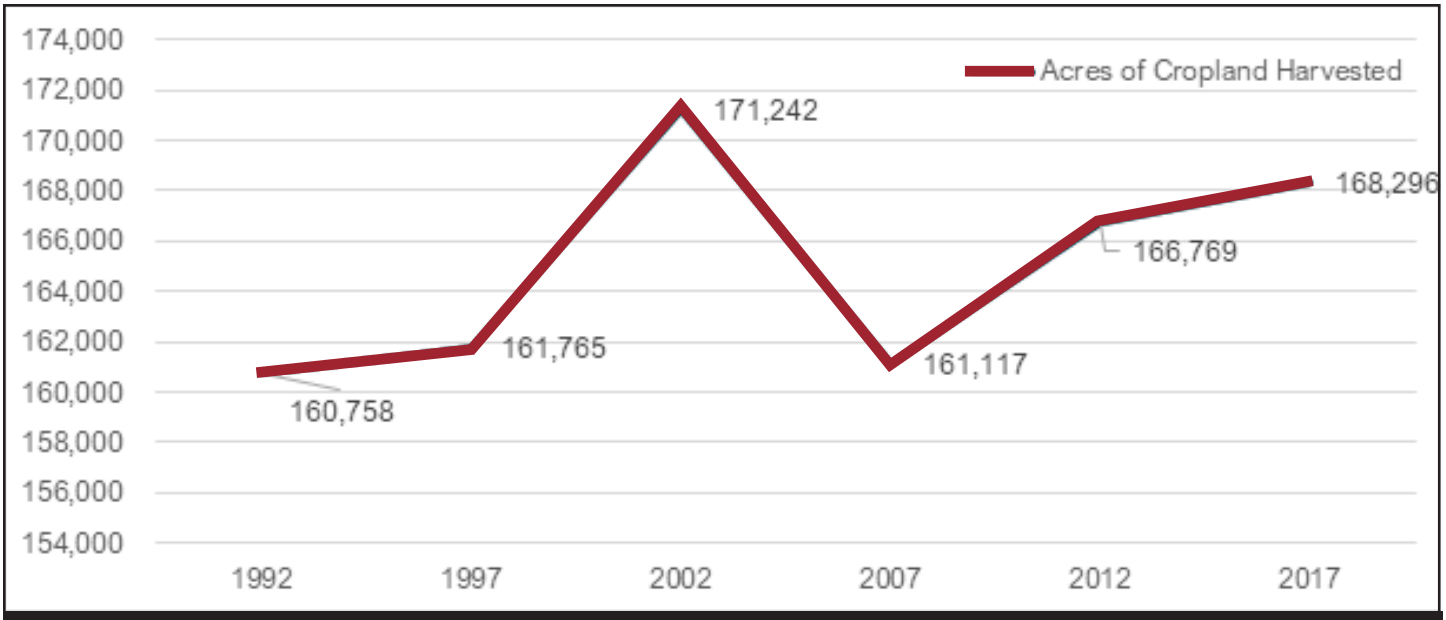


Figure 5-10: *Acres of Cropland Harvested (Source: Agricultural Census)*

Between 2007 and 2017, the number of agricultural operations with less than $49,999 in sales generally decreased, while the number of operations with more than $50,000 in sales increased. This reflects the general trend of increasing size of farms and agricultural operations and a decline of small farms. During the same time period, the average size of an operation increased from 181 acres in 2007 to 218 acres in 2017. This is similar to the average size of agricultural operations in the 1990s (See Figure 5-12).

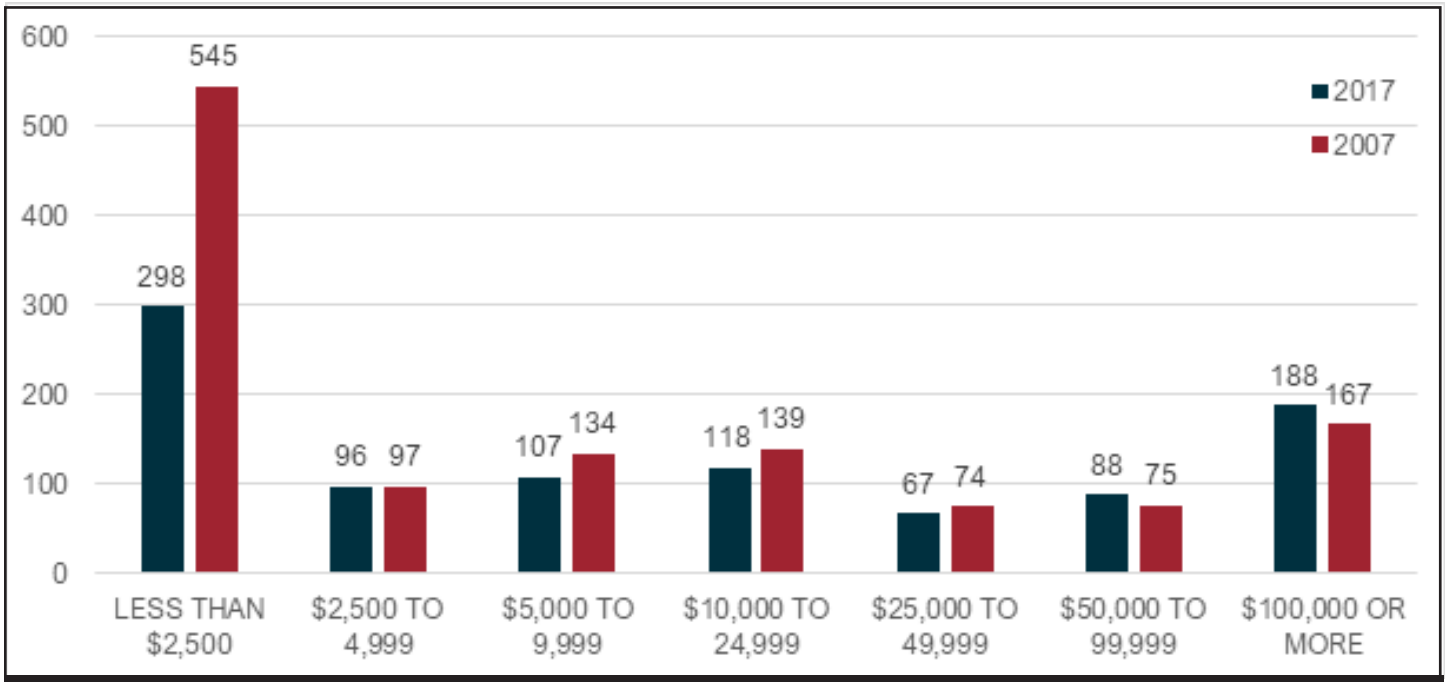


Figure 5-11: *Value of Sales for Agricultural Operations (Source: Agricultural Census)*

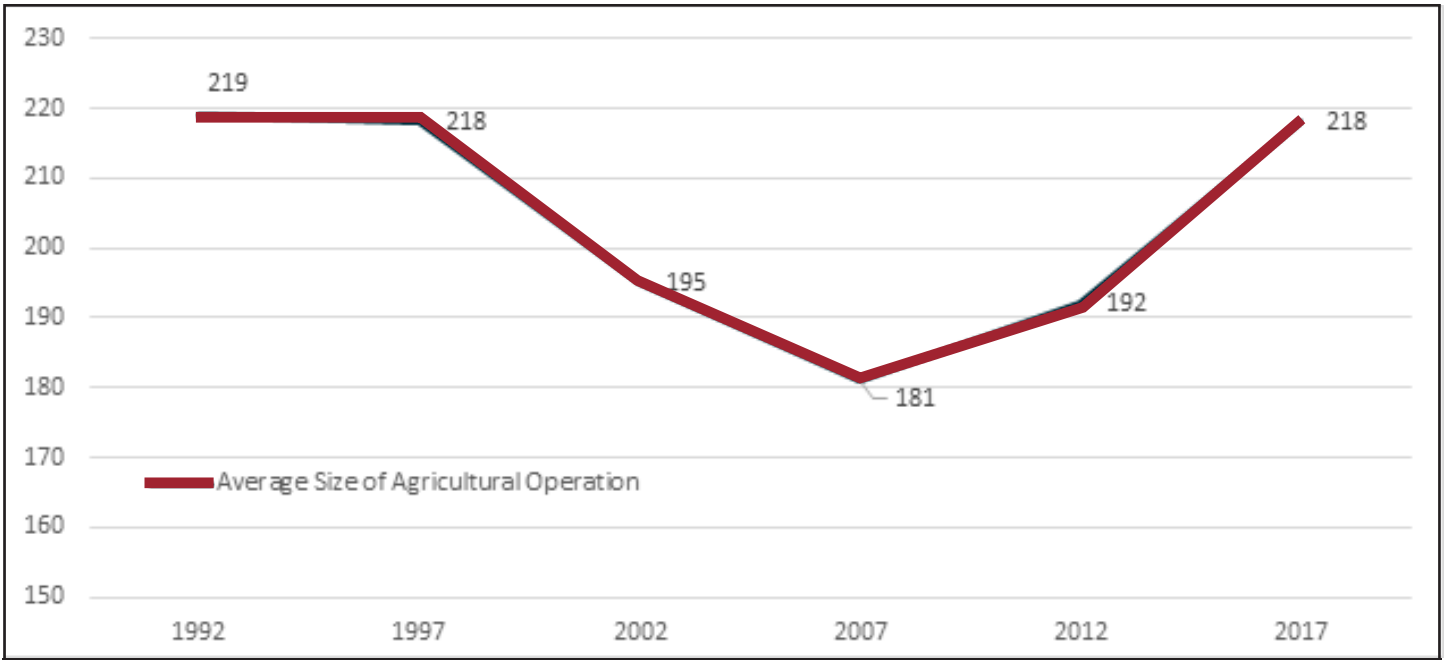


Figure 5-12: *Average Size of Agricultural Operations (Source: Agricultural Census)*

Economic Development Activities

A healthy economy is needed to provide jobs for residents and raise the standard of living for lower income citizens. A healthy economy also provides the necessary tax base needed to provide public services. When integrated with land use, transportation, and utility components of a master plan, economic development policies can promote an efficient pattern of growth.

In this section of the master plan, we focus on identifying economic development opportunities that will enhance, compliment, and diversify the large agricultural segment and established industries within the Eaton County economy.

Economic Development Partnerships

Economic development is a collaborative effort. It requires collaboration with a wide range of partners and stakeholders, including:

- Elected and appointed officials and staff in local units of government
- Other county agencies like the road commission, drain commission, and sheriff's department
- Regional agencies like the Lansing Economic Area Partnership (LEAP), Capital Area Michigan Works, and Tri-County Regional Planning Commission
- State of Michigan agencies, particularly the Michigan Economic Development Corporation
- Local educational institutions, including K-12 schools, community colleges, trade schools, and colleges and universities

Each of these stakeholders plays a critical role in economic development activities, and many maintain their own economic development plans or strategies that guide their work.

Eaton County Economic Development Role

The role of the Eaton County Community Development is to serve as a resource for local units of government seeking to access regional and county resources, and to act as a point of contact with agencies like LEAP that are pursuing new business opportunities for the county. The department also operates local programs that

support economic development, like the Brownfield Redevelopment Authority (BRA). The primary purpose of the BRA is to encourage the re-use of industrial and commercial property by offering economic incentives for redevelopment. Encouraging developers to reuse land protects green space and farmlands that would have otherwise been developed.

Economic Development Opportunities

Cooperative Agri-Business Planning Efforts

Eaton County is cooperating with various local groups / agencies to encourage and attract agriculture-related business development to the area. This includes a strong collaboration with LEAP to implement the Agricultural Economic Development Plan

Workforce Development

In addition to the aforementioned focus areas, workforce development requires the collaborative, coordinated efforts of many different organizations with similar goals and objectives. A quality workforce development program is needed for a community to stay competitive, to keep existing businesses strong, to keep young people in the community, and to raise residents' standard of living.

Workforce development strategies include developing approaches to enhance the skills of workers so that all residents can become contributing members of the local economy. These strategies involve partnerships with educational institutions, employers, unions, and state and local workforce development agencies and organizations. Key partners for the county in encouraging workforce development are Capital Area Michigan Works, Lansing Community College, and local school districts.

CHAPTER 6

NATURAL FEATURES AND RESOURCES

Chapter 6 | Natural Features and Resources

When asked what Eaton County's best assets are, the most common response among stakeholders and survey respondents is natural features and the environment. These assets provide increased quality of life, protect against natural disasters, and provide for important economic opportunities. This chapter of the master plan details the extent and condition of the County's natural resources and identifies concerns and threats that are addressed in the Plan.

Geology

The bedrock of the entire Southern Peninsula of Michigan is characterized by sedimentary rock that was deposited as marine sediments. This rock was laid down over a period of 370 million years and is approximately 14,000 feet (over 2.5 miles) thick. This rock forms a huge regional structure called the Michigan Basin. Overlain on the bedrock are gravels, sands, and clays that were deposited during four major glacial periods, the most recent of which is the Wisconsin which ended approximately 10,000 years ago.

The glaciers, or ice sheets, left the Charlotte Morainic System in Eaton County. This system makes up the County's hills, valleys, and major river corridors, as well as a few areas of exposed bedrock.

One such feature is a unique ledge complex of sedimentary rock along the Grand River in the City of Grand Ledge. These ledges rise up approximately 60 feet and appear for almost a mile in the City. This outcropping is one of the largest rock outcrops in central Michigan, and the seventh largest in the State.

Figure 6-1: *Ledges along the Grand River in Grand Ledge*

The main categories of glacial deposits (or till) present in the County are shown on the map "Quaternary Geology" on the following page. The glacial deposits that cover more than half of the county (55%) are classified as "medium" textured and made up of sand and smaller-sized gravel. Glacial outwash (put down by running water from melting glaciers), makes up 23% of the county, and is found in association with today's streams and rivers. Medium texture end moraine material makes up another 20% of the County. Till that is deposited at the edges or ends of a glacier when it stalls in one position for some time is identified as "end moraine" material. Lastly, coarse-textured end moraine till is found in the southwest corner of the County, making up the remaining 2% of the County's land area.

> *This information is pertinent because glacial tills make up the parent material that today's soils are formed from. According to the Soil Survey of Eaton County, Michigan, "Parent material determines most of the limits of the chemical and mineralogical composition of the soil."*

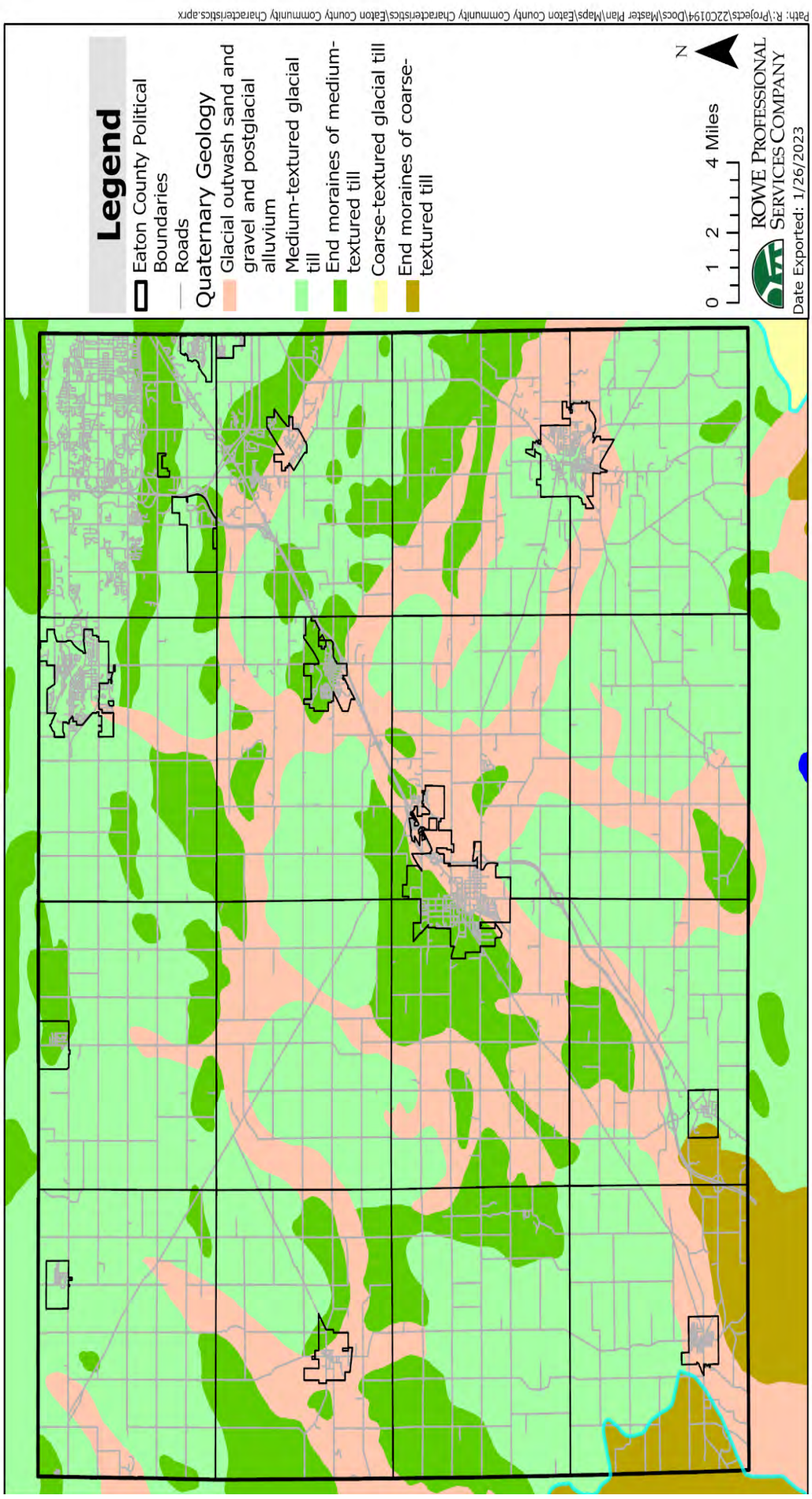


Figure 6-2: *Eaton County Geology (Source: Michigan Department of Natural Resources)*

Topography

The relief, or topography, across the County was also created by movement of the glaciers. They left the Charlotte Morainic System, which consists of three ridges that begin in Kent County and continue southeasterly across Eaton County into Ingham County, where they diminish. The elevation of the County ranges from 775 feet to nearly 1,000 feet and averages about 900 feet, which is approximately 325 feet above the elevation of Lake Michigan. The local topography is described as ranging from nearly level to steep. However, the majority of the County is level to gently rolling slopes of 10% or less. Most of the steeper slopes occur in relation to surface mining activities or the sandstone formations along the Grand River at Grand Ledge.

Soils

Soils in the County are a product of many influences: existing mineral parent material lain down by the glaciers; pre-settlement forest vegetation that grew in the County before it was logged and cleared; surface and groundwater action; wind; and in most recent times, human influences on soils caused by agriculture and development.

Soils within the County are one of its most valuable natural resources. Agricultural land uses represent over 50 percent of the county's total land area and significant economic value. While half of the County contains well and moderately drained soils (43% or 160,000 acres), 48% of the County contains somewhat poorly drained and poorly drained mineral soils. The map on the following page identifies where these soil categories are located. This plan also discusses "Prime Farmland" which are the most desirable agricultural soils, and where areas, if drained, would create prime farmland. Prime farmland and farmland of local importance makes up approximately 51% of the County, while prime farmland if drained makes up 43%. Areas that are not considered prime farmland are primarily in urban areas, or directly adjacent to rivers and other waterways.

Soils not only support human populations through food production, soils that are relatively impermeable create wetlands that store floodwaters, and help filter pollutants from stormwater runoff before it reaches rivers and streams. Soils also infiltrate precipitation and recharge underground aquifers, which are the County's main source of drinking water. Soils also support woodland ecosystems that create important wildlife habitat, timber production opportunities, microclimates for energy conservation in buildings, and sequester a significant amount of carbon annually.

The climate of Eaton County is characterized as "continental," in that it is not very near features, such as an ocean, that would significantly impact temperatures, precipitation, and the like. Weather patterns are controlled largely by the movement of pressure systems across the nation. The inland location of the County limits Lake Michigan's influence on the County's weather. The Lake's most noticeable impact on the climate in the County is increased cloudiness, which helps to moderate minimum temperatures during late fall and early winter.

The average annual high temperature for the Lansing Area according to the National Weather Service is 59.2° Fahrenheit, and the average low temperature is 40.5° Fahrenheit. The National Weather Service also reports that while the region is generally warming, it is not warming at the same rate across seasons. Again, according to the National Weather Service, "warming has been concentrated in winter and spring, while summers have not warmed substantially, a feature characteristic of much of the Midwest. A lack of summer warming is reflected in a below average number of hot days since 1990 and no overall trend in warm nights. The winter warming trend is reflected in a below average number of very cold nights since 1990."

Precipitation averages 35.29" annually in the County. While past years have shown a general trend for higher average precipitation (1940-1990), this trend has generally leveled off since 1990. The average annual snowfall in the County is 48" and has generally declined as a consequence of warming winter temperatures.

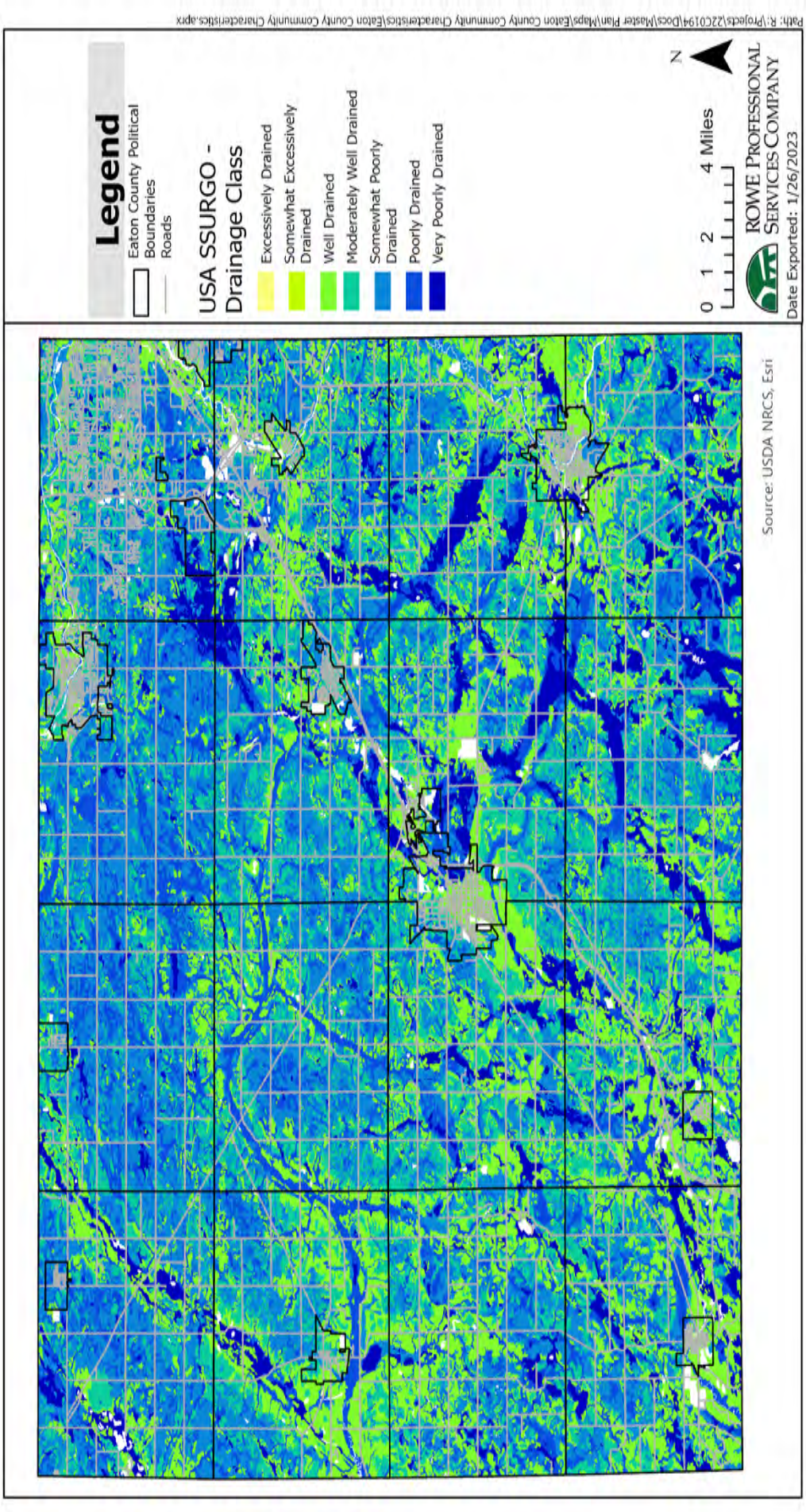


Figure 6-3: *Eaton County Soils (Source: USDA)*

Pre-Settlement Vegetation

The vegetation that existed in Eaton County before it was settled and farmed provides guidance for conservation efforts of the remaining natural environment today. As Michigan was being settled, vegetation surveys were conducted in the 1830's to guide pioneers to areas with good farming and lumbering opportunities. The kinds of plants that grow in an area indicate the site's soil type, and potential for growing crops.

Pre-settlement vegetation types are shown on Figure 6-4. Most of the County was covered by two types of hardwood forest communities: Beech-Sugar Maple (76%) and Oak-Hickory (6%). Forested wetlands covered 14% of the County, which included Black Ash swamps, mixed conifer swamps, and mixed hardwood swamps. (Note that the term "swamp" is used for forested wetlands; "marsh" for wetlands vegetated with herbaceous plants such as cattails; and "scrub-shrub" for wetlands vegetated with woody shrubs such as buttonbush or Michigan holly). Other wetland types covered slightly more than one percent (1%) of the County. Grassland communities covered slightly more than one (1%) of the County.

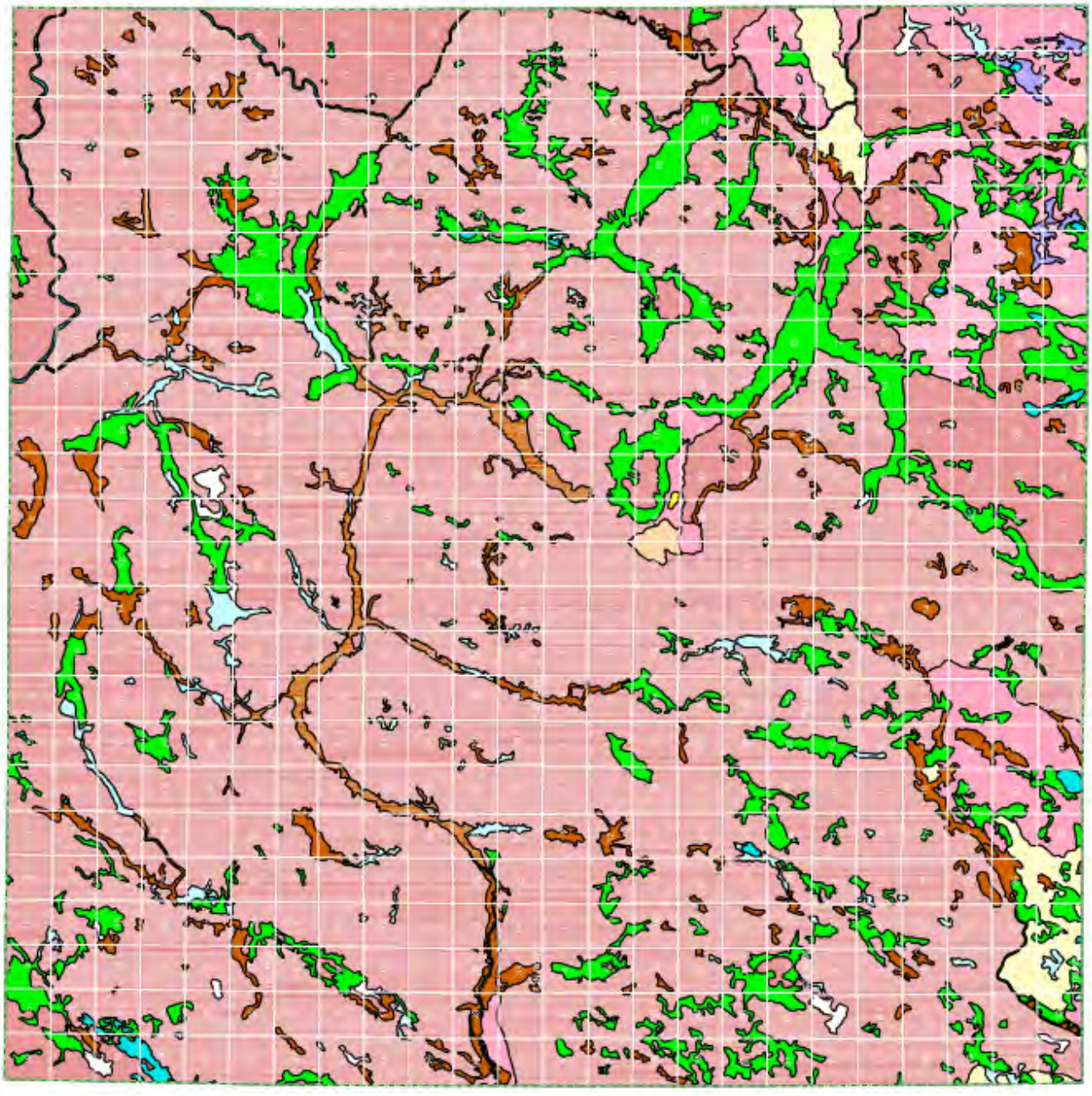


Figure 6-4: *Pre-Settlement Vegetation (Source: Michigan State University)*

Current Landcover

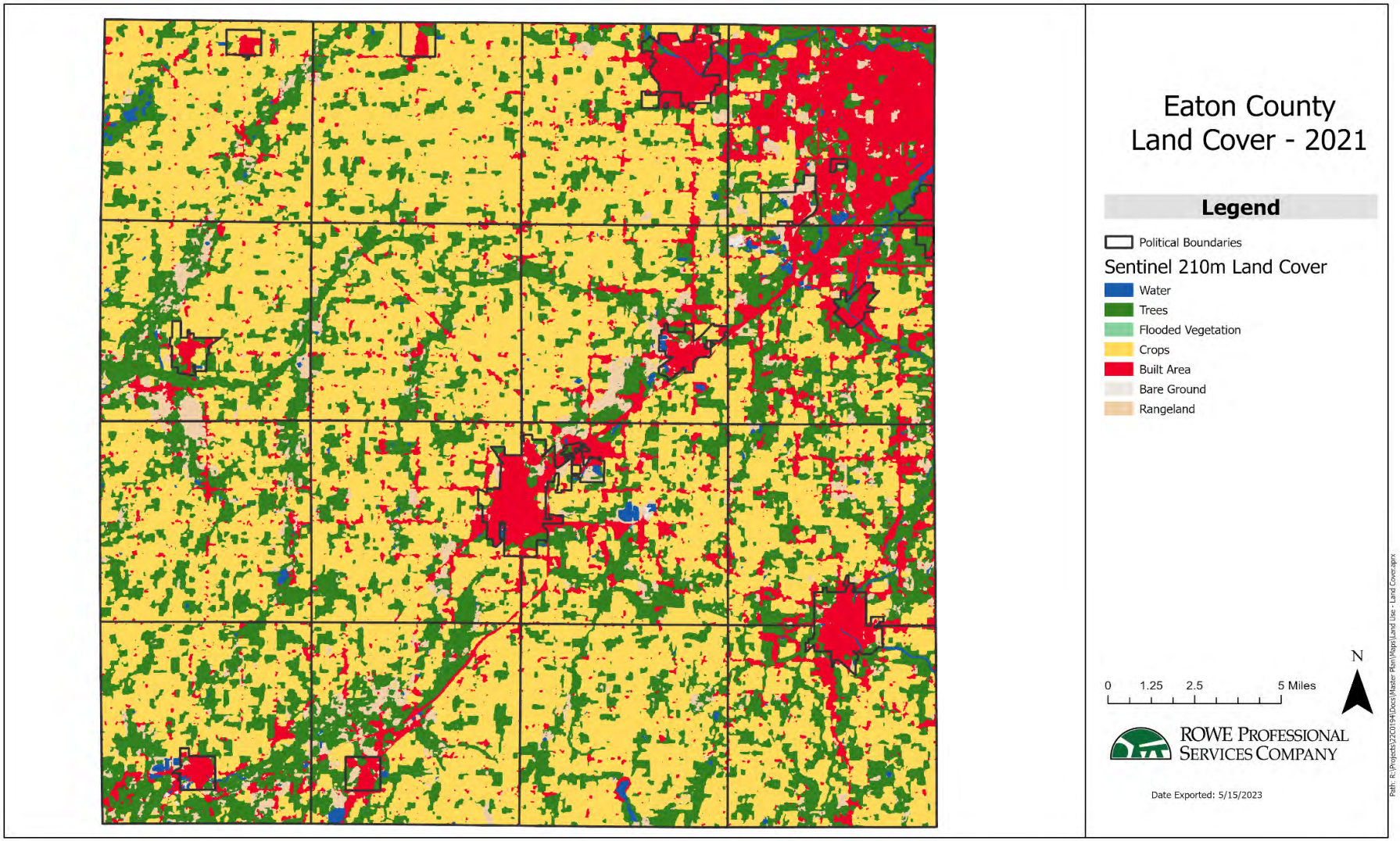
According to the most recent survey land use and land cover from ESA Sentinal-2 imagery, a satellite imagery-based system, Eaton County's land cover has changed dramatically since the pre-settlement survey on the previous page. It is important to note that land cover analysis is very different from land use. In this case, the entire county is divided into 10 square-meter areas and assigned a value. In other words, land use applies a single value to each parcel, whereas land cover can assign multiple values to a single parcel because it is based strictly on imagery, not parcel lines. Figure 6-5 displays land cover for Eaton County as of 2021.

Land Cover	Percent of County
Crops	53.88%
Trees	26.72%
Built Area	14.03%
Rangeland	4.36%
Water	0.95%
Bare Ground	0.05%
Flooded Vegetation	0.01%

Figure 6-5: *Eaton County Land Cover, 2021 (Source ESA Sentinal-2, ESRI)*

As the map on the next page shows. The Northeastern portion of the county is largely developed, with pockets of development in smaller cities and villages, but the vast majority of the county is agricultural or covered by wooded areas. In total 80.6 percent of the county is covered by crops or trees.

Figure 6-6: *Land Cover (Source: ESA Sentinal-2; ESRI)*



Water Resources

A watershed is an area of land that drains to a common drainage channel or lake. Eaton County is part of three watersheds: the Upper Grand River watershed, covering approximately 34% (or 128,000 acres) of the County; the Thornapple River watershed (a sub-watershed of the Lower Grand River watershed), covering approximately 44% (or 163,000 acres) of the County; and the Battle Creek watershed (a sub-watershed of the Kalamazoo River watershed), which covers approximately 21% (or 79,000 acres) of the County. Figure 5-7 illustrates where these watersheds are located in the County.

Since 1999, the County has participated in several watershed planning efforts, in conjunction with applying for and receiving a stormwater permit from the state through the Phase II Stormwater National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPEDS). The Eaton County Drain Commissioner's office has spearheaded these efforts in the County. Stormwater permits are required of government entities that contain urban areas of a specified density, and who own and operate municipal stormwater systems.

Watershed management plans were developed for the Upper Grand River, the Lower Grand River (which includes the Thornapple River sub-watershed), and the Battle Creek River, a part of the Kalamazoo River watershed. These plans describe the current condition of each watershed and identify significant pollutants that need to be addressed in each watershed.

Note that the following section includes a summary of watershed management plans completed for each of the three major watershed areas within Eaton County. None of these plans have been updated since the last Master Plan update in 2011.

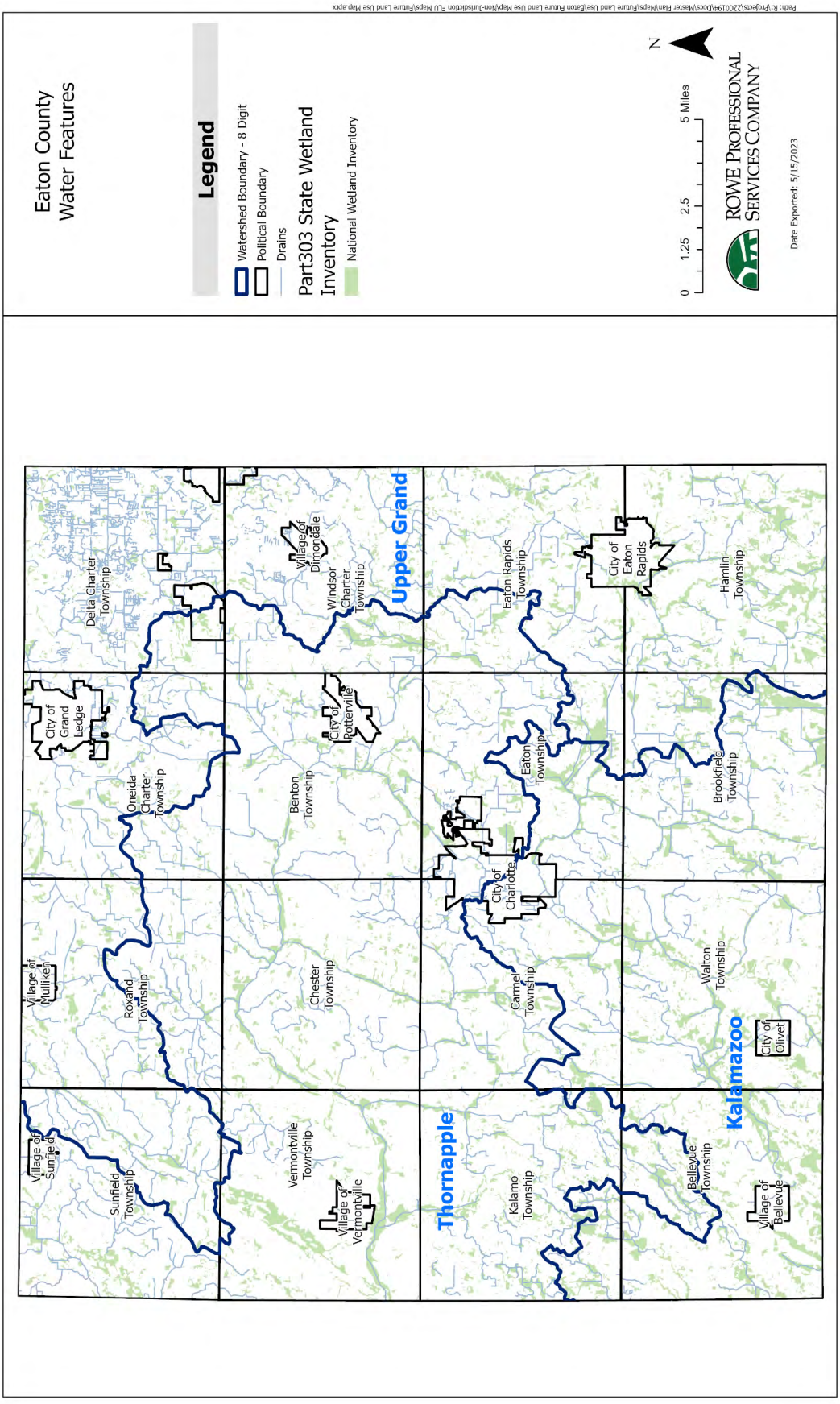


Figure 6-7: *Eaton County Watersheds and Water Features (Source: EGLE; Michigan DNR; Eaton County)*

Upper Grand River Watershed Plan

The Grand River drains the eastern and northern parts of the County. Willow Creek and Springbrook Creek are important tributaries of the Grand River to the east, and Sebewa Creek, Sandstone Creek and Carrier Creek are the main tributaries that drain the northern part of the watershed in the County.

This watershed is made up of both rural and urban areas. Urban land uses are mostly located within the City of Lansing, City of Grand Ledge, and Delta Township, while the less developed and rural areas of the watershed make up the remainder. Based on demographic projections and master plans and zoning information from the participating communities, the *Grand River Watershed Management Plan* states that residential, industrial, and commercial land uses will expand in those areas currently seeing such land uses. This includes most of the watershed except for the southwestern area, which is projected to be dominated by agricultural use. However, as a result of changes in land use, agricultural land uses are expected to decrease by 15% across the watershed.

Water quality of the Grand River, and its tributaries, was also studied in preparation of the *Watershed Plan*. Existing data was used to determine the existing pollutants and other water quality and quantity impairments. The main impairments include sediments from activities including agriculture, construction sites, and stream bank erosion; flow variability due to stormwater management methods; low dissolved oxygen due to high levels of nutrients from fertilizers, animal waste, poorly maintained septic systems, and combined sewer overflows; bacteria from human and animal wastes; and PCBs and/or mercury.

The watershed plan used three methods to prioritize the issues uncovered:

1) Public opinion was solicited to identify existing and perceived problems with the Grand River and its tributaries;
2) The Michigan Department of Environmental Quality's list of "designated uses" was used to compare the ability of people and wildlife to use the waterways for nine identified uses, such as public water supply, cold-water fisheries, and partial body contact; and
3) the municipal watershed partners determined the "desired uses" of the waterways, and whether or not the resources could accommodate these uses.

All of the information was evaluated, and the following goals were established for the Grand River Watershed:

1) Educate the public about the importance of protecting and managing the watershed.
2) Provide a sustainable and equitable funding source.
3) Encourage water quality friendly development.
4) Restore and enhance recreational uses through development of a watershed recreation plan.
5) Protect and enhance habitat for wildlife and aquatic animals through development of a watershed habitat plan.
6) Protect and increase wetlands through development of a watershed habitat plan.
7) Provide pollution prevention / good housekeeping practices for municipal operations.
8) Strive to eliminate pathogens to meet total and partial body contact for recreational uses.
9) Encourage water quality friendly agricultural practices.
10) Develop Watershed Management Plan updates.

As part of their NPDES permit, each municipal partner has committed to implementing the actions identified in the Watershed Plan within a certain time frame. The GLRC members have organized subcommittees in the areas of administration (through Executive Committee), public education, illicit discharge elimination, habitat and recreation, funding, and ordinances and best management practices.

Thornapple River (Lower Grand River) Watershed Plan

The Thornapple River is a sub-watershed of the larger Grand River watershed. The Thornapple valley is a significant landscape feature in Eaton County at almost a mile wide and 100 feet below the adjoining moraines in the western part of the County. The main tributaries of this river include Scipio Creek, Mud Creek, Hager Creek, Thompson Creek, Shanty Brook, Lacey Creek and the Little Thornapple River.

This sub-watershed was addressed in a watershed plan for the Lower Grand River that was drafted in 2005. As shown on the map in this document, this watershed drains the middle section of the County. Land use within this watershed is impacted by growth of residential areas out of the central urban cores, and into the surrounding agricultural areas. As indicated in the Watershed Plan, the result of this type of population growth has been an overall reduction in population density. As communities expand away from the urban centers, it tends to produce large lot residential areas, large shopping centers, and new roads, parking lots, roof tops, and driveways that increase the watershed's imperviousness. Imperviousness is bad for a watershed because it forces stormwater overland, where it picks up pollutants and heats up, and deposits large amounts of polluted stormwater directly to streams and lakes. Water bodies evolved to receive most of their water from groundwater, which was cleaned and cooled as precipitation infiltrated the ground. Changes made by imperviousness degrade water quality, scour stream banks, and minimize or eliminate the stream's ability to support wildlife.

The Lower Grand River Watershed Management Plan states that this river is moderately impaired by agricultural runoff and channel modification. While these impairments are evident, the Michigan Department of Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy (EGLE) has rated the overall habitat and water quality of this subwatershed as "good."

Even with this rating, the Lower Grand River Management Plan identified the following water quality goals:

1) Restore and maintain the chemical, physical, and biological integrity of the waters of the Great Lakes Basin Ecosystem by enhancing river environments in their natural states for present and future generations.
2) Maintain and improve water quality by promoting sound land management decisions.
3) Assess relationships between water quality and stormwater runoff by developing guidelines for stormwater management to reduce impacts of urbanization.
4) Preserve, restore cold water fisheries and reintroduce indigenous game fish species where possible.
5) Provide for flood protection, minimize risk of flooding, and assess necessity of flood control improvements.
6) Ensure public safety in recreational opportunities in surface waters.
7) Protect healthy habitats for native aquatic life and wildlife.

In addition to these goals, the Watershed Plan identifies five locations within Eaton County that rank as "sensitive" due to five factors:

1) adjacent land use types (urban and agriculture);
2) large areas of impervious surfaces,
3) large in-stream temperature fluctuations;
4) receiving large amount of stormwater runoff; and
5) high population density.

The areas listed in Table 11 below show stream segments that are considered "critical" areas that require intervention to minimize water quality degradation.

In addition to the Watershed Management Plan for the Lower Grand River, several interactive tools and two guidebooks were created to assist subwatersheds in their individual planning efforts. A Lower Grand River

Watershed provisional organization was formed to provide basin wide oversight, implement regional and watershed-wide initiatives, and prioritize water quality concerns.

Battle Creek River Watershed

The Battle Creek River is a sub-watershed of the larger Kalamazoo River watershed. It drains the southern portion of the County. The river's headwaters begin in Narrow Lake, and its primary tributaries in Eaton County are Indian Creek and Big Creek. A watershed management plan was drafted for the Battle Creek River in 2004 by stakeholders in the County, including the Eaton County Drain Commissioner's office.

The watershed's primary land use is agriculture, although the river does traverse the City of Charlotte and the Village of Bellevue. This river has been identified as one of the leading contributors of phosphorus and sediment to the Kalamazoo River. It is also the "flashiest" gauged tributary in the Kalamazoo River watershed.

Goals of this plan include:

1) Reduce non-point source pollution in the Battle Creek River Watershed.

2) Continue conducting the geomorphic assessment using the Rosgen Methodology, analyze data, and implement a restoration demonstration site on a stretch of the Battle Creek River that maintains drainage, restores stream function, and stream stability utilizing natural channel design. Also, conduct three dam removal projects on the Battle Creek River to provide fish migration upstream, restore the natural hydrologic flow, and reduce safety and maintenance liability. If dams cannot be removed due to financial constraints, historical reasons, or public opposition, install a fish passage structure to allow for migration. The long-term goal is to restore the Battle Creek River into a natural functioning system utilizing the Rosgen Methodology by implementing natural channel design on channelized sections of the river.

3) Protect and enhance critical natural resources within the Battle Creek River watershed by working with private landowners and local governments, and integrating long-term land use planning tools to protect water quality.

4) Increase public awareness, appreciation, utilization, and protection of the Battle Creek River Watershed by providing more public recreational opportunities that are compatible to the goals and objectives of the Battle Creek River Watershed Project at county, township, village, and city parks.

5) Implement an information and education program to increase awareness of the Battle Creek River Watershed and non-point source pollution through workshops, newsletters, brochures, classroom presentations, demonstration sites, posters, flyers, and advertisements.

One main source of sediments in this watershed is from stream bank erosion resulting from historic dredging. To address this issue, the Battle Creek River Watershed Project and the Eaton County Conservation District received three grants from various state and national agencies to restore a one-mile reach of the Battle Creek River (Battle Creek Drain) through the City of Charlotte's Bennett Park.

Beginning in 2007, the project has placed several stability and habitat structures, a rock riffle, and removed the dam in this location. The project has also placed more stability and habitat structures, as well as restored the channel to its historic location and natural curving form. The group has also located a rock ramp (similar to a fish ladder) at the downstream end of the lake level control structure at Narrow Lake. This structure has restored the ability of the local fish to migrate into Narrow Lake. Another successful project has been a cost sharing program for agricultural producers. The Calhoun Conservation District and the Gun Lake Tribe of Pottawatomi Indians have joined to provide 75% of the funding for installation of best management practices on farms that reduce soil erosion and the discharge of phosphorus to surface waters.

Lakes

Table 6-1: *Lakes*

Lake Name	Size	Watershed
Narrow Lake	160 acres	Battle Creek River
Pine Lake	140 acres	Battle Creek River
Saubee Lake	80 acres	Thornapple River
Lacey Lake	80 acres	Thornapple River

The main lakes in the County are shown in Table 6-1 below. Most have mucky bottoms, and only a very few have sandy bottoms or beaches. There are an additional 20 small natural lakes in the County, with a total land area of less than 1,000 acres. The total land area covered by lakes in the County represents less than one percent (1%) of total land area.

Wetlands

Table 6-2: *Wetland Areas*

Wetland Delineation	Acres
78 DNR only	15,659
Hydric Soils & 78 DNR	12,129
Hydric Soils & NWI	28,406
Hydric Soils & NWI & 78 DNR	26,240
NWI & 78 DNR	5,049
NWI only	11,539
Hydric Soils only	132,091
Total	**231,113**

While the county does not have many lakes, a significant portion of the county is covered by wetland areas and/or hydric soils. The State of Michigan regulates any wetland areas over 5-acres in size, which significantly reduces the development potential of a site with a wetland area recognized by the state of Michigan. Any wetlands listed on the National Wetland Inventory (NWI) or identified via a 1978 Michigan DNR survey of wetlands are regulated by the state and must receive state approval prior to being impacted by development.

Hydric soils on the other hand are areas that may not be state-identified wetlands, but are likely to present challenges to development due to frequent flooding or other unstable conditions. Figure 6-8 displays the number of acres accounted for by each wetland type in the county.

Most of the wetlands in the County today exist in association with tributaries and rivers that cross the County. During times of high rain or snow melt, wetlands absorb and hold excess water, and protect lands and property from flooding. By slowing the movement of water, wetlands allow sediments to fall out of the water, cleaning it before it is discharged into the adjacent stream. This process also allows the wetland plants to take up pollutants, such as fertilizers or heavy metals, further cleaning the water. Wetlands are also critical wildlife habitat, providing important nesting and food sources.

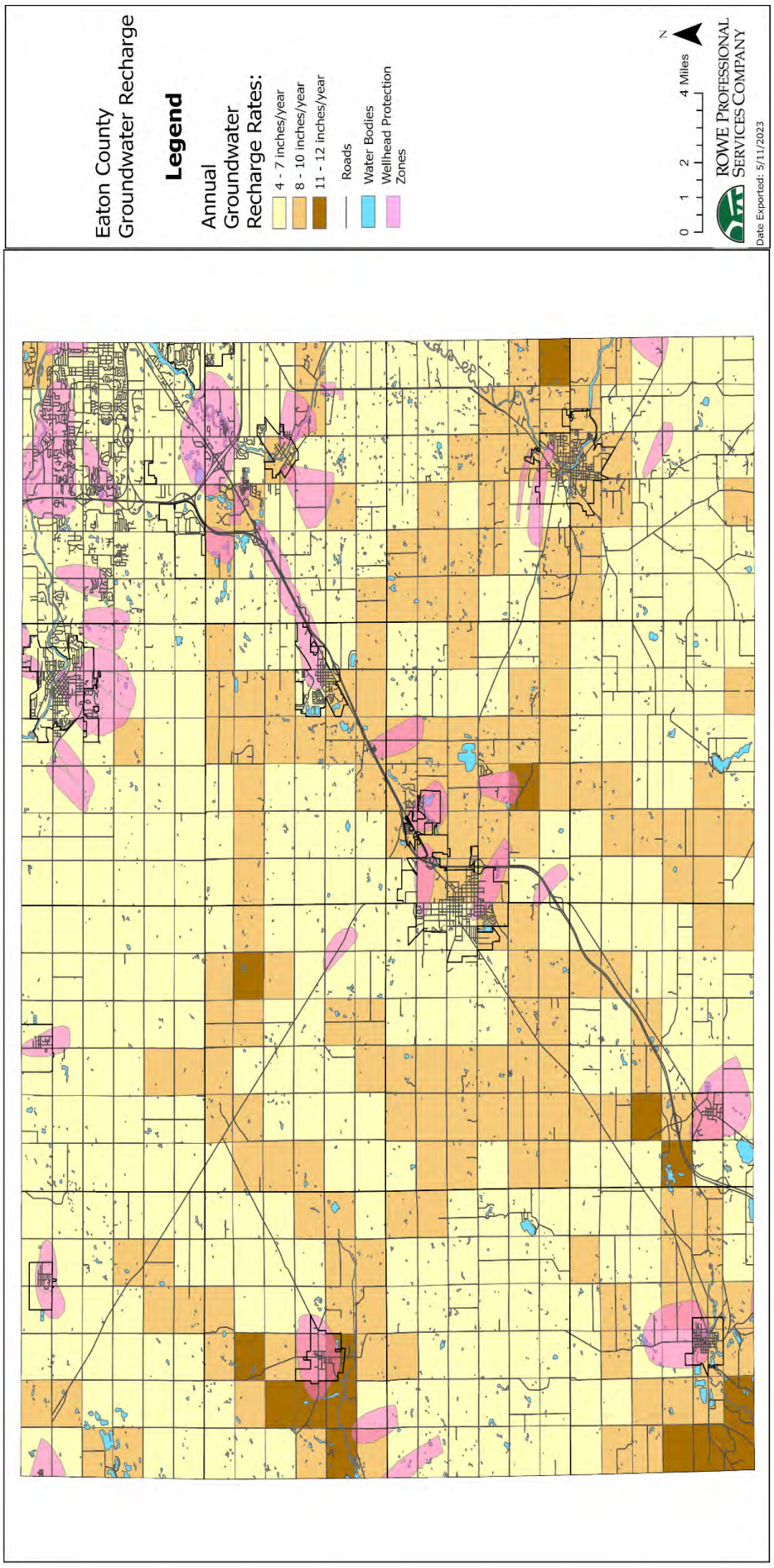


Figure 6-8: *Wetland Areas in Eaton County*

Groundwater Resources

Many water needs of the County – for industry, agriculture, and drinking water – are supplied by wells. One main exception is the use of ponds that are dug for agricultural irrigation and other uses. Groundwater also supplies the "base" flow for streams and creeks throughout the County. Before the land was cleared, precipitation infiltrated the ground rather than running off, and provided a steady flow of clean, cold water to lakes, streams, and creeks. Groundwater resources in the County are not abundant except in the southwest, which has moderately abundant groundwater supplies. Figure 5-9 shows the estimated annual recharge rates of groundwater resources in the County.

County residents receive their drinking water from groundwater wells. The more urban parts of the County, including Grand Ledge, Vermontville, Charlotte, Eaton Rapids, Olivet, and Bellevue have municipal wells that serve residents' needs. The remainder of the County is served by private wells. Delta Township discontinued use of its municipal wells in 1995 in favor of purchasing bulk water from the Lansing Board of Water and Light. Communities with municipal wells have instituted several safeguards for their water supply. Each has a Wellhead Protection Program and delineated wellhead protection zones that identify and limit any potential contaminants within the wellhead protection zone. In addition, water from municipal wells is monitored to ensure that it meets purity standards.

The importance of groundwater protection cannot be overstated. To ensure private water wells are properly maintained, the County has instituted "time-of-sale" rules that require a private well to be evaluated before the property can be sold to another party. This ensures problems with private wells are addressed, and not passed on to the next property owner. The time-of-sale rules also apply to private septic systems, to certify the well is not being contaminated by a malfunctioning septic system, or the septic system is not discharging untreated effluent into the environment.

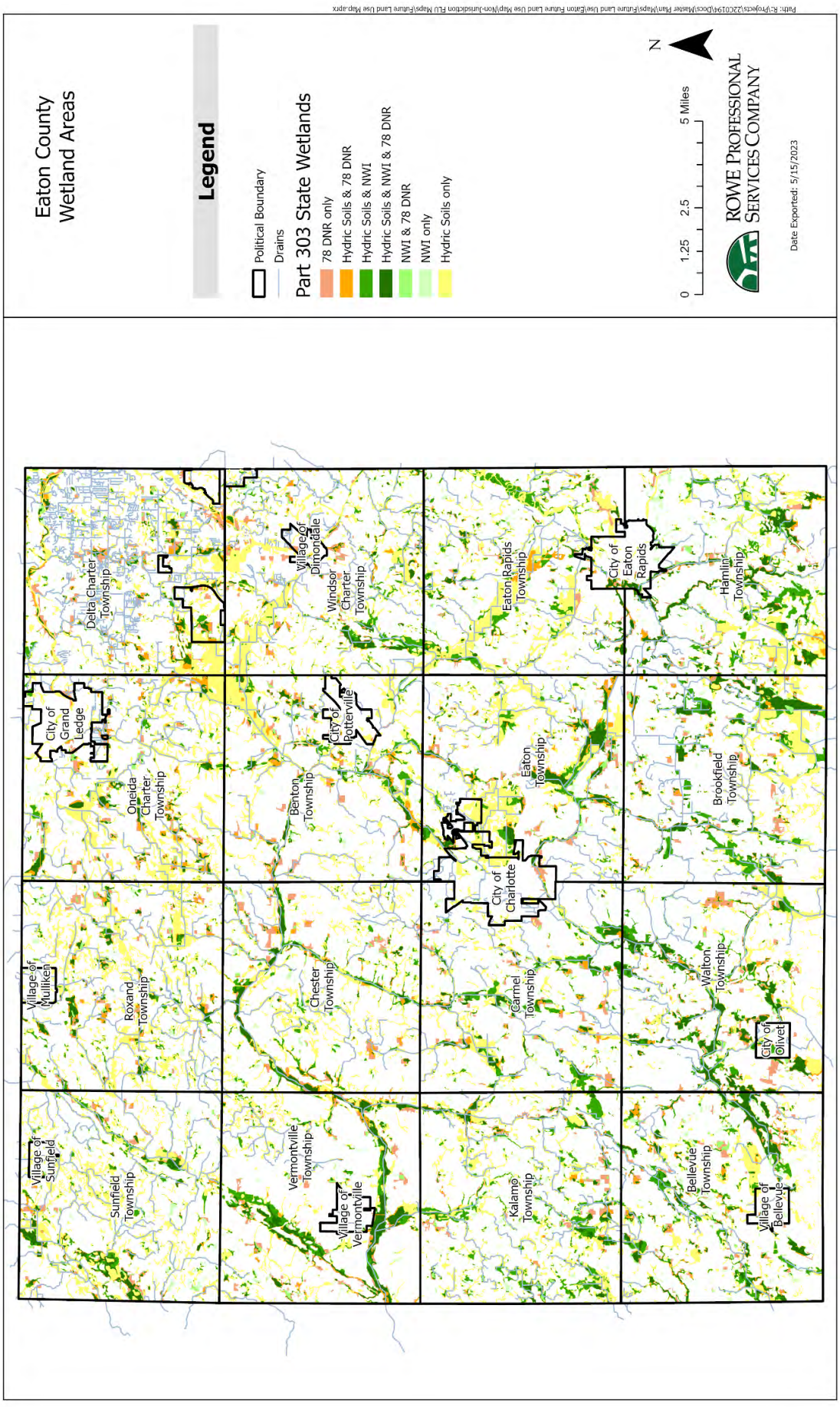


Figure 6-9: *Ground Water Recharge Rates (Source: Tri-County Regional Planning Commission)*

Potential Conservation Areas

Green Infrastructure

In 2008, a study and report was prepared for the Tri-County Regional Planning Commission called *Clinton, Eaton, and Ingham Counties Potential Conservation Areas: Providing Ecological Information for a Green Infrastructure Plan* by the Michigan Natural Features Inventory staff of Michigan State University Extension Services. This study was conducted to identify the most significant natural areas in the region, and to provide the data that will allow focused conservation efforts through sustainable land use planning. The premise is, if natural areas that provide benefits such as water filtration, moderating local climates, and air purification, are conserved, the natural features will offer a better quality of life for residents, and eliminate the need to replace these benefits with human-made systems.

Green infrastructure systems are made up of woodlands, wetlands, and other natural features connected by river and stream corridors, tree rows and other natural passageways. These systems allow plants and animals to disperse throughout their range, creating functioning ecosystems that provide humans with many ecological, environmental, and economic benefits. For example, a well-functioning wetland system, that has maintained its hydrologic connections with adjacent streams and uplands, will continue to store and filter water, absorb pollutants from stormwater through its vegetation, and support wildlife, such as pollinators from nearby agricultural fields, and game species. Wetlands that are disconnected from their water source, or discharge point, will no longer function nor provide the benefits as it had in the past.

To maintain quality of life, and the benefits its green infrastructure provides, a balanced approach to land use planning that accommodates development while also preserving natural features, their connections, and functions needs to be adopted. The Potential Conservation Areas (PCA) shown in Figure 5-10 are defined by the report as places on the landscape dominated by native vegetation that have various levels of potential or harboring high-quality natural areas and unique natural features. In addition, these areas may provide critical ecological services such as maintaining water quality and quantity, soil development and stabilization, pollination of cropland, wildlife travel corridors, stopover sites for migratory birds, sources of genetic diversity, and floodwater retention. The key is to maintain vegetated corridors between the larger features, such as woodlands or wetlands, so as to maintain the system as an interconnected unit.

The method used to identify and prioritize these sites was made up of eight criteria: 1) total size; 2) size of core area; 3) length of stream corridor; 4) landscape connectivity; 5) restorability of surrounding lands; 6) vegetation quality; 7) parcel fragmentation; and 8) bio-rarity score.

Each criterion was split up into several levels and assigned points. The highest scoring natural areas are considered to be the most significant.

In Eaton County 729 sites, totaling 54,507 acres were identified as potential conservation areas. Total scores ranged from a high of 25 points (out of a possible 45), to a low of 1 point. The average score was 8. The areas identified as PCAs are displayed in Figure 6-10.

Table 6-3: *Potential Conservation Areas*

PCA Class	PCA Count	% of All PCAs	% of County Acres
Low (1-6)	258	35.4%	3.2%
Med (7-9)	302	41.4%	4.7%
High (10-14)	149	20.4%	4.5%
Highest (15-25)	20	2.7%	2.3%

The report concludes that there are several high-quality natural areas still existing in Eaton County, much like it was before European settlement 200 years ago. With the high rate of development and its associated stresses

on the natural environment, conservation of these remaining areas and their native plant and animal populations are vital to the County's maintaining the benefits this green infrastructure provides, as well as the natural heritage of the area. These areas were identified as important for resource conservation in the previous Master Plan's Future Land Use Map, and are maintained as such in this update.

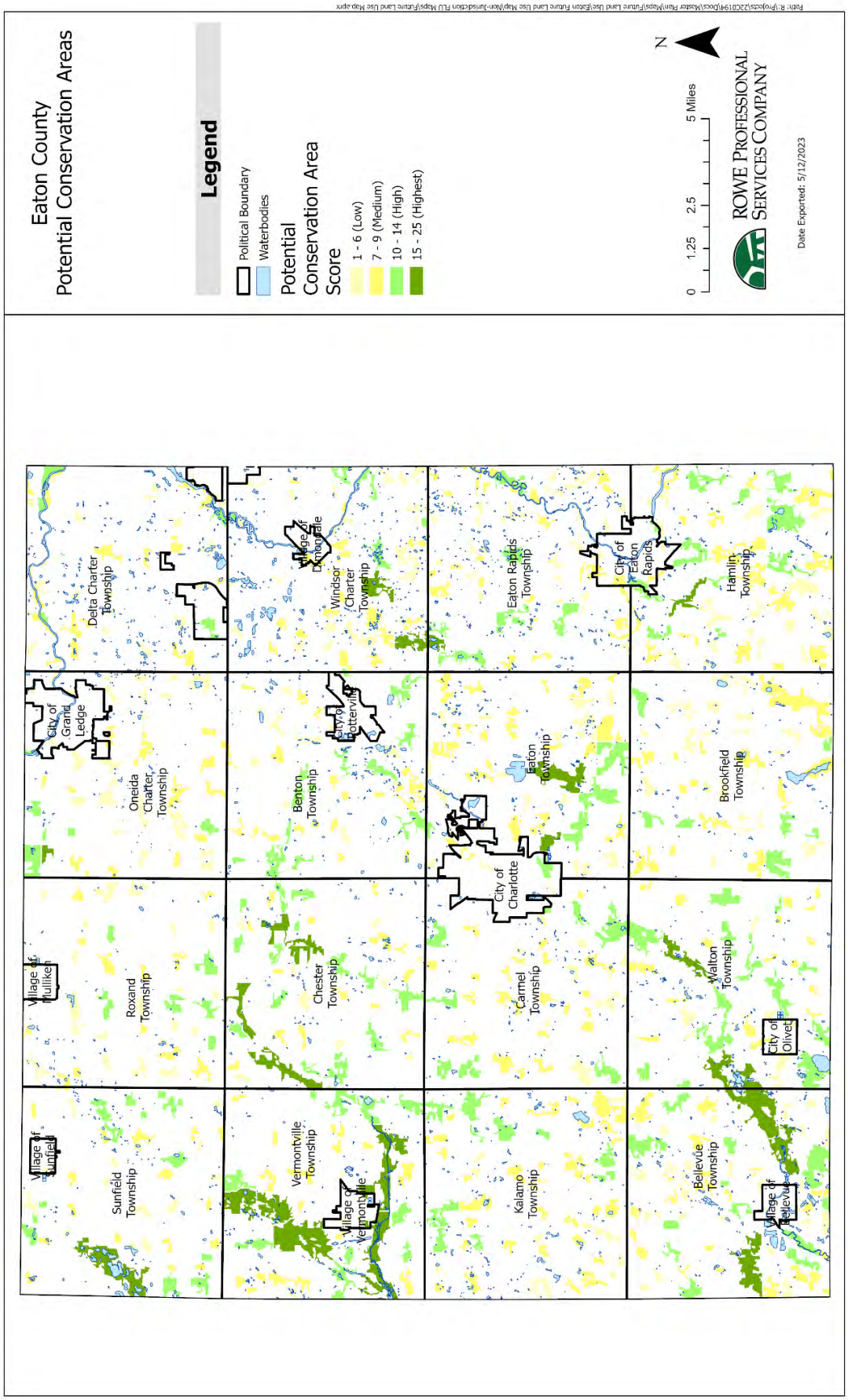


Figure 6-10: *Potential Conservation Areas*

CHAPTER 7

PARKS AND RECREATION

Chapter 7 | Parks and Recreation

In 2021, Eaton County adopted a five-year Parks and Recreation Plan. The county adopted previous parks and recreation plans in 2016 and 2009. The five-year Parks and Recreation Plan is a tool to help guide recreation planning throughout the county created in line with the Michigan Department of Natural Resources standards to be eligible for grant funding from the Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund and other sources.

Administration

The county-owned parks and recreation areas are under the jurisdiction of the Parks Committee. The committee consists of seven members that are appointed by the Eaton County Board of Commissioners. The Director of Parks and Recreation acts as a liaison between the Parks Committee and Parks staff. There are several seasonal staff, volunteers, and community service workers that aid in the parks' maintenance duties. In 2021, the county adopted a 5-Year Parks and Recreation Plan that depicts the existing parks and recreation owned by the county as well as identifying goals, objectives, and action items to promote connectivity, extend preservation of land, increase maintenance and operational functions, and increase public participation and programming.

On November 8, 2022, Eaton County residents voted to approve a parks millage of 50 mills, or 50 cents for every one thousand dollars of assessed property value. The millage will address short-term and long-term operational needs related to maintenance and improvements to existing parks, implement capital improvements from the 2021 Parks and Recreation Plan, and will aid in funding improvements to the parks and recreation facilities not owned by the county.

County Parks

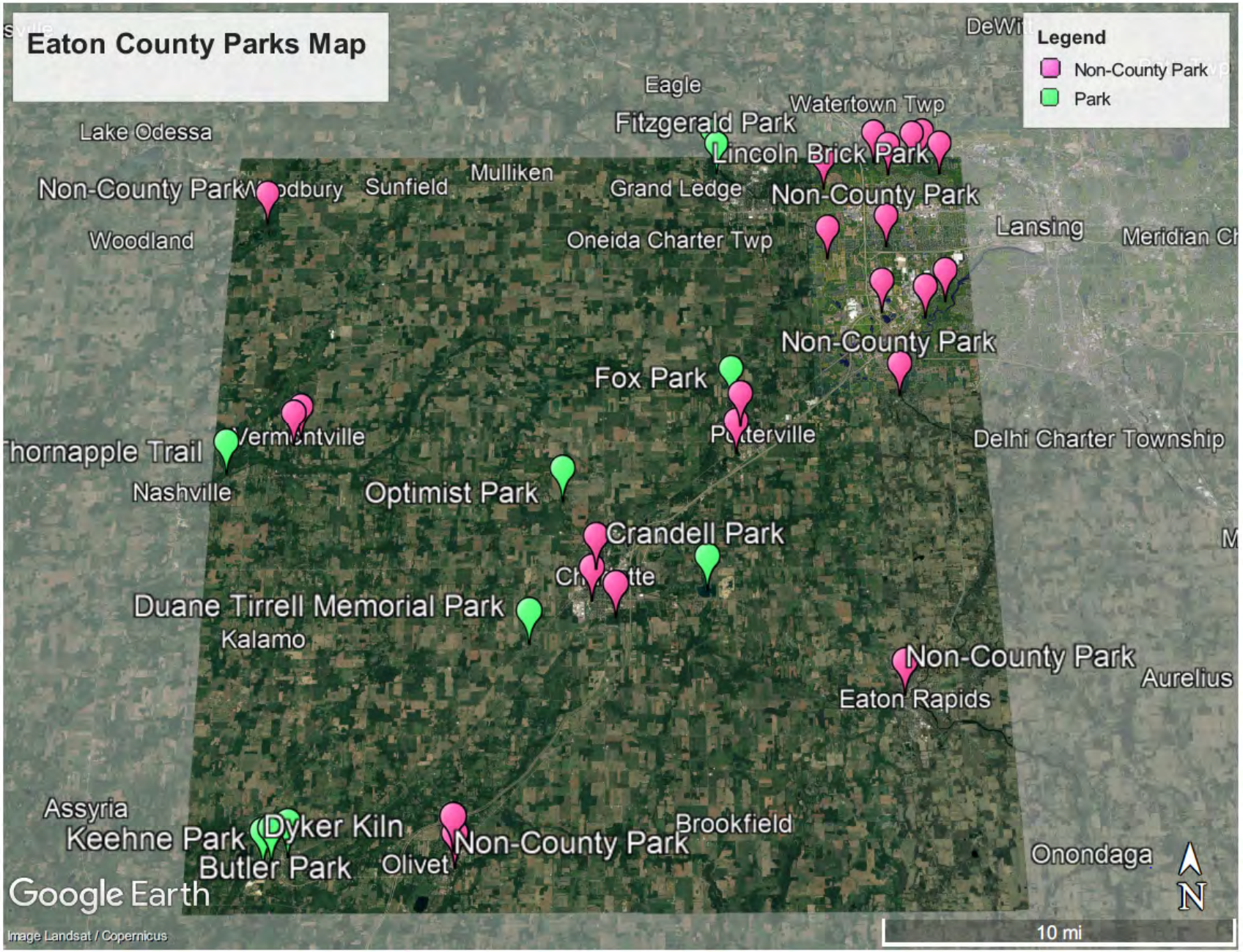
A recreation inventory was conducted in 2020, which consisted of recording infrastructure in the existing parks and gauging infrastructure updates and needs. Table 7-1 depicts the park name, general description, size in acres, the location of the park and amenities available. Map 7-1 depicts the locations of the county-owned parks and recreation areas.

Table 7-1: County-Owned Parks and Recreation

Park Name	Park Description	Size	Community Located in	Amenities
Fitzgerald Park	The park is owned by the City of Grand Ledge and leased by the Eaton County Parks and Recreation Commission to serve as the Eaton County Parks administrative offices.	78 acres	City of Grand Ledge	Picnic shelters, playground equipment, ball fields, basketball courts, sand volleyball courts, horseshoe pits, 18-hole disc golf course, portage, boardwalk, trails, and a nature center
Lincoln Brick Park	The park contains nature trails for hiking and cross-country skiing. The park includes woodlands and natural areas for passive recreation. The park has 6,000 feet of river frontage.	90 acres	Oneida Township	Picnic shelters, playground equipment, interpretive center, museum, and trails

Table 7-1: County-Owned Parks and Recreation				
Park Name	**Park Description**	**Size**	**Community Located in**	**Amenities**
Fox Memorial Park	The park was donated by Paul Fox in the late 1970s. Fox Memorial Park is located along a small kidney-shaped lake.	160 acres	Benton Township	Picnic shelters, playground equipment, swimming beach, fishing and viewing docks, observatory, and trails
Duane Tirrell Roadside Park	A roadside park located between Bellevue and Charlotte.	0.5 acres	City of Charlotte	Artesian well, picnic table, and benches
Butler Park Public Access	Public boating access to Battle Creek River.	0.5 acres	Village of Bellevue	Boat ramp and picnic tables
Dyer Kiln Historic Site	A historic park located in Bellevue that is home to one of the first limestone kilns in the county.	0.5 acres	Bellevue Township	Historic kiln and picnic tables
Keehne Environmental Area	A nature study area built on an abandoned limestone quarry.	17 acres	Bellevue Township	Picnic shelter, boardwalk system, and trails
Optimist Youth Camp	The camp operates and maintains the county-owned park in cooperation with the Eaton County Parks and Recreation Commission. The camp provides a designated area for youth groups to retreat for overnight camping.	20 acres	Chester Township	Tent camping sites, bunkhouse, picnic shelters, and trails
Crandell Park	A largely undeveloped park that was acquired through a grant funded by MDNR. The area holds a 160-acre lake.	432 acres	Eaton Township	Swimming beach
Paul Henry Thornapple Trail	Greenway trail that runs from Vermontville to Nashville.	2.56 miles	Vermontville Township	Walking/hiking trail

Map 7-1: *County-Owned Parks and Recreation*



Local Parks

The recently passed county parks millage will assist local units of government by providing some funding of park related improvements within locally owned and operated parks. Table 7-2 can also be found in Chapter 3 Recreation Inventory in the 2021 5-Year Parks and Recreation Plan.

Table 7-2: Local Parks Inventory		
Facilities	**Acres**	**Amenities**
City of Lansing (part of Eaton County)		
Fulton Park	58	River frontage, boat launch, natural area, nature trails and fishing
Woodcreek Park	4	Two tennis courts, soccer field, and a playground
Delta Township		
Anderson Park	151	Undeveloped with access to Grand River
Delta Mills Park	32	Picnic shelter, play areas, softball field, soccer field, basketball court, tennis court, volleyball court, horseshoe pits, river access, canoe launch, and fishing
Erickson Park	17	Concession building, picnic area, softball field, and a playground
Grand Woods Park	128	Picnic area and shelter, playgrounds, a softball field, disk golf course, volleyball court, horseshoe pits, hiking trails, river access, canoe launch, and fishing
Hawk Meadow Park	148	Hiking trails
Hunter's Orchard Park	26	Picnic area, natural area and trails, river access, and fishing
Lake Delta	65	Picnic area and fishing
Lake Iris	2.9	Open space with a trail to Michigan Avenue and a pond
Leland Park	1	Parking areas, picnic area, and play areas
Lootens Park	84	Undeveloped natural area
Mount Hope Park	120	Baseball fields, concession building, restrooms, soccer fields, play equipment, parking, and paved trails
Player's Club Park	80	Parking area, natural areas, and hiking trails
Sharp Park	58	Parking area, concession stand, picnic shelter and area, playgrounds, a softball field, basketball court, tennis court, volleyball court, hiking trails, horseshoe pits, and fishing
West Willow Canoe Launch	5.9	Barrier-free canoe launch and parking area
City of Grand Ledge		
Colonial Park	Approx. 1	Open space
Elaine Dible Memorial Park	Approx. 1	Open space
Fitzgerald Field	3	Baseball field and a field house housing concession area, restrooms, a small park office, and a warming room. The field becomes an ice rink during winter.
Island Park	2	Gazebo, benches, and boat dock
Jaycees Park	5	Volleyball courts, picnic tables, a pavilion, public boat launch and parking, a play structure and playground equipment, and a splash pad
Oak Park	5.58	Picnic area, famous sandstone ledges for recreational climbing, instruction, and rescue training
Village of Sunfield		
Sunfield Village or Van Buren Park	5	Baseball field with concession stand, a picnic shelter, four horseshoe pits, a play structure, and playground equipment

Table 7-2: Local Parks Inventory		
Facilities	**Acres**	**Amenities**
Village Sledding Hill	Approx. 0.5	Includes the old well house
City of Potterville		
Alliance Lake Park	66	Concession building, picnic areas, playgrounds, four lighted softball fields, one baseball field, stocked lake for fishing, beach volleyball court, hiking/biking trails and disc golf course. Overnight camping is also offered.
Potterville City Park	4	A basketball court, a baseball field, restroom facilities, a picnic area and shelter, three horseshoe pits, and playground
Veterans Memorial Park	0.5	Includes a picnic area
Sunset Hills Park	14	Located within Sunset Hill Subdivision and is currently undeveloped
City of Eaton Rapids		
Biggs Park	0.5	Picnic area and playground equipment
Hall Street Park	Approx. 1	Picnic area and horseshoe pits
Howe Memorial Field	30	Five ball fields, two picnic pavilions, two sand volleyball courts, skate ramps, basketball hoops, concession stand, restrooms, community playground, and footbridge
G.A.R. Island Park	2	Footbridges, gazebo for concerts, picnic area, and playground equipment; includes a historical marker and veteran's and fireman's memorial
J.B. Bradley Park	0.3	Small, landscaped area with picnic area and playground equipment
McArthur River Park	1	Accessible boat launch, picnic area, and playground equipment
Memorial Park	0.25	Shuffleboard court with a landscaped area
Scott Munn Riverwalk	N/A	1,050 feet of accessible walk with fishing pier and picnic area
Eaton Rapids Township		
Oak Ridge Park	34.6	Instructional amphitheater and nature trails
Dog Park	0.5	Fenced in dog play area
City of Charlotte		
Bennett Park	117	Two picnic shelters, three playgrounds, a restroom building, six horseshoe pits, hiking, and nature trails
Camp Frances	N/A	A cabin with restrooms, kitchen, and fireplace
Dean Park	3	Grills, benches, memorial stone, a basketball court, play structure, and playground equipment
Gateway Memorial Park	0.2	Landscaped area with a city welcome sign
Lincoln Park	19	Includes a parking area, a multi-use BMX track, open play areas, trails, and a concrete skate park
Oak Park	2	A gazebo, benches, grills, a fountain, skate park, walkways, play structures and playground equipment
Snell Park	0.3	Landscaped area with a city welcome sign
Southridge Park	0.3	Basketball court, gills, benches, and playground equipment
Veterans Memorial Park	N/A	Contains large stone markers and plantings
County Fairgrounds	42	Four softball fields, a football field, running track, grandstand, four tennis courts, exhibits barns, horse stables, racetrack, and miscellaneous structures

Table 7-2: Local Parks Inventory		
Facilities	**Acres**	**Amenities**
Village of Bellevue		
Jefferson Park	2	Village water tower, basketball courts, and a skate park
Washington Park	1	Large picnic pavilion with tables, a playground and play equipment, and several memorials honoring past residents
City of Olivet		
Rotary Park	2	Located within the city
Hamlin Township		
Township Park No. 1	4	Canoe launch, fishing, and picnic area
Township Park No. 2	21	Undeveloped, however, intended to include a picnic pavilion and area, softball, and baseball field
Village of Dimondale		
Lions Community Park	6	Large pavilion, three picnic shelters, grills, restroom facilities, a natural fishing site, horseshoe pits, and a playground
Danford Island Park	8	Canoe launch and fishing pier, picnic tables, and benches

Major Assets in County

There are many assets in the county related to parks and recreation. **The three major assets identified by the Parks and Recreation Stakeholder group and the Director of Parks and Recreation include:**

- The use of the updated 5-Year Parks and Recreation in correlation with the recently passed parks millage,
- The existing partnerships in parks and recreation, and
- The existing programs and events and potential for expansion.

Five-Year Plan and Millage

The recently passed parks millage and the 2021 5-Year Parks and Recreation Plan are extremely important assets to the development of county-owned parks as well as locally-owned parks. The Parks and Recreation Plan sets out the existing inventory, goals, and objectives of county-owned, locally-owned, and school-related parks and recreation within the county. The plan is a guide for how to spend future funding that is collected via the parks millage. The plan also prioritizes action items which include organizational, staffing, programming, public information, and operation and maintenance actions. These prioritized actions will help identify key areas of need for maintenance, reconstruction, or other operational needs. The combination of the parks millage with the parks and recreation plan will help identify key areas that need critical funding and set a course of action for improvement of the existing character of the parks and recreation within the county.

Partnerships

The second asset is the existing symbiotic partnerships between the county and local and regional organizations. Eaton County has many existing partners related to parks and recreation such as:

- Barry Eaton District Health Department,
- Capital Area Health Alliance,
- Michigan Department of Natural Resources (MDNR),
- Eaton Conservation District,
- Fox Park Observatory,
- Friends of Eaton County Parks,
- Grand Ledge District Library,

- Michigan Recreation & Parks Association (mParks),
- Middle Grand River Organization of Watersheds (MGROW),
- Boy Scouts of America Troup 645,
- Mid-Michigan Mountain Biking Association and others.

These organizations help fundraise as well as support parks, for example:

- The Mid-Michigan Mountain Biking Association volunteers to help maintain the existing parks and trails within the county.
- The Friends of Eaton County Parks advocate for awareness, use, enhancement, and preservation of the County Parks.
- The Thornapple Trail Association help monitor, maintain, and promote the Paul Henry Trail.

The Parks and Recreation staff coordinate with local schools for student programming, some include:

- The County Naturalist to conduct on-site school visits as well as providing the Parks staff recreation trailer for school sponsored events.
- The county also partners with the Grand Ledge Chapter of the National Honor Society for student volunteer hours.

Programs and Expansion

The third asset is the existing programming and events held within the parks system as well as the potential for expanding these services. There are several seasonal staff that support the programs offered at various parks.

The Summer Adventure Program is one example of the seasonal programming for youth within and outside of the county that includes leadership programs, camping, and educational aspects related to flora and fauna of Michigan.

An annual car and craft show is hosted at Fitzgerald Park, where participants can view classic cars, craft booths, participate in raffle contests and concessions are provided. Also at Fitzgerald Park, the **Timber Trails 5K Run/Walk** is hosted annually. The trail goes through changing elevation, gravel roads, and wooded trails and is open to all ages.

Other programing includes the local Boys Scout Troup 645 use park space for events and supply labor for a variety of Eagle Scout Projects.

The existing programming and events are tailored toward the summer months, with expansion of these programs and events the county could create year-round attractions to increase visitation to the parks within the winter months as well as the summer months. During stakeholder engagement as part of the master plan, as well as through other Parks planning activities, there is clear demand for more recreational and educational programming within county and local parks systems.

School and College Recreation Opportunities

Eaton County has over 1,170 acres of land in the school districts that include playgrounds and athletic facilities. There are both public and private schools who partner with Eaton County to provide programming to the general public. One challenge to using school facilities is the limited access due to school-sponsored events and extracurricular activities. Table 73 depicts the existing facilities located in the county and can also be found in Chapter 3 Recreation Inventory in the 2021 5-Year Parks and Recreation Plan.

Table 7-3: Public School Recreational Facilities														
School	Softball	Baseball	Soccer	Tennis	Football	Basketball	Gymnasium	Auditorium	Multipur-pose field/	Playground	Pool	Volleyball	Track	Lacrosse
Lakewood High School	4	3	1	6	1	4	1	1						
Lakewood Middle School	2					4	1		1					
Sunfield Elementary School	2	2	2			4	1			1				
Grand Ledge CW Neff Elementary						1	1			1				
Delta Center Elementary						1	1			1				
Grand Ledge High School	2	1	1	8	2		2				1			
Greenwood Elementary School	1					1	1			1				
Kenneth T. Beagle Middle	3	1	1	4		1	1					1	1	
Leon W. Hayes Middle School		2	2				1			1				
Sawdon Administration Building						1								
T.C. Holbrook Elementary						1	1			1				
Wacousta Elementary School						1	1			1				
Willow Ridge Elementary						1	1			1				
Oneida Township School District #3		1								1				
Waverly Colt Elementary	1								1	3				
Waverly Elmwood Elementary	1		1			1				2				
Waverly Middle & High School		1	5	10	1		2						1	4
Winans Elementary School										3				
Holt Dimondale Elementary	3					2				2				
Potterville Public Schools		3	1	4	1					1			1	
Eaton Rapids Middle & Hight	2	1	3	8	1	1	3	1			1		1	

Table 7-3: Public School Recreational Facilities														
School	Softball	Baseball	Soccer	Tennis	Football	Basketball	Gymnasium	Auditorium	Multipur-pose field/	Playground	Pool	Volleyball	Track	Lacrosse
Lockwood Elementary School	1	1				1	1		2	1		1		
Northwestern Elementary	1	1				1	1			1				
Union Street Elementary			1			1	1		1	1				
Charlotte Middle School	1	1	3			6	3				2			
Charlotte High School	3	1			2		1	1					1	
Froebel School						2				1				
Galewood Elementary School		1	1			2	1			1				
Leora Weymough School	1		1			2				1				
Parkview Elementary School	1	1	5			1	1			1				
Washington Elementary School				2			1		1	1				
Maple Valley Jr/Sr High School	2	1	2	3	1		1			1				
Maplewood Elementary School	1													
Bellevue Community Schools	4	1					3		1	3				
Olivet Fern Persons Elementary			1			1				1				
Olivet Middle & high Schools	2	2	1	4			1							
Olivet College	1	1	1	2	1		1							
Great Lakes Bible College			1				1							
Lansing Community College	1	1	2											
Total Facilities	**40**	**27**	**36**	**51**	**10**	**41**	**33**	**3**	**7**	**33**	**4**	**2**	**5**	**4**

2021-2025 Parks and Recreation Plan Goals

Chapter 5, Implementation of the 2021 5-Year Parks and Recreation Plan states eight goals with respective objectives and action items to each goal. Goals 4, 5, and 7 from the plan relate to the feedback from the Parks and Recreation Stakeholder group discussion. These goals are provided in the Master Plan as a reference to the Parks and Recreation Plan, but are not part of the Master Plan goals and objectives.

Goal 1: Infrastructure Improvements

- Provide high quality, safe, clean, accessible, and attractive park areas and facilities throughout the County.

Goal 2: Fiscal Responsibility

- Plan for future growth with programming and capital improvements while maintaining fiscal responsibility.

Goal 3: Public Awareness

- Enhance public awareness about the Parks and Recreation Department through a variety of communication efforts.

Goal 4: Partnerships and Collaboration

- Partner and collaborate with groups and organizations throughout the County to provide parks and recreation opportunities.

Goal 5: Connectivity

- Establish a trail system that connects recreational facilities and amenities throughout the County by land and by water.

Goal 6: Recreational and Interpretive Programming

- Provide a variety of recreation and interpretive/naturalist programs through excellent customer service and operational excellence.

Goal 7: Maintenance and Operations

- Provide facilities that are functional and well maintained throughout the County park system.

Goal 8: Preservation and Conservation

- Expand the County parks and recreation system through preservation and conservation.

Connection between Parks Plan and Master Plan

The master plan is a guiding document to plan for the future of the entire county, while the 5-Year Parks and Recreation Plan is a guiding document for only parks and recreation opportunities in the county explaining how to manage, expand, and continue the use of the various parks and recreational opportunities.

On January 3, 2023, stakeholders from different organizations and the county related to parks and recreation met to discuss strengths, weaknesses, and other topics facing the county's parks and trails. Goals from the Parks and Recreation Plan that have a particular relevance to this plan include:

- Goal 4 in the Parks and Recreation Plan is related to partnerships and collaboration with groups and organizations within the county to provide parks and recreation opportunities. Other stakeholder groups identified that the county has existing strong connections with various organizations within

  Eaton County. Continuing this goal of communication and collaboration will be a major asset to the county and its ability to run and grow the existing parks and trail systems. This is reflected in the Intergovernmental Cooperation Chapter.

- Goal 5 is related to connectivity, specifically establishing a trail system that connects recreational facilities and amenities throughout the county by land and water. The Parks and Recreation Stakeholder Group identified difficulties of establishing one large trail system throughout the county. Stakeholders identified that the county was missing out on key points during MDNR reviews for grant funding due to a lack of connectivity of the existing trails. The Director of Parks and Recreation stated that in recent years, especially since the COVID-19 Pandemic, there has been an increase in walking, hiking, and biking of the existing trails and parks in the county. For example, in Fox Park, the county expanded trails due to the increase in activity on the existing trails. The County Planning Commission and Community Development Department can act as facilitators and support implementation of this goal.

CHAPTER 8

TRANSPORTATION

Chapter 8 | Transportation

Improvements to the transportation system are among the most complex and expensive of public works projects undertaken by government. In order to make wise use of scarce public resources, it is critical to carefully plan future improvements to the County's transportation system that not only serve the public efficiently but are not cost prohibitive.

For that reason, as part of the update to Eaton County's Master Plan, the following section provides a revised plan for the transportation system in the County. The transportation element of this master plan serves a variety of purposes, **including:**

- Serving as a reference guide regarding the transportation system within the County;
- Setting a vision for future motorized and non-motorized improvements transportation improvements;
- Promoting a better understanding of the strong relationship between transportation and land development patterns and how planning can be better integrated; and Identifying opportunities for change, including: access management techniques, traffic calming, and creating corridor improvement authorities.

Planning Process

For the purposes of this plan, no detailed, technical analyses were performed regarding existing traffic operations or transit service within the County. Information regarding roadway and transit system deficiencies and improvements was obtained from the Tri-County Regional Planning Commission's Metropolitan Transportation Plan, the Capital Area Transportation Authority, Eaton County Transportation Authority, and the Eaton County Road Commission (ECRC).

Roadway Network

Eaton County enjoys a rural, small-town lifestyle in close proximity to local urban centers such as Lansing, Battle Creek, and Grand Rapids. The major north-south route, I-69, crosses the county and provides access to Lake Michigan ports and Canadian markets. East-west traffic corridors include I-96 and I-496.

Roadway Classification and Responsibility

Roadway classifications are often confusing because planning agencies use the classifications for different purposes. Administrative jurisdictions identify roads in terms of governmental responsibility for construction and maintenance. Roadway classifications are also used to determine eligibility for state funding and federal aid.

Functional classifications are used to group streets and highways into classes, or systems, according to the character of traffic service they are intended to provide.

Administrative Jurisdiction

Act 51 of the Public Acts of 1951, as amended, creates the Michigan Transportation Fund (MTF) into which specific transportation taxes are deposited, sets priorities for the use of transportation revenues, and charges county road commissions with the responsibility of classifying county primary and local roads. The classifications developed by the county road commissions are subject to Michigan Department of Transportation (MDOT) approval. Roads designated as primary roads must be of "the greatest importance". This determination is based on traffic volumes, primary generators of traffic served and other factors. The Michigan Department of Transportation (MDOT), the Eaton County Road Commission (ECRC) and local units of government maintain responsibility for the roads within Eaton County.

National Functional Classification

Figure 8-1 below, proposes the hierarchy of transportation routes based upon the National Functional Classification (NFC) System. NFC is a planning tool which has been used by federal, state and local transportation agencies since the late 1960's. Functional classifications are used to group streets and highways into classes, or systems, according to the character of traffic service they are intended to provide.

The NFC designation also determines whether a road is eligible for federal funds, either as part of the National Highway System (usually limited to principal arterials) or through the Surface Transportation Program. Federal-aid roads are, collectively: all principal arterials, all minor arterials, all urban collectors and all rural major collectors. (Source: MDOT)

Interstates

Interstates are the highest classification of Arterials and were designed and constructed with mobility and long-distance travel in mind. Roadways in this functional classification category are officially designated as Interstates by the Secretary of Transportation, and all routes that comprise the Dwight D. Eisenhower National System of Interstate and Defense Highways belong to the Interstate functional classification category and are considered Principal Arterials.

Principal Arterials

These roadways serve major centers of metropolitan areas, provide a high degree of mobility and can also provide mobility through rural areas. Unlike their access-controlled counterparts, abutting land uses can be served directly. Forms of access for Other Principal Arterial roadways include driveways to specific parcels and at-grade intersections with other roadways.

Minor Arterials

Minor Arterials provide service for trips of moderate length, serve geographic areas that are smaller than their higher Arterial counterparts and offer connectivity to the higher Arterial system. In an urban context, they interconnect and augment the higher Arterial system, provide intra-community continuity and may carry local bus routes.

Major & Minor Collectors

Collectors serve a critical role in the roadway network by gathering traffic from Local Roads and funneling them to the Arterial network. Within the context of functional classification, Collectors are broken down into two categories: Major Collectors and Minor Collectors. Until recently, this division was considered only in the rural environment. Currently, all Collectors, regardless of whether they are within a rural area or an urban area, may be sub-stratified into major and minor categories. The determination of whether a given Collector is a Major or a Minor Collector is frequently one of the biggest challenges in functionally classifying a roadway network.

Local Roads

Locally classified roads account for the largest percentage of all roadways in terms of mileage. They are not intended for use in long distance travel, except at the origin or destination end of the trip, due to their provision of direct access to abutting land. Bus routes generally do not run on Local Roads. They are often designed to discourage through traffic. As public roads, they should be accessible for public use throughout the year.

Private Roads

Private roads are found in every township within Eaton County. They are found primarily adjacent to the I-69 corridor. However, Delta, Eaton Rapids and Hamlin Townships also have a considerable number within their limits. Eaton County regulates private roads by ordinance for the Townships within the county's zoning jurisdiction.

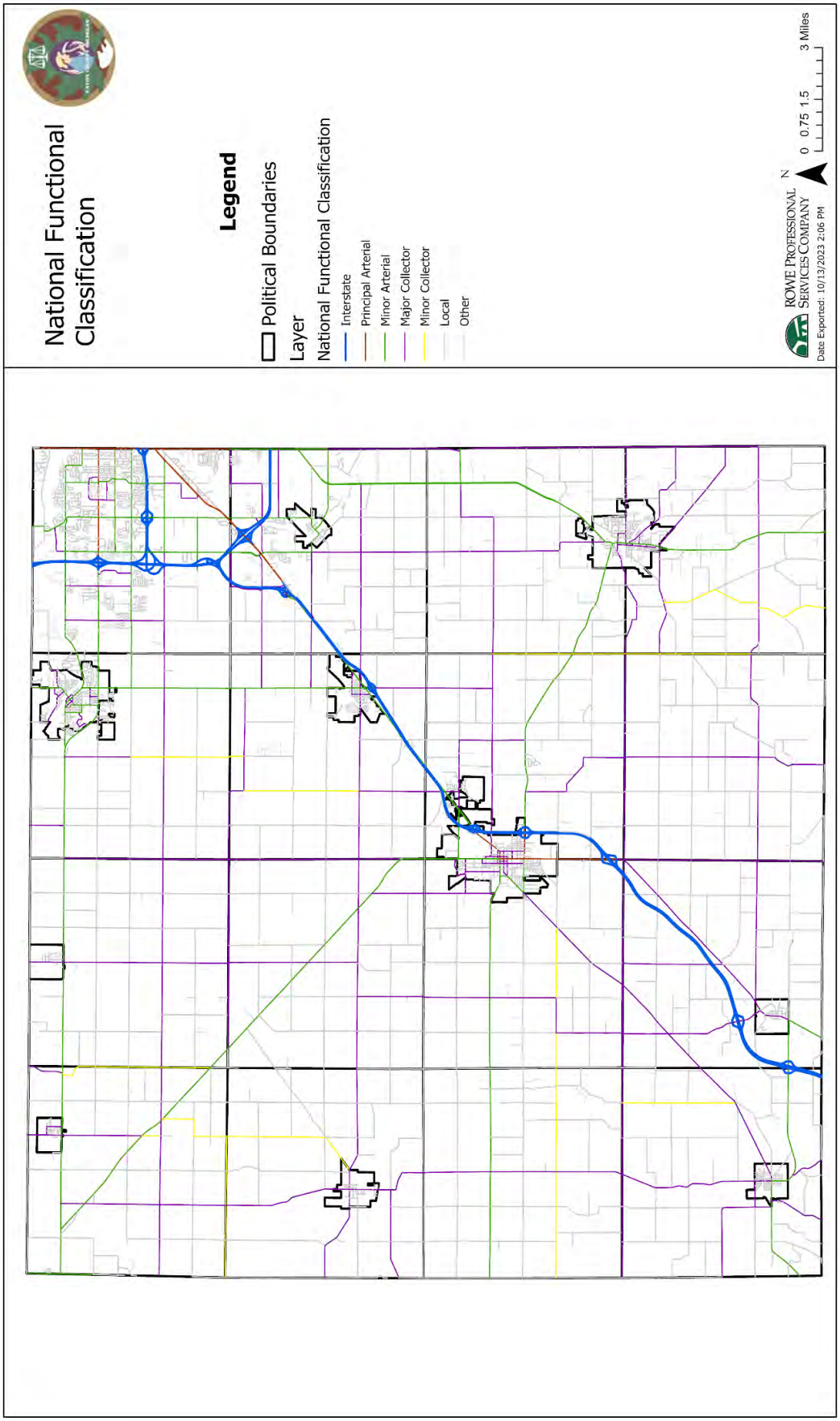


Figure 8-1: *National Functional Classification*

Status of Roadways

Based on data from the Eaton County Road Commission (ECRC), the status of road mileage within Eaton County Townships was as follows as of January 1, 2023:

TOWNSHIP	PRIMARY ROADS		TOTAL MILES PRIMARY	LOCAL ROADS		PLATTED STREETS		TOTAL MILES LOCAL	TOTAL MILES IN TWP	TOTAL MILES PAVED	TOTAL PERCENT PAVED	TOTAL MILES GRAVEL
	PAVED	GRAVEL		PAVED	GRAVEL	PAVED	GRAVEL					
Bellevue	18.40	-	18.40	3.55	44.89	0.23	-	48.67	67.07	22.18	33.07%	44.89
Benton	28.13	-	28.13	7.02	26.60	-	-	33.62	61.75	35.15	56.92%	26.60
Brookfield	18.33	-	18.33	9.19	44.78	-	-	53.97	72.30	27.52	38.06%	44.78
Carmel	23.36	-	23.36	8.05	33.87	0.33	-	42.25	65.61	31.74	48.38%	33.87
Chester	13.70	-	13.70	4.52	43.97	-	0.13	48.62	62.32	18.22	29.24%	44.10
Delta	55.85	-	55.85	6.63	6.94	98.57	0.93	113.07	168.92	161.05	95.34%	7.87
Eaton	25.99	-	25.99	19.22	18.54	4.22	-	41.98	67.97	49.43	72.72%	18.54
Eaton Rapids	24.09	-	24.09	7.59	35.70	-	-	43.29	67.38	31.68	47.02%	35.70
Hamlin	26.30	-	26.30	13.00	31.72	-	0.10	44.82	71.12	39.30	55.26%	31.82
Kalamo	18.30	-	18.30	8.28	39.08	0.26	-	47.62	65.92	26.84	40.72%	39.08
Oneida	23.51	-	23.51	16.01	14.55	9.60	0.19	40.35	63.86	49.12	76.92%	14.74
Roxand	20.72	-	20.72	10.07	34.52	-	-	44.59	65.31	30.79	47.14%	34.52
Sunfield	22.80	-	22.80	12.95	23.74	0.72	-	37.41	60.21	36.47	60.57%	23.74
Vermontville	17.51	-	17.51	3.56	38.57	-	-	42.13	59.64	21.07	35.33%	38.57
Walton	23.09	-	23.09	11.82	35.61	-	-	47.43	70.52	34.91	49.50%	35.61
Windsor	31.54	-	31.54	14.82	27.17	10.81	0.30	53.10	84.64	57.17	67.54%	27.47
TOTAL	391.62	-	391.62	156.28	500.25	124.74	1.65	782.92	1,174.54	672.64	57.27%	501.90

Figure 8-2: *Road Mileage*

Rights-of-Ways

The Eaton County Road Commission (ECRC) is responsible for over 1,150 miles of county roads. The ECRC maintains right-of-way plans for the incorporated and unincorporated areas within the county. The right-of-way plans consist of a map that indicates the existing or desired right-of-way widths for county roads. The right-of-way plan is an important planning document because setbacks and other development standards should be established in relationship to the existing and/or future right-of-way width.

Roadway Deficiencies

The Tri-County Regional Planning Commission, as part of the Tri-County Travel Demand Model Update, utilized a sophisticated model to identify year 2015 and future year (2040) capacity deficiencies for roadway links within the County. Roadway facilities were identified as deficient or near deficient based on a traffic volume to capacity (V/C) ratio.

A V/C ratio gives an indication whether a roadway link has sufficient capacity to handle the traffic assigned to it. If a link had a V/C ratio 1.0 or greater, it is considered deficient. A V/C ratio less than 1.0 indicates that capacity has not yet been reached. For the year 2015, no deficient links were identified within Eaton County. However, the following locations were identified as “near” deficient. Near deficient roads require monitoring and preventative treatments to assure changes in development will not cause them to become deficient.

Near Deficient

- Lansing Rd. (Potterville Main St to I-69 Exit 70)

- Vermontville Hwy (Folk to Hartel) (AM Peak Hour Only)

The Travel Demand Model projects that by the year 2040, the same road segments will nearly exceed capacity, however the Vermontville Hwy segment is expected to exceed capacity during the PM Peak Hour as well as the AM Peak Hour by 2040. The model assumes a “wise growth” land use scenario and is based on projected 2040 population, employment and other data. The following locations are considered near deficient by 2040:

Pavement Conditions

As required by Public Act 499 of 2002, the State Asset Management Council surveys and reports on the condition of roads and bridges by functional classification categories for State and Regional Planning areas. Map 13 indicates the State Asset Management Council Pavement Condition Data using PASER rankings (PR) for 2022 for Eaton County. Note, PASER ratings between 1 and 4 are considered poor to fair, 5-7 are fair to good, and 8-10 are good to excellent.

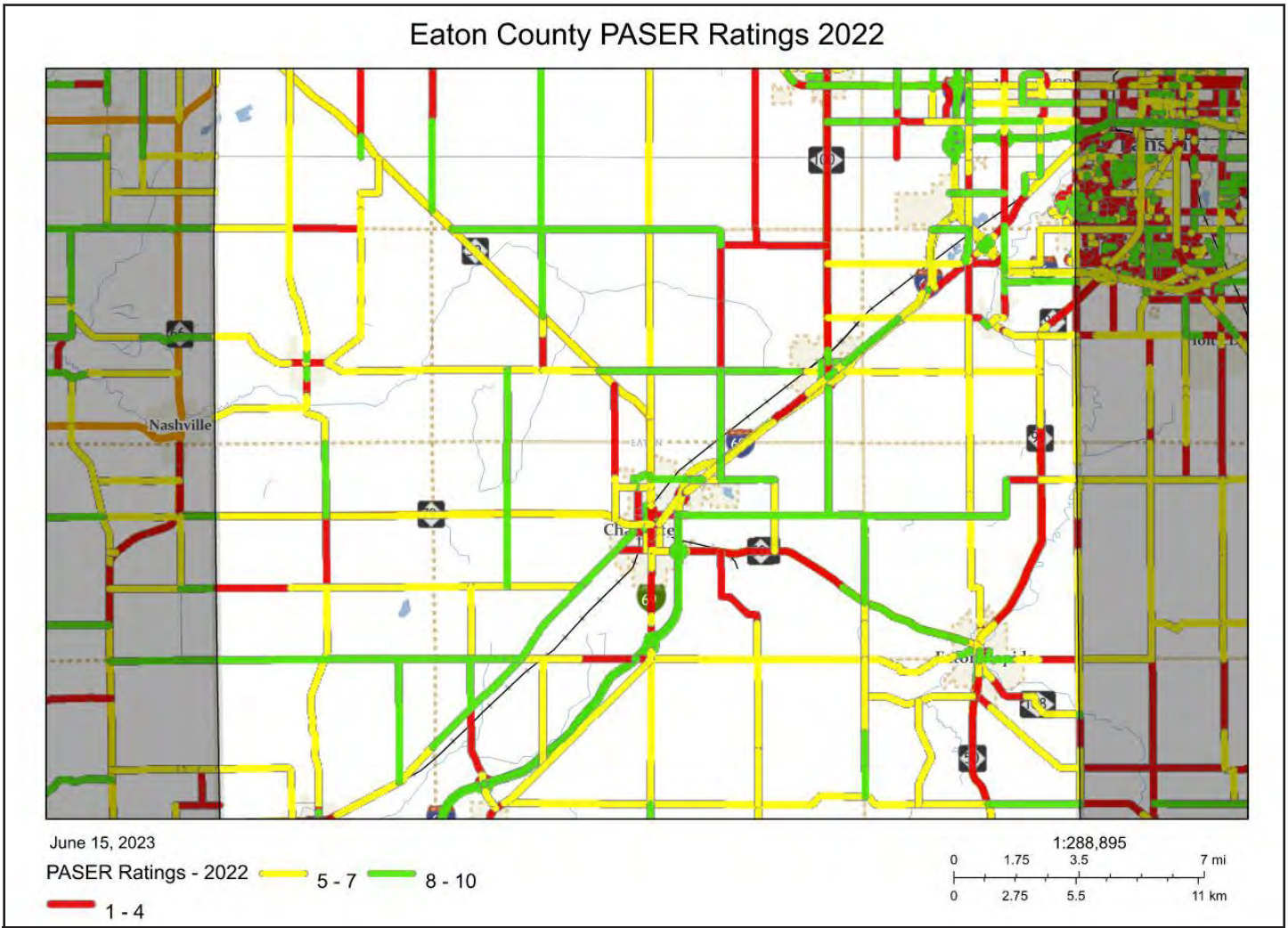


Figure 8-3: *PASER Ratings*

Proposed Improvements

The following roadway improvements found in Table 16 below and on the following page, are planned for Eaton County through 2026 to address capacity, roadway function or condition and have received federal approval. The current Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) is always available on the Tri-County Regional Planning Commission’s website.

Figure 8-4: *TIP Projects in Eaton County*

Agency	Construction Length	Route Name	Location	Year	Work Description
City of Charlotte	0.55	Hall St	McClure, Washington, Hall - Lansing Rd (BL69) to Cochran (M-50)	2023	Reconstruction
City of Eaton Rapids	0.26	W Knight St	Main St to East St	2025	Reconstruction
City of Grand Ledge	0.5	Green St Reconstruction	W Jefferson St to W Kent St	2023	Reconstruction
Eaton County Road Commission	1.005	Nixon Rd	Mt. Hope Hwy to St. Joe Hwy	2023	Nonmotorized
Eaton County Road Commission	1	Nixon Rd	Mt. Hope Hwy to St. Joe Hwy	2023	Road Rehabilitation
Eaton County Road Commission	2	Oneida Rd	St. Joe Hwy to M-43	2023	Road Rehabilitation
Eaton County Road Commission	0.52	E Five Point Hwy	Whittum Rd to Eaton Rapids City Limits	2023	Road Rehabilitation
EATRAN	0	Transit Capital	Areawide	2023	1110-Bus Rolling Stock
EATRAN	0	Transit Operating	Areawide	2023	3000-Operating Assistance
MDOT	0	I-69 BL	Over Battle Creek River	2023	Bridge Replacement
MDOT	0	I-96	I-96 EB & WB Over Billwood Highway, Grand River & Creyts over I-96	2023	Bridge Replacement
EATRAN	0	Transit Operating	Areawide	2024	6000-Oth Prog Cots
Eaton County Road Commission	1	W Five Point Hwy	Maurer Rd to Matthews Rd	2025	Road Rehabilitation
Eaton County Road Commission	2.08	Holt Hwy	Dimondale VL to Waverly Rd	2026	Road Rehabilitation
Eaton County Road Commission	1.08	Mall-Ivan-Elmwood Connector Pathway	Mall Street, Ivan Street, Elmwood Street Saginaw Hwy (M-43) to Michigan Ave	2025	Non-Motorized
MDOT	1.22	M-78	550' south of Sharkey Street to the Battle Creek River	2026	Reconstruction
Potterville	0.92	W Main St	Nelson to Lansing Rd; Vermontville - CL to RR ROW	2025	Road Rehabilitation
Dimondale	0.73	Creyts Rd	East Rd North to Village Limits	2026	Road Rehabilitation
Eaton County Road Commission	1.09	Billwood Hwy	Canal Rd to Creyts Rd	2026	Road Rehabilitation
Eaton County Road Commission	1	W Five Point Hwy	Matthews Rd to Cochran Rd	2026	Road Rehabilitation
City of Chalotte	0.08	W Henry St	Charlotte, SRTS, Eaton County	2023	Nonmotorized
EATRAN	0	Transit Capital	Areawide	2023	1110-Bus Rolling Stock
EATRAN	0	Transit Capital	Areawide	2023	1110-Bus Rolling Stock
EATRAN	0	Transit Capital	Areawide	2023	1110-Bus Rolling Stock
MDOT	1.17	M-43	Broadbent to I-96	2024	Traffic Safety
MDOT	4.56	M-188	M-188 in Eaton County	2024	Traffic Safety
MDOT	0	TSC-wide	Various in Lansing TSC area	2024	Traffic Safety
Eaton County Road Commission	0	Smithville Rd	Over the Grand River	2024	Bridge Capital Preventative Maintenance
MDOT	1.17	M-43	Broadbent to I-96	2025	Traffic Safety
MDOT	4	Old 27 N	Lansing Rd (Old 27) from Creyts Rd to I-496 Ramps	2025	Road Capital Preventative Maintenance
MDOT	4	Old 27 N	Lansing Rd (Old 27) from Creyts Rd to I-496 Ramps	2025	Road Capital Preventative Maintenance
MDOT	1.59	M-100	Doane Hwy to Strange Hwy	2025	Minor Widening
MDOT	1.59	M-100	Doane Hwy to Strange Hwy	2025	Minor Widening
MDOT	0	TSC-wide	Various in Lansing TSC area	2025	Traffic Safety
Eaton County Road Commission	0	Bunker Hwy	Over the Grand River	2025	Bridge Capital Preventative Maintenance
Eaton County Road Commission	0	Countywide	Various Locations - Eaton County	2025	Bridge Capital Preventative Maintenance
Eaton County Road Commission	0	Countywide	Various Locations - Eaton County	2025	Bridge Capital Preventative Maintenance
Eaton County Road Commission	0	Countywide	Various Locations - Eaton County	2025	Bridge Capital Preventative Maintenance
Eaton County Road Commission	0	Webster Rd	Over the Grand River	2025	Bridge Rehabilitation
Eaton County Road Commission	4.11	W Bellevue Hwy	Marshall Rd to Matthews Rd	2025	Road Capital Preventative Maintenance
Eaton County Road Commission	2.16	S Cochran Rd	Bellevue Hwy to Nye Hwy	2025	Road Rehabilitation
MDOT	1.17	M-43	Broadbent to I-96	2026	Traffic Safety

Rail Lines

A number of active rail lines cross the county carrying cargo and passengers to various destinations. The rail lines of CSX-T connecting Detroit and Grand Rapids runs through the northern parts of the County, including Grand Ledge, Mulliken, and Sunfield. Rail lines for CN, a parent company of Grand Trunk Railroad Company, connect Port Huron, Detroit, Toledo and Chicago. In addition, AMTRAK operates one passenger train daily in each direction between Chicago and Port Huron, stopping at depots in East Lansing and Battle Creek.

Airports

Six (6) airports are located within or immediately adjacent to Eaton County. Capital City Airport, located in Clinton County is the closest airport offering commercial passenger service to Eaton County residents. The others listed provide general aviation service to the Eaton County Community. The presence of these airports provides a wide spectrum of value to the County from airline transportation, business applications, economic development activity, emergency use, fire and police applications, military staging and training, and general aviation and personal use.

In addition to regulations established by Eaton County, these State licensed airports are required to conform to standards adopted by both the State of Michigan Department of Aeronautics and the Federal Aviation Administration. These regulations and required documentation specifies the areas near airports where aircraft are permitted to fly departure and arrival patterns close to the ground in preparation for take off or landing in a safe and appropriate manner; where tall structures, towers trees, and other potential hazards are restricted; and where minimum building density is established for safety reasons and noise abatement purposes to minimize conflicts between airport users, and neighbors.

The six (6) airports located within Eaton County are as follows:

- Abrams: This publicly owned facility is located one mile north of the City of Grand Ledge. This facility has a specified National Guard area, and has extensive helicopter activity.
- Capital City: Nearest full service public airport located in Clinton County just outside the city limits of Lansing.
- Fitch Beach: Located just outside the northeast city limits of Charlotte, in close proximity of both I-69 and U.S. 27, this is a general utility municipal airport.
- Hiram Cure: A basic utility airport located in Sunfield Township at the intersection of Eaton Highway and Dow Rd. Skyway: A basic utility airport located four (4) miles north of Eaton Rapids and west of M-99.
- Wend Valley: Located west of the City of Charlotte off of Valley Highway, this is a basic utility airport.

Public Transportation

Both the Eaton County Transit System (EATRAN) and the Capital Area Transportation Authority (CATA) provide public transportation service in Eaton County. Descriptions of their existing services and service improvements needed to meet future demand for transit service are discussed below.

Eaton County Transit System (EATRAN)

Eaton County Transit System (EATRAN) is the public transportation provider for Eaton County and has been in operation since 1980. EATRAN operates a demand response service throughout the county. Under a cross boundary agreement with Capital Area Transportation Authority (CATA), EATRAN operates an express bus to downtown Lansing. Out-of-county medical trips are available on weekdays for senior citizens and persons with disabilities during limited hours. The majority of the trips are within Eaton County, but a significant number are outside of the County as well. The system currently operates from 6AM to 6PM Monday through Friday.

In 2021 EATRAN reported a total of 61,657 trips on the system. This was a slight decrease from the 75,520 trips reported in 2020. The COVD-19 pandemic drastically impacted transit ridership nationwide.

Capital Area Transportation Authority (CATA)

CATA provides several different types of public transportation services for residents of the greater Lansing urban area.

CATA operates 24 urban fixed routes, and nine 9 MSU routes. The majority of CATA fixed route service is in Lansing, East Lansing, Delhi, Lansing Township, and Meridian Township. Routes are also operated into Clinton and Eaton Counties to serve the Capital City Airport.

CATA offers several commuter services including free carpool and vanpool matching service to assist commuters traveling within the greater Lansing area. This is supported by an “Emergency Ride Home” program for all carpool and vanpool participants in case of emergencies.

CATA’s annual ridership nearly tripled between 1995 and 2007. It totaled 3.6 million in 1995, and exceeded 10.0 million in 2006. Increases in ridership are, in a large part, due to operation of the MSU service beginning in 1999. Incorporation of the MSU routes impacted ridership on routes that do not serve campus because of the new connections that resulted system wide.

In 2021 CATA reported a total of 3,030,644 trips on the system. This was a significant decrease from 2020 when over 7,000,000 trips were reported. The COVD-19 pandemic drastically impacted transit ridership nationwide.

Improvements to Existing Transit Service

EATRAN is undergoing a county-wide survey to identify demands and opportunities to enhance transit service in the county in 2023. The Transit Development Plan (May 2015), published by the Tri- County Planning Commission contains a thorough description of recommended service and other improvements to existing transit service in the tri-county region. With respect to Eaton County, the five-year implementation plan presented in the document recommends service-related improvements exclusively within Delta Township.

- Expand EATRAN service in Delta Township.
- Improve EATRAN demand response service around Waverly Road.
- Create EATRAN employment related service for the General Motors plant.

If a funding agreement between Delta Township and CATA were created, a package of service improvements could be implemented to connect to the largest destinations in Delta Township with the CATA fixed route network.

Non-Motorized Transportation

The purpose of a Non-Motorized Transportation Plan is to articulate a vision for non-motorized transportation throughout Eaton County. The plan would provide a vision for a non-motorized transportation network, a plan for nonmotorized facility development, and a clear direction of the implementation of nonmotorized facilities throughout the County.

A Non-Motorized Plan is intended to guide nonmotorized facility planning, design and construction for Eaton County. The plan is implementation oriented and utilizes community and stakeholder involvement and input. This type of plan is also intended to serve as a foundation for future grant applications and funding requests.

The Tri-County Regional Planning Commission (TCRPC) has a long history of non-motorized planning activities, dating from the 1980s. Since 1995, the Regional Transportation Plan has included maps, along with non-motorized goals and objectives, a series of policy statements, recommended actions and a description of future planning efforts. In recent years, a non-motorized task force has helped direct non-motorized planning activity

in the Tri-County Region and has played an important role in development of the Region's "2045 Metropolitan Transportation Plan". Additionally, the "Regional Trails Feasibility Plan" was completed in Summer 2023.

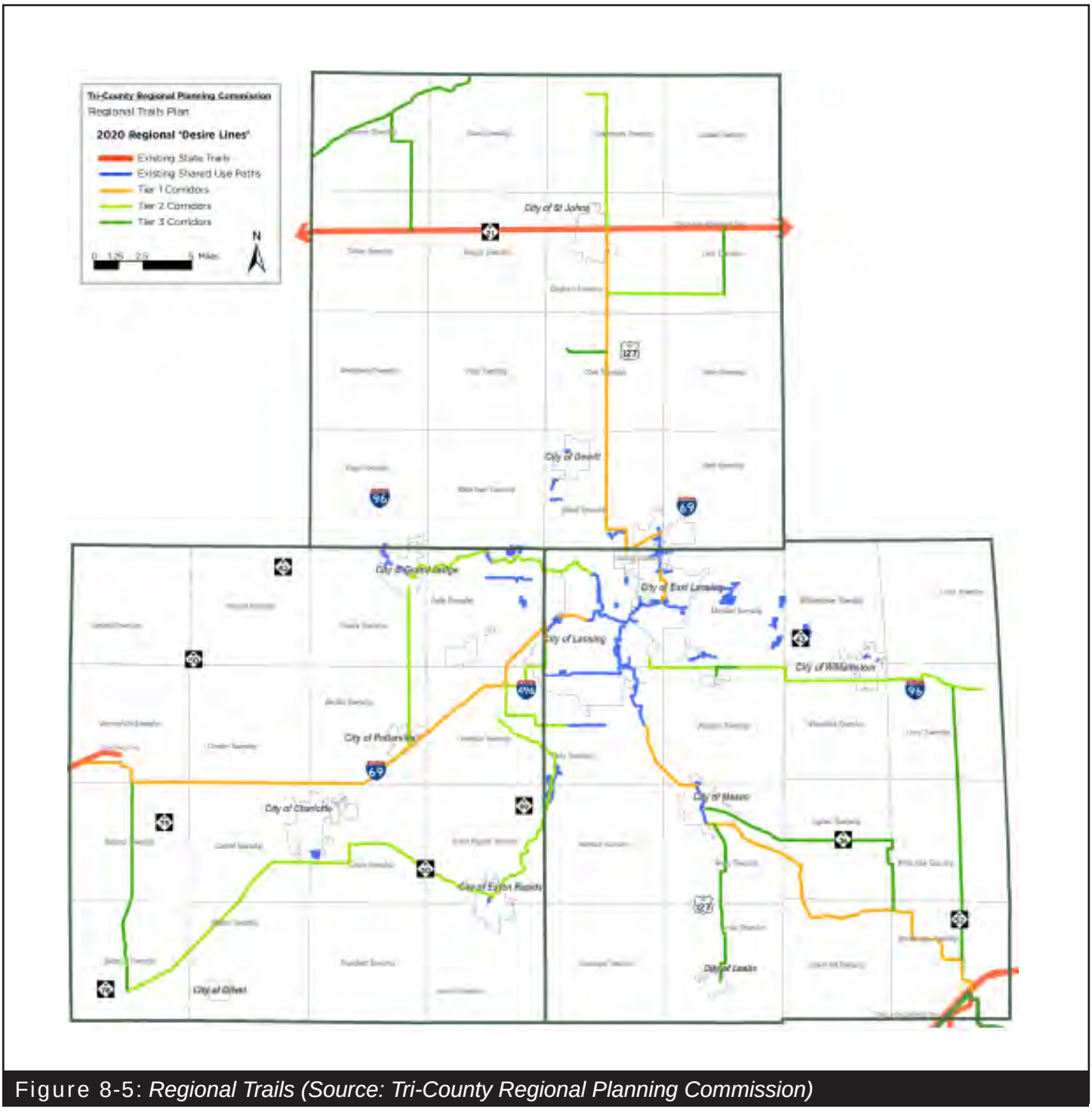


Figure 8-5: *Regional Trails (Source: Tri-County Regional Planning Commission)*

Opportunities for Change

This section highlights a number of ways that communities within Eaton County can influence the function and character of its roadways.

Access Management

Access management is the process or development of a program intended to ensure that the major arterials, intersections, and freeway systems serving a community or region will operate safely and efficiently while adequately meeting the access needs of the abutting land uses along the roadway (FHWA, ITE, 2004). Implementing access management techniques can help increase roadway capacity, manage congestion, and reduce crashes. Examples of less obvious benefits, in the case of businesses, include reduction in maintenance and other costs by utilizing shared driveways or eliminating entrance/exit points and increased road frontage and improved aesthetics as a result of eliminating driveways. In order for access management to be successful, cooperation between property owners, local land use authorities, and local, county and state transportation agencies is essential.

Traffic Calming

Traffic calming techniques use physical and visual cues to encourage drivers to travel at slower speeds. Traffic calming is intended to be self-enforcing, with the design of the roadway providing the desired effect. When implemented correctly, traffic calming has been shown to reduce traffic speeds, reduce the number and severity of crashes and reduce noise levels. Other benefits of traffic calming are less measurable and can include aspects such as improving community livability. There are numerous devices and techniques that communities have successfully used for “traffic calming”. In some cases, a single device may be implemented, while in others, a combination of techniques achieves the desired outcome. Some typical traffic calming measures include:

- Gateways / Entryways
- Speed Bumps / Speed Tables
- Cul-de-sacs
- Alternative Pavement Surfaces
- Curvilinear Roads
- Roundabouts / Traffic Circles

Private Roads

Private road construction standards, ordinance standards and connectivity to public thoroughfares will require cooperation by the County government and the Eaton County Road Commission. Establishment of consistent standards and construction practices will enhance the aesthetics of the County and the safety of both residents and visitors that travel along private roads throughout Eaton County. Eaton County’s zoning ordinance requires all private roads to meet minimum standards and requires maintenance agreements.

Nonmotorized Transportation and Trail Connectivity

As Figure 8-5 demonstrates, Eaton County is lagging behind Ingham County in development of trails and nonmotorized infrastructure. While this is not something the Planning Commission can directly influence, the Planning Commission can prioritize establishment of sidewalks and connectivity between sites when appropriate during the site plan review process.

CHAPTER 9

PUBLIC SERVICES

Chapter 9 | Public Services

The responsibility of providing public services to residents of Eaton County is shared by several public entities, including the County government itself, various township, village and city governments, various state offices, numerous school districts, and others. The adequacy of public facilities has a direct influence on the county's ability to attract new residents, businesses, and industries, and play an important role in maintaining and improving the quality of life for residents.

Local Governmental Offices

The Eaton County governmental complex is centrally located in the county seat of Charlotte, at 1045 Independence Boulevard. The complex, built in 1975-1976, was developed on a thirty (30) acre campus, enabling the county to consolidate many of its operations to one location. The complex includes the county's administrative services, District Court, Sheriff's Department, Animal Shelter, Youth Services, Social Services, the MSU Extension Service and the U.S. Department of Agriculture field office. In addition, each township, village and city within Eaton County provides local facilities to house their individual municipal operations.

Emergency Services

Eaton County is serviced by sixteen (16) Fire Districts, and ten (10) Emergency Medical Services (EMS) Districts. The EMS districts generally encompass a larger area than the Fire Districts; however, their boundaries are relatively similar. In addition, Eaton County houses two (2) hospital facilities, the Eaton Rapids Medical Center located in Eaton Rapids and the Sparrow Eaton Hospital in Charlotte.

Police protection throughout Eaton County is the responsibility of the Sheriff's office, except in those communities who have established their own police departments. Delta Township, Oneida Township and the Village of Vermontville currently contract police services through the Sheriff's office. In addition, a satellite Sheriff's office is located in Delta Township.

Schools

Twelve (12) public school districts are located within Eaton County, as well as a number of private learning institutions. In addition, the Eaton County Intermediate School District provides alternative and special needs educational opportunities to residents with a main campus in Charlotte, and other satellite locations throughout the county.

The University of Olivet, Great Lakes Christian College, and the west campus of Lansing Community College are located within Eaton County. The University of Olivet located in the City of Olivet is a private, four-year liberal arts institution. Olivet offers baccalaureate degree programs, and master programs and dual degree programs with other higher education institutions.

Great Lakes Christian College (GLCC) is located in Delta Charter Township on a forty-seven (47) acre campus. GLCC specializes in a four-year Bachelor of Science degree, a two-year Associate of Arts and Associate of Religious Education, and a two-year Associate of Arts in Early Childhood Education. Cooperative studies with Spring Arbor University and the University of Phoenix are also offered.

Lansing Community College (LCC) provides a west campus located within Delta Charter Township. The west campus serves as the academic workforce development center, more than thirty (30) programs are offered here.

Public Utilities

Provision of sewer and water services has significant impacts on how Eaton County will develop and function into the future. The extension of services from cities has allowed suburban development in adjacent townships and the development of new systems has resulted in new growth areas throughout the county. Providing additional services in the future will require a coordinated approach among local governments, not only to avoid duplication and provide services in the most cost-effective and sustainable manner, but to ensure that the location and density of new development is consistent with Master Plans across jurisdictional boundaries. Maintaining and improving surface and groundwater quality can also be achieved through a coordinated approach in the areas of eliminating older septic systems and managing land uses near public water supplies.

Public Wastewater Systems

Eaton County is serviced by twelve (12) wastewater collection and treatment systems. Each of these is operated and maintained by the municipality where they are located. Eaton County's wastewater collection and treatment systems are located within the following jurisdictions:

- Village of Bellevue
- Brookfield Township
- City of Charlotte
- Delta Charter Township
- Village of Diamondale
- City of Eaton Rapids
- City of Grand Ledge
- Village of Mulliken
- City of Olivet
- Village of Potterville
- Village of Sunfield
- Village of Vermontville

These combined wastewater collection and treatment systems throughout Eaton County serve approximately 60,000 residents, or about 58% of the County's population.

Public Water Systems

The majority of Eaton County is underlain by the Saginaw Formation, a bedrock aquifer that serves much of the region. This formation exists at depths of approximately 100 to 200 feet below the surface. It serves as the source of supply for most private wells and the nine (9) public water systems located throughout the County. These water systems are operated and maintained by the municipality in which they are located. Eaton County's public water systems are located in the following jurisdictions:

- Village of Bellevue
- City of Charlotte
- Delta Charter Township
- City of Eaton Rapids
- City of Grand Ledge
- City of Olivet
- Village of Potterville
- Village of Sunfield
- Village of Vermontville

Eaton County is also part of the Capital Area Groundwater Alliance (CAGA). CAGA was created to protect and preserve drinking water at its source. CAGA is a group of communities predominately in Eaton, Ingham and Clinton Counties, working together to maintain high standards of water quality and to educate residents and businesses about water protection.

Solid Waste

Eaton County has been committed to promoting and protecting the public health, safety and welfare of residents through the 1993 Solid Waste Ordinance with the development and administration of the County's waste management plan by Eaton County Department of Resource Recovery (ECDRR). Through the solid waste ordinance, solid waste collection, transportation, delivery and disposal can be regulated, residents and businesses are provided incentives to recycle in order to reduce the volume of solid waste disposed, and the environment is preserved and improved.

Combined, Eaton County's twelve (12) wastewater collection and treatment systems serve approximately 60,000 residents, or about 58% of the County's population. Eaton County is underlain by the Saginaw Formation, a bedrock aquifer that exists at depths of approximately 100 to 200 feet below the surface. It serves as the water supply for most private wells and the nine (9) public water systems located throughout the County.

ECDRR acts as a resource to Eaton County residents. They provide tips on recycling, reusing and reducing waste. In addition, the ECDRR coordinates both year-round programs and special collection events to accommodate the proper disposal of wastes.

There are six (6) recycling collection points within Eaton County each with acceptance of varying products. They are located in Charlotte, Delta Township, Grand Ledge, Mulliken, and Sunfield. Each recycling center operates under the municipality in which it resides.

CHAPTER 10

INTERGOVERNMENTAL COOPERATION

Chapter 10 | Intergovernmental Cooperation

Land use, economic development, housing, environmental protection, outdoor recreation access, and many of the other issues identified in this plan cross multiple jurisdictional boundaries and require various units of government and public agencies to collaborate. As a consequence, intergovernmental cooperation is an absolute must to effectively implement the goals and objectives in this master plan. With 27 local units of government, 12 school districts, several utility providers, and numerous county agencies, the ability to coordinate the decisions and actions of these entities is among the most important and challenging components of implementing this master plan.

Intergovernmental cooperation can take many shapes and forms, and often starting small is the best course of action. For example, county zoning is a significant act of cooperation between the 11 townships that participate and the county who has stake on the authority and responsibility to administer a zoning ordinance that applies to multiple units of government. This chapter identifies several opportunities for intergovernmental cooperation, summarizes the current status of activities, and then identifies opportunities for future collaboration. For those areas where a significant change or major opportunity is present, information is repeated in the Goals and Objectives Chapter of this plan.

Information Sharing and Training

Description: Keeping pace with changing best practices, technology, and evolving issues around land use, economic development, and housing is a common challenge across all units of government. Where possible, participating in joint meetings (either formal or informal) and training sessions presents relatively easy “low hanging fruit” for Eaton County.

Current Status: With the COVID-19 Pandemic and changes in leadership, past efforts for sharing information and fostering relationships between local units of government in the county are no longer active. However, re-establishing programs for regular interaction between local units of government was identified as a priority in stakeholder meetings.

Opportunities:

- Regular meetings hosted for training and informational purposes, including potentially re-establishing a Michigan Townships Association (MTA) Chapter in Eaton County.
- Training opportunities for local units of government facilitated by the county and/or local officials.

Planning and Zoning

Description: Many small cities and villages struggle with having the necessary capacity to administer their zoning ordinance, make regular updates, and review potential development options.

Current Status: The county administers the county zoning ordinance, and a few local units of government have common staff people that work for multiple jurisdictions, but collaboration on this issue is fairly limited.

Opportunities:

- Eaton County Community Development may identify opportunities to assist individual units of government by providing limited assistance to address a particular issue or challenge that aligns with master plan goals.
- The county can be a resource or assist local units of government in identifying a private contractor or staff person to administer local zoning and community development activities, and encouraging communities to share these services when appropriate.

Economic Development

Description: When opportunities to drive new business or job creation are presented to local units of government or the county, the Eaton County Community Development Department provides basic information and services to local units of government. For major projects or developments with potential incentives included Eaton County partners with the Lansing Economic Area Partnership (LEAP) to engage potential businesses and developers.

Current Status: The relationship with LEAP is extremely effective today for large-scale business development and attraction initiatives. But in smaller cities and villages, LEAP does not necessarily have the capacity to support all requests.

Opportunities:

- Encourage local units of government to be members in LEAP to expand the capacity and resources for economic development available in their respective communities.
- The Michigan Economic Development Corporation is encouraging local units of government to participate in the Redevelopment Ready Communities program (RRC). The Eaton County Community Development Department could provide some assistance to communities navigating the program and pursuing certification.

Transportation

Description: Eaton County is a member of the Tri-County Regional Planning Commission (TCRPC), which is the Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) for Eaton, Ingham, and Clinton Counties. TCRPC is the agency responsible for coordinating long-range and short-term transportation plans for the three counties.

Current Status: Eaton County is an active participant in the TCRPC, particularly related to TCRPC's role related to transportation in the county.

Opportunities:

- Continued collaboration between the Michigan Department of Transportation, County Road Commission, and local units of government to align major road reconstruction projects with other public improvements.
- Exploring opportunities to provide for a more regional approach to public transit, with increased collaboration between EATRAN, CATA, and Clinton Area Transit System.

Shared Services

Description: Local units of government have shared service agreements with other local units of government, or the county, to provide for essential services like police or fire protection.

Current Status: Shared service agreements are common in Eaton County and have been in place in some communities for many years. While it is important that these agreements are regularly evaluated to ensure they are effective for all parties, generally they have been viewed positively by residents and local officials.

Opportunities:

- Provide examples of successful shared service agreements and provide information to local units of government that are interested in exploring new options.

Parks, Recreation, and Natural Resources

Description: Eaton County is home to a county parks system, several local parks systems, school districts with recreational facilities, and an active Conservation District with a range of resources to support conservation and outdoor recreation.

Current Status: With the passage of a recent parks millage, Eaton County will begin to provide financial resources to support development of local parks and recreational assets. This new resource should allow for further development of recreational assets and opportunities in the county. Connectivity between parks and recreational assets in the county was also identified as a priority in the County's Parks and Recreation Master Plan and was a common theme during stakeholder interviews.

Opportunities:

- County millage funds present an excellent opportunity to leverage other state funding through the Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund and other associated programs to make significant improvements to local parks and nonmotorized trails.
- Pursuit of joint projects to improve the connectivity of parks and natural resources assets in the county. Including nonmotorized trails and potential water trail designation along the Grand River.

CHAPTER 11

TAKING ACTION

Chapter 11 | Taking Action

Eaton County's role as a planning and zoning jurisdiction is multi-faceted. First, as the zoning authority for 11 of the county's 16 townships, the County is responsible for regulating land use over a majority of the county's land area. Second, the County's Community Development Department is responsible for regulating a wide range of land use related activities outside of zoning, including parcel divisions and administering the county's Purchase of Development Rights program. Lastly, as county government, there are a wide range of services operated by Eaton County that affect resident's daily lives, including public safety, construction codes, parks and recreation, and the Barry-Eaton District Health Department, among others. Lastly, in addition to the responsibilities under the direction of the county, there is a range of affiliated public and private organizations that also have direct influence on land use and community development, including, but not limited to the Eaton County Road Commission, MDOT, EATRAN and CATA, TCRPC, LEAP, the Eaton Conservation District, School Districts the Continuum of Care, County Mental Health, Capital Area Michigan Works, and the Tri-County Office on Aging.

The varied missions and responsibilities of the many departments and outside agencies that are stakeholders in land use and community development make setting goals that are realistic and tangible extremely challenging at the county level. **As a consequence, the Planning Commission has determined that it is best to separate Master Plan goals into two categories: 1) Overall goals that apply broadly to the community and 2) Goals specific to the work of the Planning Commission and County Community Development Department.**

Overall Goals

The following goals are broad policy statements that will guide the county's decision making related to land use and community and economic development. When making decisions regarding investing resources, developing infrastructure, and reviewing new potential developments, these goals should be considered carefully to ensure a consistent and steady approach toward growth and development.

Goal 1: **Increase the supply of housing while providing for a greater diversity of housing options throughout Eaton County.** Parts of Eaton County have seen steady population growth over the past two decades, while other more rural and isolated portions of the county have seen stagnation or decline. As the population has aged, and household dynamics have shifted toward smaller households, the county's housing stock has not kept up. There are opportunities to retrofit existing housing stock and provide for new housing stock in urban and suburban communities, as well as rural villages to ensure residents have access to appropriate housing options in their communities.

Goal 2: **Focus new development and growth in areas with existing infrastructure capable of supporting new development.** A large portion of the county has current access to or is in close proximity to infrastructure capable of supporting new residential, commercial, or industrial development. Because of the aging nature of much of the county's infrastructure,

LAND USE STAKEHOLDER ORGANIZATIONS

- **Eaton County Road Commission**
- **Eaton County Drain Commissioner**
- **Barry-Eaton District Health Department**
- **Eaton County Sherriff's Department**
- **Eaton County Transportation Authority (EATRAN)**
- **Eaton County Parks and Recreation**
- **Local Governments**
- **Michigan Department of Transportation (MDOT)**
- **Capital Area Transportation Authority (CATA)**
- **Tri-County Regional Planning Commission (TCRPC)**
- **Lansing Economic Area Partnership (LEAP)**
- **Eaton Conservation District**
- **Continuum of Care**
- **School Districts**
- **And many more…**

priority should be placed on directing new development and growth to places that utilize the infrastructure in the ground today and providing revenue necessary to support maintenance and upgrades to those systems.

Goal 3: **Preserve Eaton County's agricultural land and encourage development of new businesses and industries related to agriculture.** The most common feature cited by survey respondents as an asset in Eaton County is its agricultural land and natural areas. The County will continue to prioritize policies that maintain areas suitable for agriculture and provide high-quality natural areas for recreation and preservation of natural ecosystems.

Goal 4: **Continue to invest in natural resources and parks and recreation facilities throughout Eaton County.** The county parks system, combined with schools and local parks systems represents a significant asset. Since COVID, there has been a significant increase in interest in expansion of county parks and an increase in demand for programming for people of all ages, but especially youth and seniors.

Goal 5: **Support the growth of existing businesses and provide a welcoming climate for new businesses to locate in Eaton County.** Eaton County will continue to work with LEAP on business attraction efforts to bring new businesses and economic opportunities to the county, while also ensuring that county permitting, and review processes are timely and responsive to the needs of current and prospective businesses.

Goal 6: **Maintain existing infrastructure, including roads, sewer, and water, while expanding infrastructure for broadband connectivity.** With a large county that is served primarily by county roadways, maintaining transportation infrastructure is absolutely critical for a large portion of the county's land area. Maintaining and updating existing roadway, water, and sewer infrastructure to allow for growth within existing service areas is a priority. Expansion of broadband infrastructure throughout the county is also a priority, as ensuring access to rural locations provides new opportunities for remote work, education, and access to a variety of virtual services that can sustain rural places.

Goal 7: **Foster an environment of cooperation and collaboration between local units of government and the county.** Eaton County is home to 27 local units of government, 12 school districts, and dozens of public and private organizations with an active role in public life. As an entity with a broad role, the Eaton County sets the tone for cooperation and collaboration between these entities.

Planning Commission & Community Development Objectives

The local units of government, public and private organizations, and residents of the county all have roles to play in pursing the broad goals outlined in this chapter. This section defines objectives and actions to achieve those goals that are the responsibility of the Planning Commission and Community Development department that will be pursued prior to the next 5-year review of the Master Plan.

Goal 1: Increase the supply of housing while providing for a greater diversity of housing options throughout Eaton County.

Objective 1.1: Identify current barriers to increasing housing supply, particularly in small cities and rural villages.

Action: Work with local officials to convene a meeting of local realtors and developers to identify challenges and potential solutions for increasing the supply of housing.

Action: Follow-up with TCRPC on the regional housing assessment (Housing Drives) to understand how the project affects Eaton County.

Objective 1.2: Review county policies to ensure they are supportive of new housing development and a range of housing types, in appropriate locations.

Action: Review zoning ordinance provisions for cluster housing development and Planned Unit Developments to determine if additional density or housing typologies should be allowed.

Action: Assess the overall development review process (building permit, soil erosion, health department review, driveway permits, etc.) to identify opportunities for streamlining the process.

Action: Pursue other changes as identified by stakeholders or residents.

Objective 1.3: Provide support to local units of government which are interested in reviewing and updating their policies related to housing development.

Goal 2: Focus new development and growth in areas with existing infrastructure capable of supporting new development.

Objective 2.1: Reduce the rate of new development in agricultural areas of the county.

Action: Review the county's zoning ordinance and land division ordinance to determine whether changes are necessary to reduce the number of splits and division of remaining large agricultural parcels.

Objective 2.2: Identify areas with access to existing infrastructure capable of supporting new development in the county.

Action: Work with local officials to identify priority sites and create a list of potential development to communicate to realtors and potential developers. These sites could be for housing, commercial development, industrial development, or a mix of uses.

Goal 3: Preserve Eaton County's agricultural land and encourage development of new businesses and industries related to agriculture.

Objective 3.1: Continue to promote the county's Purchase of Development Rights program and encourage farmers to consider permanently protecting their land though PDR or other mechanisms like the Michigan Farmland and Open Space Preservation program (PA 116).

Objective 3.2: Limit the impact on prime agricultural land from renewable energy development.

Action: Ensure that any renewable energy development provides for the continued use of land for agriculture, and/or provides for a return to agricultural use following the end of the life cycle of the

renewable energy system.

Action: Consider the impact on the agricultural base of communities caused by the conversion of agricultural land to renewable energy. If a significant proportion of land in a given area is converted to renewable energy, it may become difficult to maintain a productive agricultural base in rural communities.

Objective 3.3: Encourage farmers to pursue a range of opportunities to maintain economically stable farming operations.

Action: Continue to update zoning ordinance provisions as necessary to permit new agricultural tourism and value-added agricultural processing activities.

Action: Collaborate with Michigan State University Extension and other local partners to educate local farmers and communities on new opportunities.

Goal 4: Continue to invest in natural resources and parks and recreation facilities throughout Eaton County.

Objective 4.1: Work together with the county's Parks and Recreation Department and Commission to support expansion of recreational resources and activities within the county.

Objective 4.2: Support the pursuit of funding and resources to expand trails and improve connectivity between parks and recreation resources and key nodes of activity and population centers in the county.

Action: Work collaboratively with the County Parks and Recreation department to identify appropriate areas for expansion of parks and natural areas.

Action: Work with the Eaton County Parks and Recreation Department and County Road Commission to identify opportunities to add new nonmotorized and Outdoor Recreational Vehicle (ORV) trails to connect parks and other natural resources with population centers.

Goal 5: Support the growth of existing businesses and provide a welcoming climate for new businesses to locate in Eaton County.

Objective 5.1: Maintain an active presence with LEAP by Community Development Department staff and other county representatives having an active role on working committees and leadership committees.

Objective 5.2: Achieve Essentials certification from the Michigan Economic Development Corporation's (MEDC) Redevelopment Ready Communities (RRC) program.

Action: Complete a *baseline* report through RRC staff to identify necessary updates to county policies and procedures.

Action: Create a small subcommittee of key stakeholders to work toward certification.

Objective 5.3: Maintain an up to-date listing of local chambers of commerce, permitting officials and contacts, and other resources for businesses considering locating or expanding in Eaton County.

Objective 5.4: Continue to explore opportunities to make the development review and permitting process efficient and effective for existing and prospective businesses.

Action: Review the process annually with Planning Commission to determine opportunities for improvement.

Action: Advise local units of government on best practices for enhancing their process and working with county agencies.

Goal 6: Maintain existing infrastructure, including roads, sewer, and water, while expanding infrastructure for broadband connectivity.

Objective 6.1: Support local governments and county departments in securing the necessary funding to update and maintain infrastructure.

Objective 6.2: Pursue funding and explore creative solutions to provide broadband internet access throughout Eaton County by supporting the Broadband Communication Council.

Action: Provide support for the council by pursuing grants and working with the County GIS department to identify areas in greatest need of better connectivity.

Goal 7: Foster an environment of cooperation and collaboration between local units of government and the county.

Objective 7.1: Provide regular opportunities for local officials throughout the county to build positive working relationships.

Action: Host quarterly events sponsored by the County Planning Commission to engage local units of government, with a priority on townships under the county zoning jurisdiction. Events could include training programs, question and answer sessions with county departments (e.g., Road Commission or Drain Commission), or general updates on Planning Commission activities.

Action: Work with local township officials to re-establish an Eaton County chapter of the Michigan Townships Association (MTA).

Action: Host an annual training session on a relevant community development topic for all local governments within Eaton County.

Objective 7.2: The Eaton County Community Development Department and Planning Commission will serve as a resource for planning and zoning issues facing Eaton County communities.

Action: Community Development Department staff will meet at least once annually with officials from each township under county zoning jurisdiction to discuss applications and issues affecting their township.

Action: Community Development Department staff will work with small cities and villages to provide guidance and resources to support effective planning and zoning activities.

Implementation Strategy

The goals and objectives identified in this chapter were developed based on feedback from local stakeholders, public input through surveys, and evaluation of the data presented in this plan. This section provides guidance for the Planning Commission and Community Development Department to prioritize objectives. When preparing its annual report to the County Board of Commissioners, the Planning Commission should review this section of the Master Plan and provide a report on the status of each objective.

Objective	Priority	Year to be Completed	Funding Source(s)
Objective 1.1: Identify current barriers to increasing housing supply, particularly in small cities and rural villages.	**High**	2024	-
Objective 1.2: Review county policies to ensure they are supportive of new housing development and a range of housing types, in appropriate locations.	**High**	2024	MEDC RRC
Objective 1.3: Provide support for local units of government interested in reviewing and updating their policies related to housing development.	**Medium**	Start in 2024	-
Objective 2.1: Reduce the rate of new development in agricultural areas of the county.	**High**	Ongoing	-
Objective 2.2: Identify areas with access to existing infrastructure capable of supporting new development in the county.	**Medium**	2025	TBD
Objective 3.1: Continue to promote the county's Purchase of Development Rights program and encourage farmers to consider permanently protecting their land though PDR or other mechanisms like the PA 116 program at the State of Michigan.	**Medium**	Ongoing	-
Objective 3.2: Limit the impact on prime agricultural land from renewable energy development.	**High**	Ongoing	-
Objective 3.3: Encourage farmers to pursue a range of opportunities to maintain economically stable farming operations.	**Medium**	Ongoing	-
Objective 4.1: Work together with the county's Parks and Recreation Department and Commission to support expansion of recreational resources and activities within the county.	**Low**	Ongoing	Michigan DNR & County Parks Millage
Objective 4.2: Support the pursuit of funding and resources to expand trails and improve connectivity between parks and recreation resources and key nodes of activity and population centers in the county.	**Low**	Ongoing	Michigan DNR & County Parks Millage
Objective 5.1: Maintain an active presence with LEAP by county staff and other county representatives having an active role on working committees and leadership committees.	**Low**	Ongoing	-
Objective 5.2: Achieve *Essentials* certification from the Michigan Economic Development Corporation's (MEDC) Redevelopment Ready Communities (RRC) program.	**High**	2024	MEDC RRC
Objective 5.3: Maintain an up to-date listing of local chambers of commerce, permitting officials and contacts, and other resources for businesses considering locating or expanding in Eaton County.	**Medium**	2025	-

Objective	Priority	Year to be Completed	Funding Source(s)
Objective 5.4: Continue to explore opportunities to make the development review and permitting process efficient and effective for existing and prospective businesses.	**Medium**	Ongoing	-
Objective 6.1: Support local governments and county departments in securing the necessary funding to update and maintain infrastructure.	**High**	Ongoing	-
Objective 6.2: Pursue funding and explore creative solutions to provide broadband internet access throughout Eaton County by supporting the Broadband Communication Council.	**High**	Ongoing	State of Michigan; Federal Government
Objective 7.1: Provide regular opportunities for local officials throughout the county to build positive working relationships.	**Medium**	Start in 2024	-
Objective 7.2: The Eaton County Community Development Department and Planning Commission will serve as a resource for planning and zoning issues facing Eaton County communities.	**Medium**	Start in 2025	-

CHAPTER 12

LAND USE

Chapter 12 | Land Use

Existing Land Use

ROWE completed an analysis of county parcel data to evaluate existing land use within Eaton County. Existing Land Use assigns a particular use to each of the 40,000+ parcels throughout Eaton County. Existing land use is primarily based on tax classification for each parcel, with some adjustments based on unique classifications or large parcels with multiple uses where a tax classification was not the most appropriate description. Figure 12-2 displays existing land use across five categories, which are the same categories utilized to establish existing land use in the previous Master Plan update in 2008/2011.

	2008*		2021		Change	
Land Use	**Acres**	**%**	**Acres**	**%**	**Acres**	**%**
Residential	82,220.00	22.8%	114,848.88	31.7%	32,628.88	8.9%
Commercial	6,412.50	1.8%	15,415.06	4.3%	9,002.56	2.5%
Industrial	3,689.00	1.0%	5,016.22	1.4%	1,327.22	0.4%
Exempt	5,633.00	1.6%	279.21	0.1%	(5,353.79)	(1.5%)
Total Developed Land	**97,954.50**	**27.1%**	**135,559.37**	**37.4%**	**37,604.87**	**10.3%**
Agriculture-Vacant	263,235.50	72.9%	226,699.48	62.6%	(36,536.02)	(10.3%)
Total	**361,190.00**	**100.0%**	**362,258.84**	**100.0%**		

**The total number of acres cited in the 2008 Existing Land Use Analysis includes a mathematical error.*

Figure 12-1: *Existing Land Use*

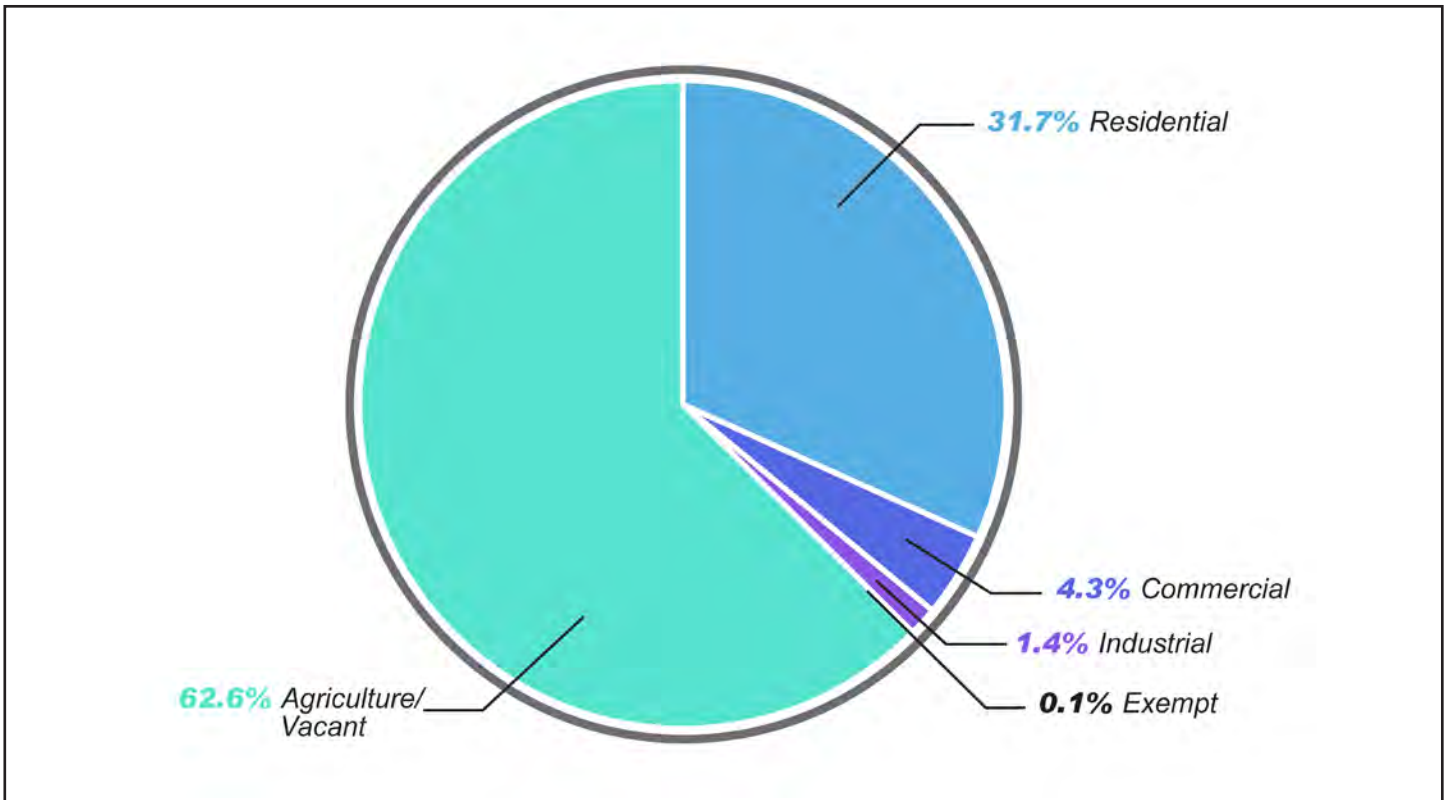
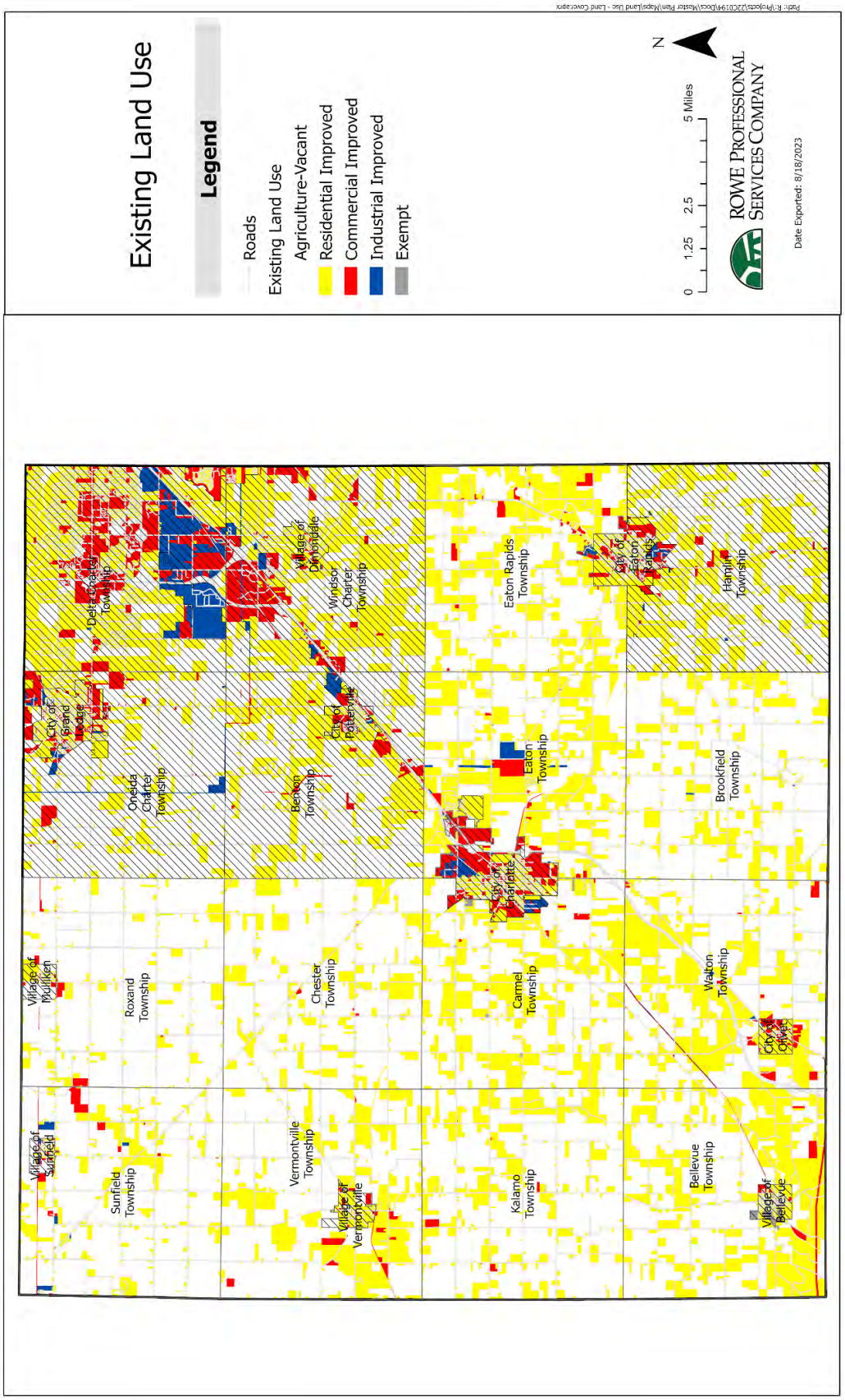


Figure 12-2: *Existing Land Use, 2021*



Map 12-1: *Existing Land Use (Note, cross hatch areas indicate local zoning jurisdictions)*

Land Use Change

As Figure 12-2 and Figure 12-4 show, a significant amount of land was converted from Agriculture-Vacant to Residential and Commercial uses between 2008 and 2022. Total, over 36,000 acres were converted to residential or commercial uses during this time period.

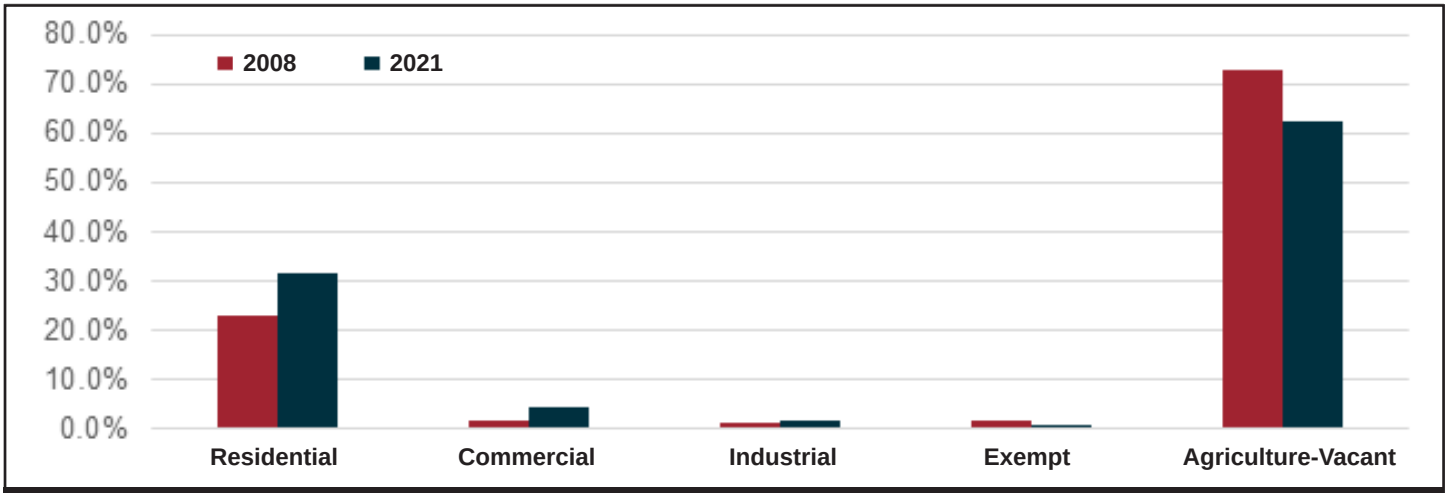


Figure 12-3: *Land Use Change 2008 -2022*

To complete this analysis, ROWE analyzed existing land use and change in Eaton County based on county parcel data. The starting point for the analysis is the 2011 Master Plan, which includes an analysis of Existing Land Use as of 2008.

Unfortunately, the data that was used to create the map in the 2011 Plan is no longer available, thus working with Eaton County's GIS team, ROWE recreated the 2008 version of the map and applied values to a 2011 version of county parcels.

Once the base year for the existing land use analysis was set, ROWE completed an analysis of Existing Land Use as of 2021 utilizing a combination of county parcel data, aerial imagery, Google Street View, and on-site observation to confirm land use on parcels within the county; creating a 2021 Existing Land Use Layer.

ROWE then compared the former existing land use layer with the new existing land use layer to identify areas of change. This created the Change in Land Use 2008-2021 Map. To verify this change, ROWE also compared change in tax classification of Eaton County Parcels between 2011 and 2022, which created the Change in Property Class Table (Figure 12-5).

- The following tables provide a summary of the data that creates each map. In summary, while Eaton County has not seen significant growth in terms of population according to the U.S. Census Bureau since 2010, land has continued to be converted from agricultural to residential use at a significant pace.
- Based on an analysis of land use, 30,060 acres converted from Agriculture-Vacant to Residential. This appears to be primarily in the form of large-lot residential, as the average size of parcels that converted to residential is 6.5 acres. This includes 70 parcels over 50 acres that account for over 6,000 acres. At the same time, 3,907 acres converted from Residential to Agriculture-Vacant.
- 2,777 acres changed from Agriculture-Vacant to Commercial and 3,869 acres changed from Exempt to Commercial.
- 1,686 acres changed from Agriculture-Vacant to Industrial.

It is important to note that **a change in use of a particular parcel does not necessarily mean that an entire parcel has converted from agricultural use to another use.** Property owners commonly continue to farm a portion of their parcel or lease it for agricultural purposes. However, this data does demonstrate that conversion of land from agricultural or natural status to more intense use has continued over the past decade, though likely in a different form from the early 2000s. This fragmentation of large agricultural parcels represents a significant threat to the long-term viability of agricultural use, and also significantly reduces space available for wildlife corridors and continuous tracts of open space. Two characteristics of Eaton County most commonly cited as assets by survey respondents.

- As the Change in Land Use Map shows, the dynamic of change varies throughout the county.
- Intensification of commercial and industrial uses is focused on the edges of cities and villages, along the I-69/Lansing Road Corridor, and in Southern Delta/Northern Windsor Townships.
- Conversion to residential uses is most intense in the Southwestern portion of the county, where most of the converted parcels are large, but conversion to residential is common throughout most of the county, with the exception of Sunfield and Roxand townships, where relatively little change occurred compared to the rest of the county.

Change in Property Class

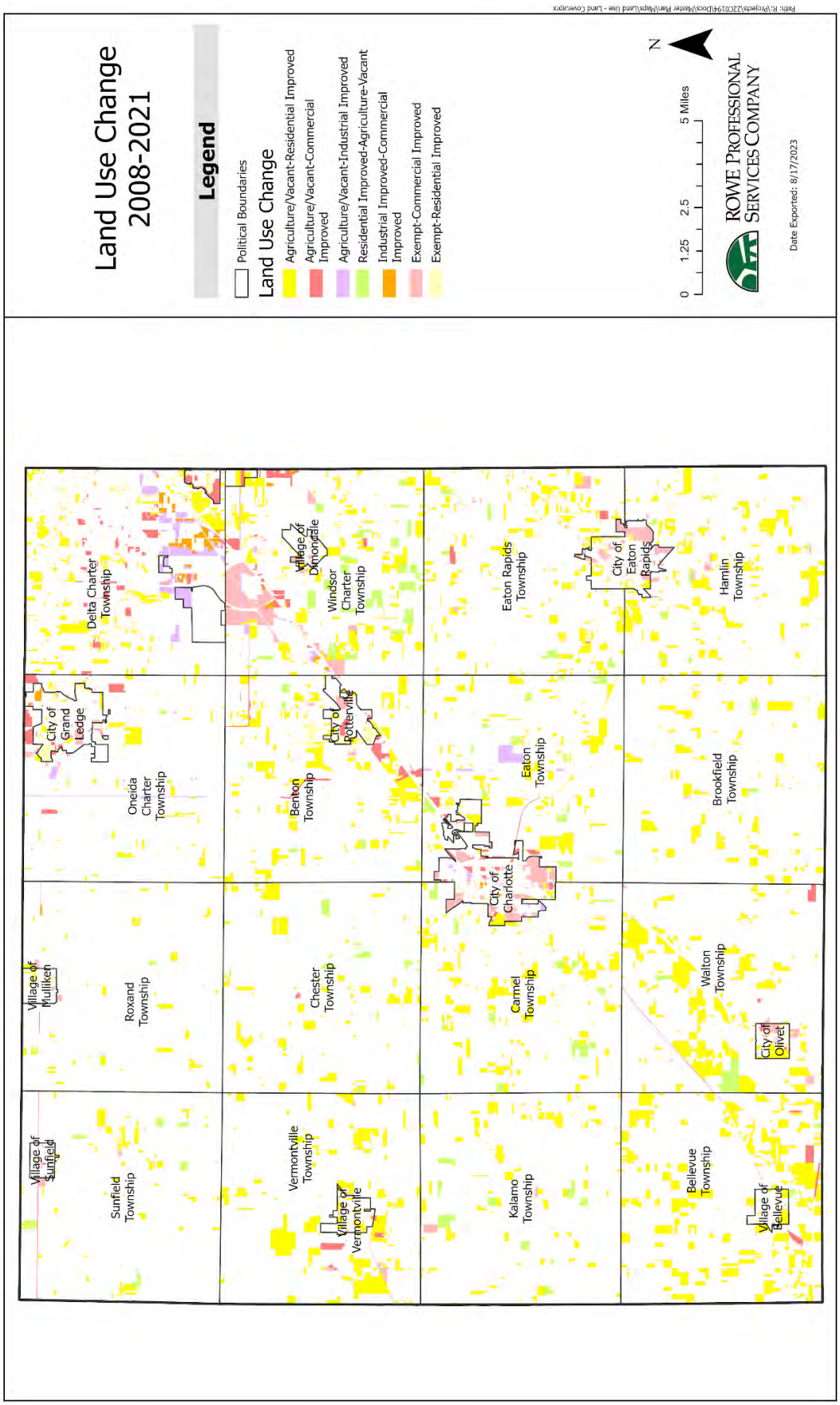
There is some discrepancy between the change in property classification and the change in land use. This is partially because there are many property classifications that were “rolled” into one land use. For example, residential condominiums are a separate property classification, but are classified as just “residential” for land use purposes.

The most significant change in classification relates to new parcels that were created and then classified. While the number of parcels created that are classified as residential is significant, it does not equate to the number of parcels identified in the Land Use Analysis. This may be partially due to the different timeframe of analysis Class was analyzed for 2011-2021 while Land Use was analyzed for 2008-2021, but there may also have been inconsistencies between the methodology used to conduct the land use analyses in 2008 and 2021 that is driving some of this difference. Figure 12-5 provides a summary of the top 20 most common changes in classification.

Change in Land Use (2008 - 2021)	Sum of Acreage	%	Change in Land Use (2008 – 2021)	Sum of Acre-age	%
Agriculture-Vacant-Agriculture-Vacant		51.3%	Commercial Improved-Agriculture-Vacant	193.79	0.1%
Residential Improved-Residential Improved	69,882.49	19.3%	Exempt-Exempt	185.59	0.1%
New Parcels not existing in 2008	53,789.84	14.8%	Commercial Improved-Residential Improved	182.86	0.1%
Agriculture-Vacant-Residential Improved	30,060.55	8.3%	Industrial Improved-Residential Improved	52.16	0.0%
Commercial Improved-Commercial Improved	4,958.25	1.4%	Commercial Improved-Industrial Improved	45.08	0.0%
Residential Improved-Agriculture-Vacant	3,906.86	1.1%	Agriculture-Vacant-Exempt	24.87	0.0%
Exempt-Commercial Improved	3,869.17	1.1%	Industrial Improved-Agriculture-Vacant	22.52	0.0%
Agriculture-Vacant-Commercial Improved	2,776.99	0.8%	Exempt-Industrial Improved	17.10	0.0%
Industrial Improved-Industrial Improved	2,495.58	0.7%	Agriculture-Vacant-ROW	8.43	0.0%
Agriculture-Vacant-Industrial Improved	1,685.56	0.5%	Residential Improved-Industrial Improved	4.87	0.0%
Exempt-Residential Improved	829.85	0.2%	Residential Improved-ROW	2.01	0.0%
Industrial Improved-Commercial Improved	561.94	0.2%	Commercial Improved-Exempt	0.2	0.0%
Exempt-Agriculture-Vacant	457.74	0.1%	Agriculture-Vacant-Residential Improved	0.06	0.0%
Residential Improved-Commercial Improved	235.66	0.1%	**Total**		100.0%

Figure 12-4: *Change in Land Use*

Map 12-2: *Land Use Change*



Top 20	2022	Count	Acres
N/A	102 Agricultural-Vacant	389.00	21,867.25
N/A	101 Agricultural-Improved	223.00	13,545.97
N/A	401 Residential-Improved	1,625.00	9,930.66
101 Agricultural-Improved	102 Agricultural-Vacant	74.00	5,202.19
402 Residential-Vacant	102 Agricultural-Vacant	213.00	3,975.08
N/A	402 Residential-Vacant	405.00	3,864.19
402 Residential-Vacant	401 Residential-Improved	801.00	3,569.52
102 Agricultural-Vacant	101 Agricultural-Improved	57.00	3,348.07
101 Agricultural-Improved	401 Residential-Improved	65.00	3,158.02
401 Residential-Improved	101 Agricultural-Improved	86.00	2,584.87
N/A	302 Commercial-Improved	261.00	2,540.10
102 Agricultural-Vacant	402 Residential-Vacant	61.00	2,284.74
701 Exempt Improved	201 Commercial-Improved	279.00	1,861.34
101 Agricultural-Improved	001 Retired/Split	23.00	1,713.31
702 Exempt Vacant	201 Commercial-Improved	164.00	1,702.75
401 Residential-Improved	402 Residential-Vacant	207.00	1,180.78
602 Developmental-Vacant	102 Agricultural-Vacant	24.00	1,088.98
401 Residential-Improved	408 Residential-Improved Waterfront	223.00	541.47
401 Residential-Improved	407 Residential-Condominiums	1,495.00	55.06
N/A	407 Residential-Condominiums	212.00	6.33
Total		**6,887.00**	**84,020.68**

Figure 12-5: *Change in Property Classification*

Building Permits

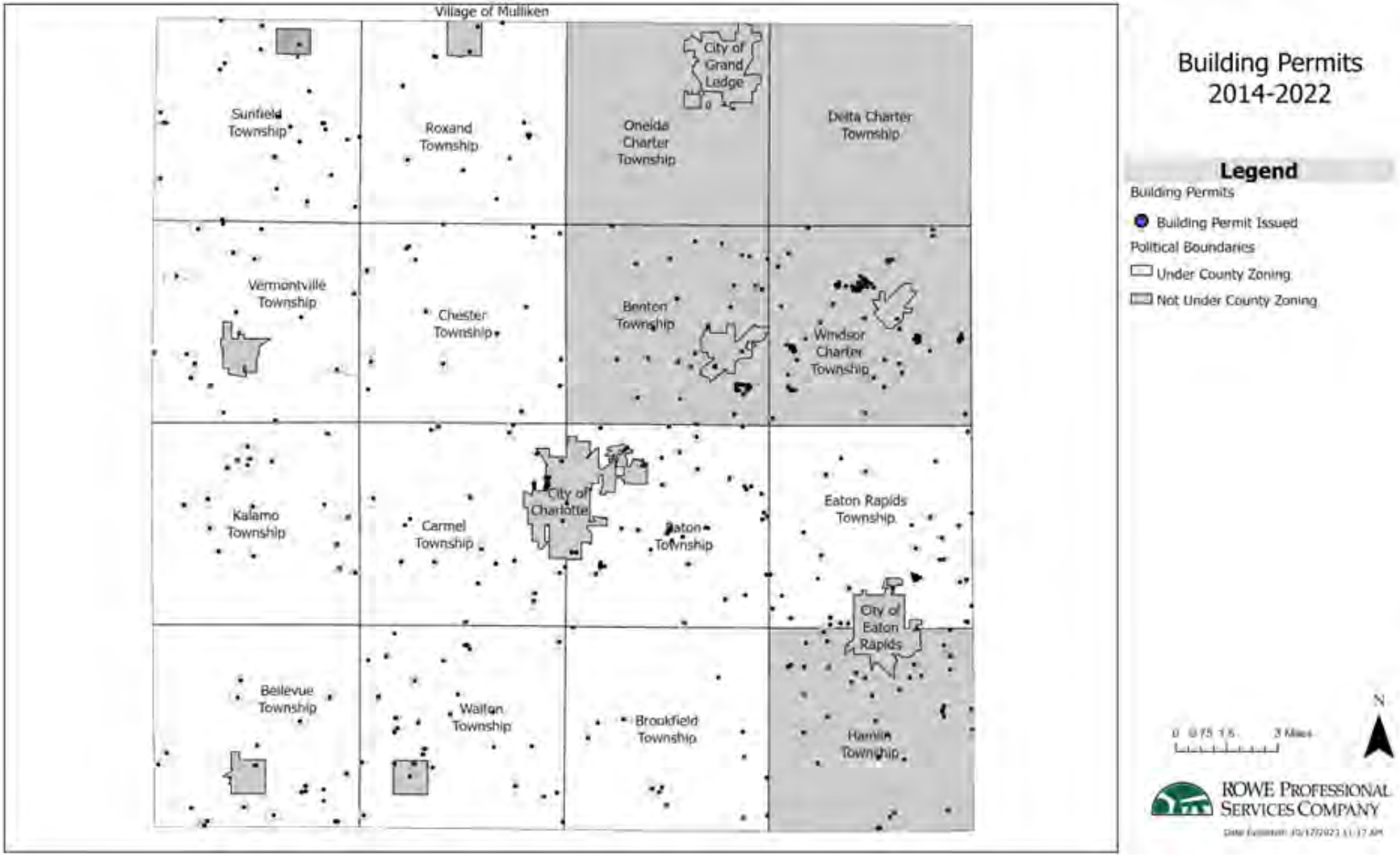
As a final analysis of land use change in Eaton County, this section analyzes building permits issued from 2014 through 2022. During this period of time there were a total of 526 building permits issued in the county for construction of new dwellings. Figure 12-6 illustrates the number of building permits issued for new dwellings by year. As the table indicates, there has been a gradual upward trend in new dwelling building permits since 2014, with 2022 being the year with the most permits issued.

Year	Permits for New Dwellings issued
2014	18
2015	40
2016	57
2017	60
2018	64
2019	55
2020	63
2021	83
2022	86

Figure 12-6: *Building Permits Issued*

Figure 12-7 illustrates the location of building permits issued by Eaton County over this time period. Note that Eaton County does not issue building permits for Oneida Charter Township, Delta Charter Township, the City of Grand Ledge, and the City of Eaton Rapids. Figure 12-7 tells a similar story to the Land Use Change and Tax Classification change maps, since the last master plan update, development in the rural portions of the county has been relatively scattered and not particularly focused, with a stronger tendency toward new development in the eastern portions of the county.

Figure 12-7: *Building Permits*



Future Land Use

The Future Land Use Plan provides direction for the future development of areas of Eaton County that are under the zoning jurisdiction of the county. It serves as an overall framework for the management and regulation of future development and serves as the basis for evaluating rezoning requests.

The Planning Enabling Act (P.A. 33 of 2008, as amended) provides Planning Commissions the authority to prepare and officially adopt a master plan. Section 33 (2) of the Act states:

> 2) A master plan shall also include those of the following subjects that reasonably can be considered as pertinent to the future development of the planning jurisdiction:
>
> (a) A land use plan that consists in part of a classification and allocation of land for agriculture, residences, commerce, industry, recreation, ways and grounds…public transportation facilities, public buildings, schools, soil conservation, forests, woodlots, open space, wildlife refuges, and other uses and purposes.

The future land use plan is based on the goals, objectives, and strategies established in the Action Plan in Chapter 11, but is intended to be somewhat flexible. It is important to keep the following in mind when considering Future Land Use Plan.

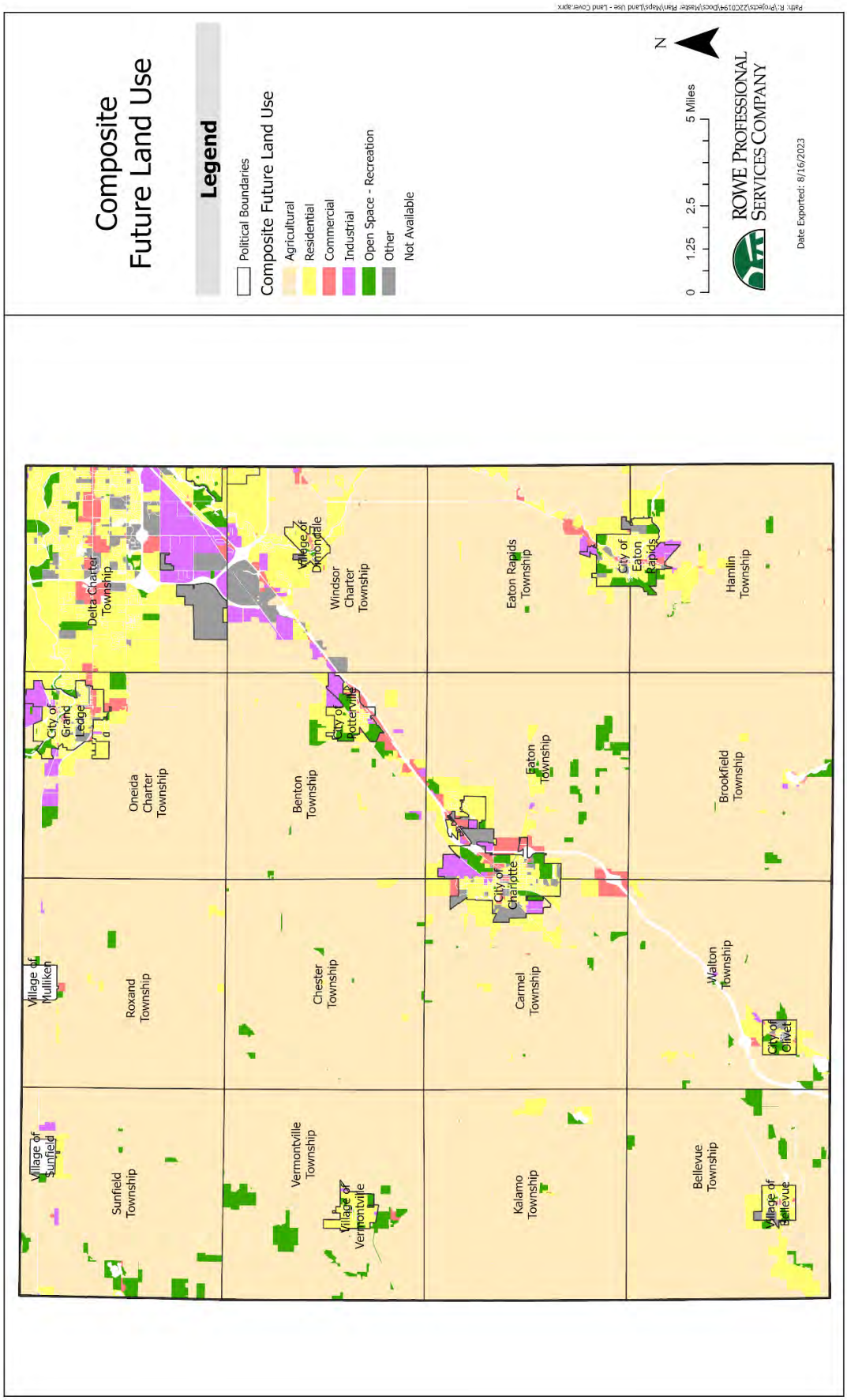
The Future Land Use Plan provides a long-range projection of land uses for the next 20 years to coordinate development consistent with the county's goals and objectives. The Future Land Use Map represents a general arrangement of the proposed land uses as identified by their locational criteria. It is not intended to be the zoning map. In determining the appropriateness of a zoning change, the plan's goals, policies, and locational criteria should be reviewed and weighed equally with the map's delineation of future land use classification boundaries.

The Future Land Use Plan considers land uses in the context of the county as it exists at the date of adoption of the plan, relative to goals and objectives for future development. The relationship between land uses, transportation facilities, public facilities, utilities, and a range of other factors was considered in establishing future land use classifications. As these factors change, the assumptions upon which the map was developed may no longer be relevant.

The Future Land Use Plan should be reviewed and analyzed when the Planning Commission considers public and private development activities relative to a constantly changing economic, social, and built environment.

Prior to establishing a future land use plan for the county zoning jurisdiction, the Eaton County Planning Commission examined a generalized version of future land use across the entire county. This composite future land use analysis provides a snapshot of the plans for land use in all zoning jurisdictions. As the map shows, the overwhelming majority of the county is planned for agricultural use, with much greater densities of residential and commercial uses in the northeast portion of the county and within cities and villages.

Map 12-3: *Composite Future Land Use*



Eaton County Master Plan Land Use Classifications

The draft master plan identifies 8 land use classifications to direct development in Eaton County. These classifications generally align with current zoning district classifications. The land use classifications listed below are presented from least intense use to most intense use.

Resource Conservation

Intent: This land use category is intended to preserve areas of importance as they relate to natural resources which support the rural character of the county. The areas designated as Resource Conservation were derived from those that ranked the highest in the *Greening Mid- Michigan Tri-County Planning* report.

Locational Criteria: These areas are dispersed throughout the county and correspond to the irregular boundaries of wetlands, floodplains, potential conservation areas and areas of particular historical importance. They provide vital ecological benefits such as wildlife habitat, flood control, and aquifer recharge zones.

Preferred Land Uses: Land uses should be restricted to resource conservation, environmentally friendly customary agricultural activities, single-family dwellings, and accessory buildings. Clustered housing development that preserves significant tracts of open lands would be favored over large acreage single-family lots.

Equivalent Zoning District: Resource Conservation.

Agricultural Preservation

Intent: This land use category is intended to serve the needs of the agricultural industry in the County by maintaining and protecting agricultural operations against development pressure.

Locational Criteria: The boundaries of the area may shift as markets change, but the intent is that this classification will be restricted to areas designated as prime farmland, without access to public utilities, and with value as farmland and/or open space.

Preferred Land Uses: Other than the homes of farmers and their employees, new housing should be discouraged within this land use classification. Agricultural processing operations (i.e., grain elevators, feed lots, slaughterhouses) are encouraged along with large tracts of quality farmlands intended primarily for agriculture and agricultural processing activities. Limited use of land in this classification for utility-scale renewable energy and agricultural tourism operations is permitted, so long as the ability to utilize the land for agricultural production or valuable open space is maintained beyond the useful life of the renewable energy system or agricultural tourism operation.

Equivalent Zoning District: LA, Limited Agricultural.

Mixed Use Transition

Intent: The Mixed Use Transition designation is intended to provide flexibility for development along major corridors outside of cities and villages. This future land use designation permits existing uses consistent with the agricultural preservation district, but also allows for rezoning to higher-intensity rural residential, Moderate/High Density Residential, Local Business, or General Business uses and associated zoning districts.

Locational Criteria: Land in the Mixed Use Transition designation must have frontage along a state highway or a primary county roadway; be within one mile or less of a city, village, or other node of activity; be free from significant development limitations like the presence of wetlands; and not include Resource Conservation areas. If a portion of a parcel includes Resource Conservation areas or wetlands, but the remainder of the parcel meets these criteria, the Resource Conservation or

Wetland area should be maintained as open space. s

Preferred Land Uses: Existing agricultural and residential uses are preferred, until the opportunity for transition to a higher intensity use is presented. Any transition to a higher intensity use and associated zoning district should include consideration for limiting impacts on adjacent residential and agricultural uses by minimizing any nuisance effects from noise, light, odors, or dust while also providing for ample landscaping and screening to provide a transition to surrounding rural areas.

Equivalent Zoning District: Limited Agricultural, R-1 Residential, R-2 Moderate Density, C-1 Local Business, and C-2 General Business

Rural Residential

Intent: The Rural Residential land use designation is intended to provide for low-density residential development that serves as a transition between more intense development in cities and villages and the agricultural areas of the county.

Locational Criteria: The areas designated for Rural Residential are generally found where development already exists and/or areas adjacent to or near the County's lakes. Many of these areas have been platted and contain small lots. These areas will not likely be served by public water or wastewater, which necessitates relatively low densities to support individual septic systems.

Preferred Land Uses: Single family residential development on relatively small lots and clustered developments are preferred to minimize the fragmentation of farmlands.

Equivalent Zoning District: R-1 Residential.

Moderate/High Density Residential

Intent: It is the County's desire to provide a reasonable range of housing options in the County by allowing higher-density housing in locations where there is access to water and sanitary sewer, and other community services.

Locational Criteria: This land use designation may serve as a transitional zone between residential and non-residential areas and should therefore be located in proximity to areas with existing or future planned services and facilities. Densities should be limited, unless a public or approved private community sewer system is installed.

Preferred Land Uses: Uses such as condominiums, multi-family dwellings, senior housing complexes or manufactured home communities are appropriate in this land use designation. Demands for other public facilities and services should also be taken into consideration to minimize the impact of a high-density development. Maximum density shall be five to eight units per acre.

Equivalent Zoning District: R-2 Moderate Density and R-3 High Density

Local Business

Intent: This designation is intended to provide for commercial uses that support the needs of local residents and businesses and are not a major destination or draw for regional traffic.

Locational Criteria: This land use designation should be located along primary roadways and highways, and ideally at key intersections or nodes of activity. The local business designation must be in close proximity to residential, commercial, or industrial uses for which it provides associated services.

Preferred Land Uses: Areas shown as local business are considered convenience commercial. These types of commercial uses deal with goods and services that represent daily needs such as laundry services, convenience goods such as groceries and pharmacies, and other personal service

uses. Local business uses are small in nature, generally serving the residents of the community in which they are located.

Equivalent Zoning District: C-1 Local Business

General Business

Intent: This designation provides for larger businesses with a regional draw and large footprint buildings that generate significant traffic and provide employment opportunities for county residents.

Locational Criteria: The criteria for location of these uses includes accessibility to water and sewer services, proximity to highways and primary roads, and lands capable of supporting development.

Preferred Land Uses: Regional commercial uses are larger in scale and cater to a regional market. These include automobile related services, restaurants, shopping centers, and office buildings.

Equivalent Zoning District: C-2 General Business

Industrial

Intent: To provide for areas within the county for development of industrial, manufacturing, and storage or warehousing uses that require significant land and provide employment opportunities for county residents.

Locational Criteria: Key conditions in the location of industrials lands are the accessibility to adequate roads, availability of rail (where needed), availability of adequate water supply and wastewater disposal and compatibility with neighboring land uses. Generally, such locations are found in and near the cities of Charlotte, Eaton Rapids, Olivet and Potterville along I-69, M-50, M-100, M-99 and M-78.

Preferred Land Uses: Industrial processing and manufacturing facilities, major repair and refurbishing of automobiles and vehicles, warehousing and storage, and associated office, storage and related uses.

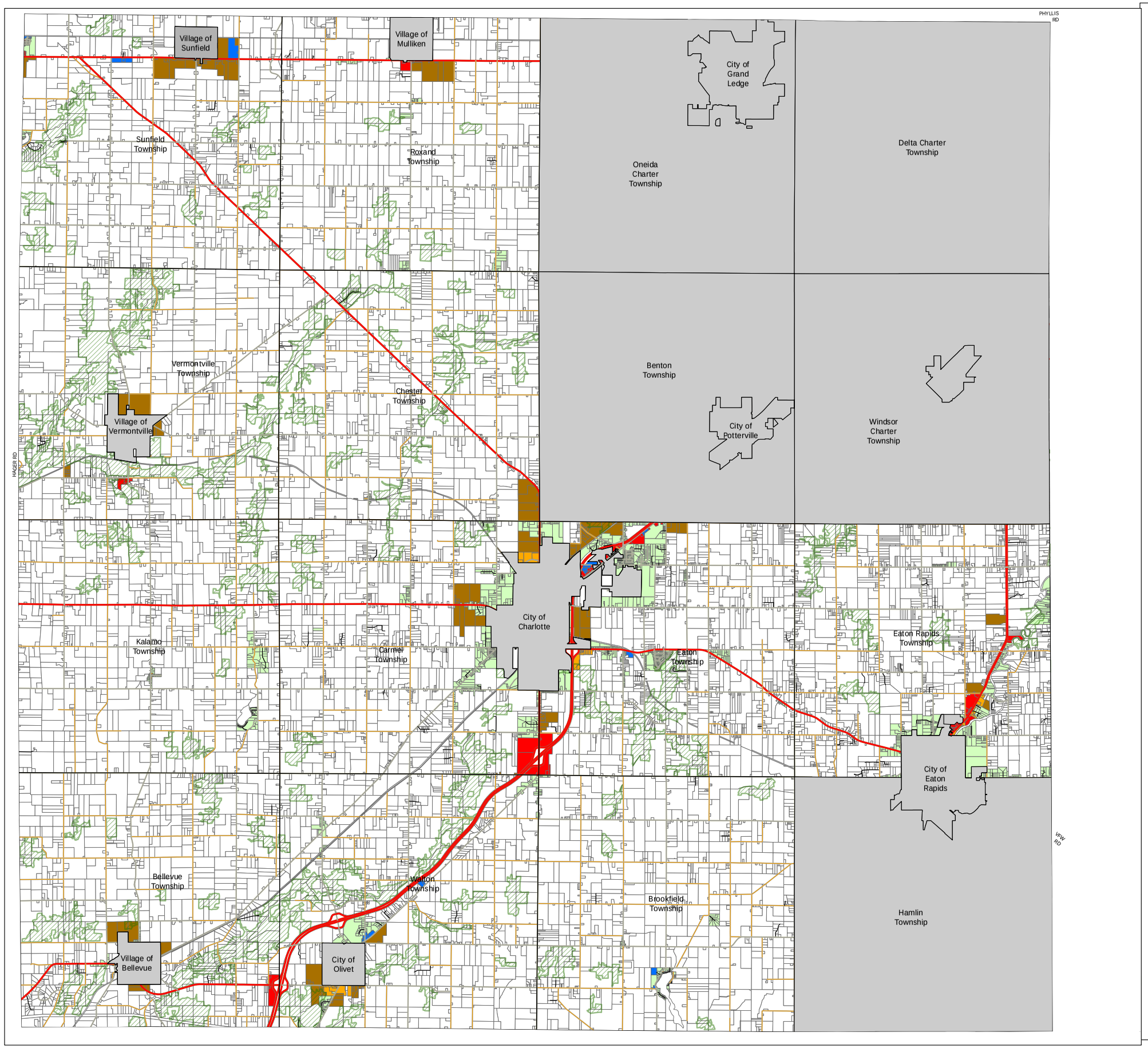
Equivalent Zoning District: I Industrial

Future Land Use Map

Map 12-4 provides the overall Future Land Use Map for Eaton County. Individual maps of each township under county zoning jurisdictions are provided in the appendix. The future land use map is intended to illustrate one possible arrangement of land uses based on the plan's location criteria. When the Planning Commission and County Board of Commissioners considers a rezoning request, the fact that a particular parcel is identified in the future land use classification that corresponds to a certain zoning district is a good indication that the proposed rezoning complies with the plan, but that may not be the only appropriate future land use classification based on consistency with the master plan.

This Future Land Use map also reflects the planned future land use for the county at a particular point in time. It is critical that the Planning Commission periodically review this plan to determine whether changes to the map or the classifications of future land use are necessary.

Map 12-4: *Future Land Use Map*



2023 Future Land Use Map

Legend

Roads

- Highway
- County/Local Road
- Unpaved
- Other

County Future Land Use

- Agricultural Preservation
- Rural Residential
- Mixed Use Transition
- Local Business
- General Business
- Industrial
- Resource Conservation
- Not Under County Zoning

N

0 0.75 1.5 3 Miles

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Zoning Plan

Figure 12-8 provides a summary of the relationship between Eaton County zoning districts and future land use classifications in the Master Plan. All future land use classifications have an equivalent zoning district except for Secondary Agricultural.

Zoning District	Future Land Use	Minimum Zoning Ordinance Lot Size (Square Feet)
RC Resource Conservation	Resource Conservation	36,300
LA Limited Agricultural	Agricultural Preservation	36,300
None	Mixed Use Transition	N/A
R-1 Low Density Residential	Rural Residential	36,300 – 15,000
R-2 Medium Density Residential	Medium/High Density Residential	12,000
R-3 High Density Residential	Medium/High Density Residential	12,000 – 8,000
C-1 Local Business	Local Business	30,000 – 15,000
C-2 General Business	General Business	30,000 – 15,000
I Industrial	Industrial	43,560

Figure 12-8: *Zoning Plan Summary*

Recommended Zoning Ordinance Amendments

The following zoning ordinance amendments are recommended based on this Master Plan. The primary adjustment to the zoning ordinance envisioned by this Master Plan is exploring options to reduce the rate of farmland and open space being converted to residential use while also providing for opportunities for limited expansion of residential development in appropriate areas of the county.

1. **Establish the Mixed Use Transition zoning district** to provide for areas within the county that are most appropriate for more intensive residential development, and therefore limiting the continued conversion of prime agricultural lands throughout the county.
2. Evaluate the lot sizes permitted within the Resource Conservation and Limited Agricultural districts to **determine whether larger lot sizes, or other land preservation techniques are appropriate** to limit the conversion of agricultural and open space land to residential uses.
3. **Evaluate the utility of the Resource Conservation District relative to the Limited Agricultural District** and determine whether the two districts can be combined, or if the Resource Conservation District would function more effectively as an overlay district that is aligned with the Future Land Use map.
4. **Consider the locations currently designated for Medium and High Density Residential** and determine whether they are adequate or if additional areas should be rezoned or designated in the Future Land Use map for these classifications.
5. **Re-evaluate current provisions for utility scale renewable energy systems** to ensure the regulations effectively balance master plan goals for agricultural preservation with the rights of private property owners.

Annual Report

The Planning Commission annual report is a critical tool to tracking progress toward Master Plan goals and objectives. Each year, the Planning Commission should include a review of actions and accomplishments related to the plan and identify priorities for the upcoming year to be considered by the County Board of Commissioners.

Five-Year Review

Under the terms of the Michigan Planning Enabling Act (MPEA), the county's Planning Commission must review the Master Plan at least every five years to determine if an update is required. The findings and determination of the Planning Commission should be recorded in the meeting minutes and as part of a formal motion or resolution.

The review should be a formal process if the county intends it to serve as compliance with the requirements of Section 45 (2) of the MPEA. This means that a report outlining the standards for review and other basis upon which the Planning Commission determined whether an update is necessary should be created. The findings may be part of a resolution adopted by the Planning Commission or a separate report incorporated into the minutes of the meeting.

As noted above, it is intended that the Planning Commission conduct a less formal review annually as part of the annual report to the County Board of Commissioners.

Standards for Review

In conducting the five-year review, the Planning Commission should evaluate the plan using the following criteria to determine if a plan update is necessary. If one or more of these conditions are met, a plan update may be appropriate.

1. **The conditions that the plan was based on have changed.** For example, this plan is based on a relatively flat rate of population growth in the county. If population growth suddenly surges, a revision may be appropriate. The county should track the rate of land splits, building permits, and regular census data updates to determine if the analysis in this plan is no longer accurate, and therefore the land use plan and goals and objectives may need to be re-evaluated.

2. **There was a significant error in the plan** that affects the plan policies, goals, or recommendations. Sometimes a plan is based on an assumption that turns out to be incorrect, such as an area that was previously thought to lack in pressure for development suddenly sees a surge in demand. Any changes in the facts as a community knows them should be considered to see if it changes the appropriateness of proposals in the plan.

3. **There has been a change in resident sentiment** about some basic goal of the plan, or on a proposed approach to achieving the goal, that is reflected in the Planning Commission's recommendations or the County Board of Commissioner's decisions, but not in the plan.

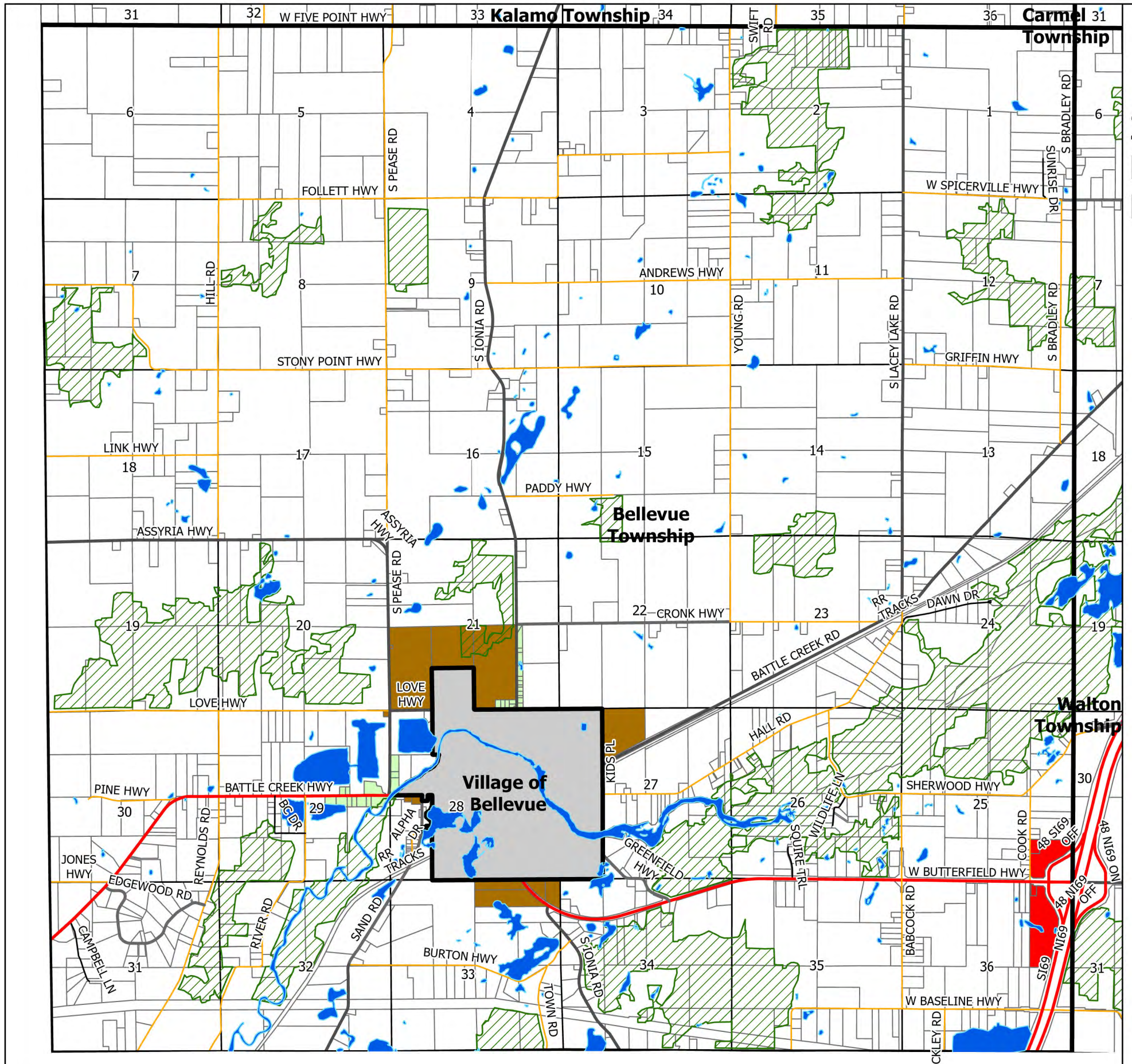
4. **New issues that should be addressed by the plan have come up** and are not adequately addressed. Issues important to a community may present themselves after a Master Plan has been adopted. In those instances, it might be an issue that requires amendment of the Master Plan to ensure that the county's policies regarding the use are clear.

5. **The plan is out of date.** Master Plans normally have a 10- to 20-year scope. If the plan has not been revised or significantly updated by the time the plan has reached the end of its "life", then it should be updated.

APPENDIX

- *Township Future Land Use and Zoning Maps*

2023 Master Plan Update: Bellevue Township Future Land Use



Legend

- Water Bodies
- Section Lines

Roads

- Highway
- County/Local Road
- Unpaved
- Other

Future Land Use

- Agricultural Preservation
- Rural Residential
- Mixed-Use Transition
- Local Business
- General Business
- Industrial
- Resource Conservation
- Not Under County Zoning

0 0.5 1 2 Miles

N

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Bellevue Township Future Land Use

Legend

- Water Bodies
- Roads
- Future Land Use
  - Resource Conservation
  - Agricultural Preservation
  - General Business
  - Industrial
  - Local Business
  - Rural Residential
  - Secondary Agricultural
  - Not Under County Zoning

N

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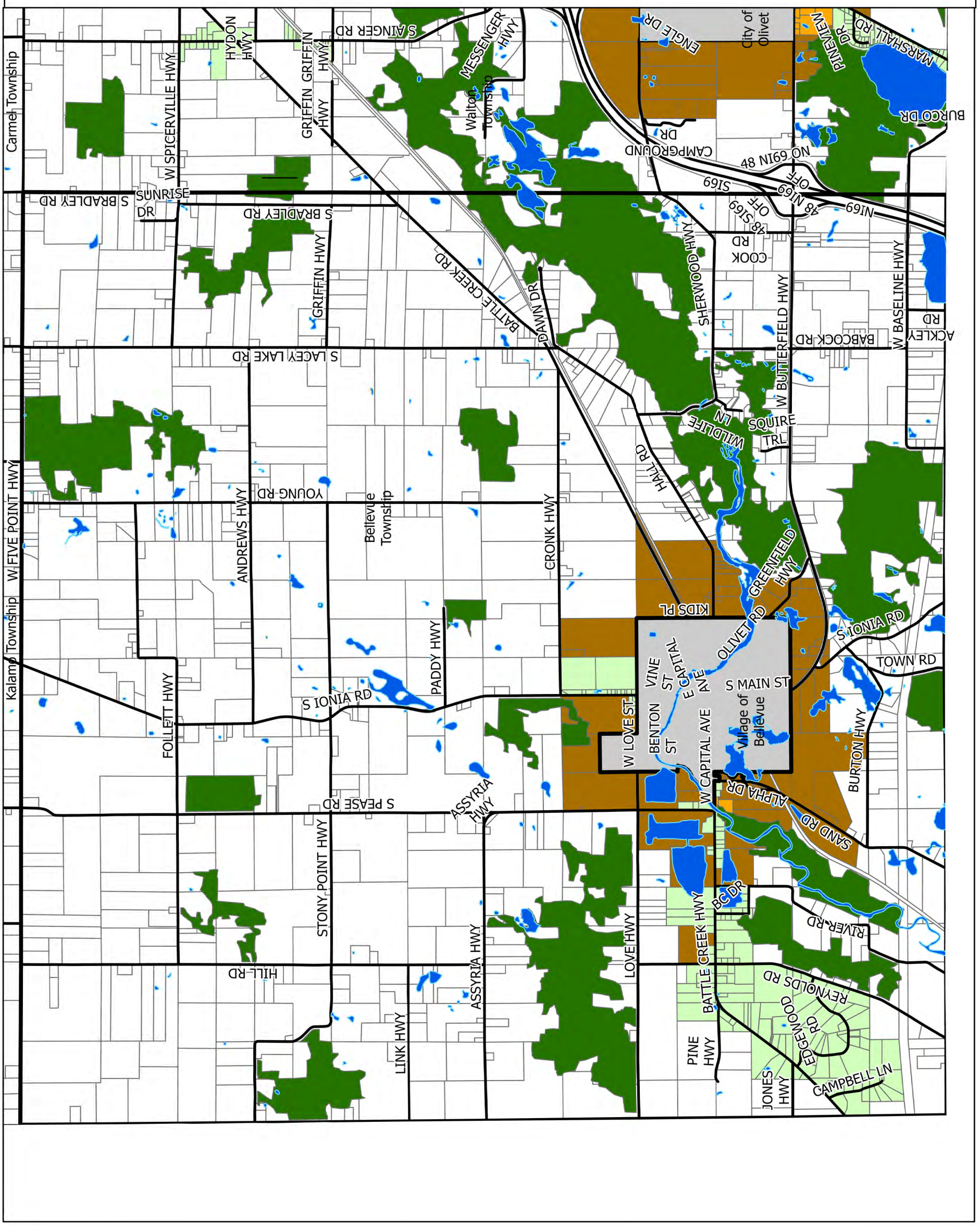
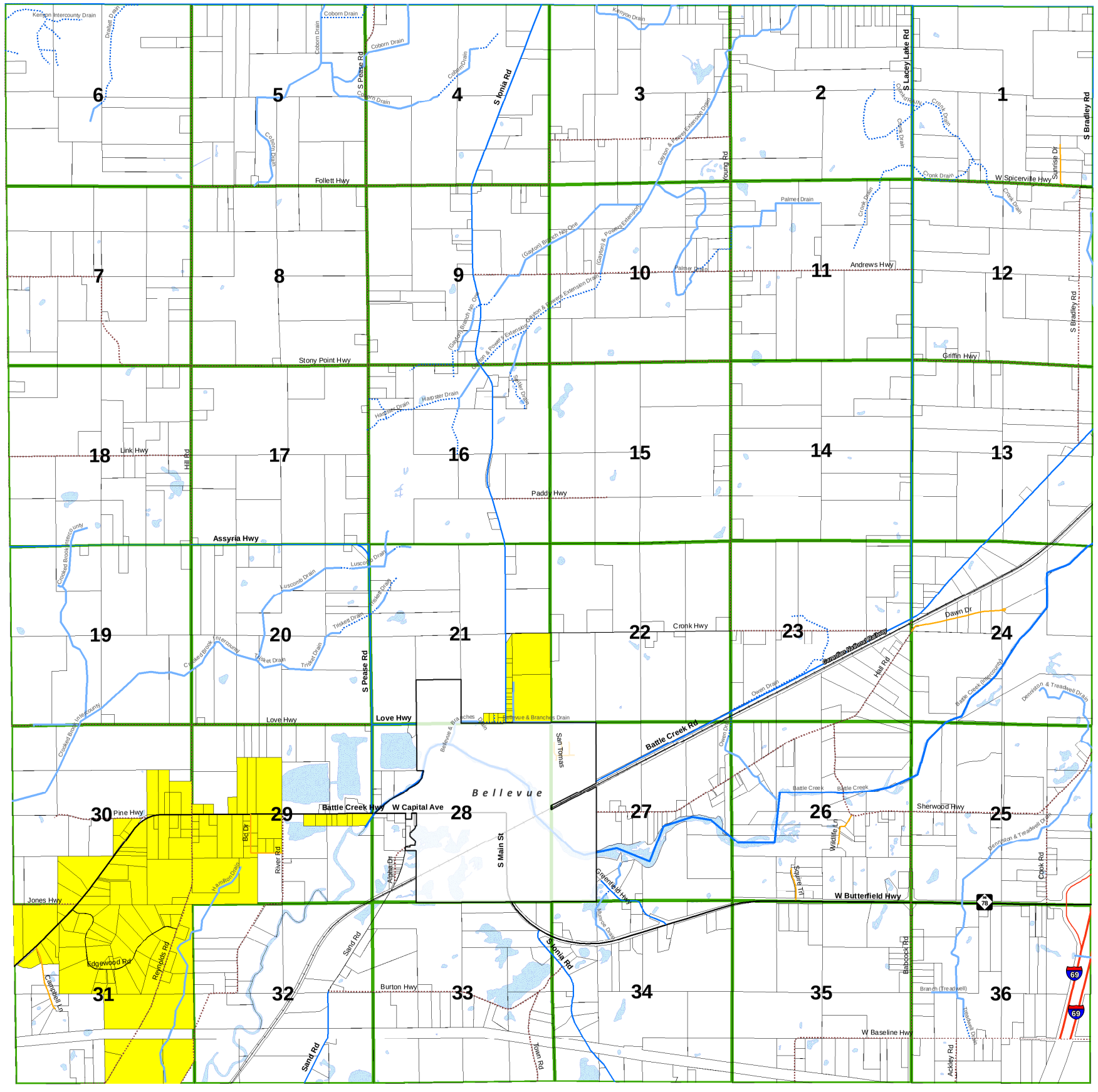




Eaton County Community Development

Bellevue Township Zoning Map

Zoning

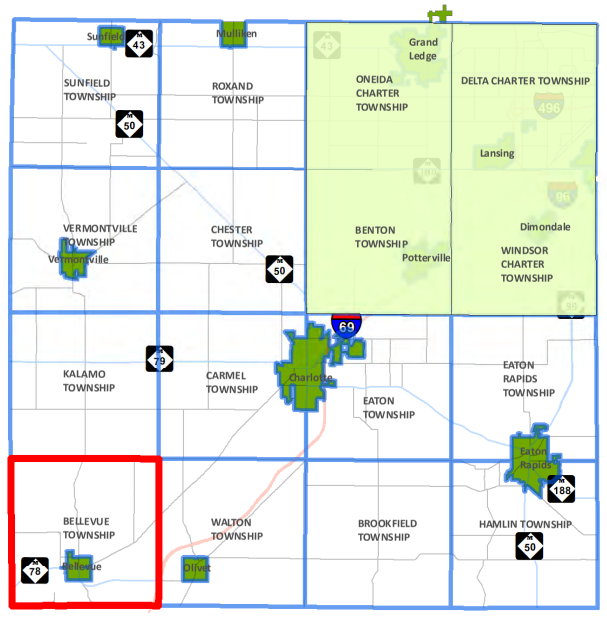
- LA
- R1
- R2
- C1
- C2
- I
- RC

County Drain

- Open Drain
- Tile Drain
- River
- City/Village
- Section Lines
- Waterbodies
- Railroads

Roads

- City
- CLP
- CPP
- Interstate
- Interstate Ramp
- Private
- State
- Unpaved



0 750 1,500 3,000 4,500 6,000 Feet

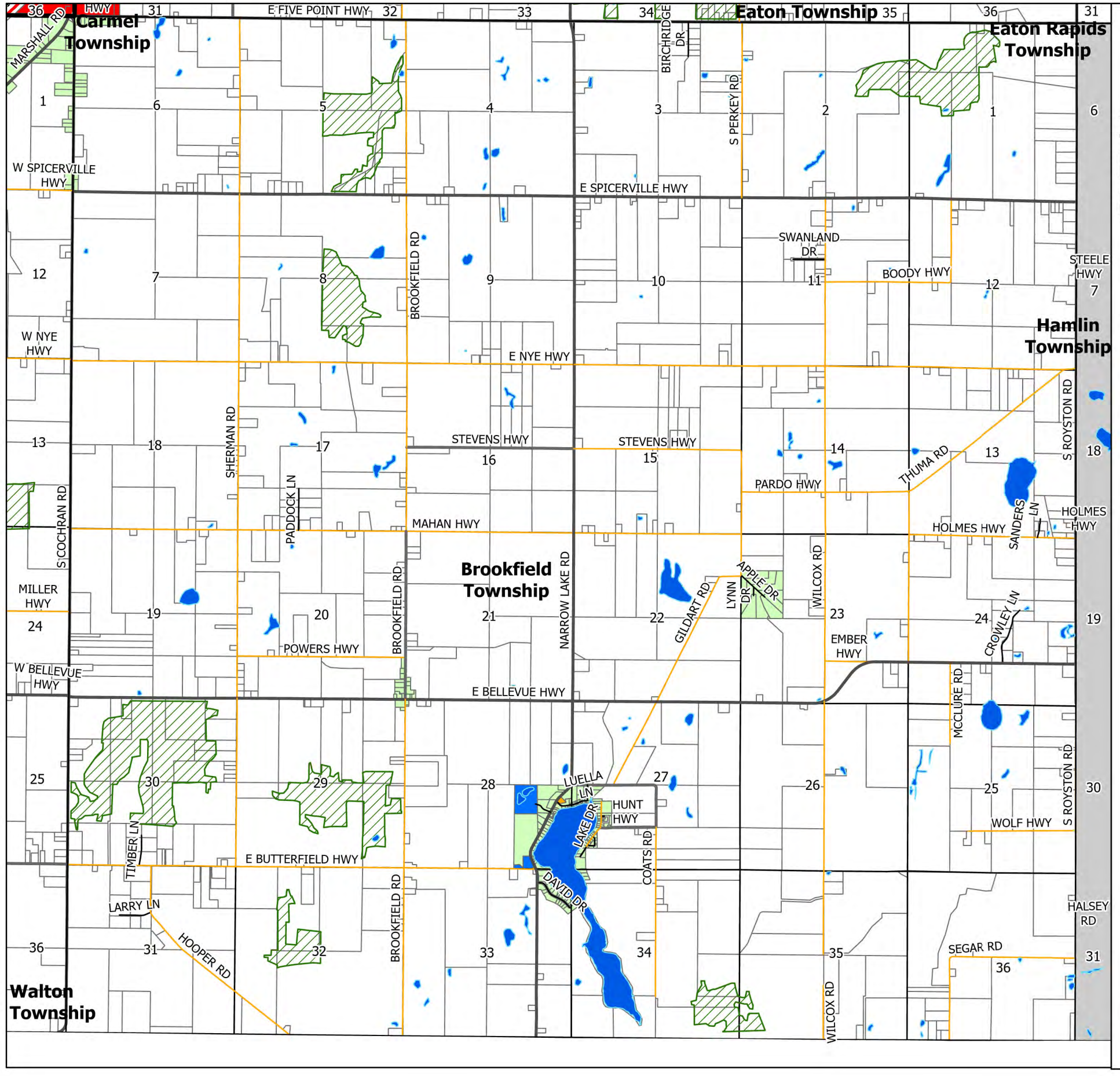
1 inch = 1,500 feet

Printed:
April 2024

Zoning Records:
Community Development

Data Source:
Eaton County GIS
Eaton County Community Development

These maps are intended to be used for generalized countywide planning and there are no warranties that accompany this product. The county recommends that users of this product confirm the data used in production of this map by visual inspection of the geographic area. In no event shall the county be liable to the user or any third party for errors, omissions or positional accuracy of this product, regardless of the form of claim or action, whether in contract or tort, including negligence, in the amount that exceeds the sum paid by the user for the product. The county reserves all rights of authorship granted under U.S. and International copyright laws and agreements.



2023 Master Plan Update: Brookfield Township Future Land Use

Legend

- Water Bodies
- Section Lines

Roads

- Highway
- County/Local Road
- Unpaved
- Other

Future Land Use

- Agricultural Preservation
- Rural Residential
- Mixed-Use Transition
- Local Business
- General Business
- Industrial
- Resource Conservation
- Not Under County Zoning

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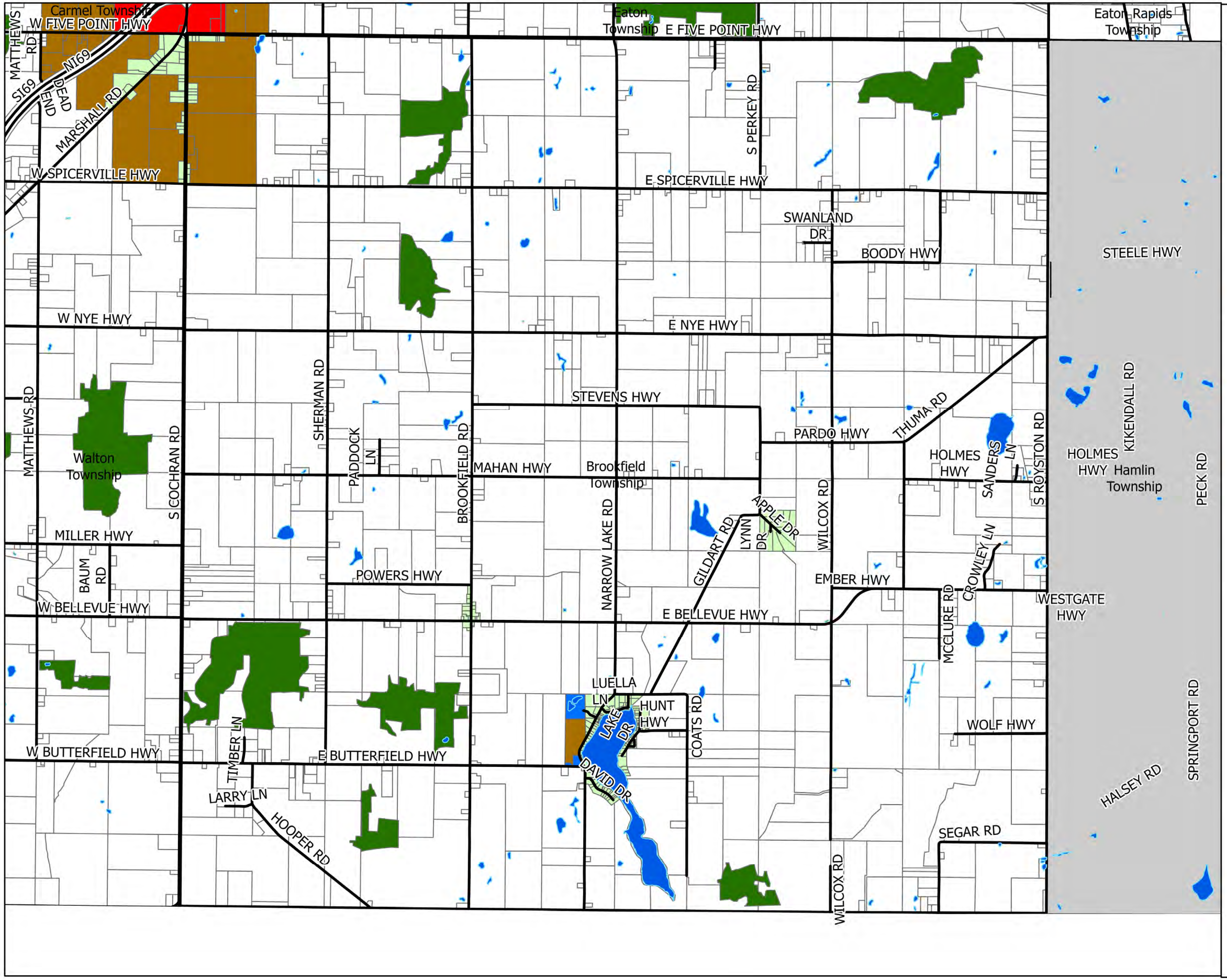

Brookfield Township Future Land Use

Legend

- Water Bodies
- Roads

Future Land Use

- Resource Conservation
- Agricultural Preservation
- General Business
- Industrial
- Local Business
- Rural Residential
- Secondary Agricultural
- Not Under County Zoning

N

0 0.38 0.75 1.5 Miles

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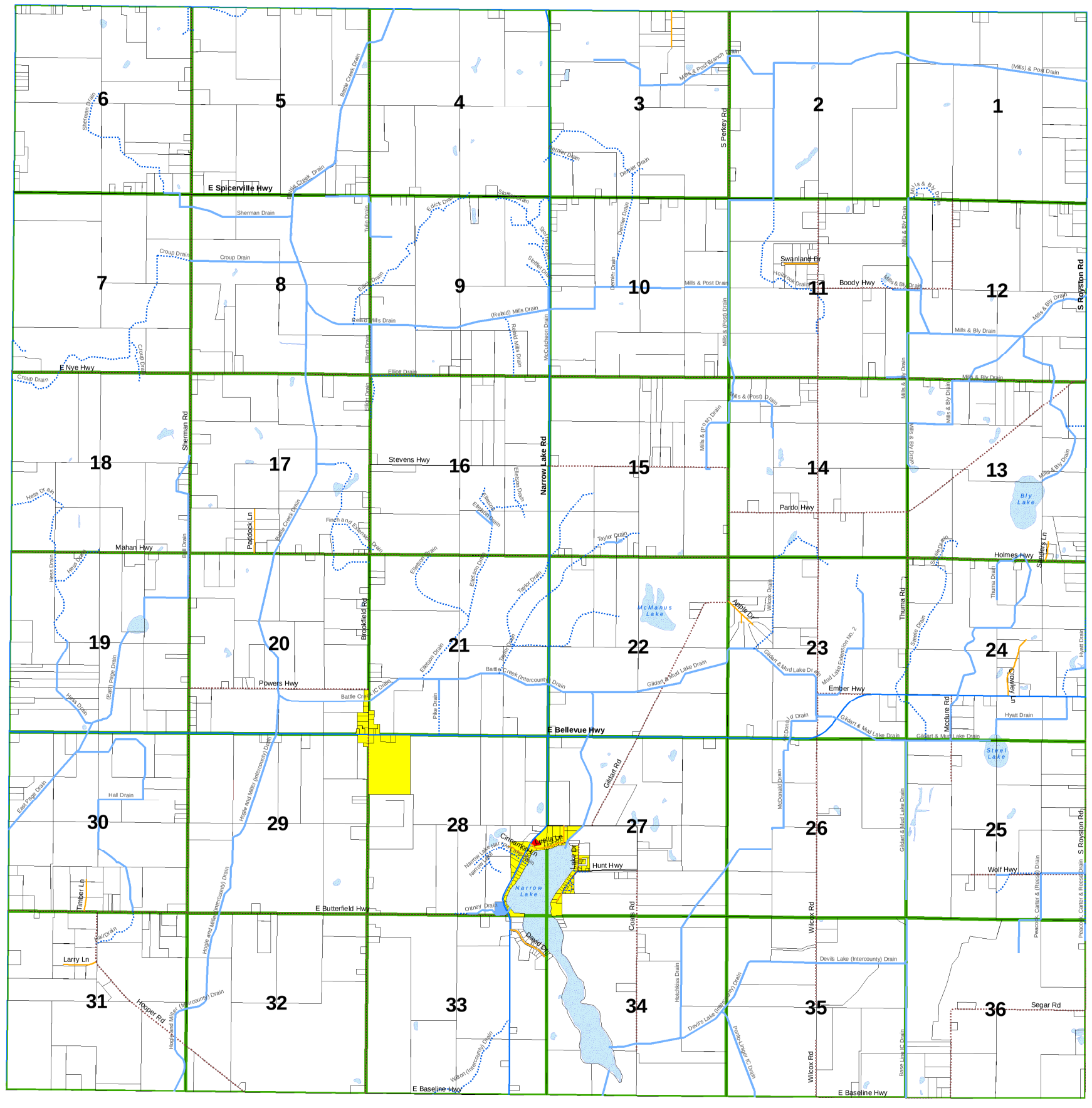


Eaton County Community Development

Brookfield Township Zoning Map

Zoning

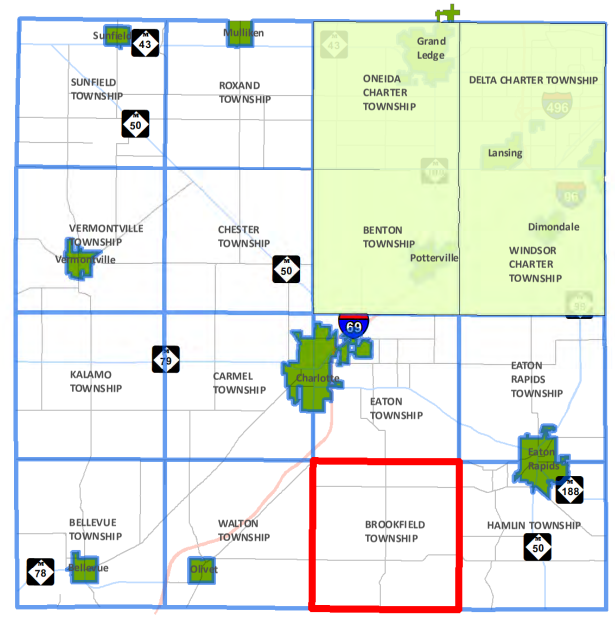
- LA
- R1
- R2
- C1
- C2
- I
- RC

County Drain

- Open Drain
- Tile Drain
- River
- City/Village
- Section Lines
- Waterbodies
- Railroads

Roads

- City
- CLP
- CPP
- Interstate
- Interstate Ramp
- Private
- State
- Unpaved



0 750 1,500 3,000 4,500 6,000 Feet

1 inch = 1,500 feet

Printed:
April 2024

Zoning Records:
Community Development

Data Source:
Eaton County GIS
Eaton County Community Development

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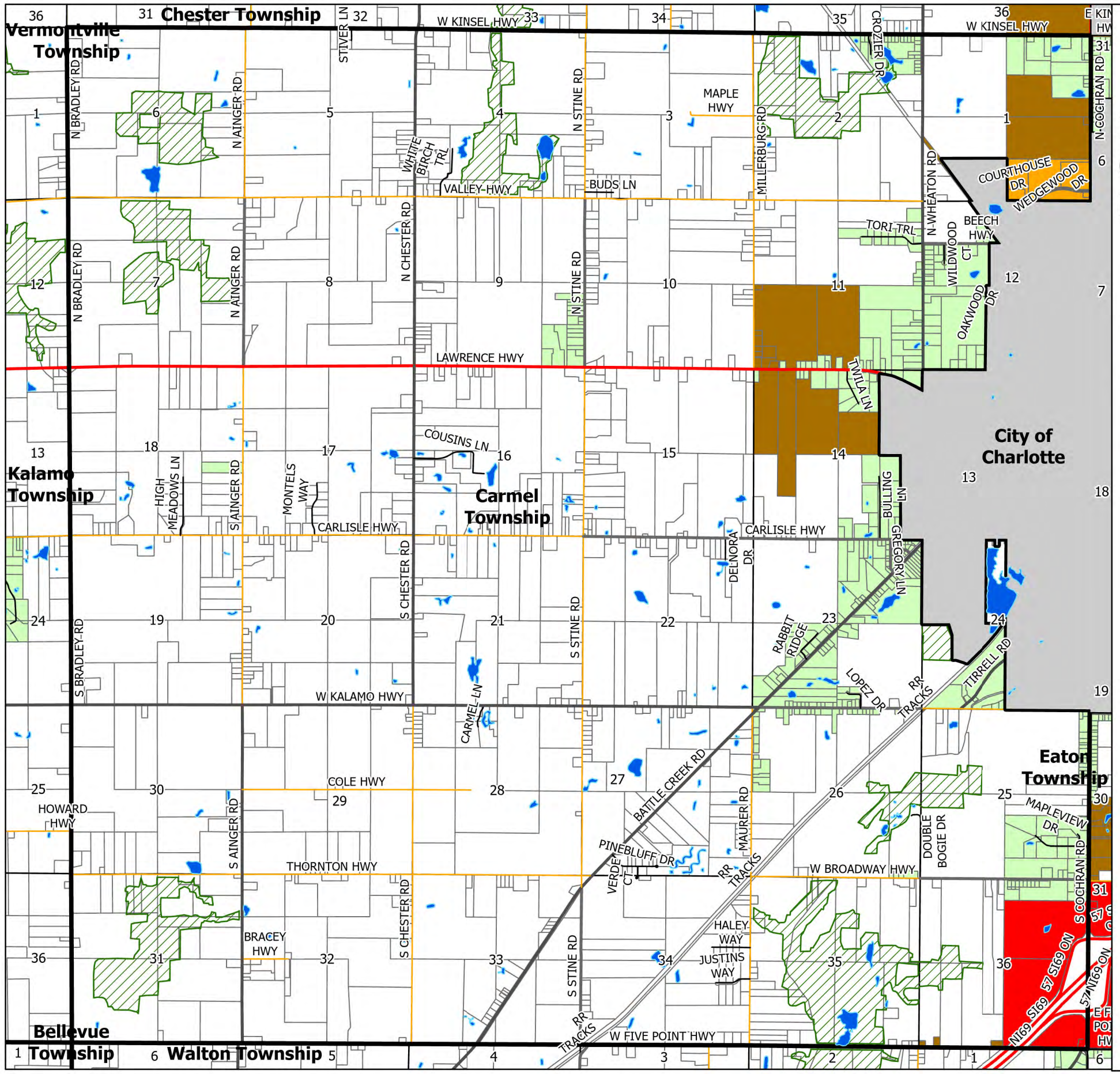

2023 Master Plan Update: Carmel Township Future Land Use

Legend

- Water Bodies
- Section Lines

Roads

- Highway
- County/Local Road
- Unpaved
- Other

Future Land Use

- Agricultural Preservation
- Rural Residential
- Mixed-Use Transition
- Local Business
- General Business
- Industrial
- Resource Conservation
- Not Under County Zoning

0 0.5 1 2 Miles

N

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Carmel Township Future Land Use

Legend

- Water Bodies
- Roads
- Future Land Use
- Resource Conservation
- Agricultural Preservation
- General Business
- Industrial
- Local Business
- Rural Residential
- Secondary Agricultural
- Not Under County Zoning

ROWE PROFESSIONAL SERVICES COMPANY

N

0 0.35 0.7 1.4 Miles

Date Exported: 9/6/2023

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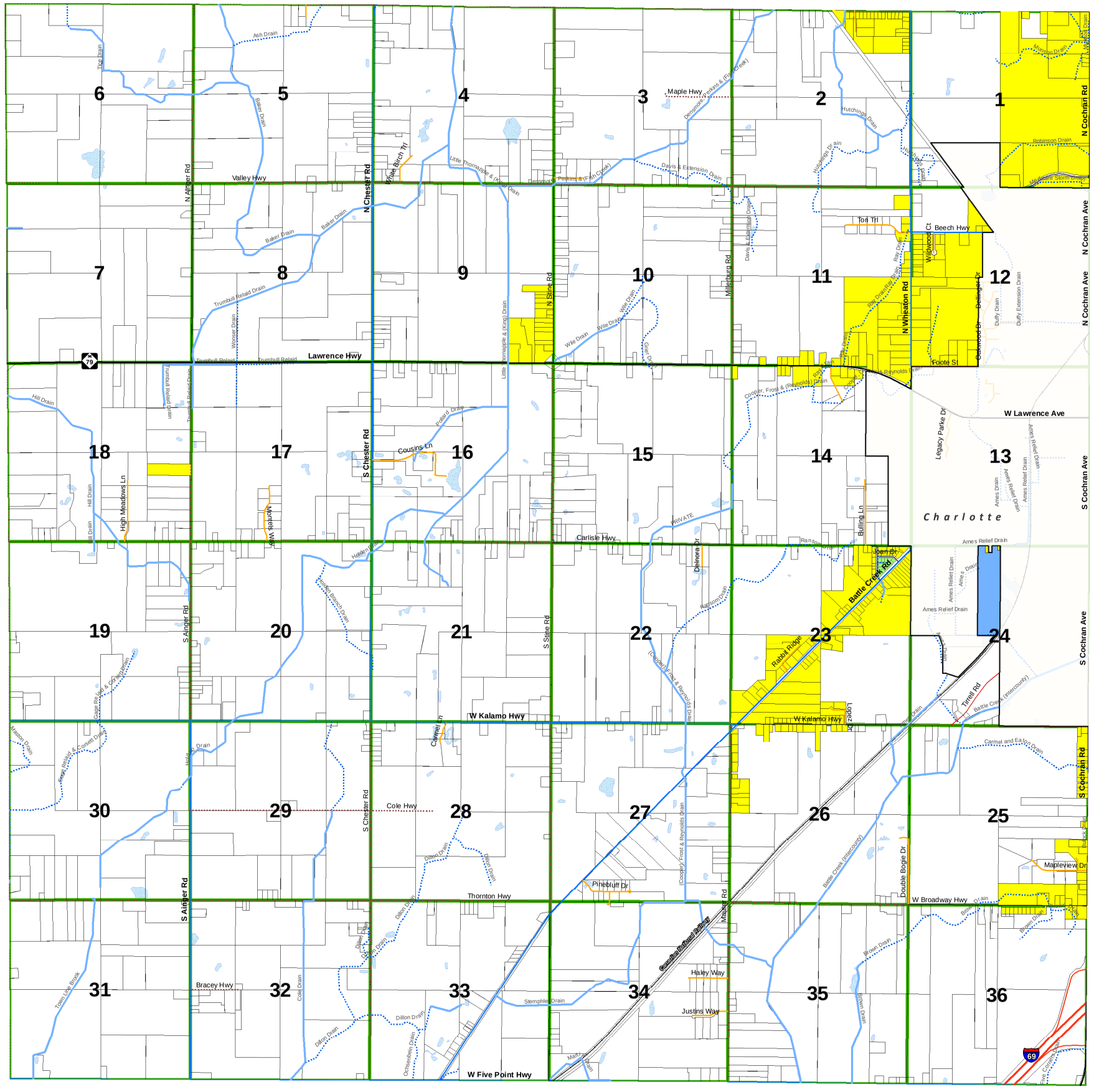
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Valley Hwy
Lawrence Hwy
Maple Hwy
Carlisle Hwy
W Kalamo Hwy
Cole Hwy
Thornton Hwy
W Broadway Hwy
Bracey Hwy
W Five Point Hwy
W Beech Hwy
Foote St
W Lawrence Ave
Charlotte
N Cochran Ave
S Cochran Ave
N Cochrain Rd
S Cochrain Rd
N Wheaton Rd
N Alaiger Rd
S Alaiger Rd
N Chester Rd
S Chester Rd
N Stine Rd
S Stine Rd
Battle Creek Rd
Tod Trl
Timrill Rd
Legacy Parke Dr
Maplewood Dr
Pinehurst Dr
Double Bogie Dr
Justins Way
Haley Way
Cousins Ln
High Meadows Ln
Rabbit Ridge
Ames Relief Drain
Baker Drain
Trombley Relief Drain
Dillon Drain
Cole Drain
Carmel and Eaton Drain
Battle Creek (Intercounty)
Gratiot-Mineral Road
Miller Rd
Millerburg Rd
Lapeer Rd
Tod Drain
Aich Drain
Hill Drain
Hutchings Drain
Rubsamen Drain
Davis & Extension Drain
Little Thornapple & (Kooy) Drain
Wile Drain
Wilcox Drain
Bellingham Dr
Duffy Drain
Duffy Extension Drain
Legacy Parke Dr
Ames Drain
Ames Relief Drain
Ames Relief Open
Ames Relief Open Drain
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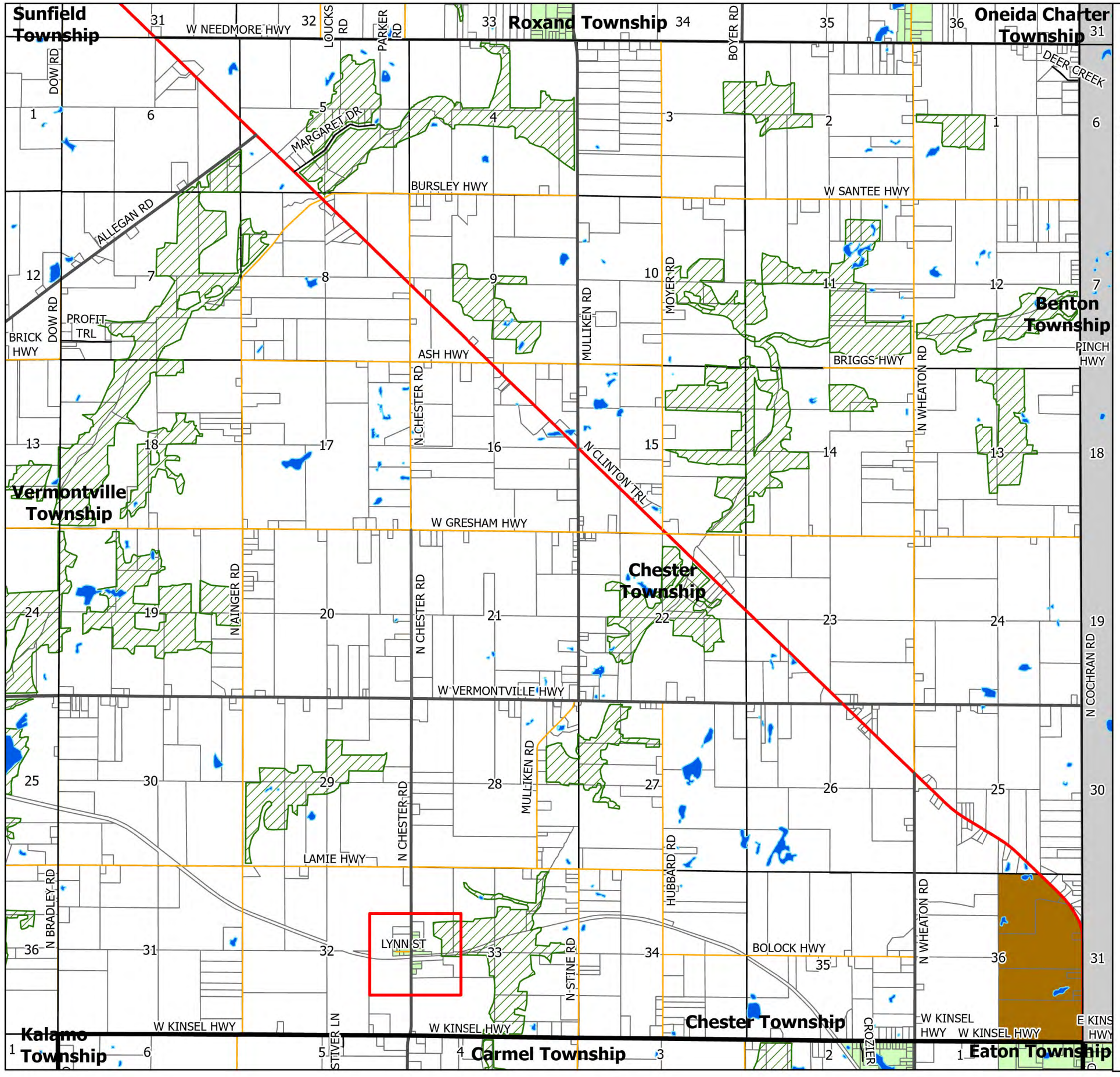
2023 Master Plan Update: Chester Township Future Land Use



Legend

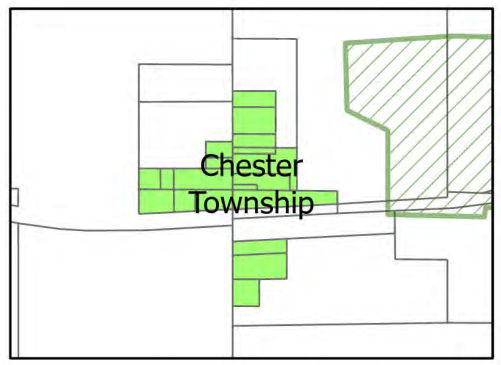
- Water Bodies
- Section Lines

Roads

- Highway
- County/Local Road
- Unpaved
- Other

Future Land Use

- Agricultural Preservation
- Rural Residential
- Mixed-Use Transition
- Local Business
- General Business
- Industrial
- Resource Conservation
- Not Under County Zoning



0 0.5 1 2 Miles

N

ROWE PROFESSIONAL SERVICES COMPANY

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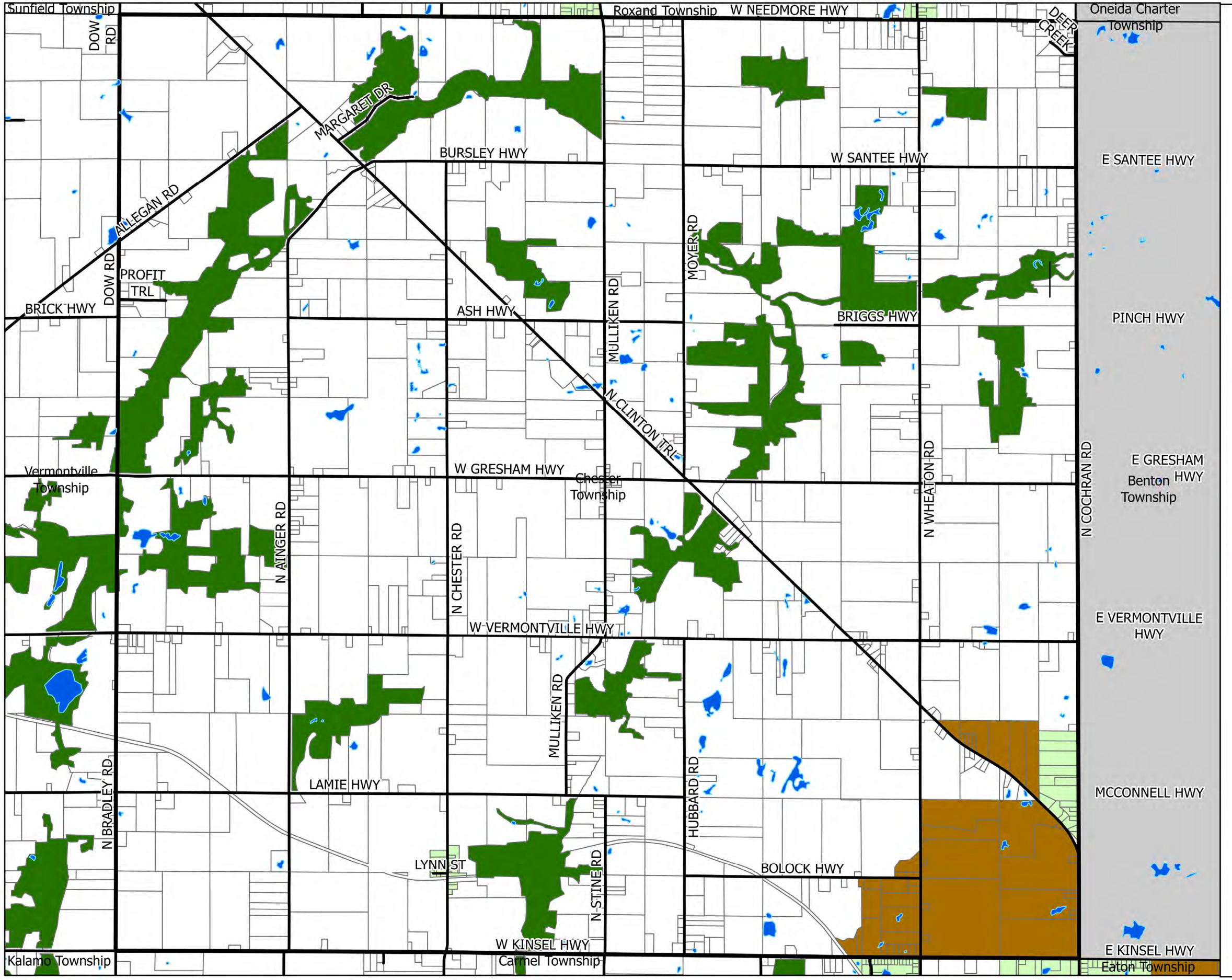
Chester Township Future Land Use



Legend

- Water Bodies
- Roads

Future Land Use

- Resource Conservation
- Agricultural Preservation
- General Business
- Industrial
- Local Business
- Rural Residential
- Secondary Agricultural
- Not Under County Zoning

N

0 0.35 0.7 1.4 Miles

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Date Exported: 9/7/2023

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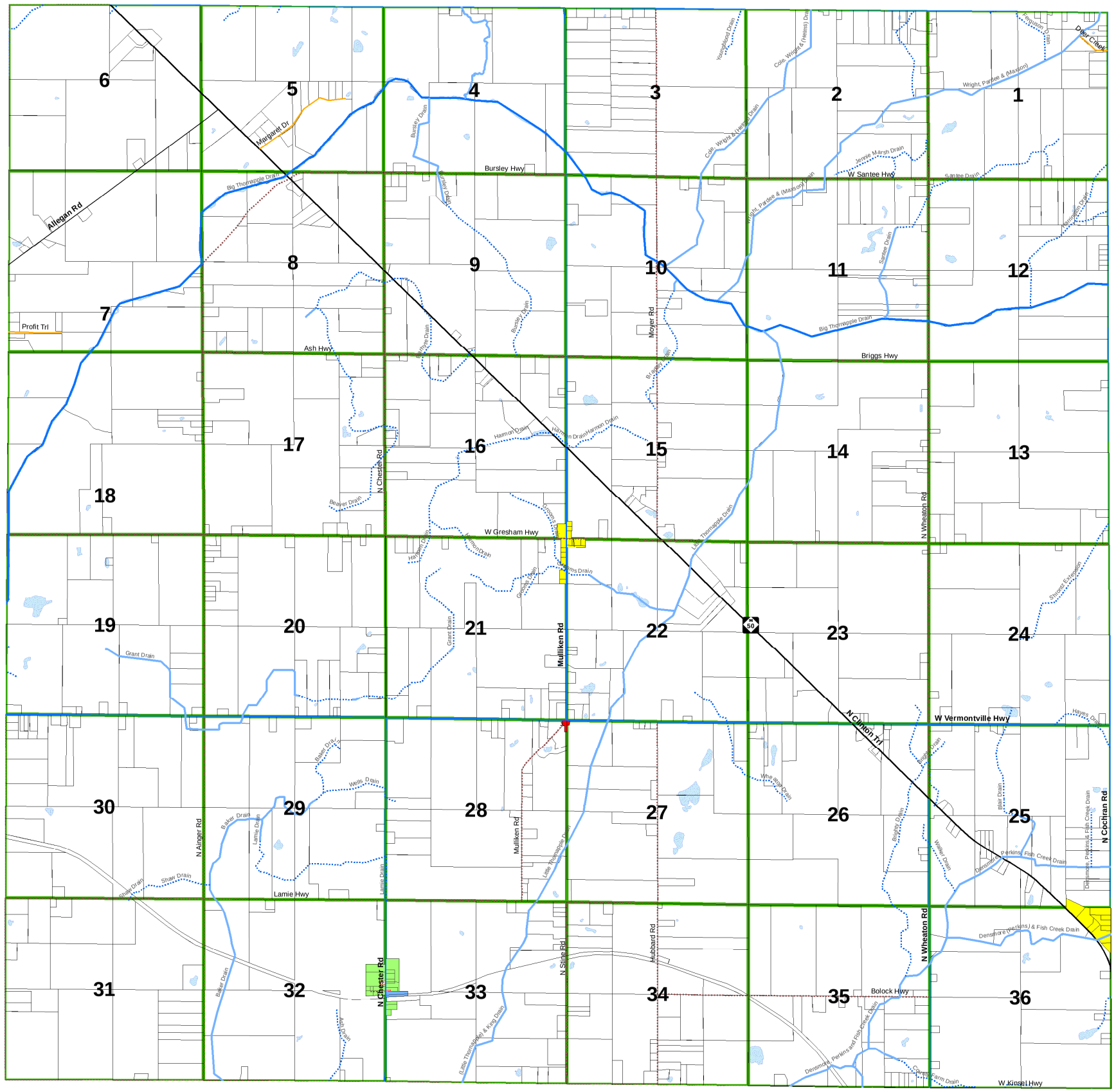


Eaton County Community Development

Chester Township Zoning Map

Zoning

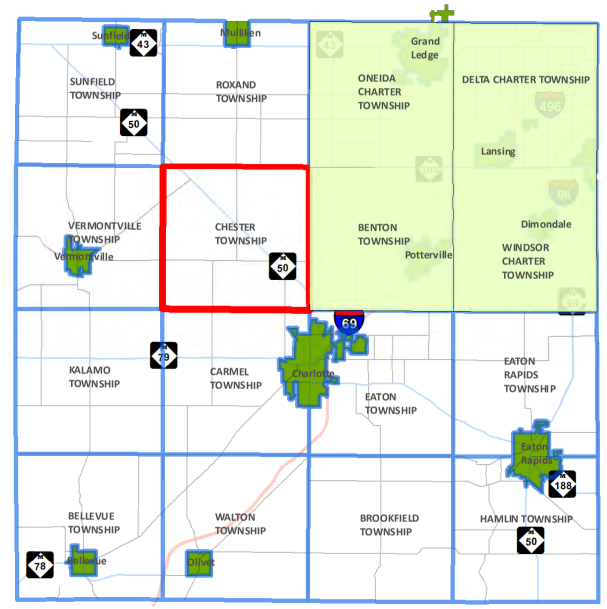
- LA
- R1
- R2
- C1
- C2
- I
- RC

County Drain

- Open Drain
- Tile Drain
- River
- City/Village
- Section Lines
- Waterbodies
- Railroads

Roads

- City
- CLP
- CPP
- Interstate
- Interstate Ramp
- Private
- State
- Unpaved



0 750 1,500 3,000 4,500 6,000 Feet

1 inch = 1,500 feet

Printed:
April 2024

Zoning Records:
Community Development

Data Source:
Eaton County GIS
Eaton County Community Development

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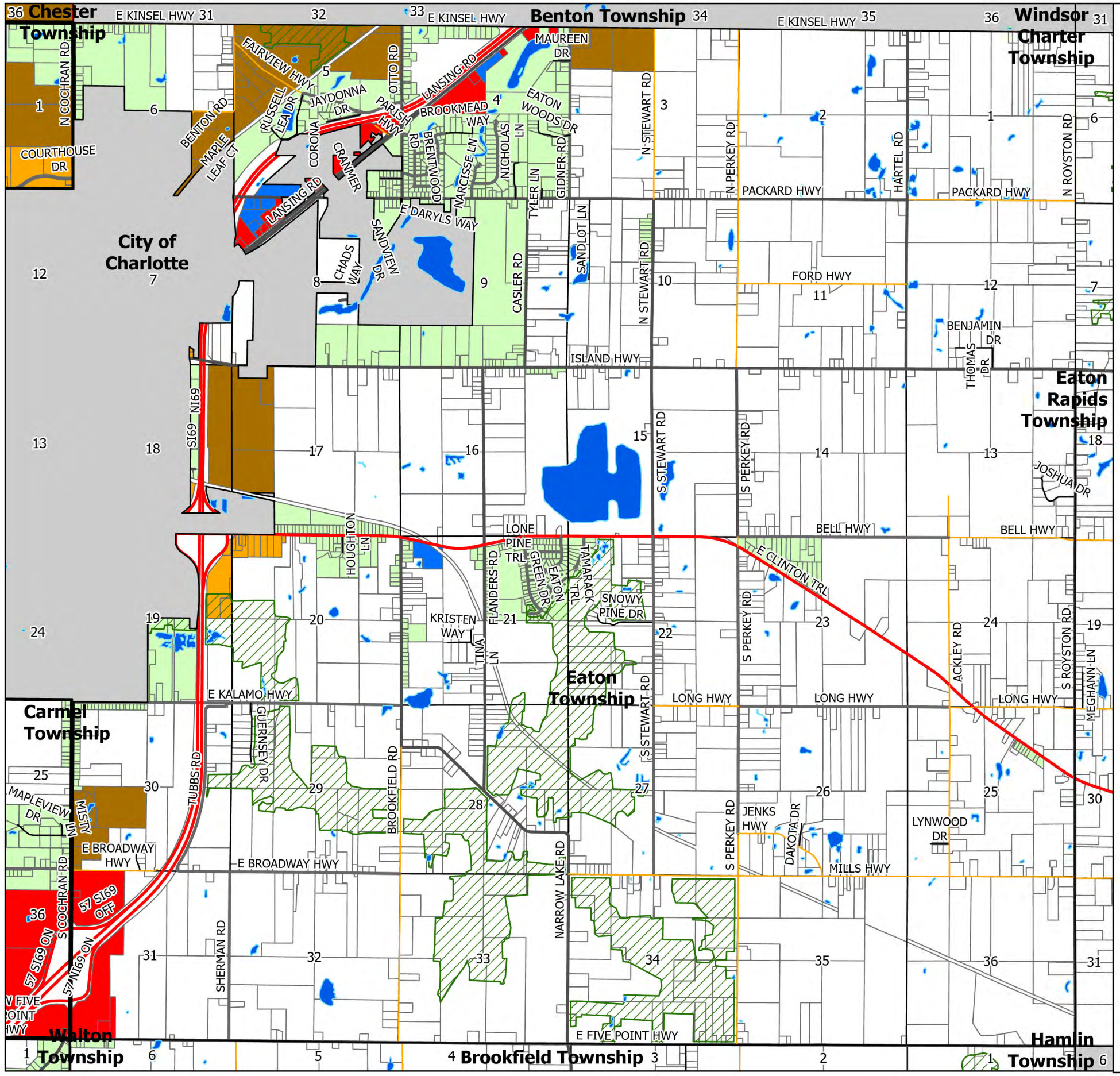
2023 Master Plan Update: Eaton Township Future Land Use



Legend

- Water Bodies
- Section Lines

Roads

- Highway
- County/Local Road
- Unpaved
- Other

Future Land Use

- Agricultural Preservation
- Rural Residential
- Mixed-Use Transition
- Local Business
- General Business
- Industrial
- Resource Conservation
- Not Under County Zoning

0 0.5 1 2 Miles

N

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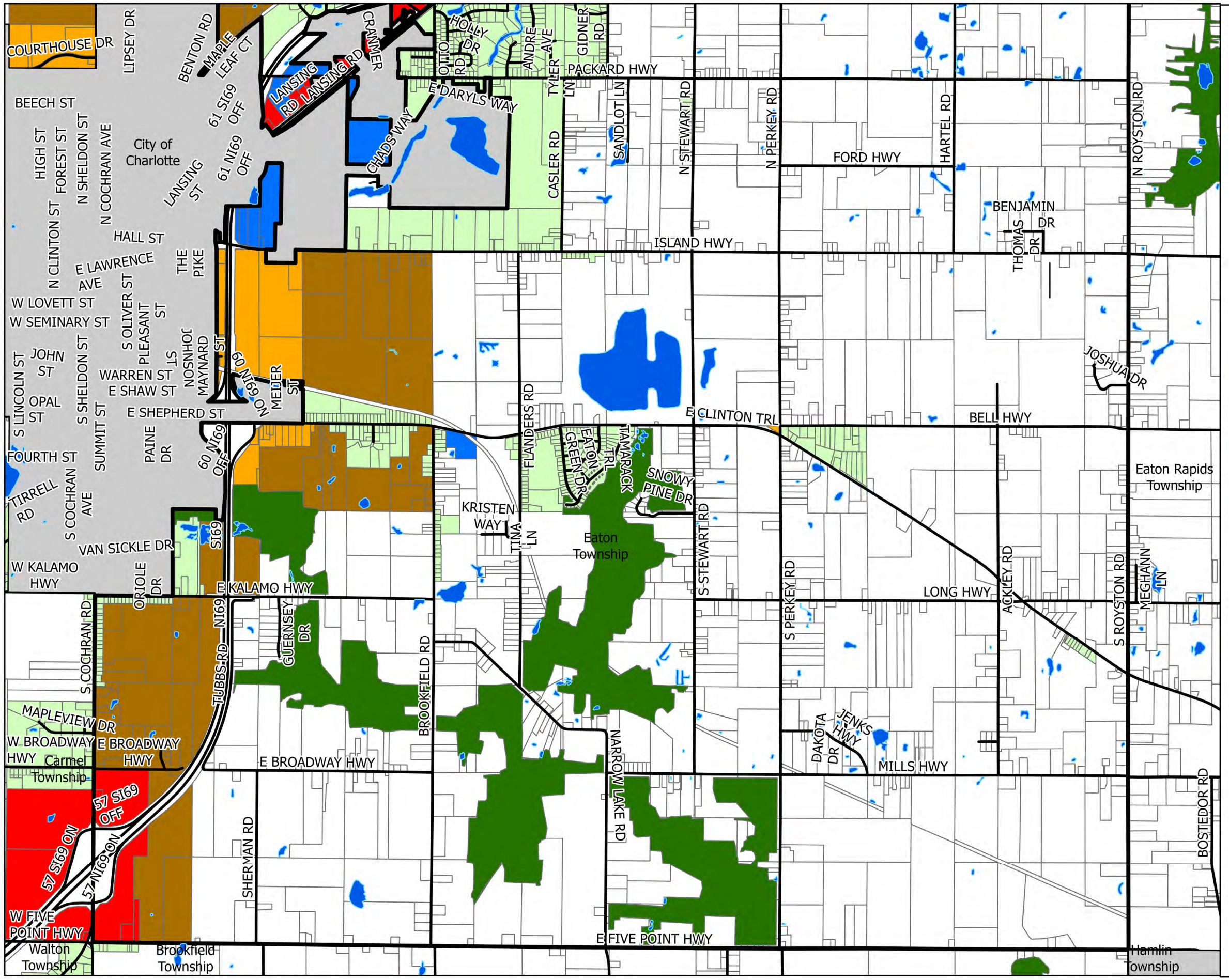

Eaton Township Future Land Use

Legend

- Water Bodies
- Roads

Future Land Use

- Resource Conservation
- Agricultural Preservation
- General Business
- Industrial
- Local Business
- Rural Residential
- Secondary Agricultural
- Not Under County Zoning

N

0 0.33 0.65 1.3 Miles

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Date Exported: 9/7/2023

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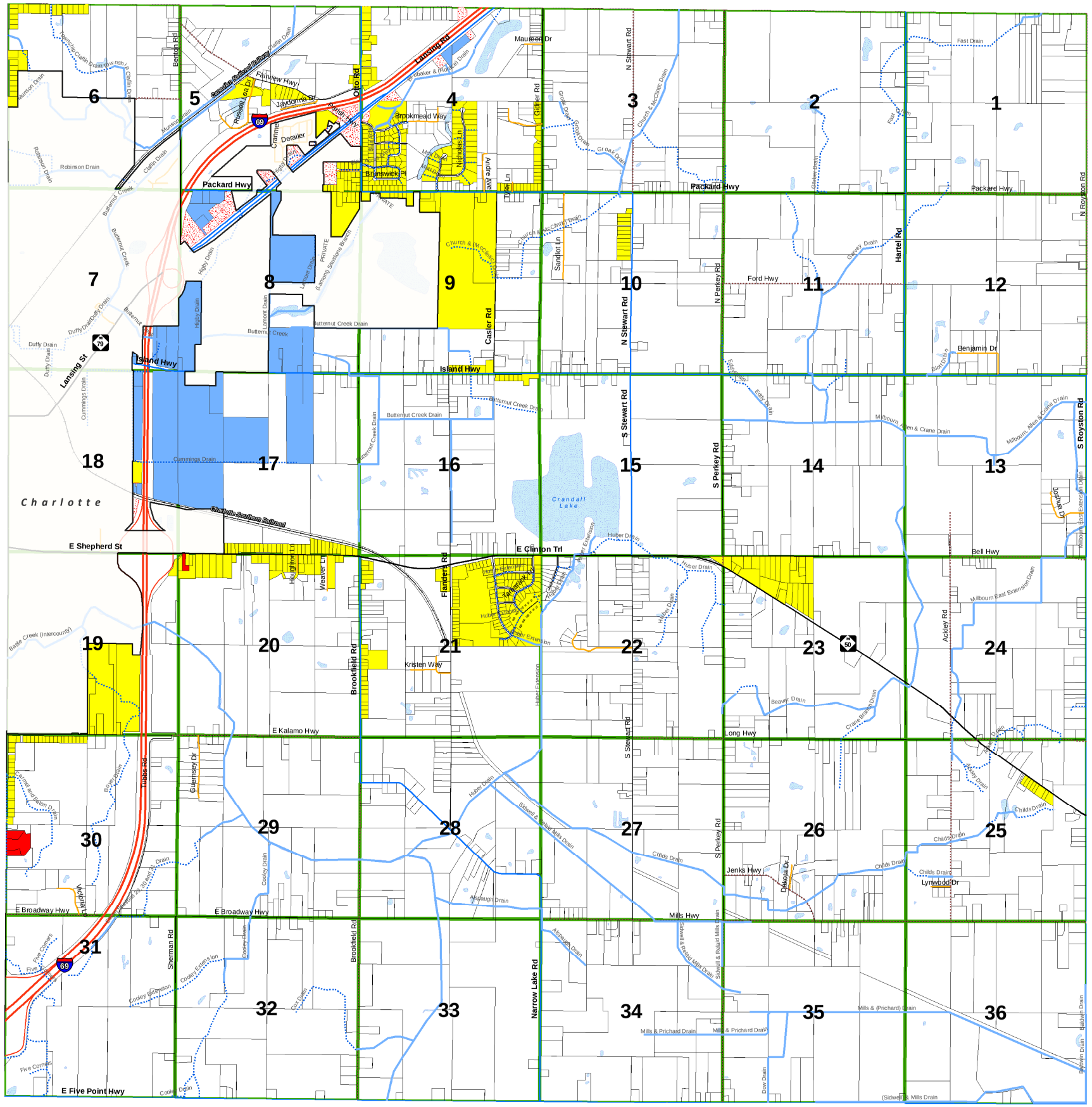
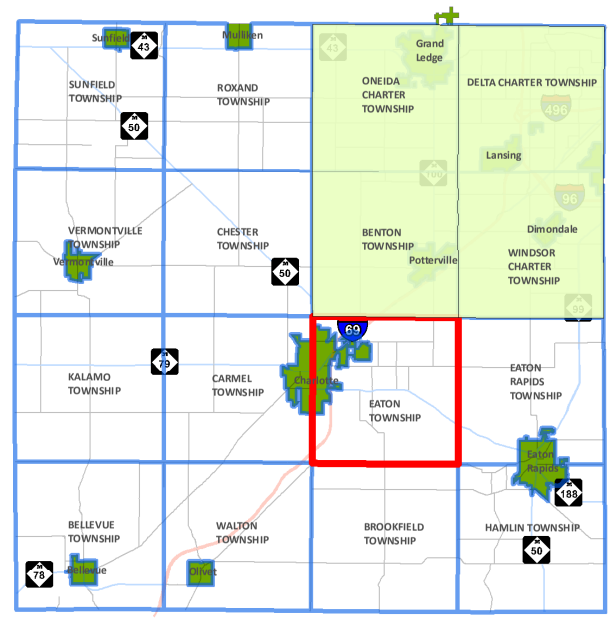


Eaton County Community Development

Eaton Township Zoning Map

Zoning		County Drain		Roads	
LA		Open Drain		City	
R1		Tile Drain		CLP	
R2		River		CPP	
C1		City/Village		Interstate	
C2		Section Lines		Interstate Ramp	
I		Waterbodies		Private	
RC		Railroads		State	
				Unpaved	



0 750 1,500 3,000 4,500 6,000 Feet

1 inch = 1,500 feet

Printed:
April 2024

Zoning Records:
Community Development

Data Source:
Eaton County GIS
Eaton County Community Development

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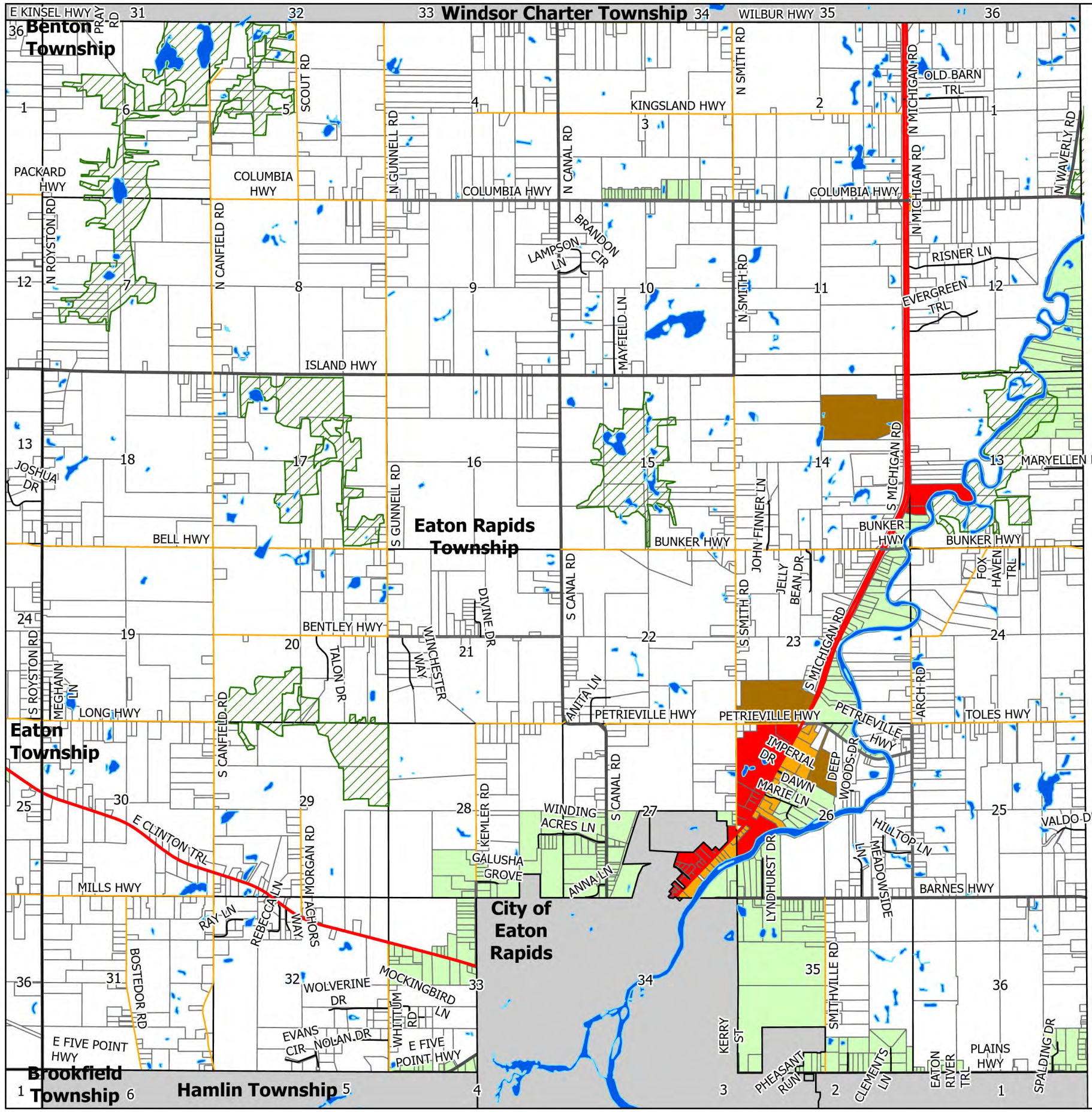
2023 Master Plan Update: Eaton Rapids Township Future Land Use



Legend

- Water Bodies
- Section Lines

Roads

- Highway
- County/Local Road
- Unpaved
- Other

Future Land Use

- Agricultural Preservation
- Rural Residential
- Mixed-Use Transition
- Local Business
- General Business
- Industrial
- Resource Conservation
- Not Under County Zoning

0 0.5 1 2 Miles

N

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Eaton Rapids Township Future Land Use

Legend

- Water Bodies
- Roads

Future Land Use

- Resource Conservation
- Agricultural Preservation
- General Business
- Industrial
- Local Business
- Rural Residential
- Secondary Agricultural
- Not Under County Zoning

0 0.35 0.7 1.4 Miles

N

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Date Exported: 9/6/2023

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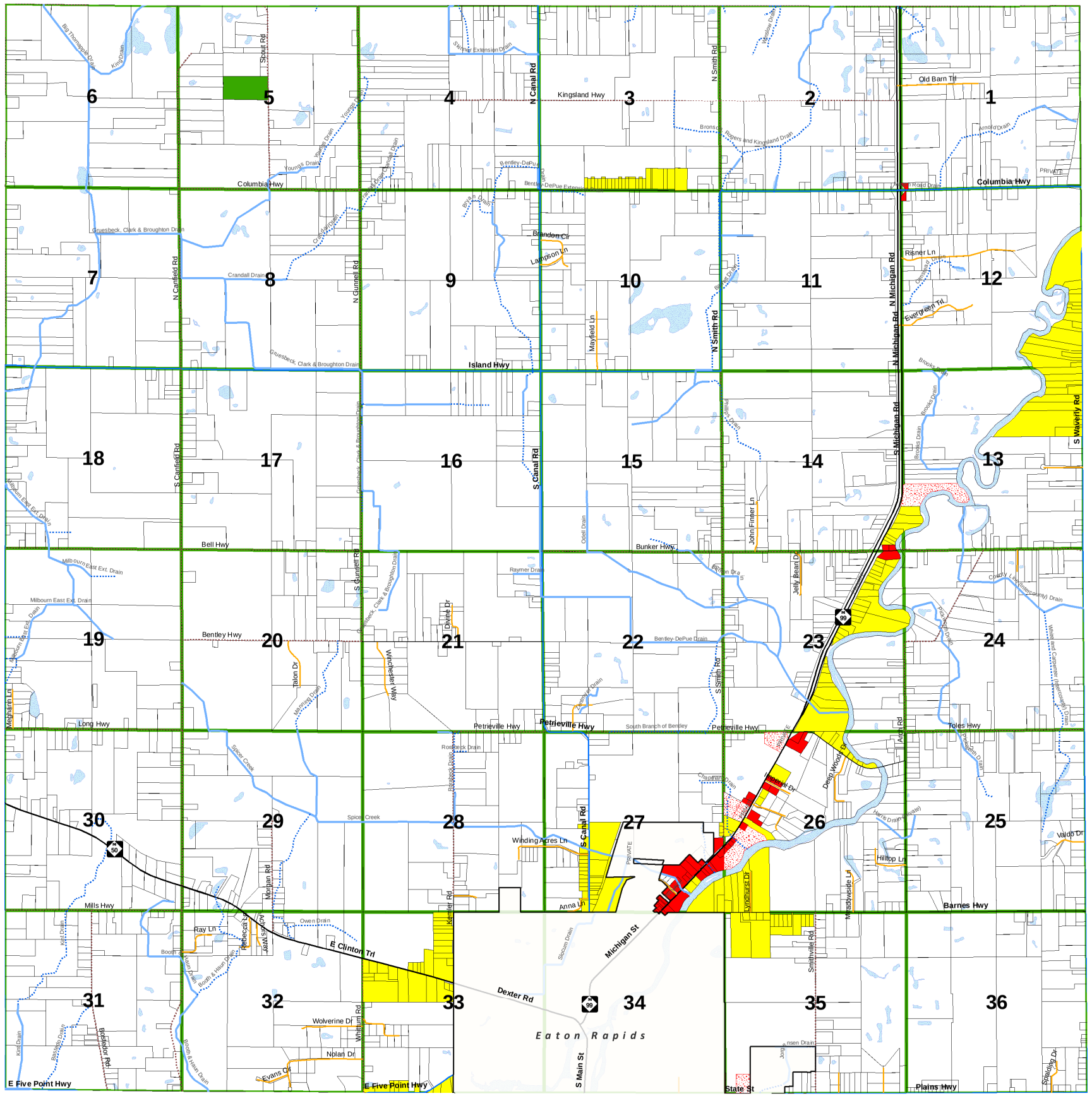

Eaton County Community Development

Eaton Rapids Township Zoning Map

Zoning	County Drain	Roads
LA	Open Drain	City
R1	Tile Drain	CLP
R2	River	CPP
C1	City/Village	Interstate
C2	Section Lines	Interstate Ramp
I	Waterbodies	Private
RC	Railroads	State
		Unpaved

0 750 1,500 3,000 4,500 6,000 Feet

1 inch = 1,500 feet

Printed:
April 2024

Zoning Records:
Community Development

Data Source:
Eaton County GIS
Eaton County Community Development

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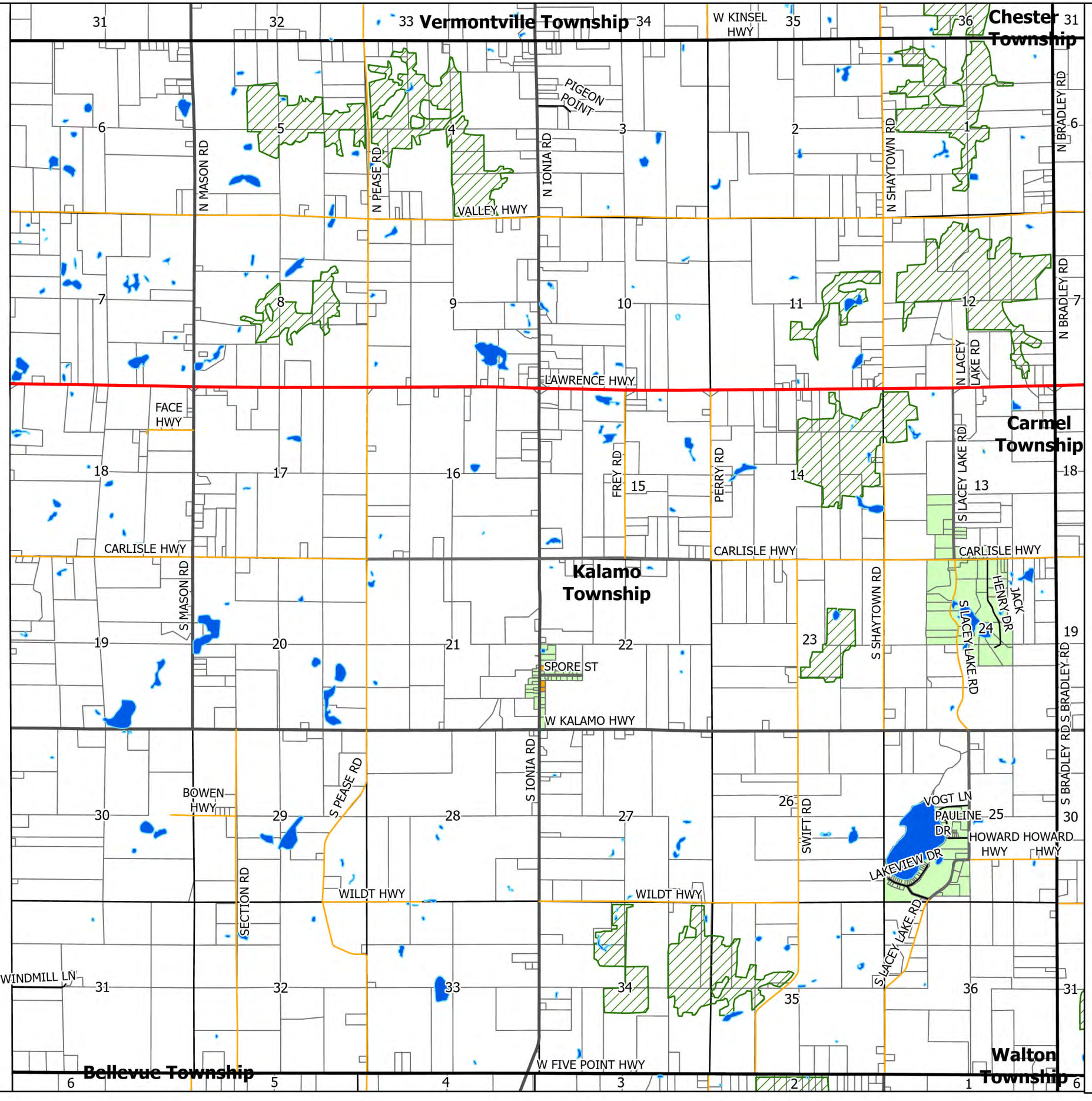
2023 Master Plan Update: Kalamo Township Future Land Use



Legend

- Water Bodies
- Section Lines

Roads

- Highway
- County/Local Road
- Unpaved
- Other

Future Land Use

- Agricultural Preservation
- Rural Residential
- Mixed-Use Transition
- Local Business
- General Business
- Industrial
- Resource Conservation
- Not Under County Zoning

0 0.5 1 2 Miles

N

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Kalamo Township Future Land Use

Legend

- Water Bodies
- Roads
- Future Land Use
  - Resource Conservation
  - Agricultural Preservation
  - General Business
  - Industrial
  - Local Business
  - Rural Residential
  - Secondary Agricultural
  - Not Under County Zoning

N

0 0.35 0.7 1.4 Miles

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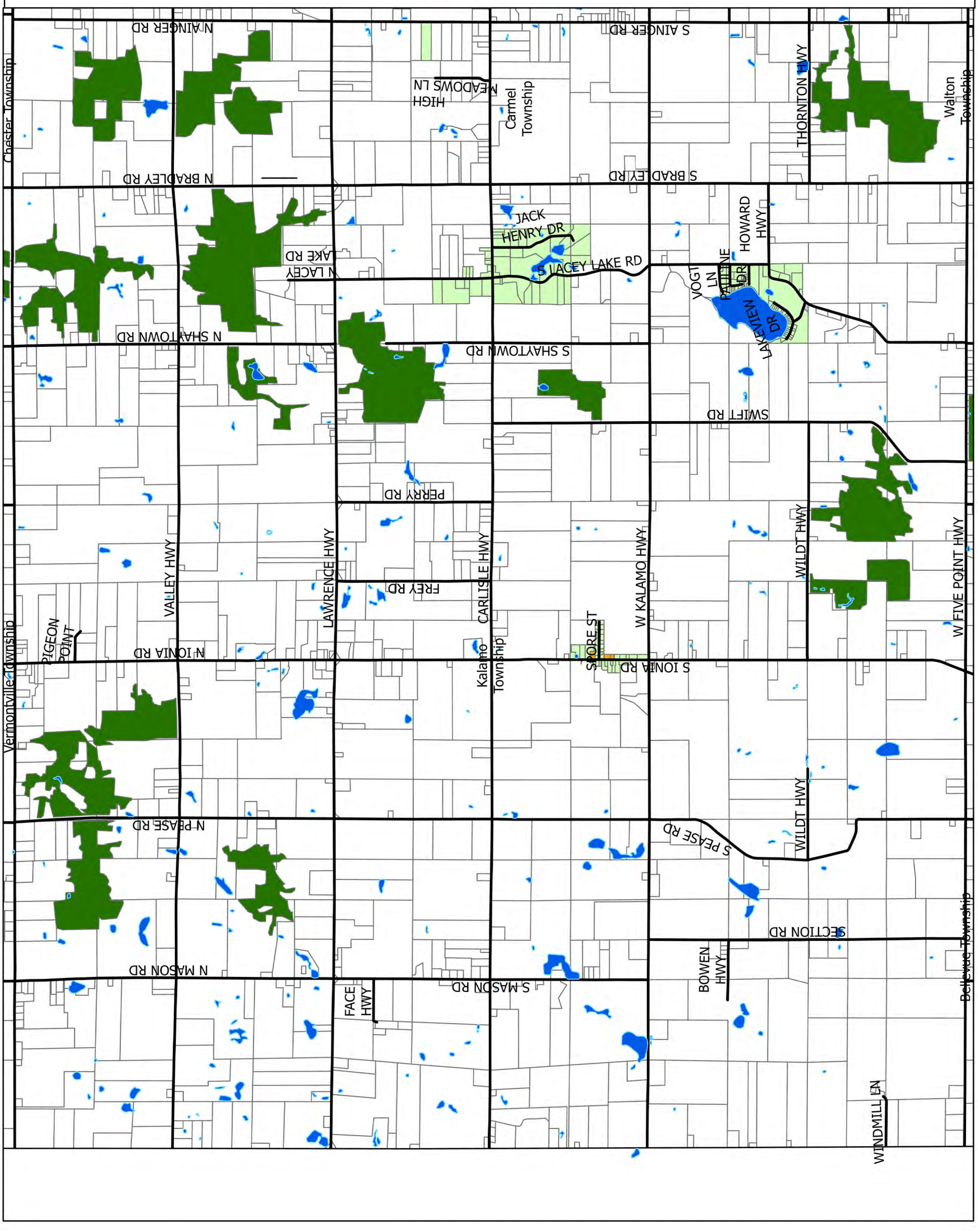
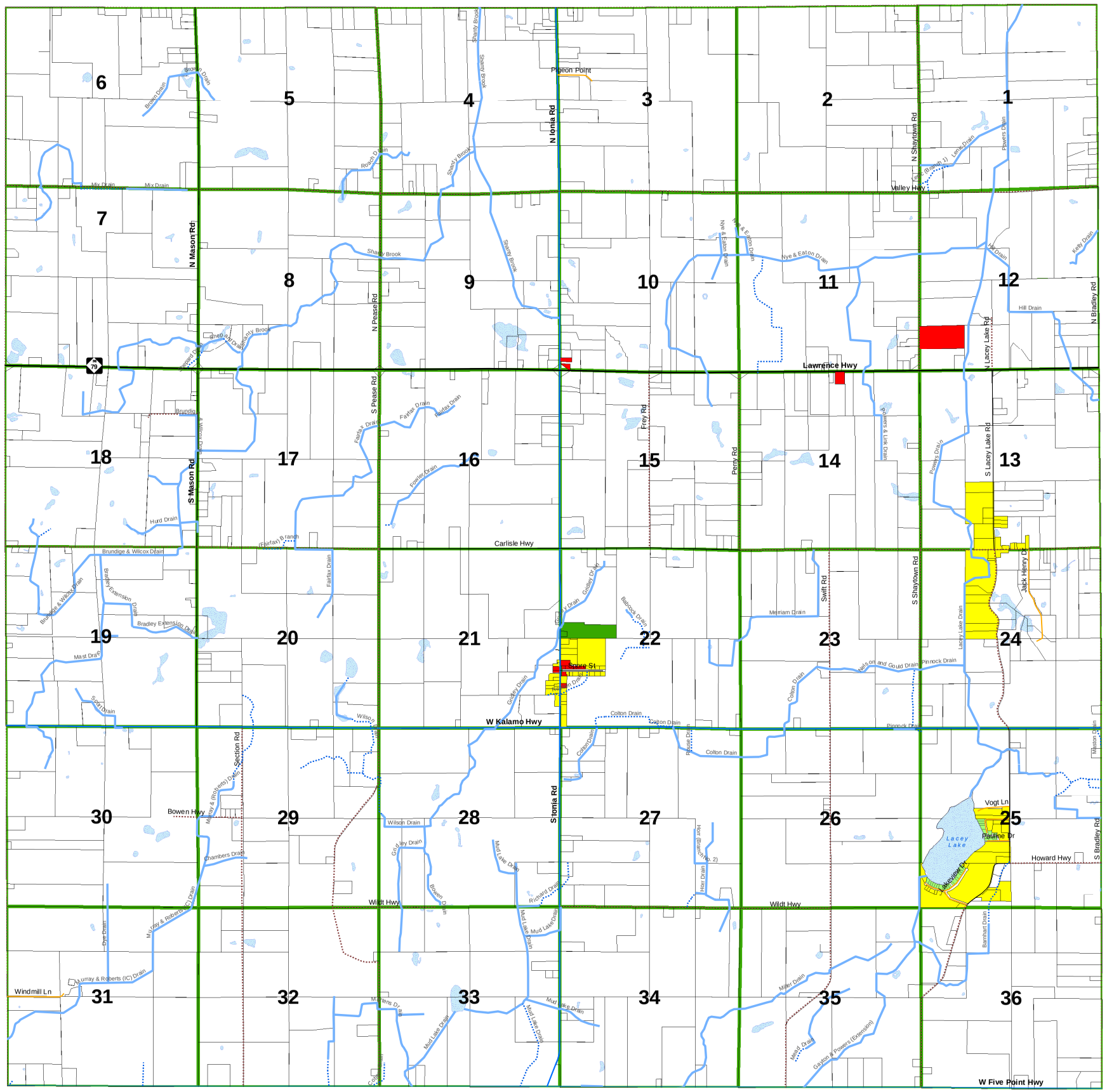




Eaton County Community Development

Kalamo Township Zoning Map

Zoning

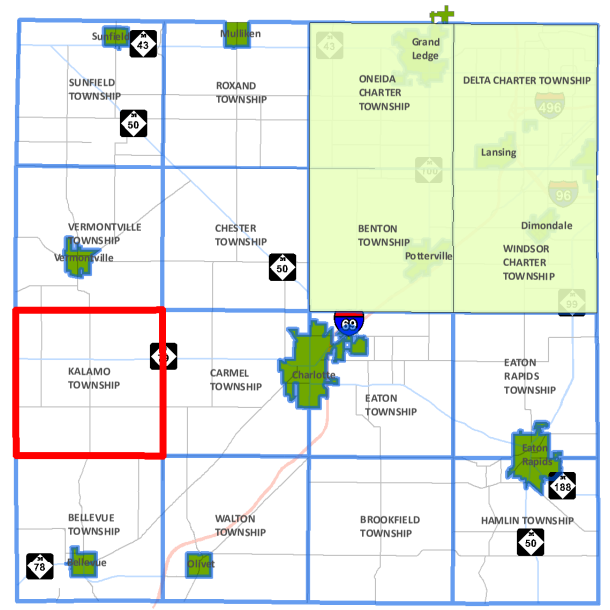
- LA
- R1
- R2
- C1
- C2
- I
- RC

County Drain

- Open Drain
- Tile Drain
- River
- City/Village
- Section Lines
- Waterbodies
- Railroads

Roads

- City
- CLP
- CPP
- Interstate
- Interstate Ramp
- Private
- State
- Unpaved



0 750 1,500 3,000 4,500 6,000 Feet

1 inch = 1,500 feet

Printed:
April 2024

Zoning Records:
Community Development

Data Source:
Eaton County GIS
Eaton County Community Development

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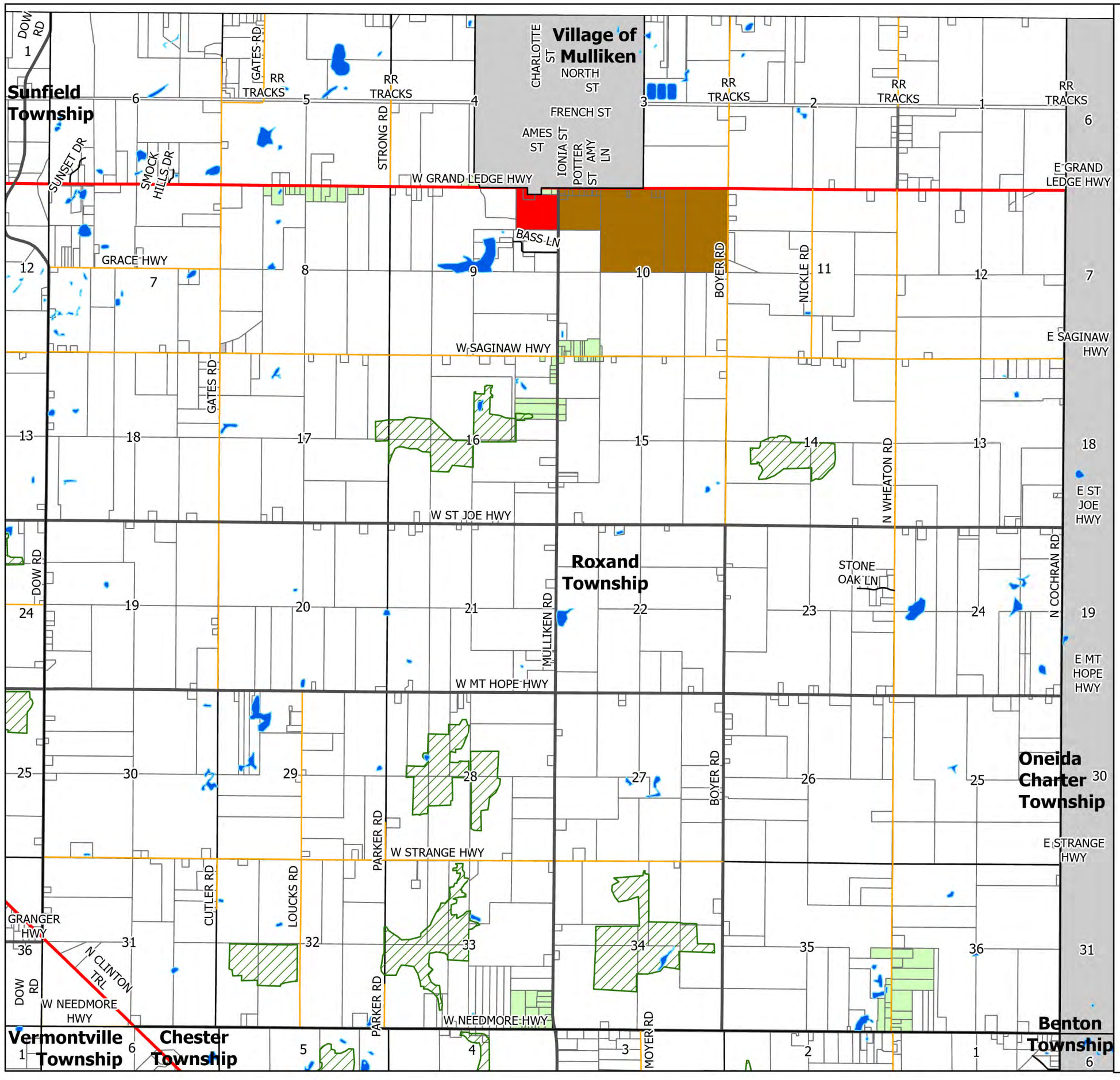
2023 Master Plan Update: Roxand Township Future Land Use



Legend

- Water Bodies
- Section Lines

Roads

- Highway
- County/Local Road
- Unpaved
- Other

Future Land Use

- Agricultural Preservation
- Rural Residential
- Mixed-Use Transition
- Local Business
- General Business
- Industrial
- Resource Conservation
- Not Under County Zoning

0 0.5 1 2 Miles

N

ROWE PROFESSIONAL SERVICES COMPANY

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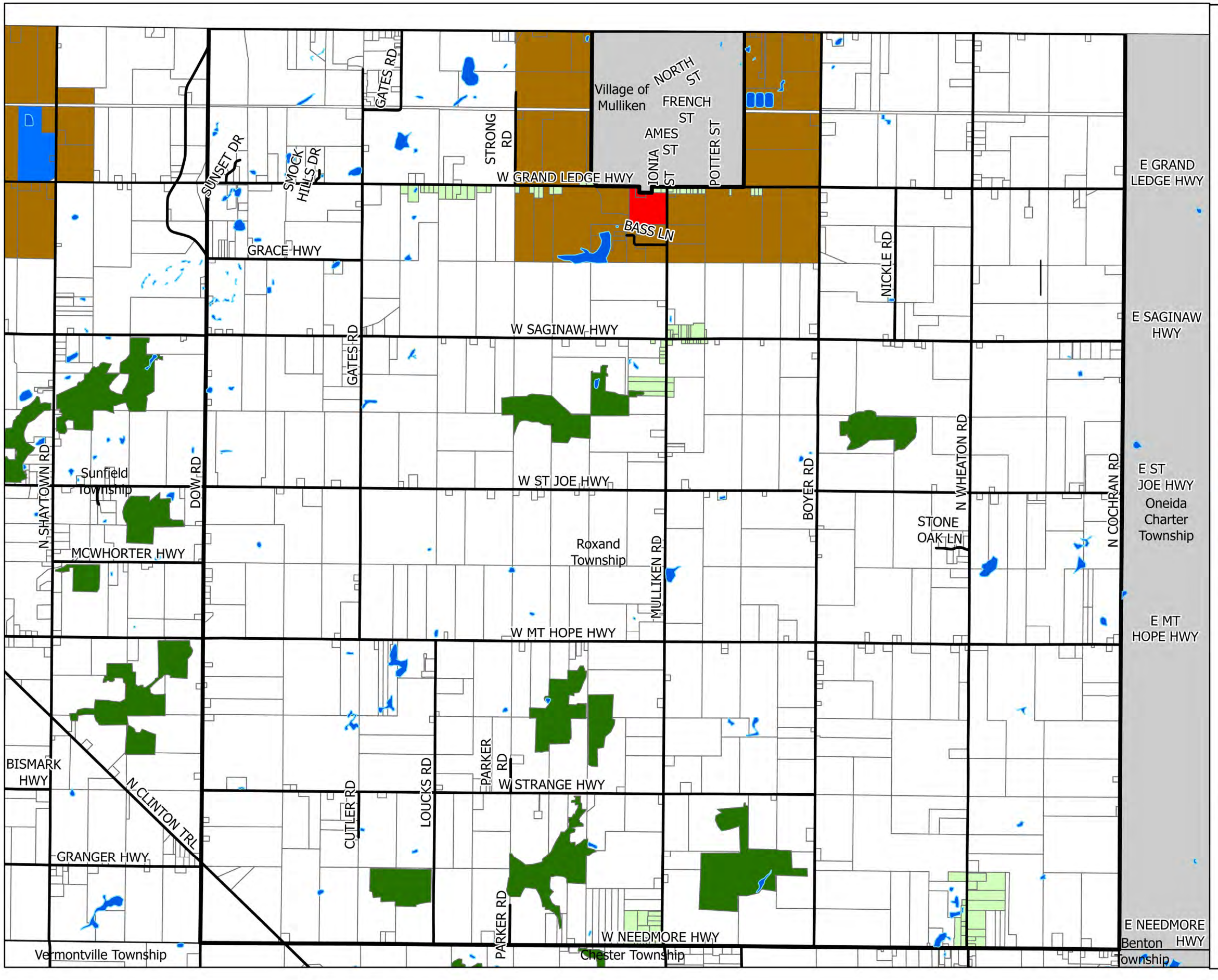
Roxand Township Future Land Use



Legend

- Water Bodies
- Roads

Future Land Use

- Resource Conservation
- Agricultural Preservation
- General Business
- Industrial
- Local Business
- Rural Residential
- Secondary Agricultural
- Not Under County Zoning

N

0 0.35 0.7 1.4 Miles

ROWE PROFESSIONAL SERVICES COMPANY

Date Exported: 9/6/2023

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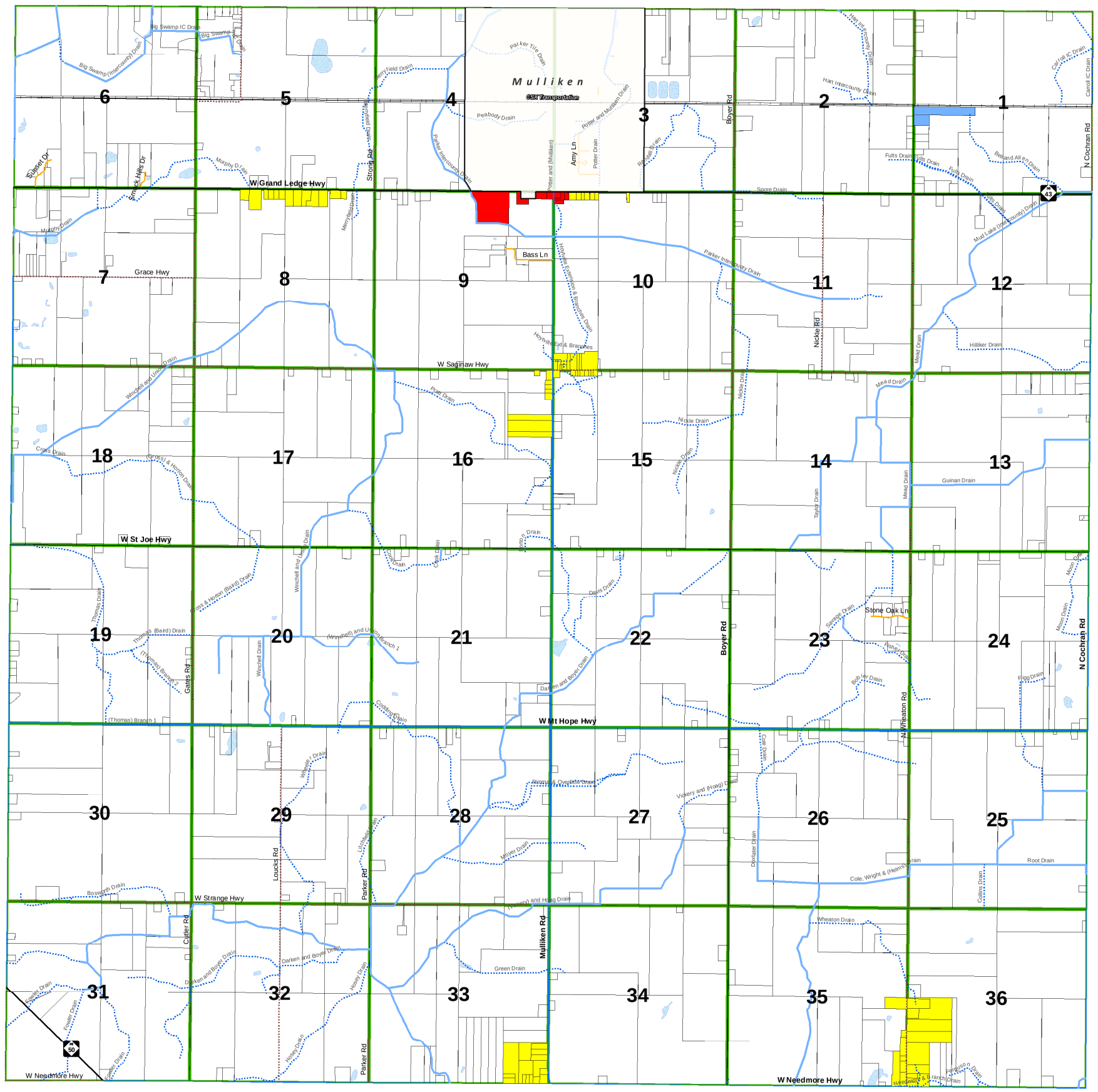


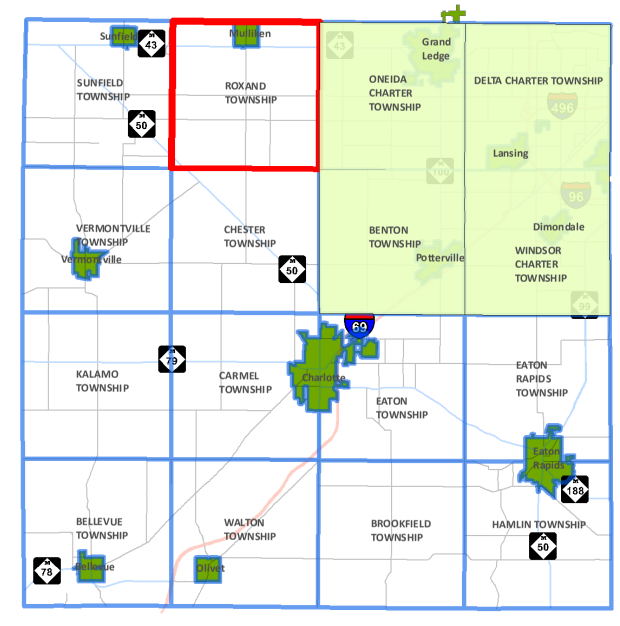
Eaton County Community Development

Roxand Township Zoning Map

Zoning
- LA
- R1
- R2
- C1
- C2
- I
- RC

County Drain
- Open Drain
- Tile Drain
- River
- City/Village
- Section Lines
- Waterbodies
- Railroads

Roads
- City
- CLP
- CPP
- Interstate
- Interstate Ramp
- Private
- State
- Unpaved



0 750 1,500 3,000 4,500 6,000 Feet

1 inch = 1,500 feet

Printed:
April 2024

Zoning Records:
Community Development

Data Source:
Eaton County GIS
Eaton County Community Development

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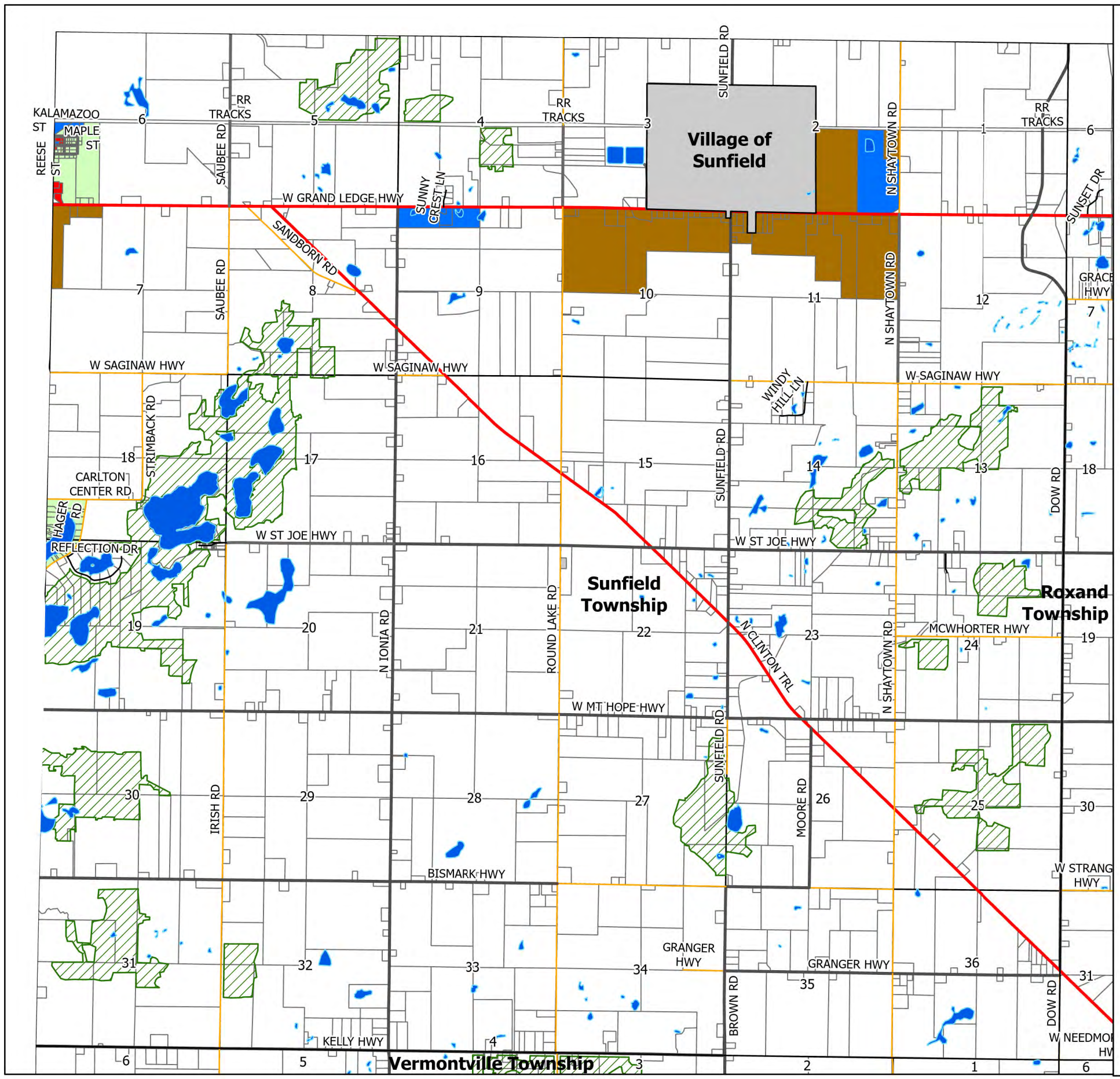
2023 Master Plan Update: Sunfield Township Future Land Use



Legend

- Water Bodies
- Section Lines

Roads

- Highway
- County/Local Road
- Unpaved
- Other

Future Land Use

- Agricultural Preservation
- Rural Residential
- Mixed-Use Transition
- Local Business
- General Business
- Industrial
- Resource Conservation
- Not Under County Zoning

0 0.5 1 2 Miles

N

ROWE PROFESSIONAL SERVICES COMPANY

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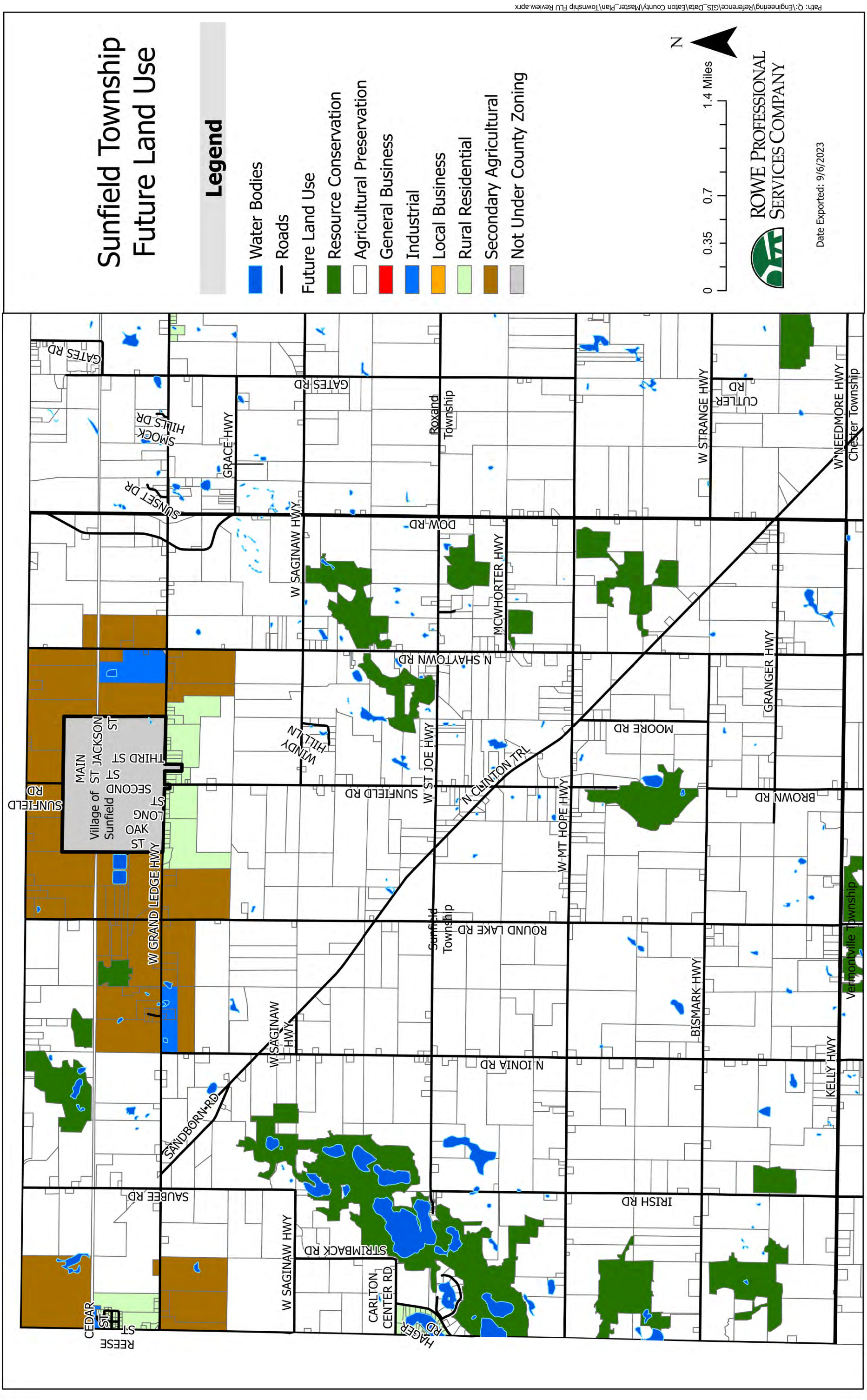
Sunfield Township
Future Land Use
Legend
Water Bodies
Roads
Future Land Use
Resource Conservation
Agricultural Preservation
General Business
Industrial
Local Business
Rural Residential
Secondary Agricultural
Not Under County Zoning
N
0
0.35
0.7
1.4 Miles
ROWE PROFESSIONAL SERVICES COMPANY
Date Exported: 9/6/2023
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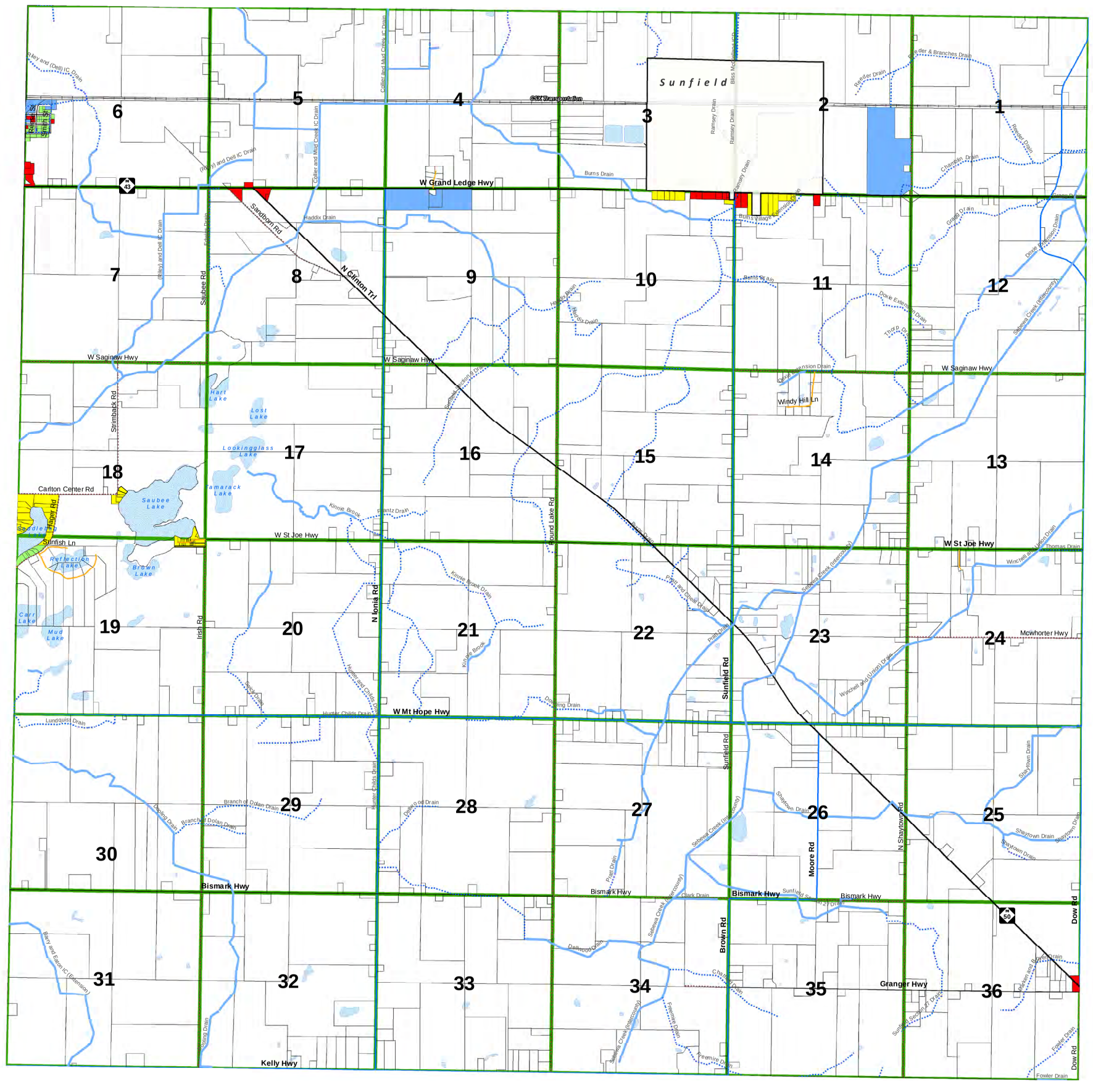
GATES RD
SMOCK HILLS DR
GRACE HWY
SUNSET DR
GATES RD
Roxand Township
CUTLER RD
W STRANGE HWY
W NEEDMORE HWY
Chester Township
DOW RD
W SAGINAW HWY
MCWHORTER HWY
N SHAYTOWN RD
GRANGER HWY
MOORE RD
WINDY HILL LN
W ST JOE HWY
SUNFIELD RD
N CLINTON TRL
BROWN RD
W MT HOPE HWY
MAIN ST
JACKSON ST
THIRD ST
SECOND ST
LONG
OAK ST
Village of Sunfield
SUNFIELD RD
W GRAND LEDGE HWY
ROUND LAKE RD
Sunfield Township
BISMARK HWY
Vermontville Township
KELLY HWY
W SAGINAW HWY
N IONIA RD
SANDBORN RD
SAUBEE RD
IRISH RD
STRIMBACK RD
CARLTON CENTER RD
HAGER RD
CEDAR ST
REESE ST



Eaton County Community Development

Sunfield Township Zoning Map

Zoning

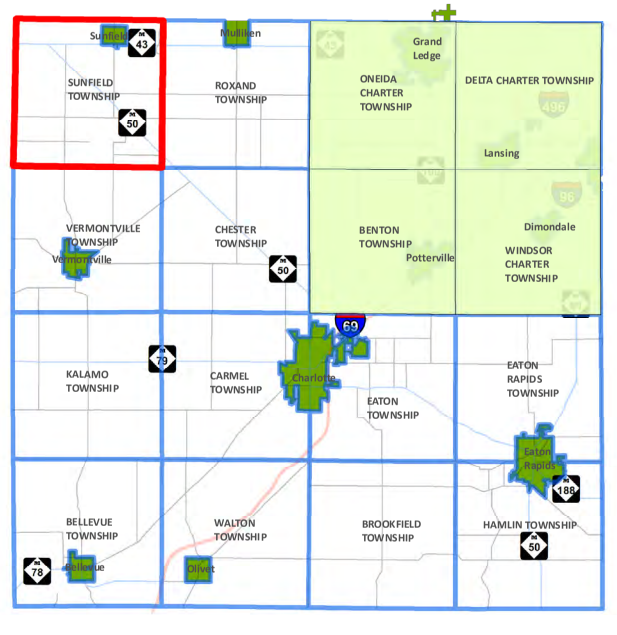
- LA
- R1
- R2
- C1
- C2
- I
- RC

County Drain

- Open Drain
- Tile Drain
- River
- City/Village
- Section Lines
- Waterbodies
- Railroads

Roads

- City
- CLP
- CPP
- Interstate
- Interstate Ramp
- Private
- State
- Unpaved



0 750 1,500 3,000 4,500 6,000 Feet

1 inch = 1,500 feet

Printed:
April 2024

Zoning Records:
Community Development

Data Source:
Eaton County GIS
Eaton County Community Development

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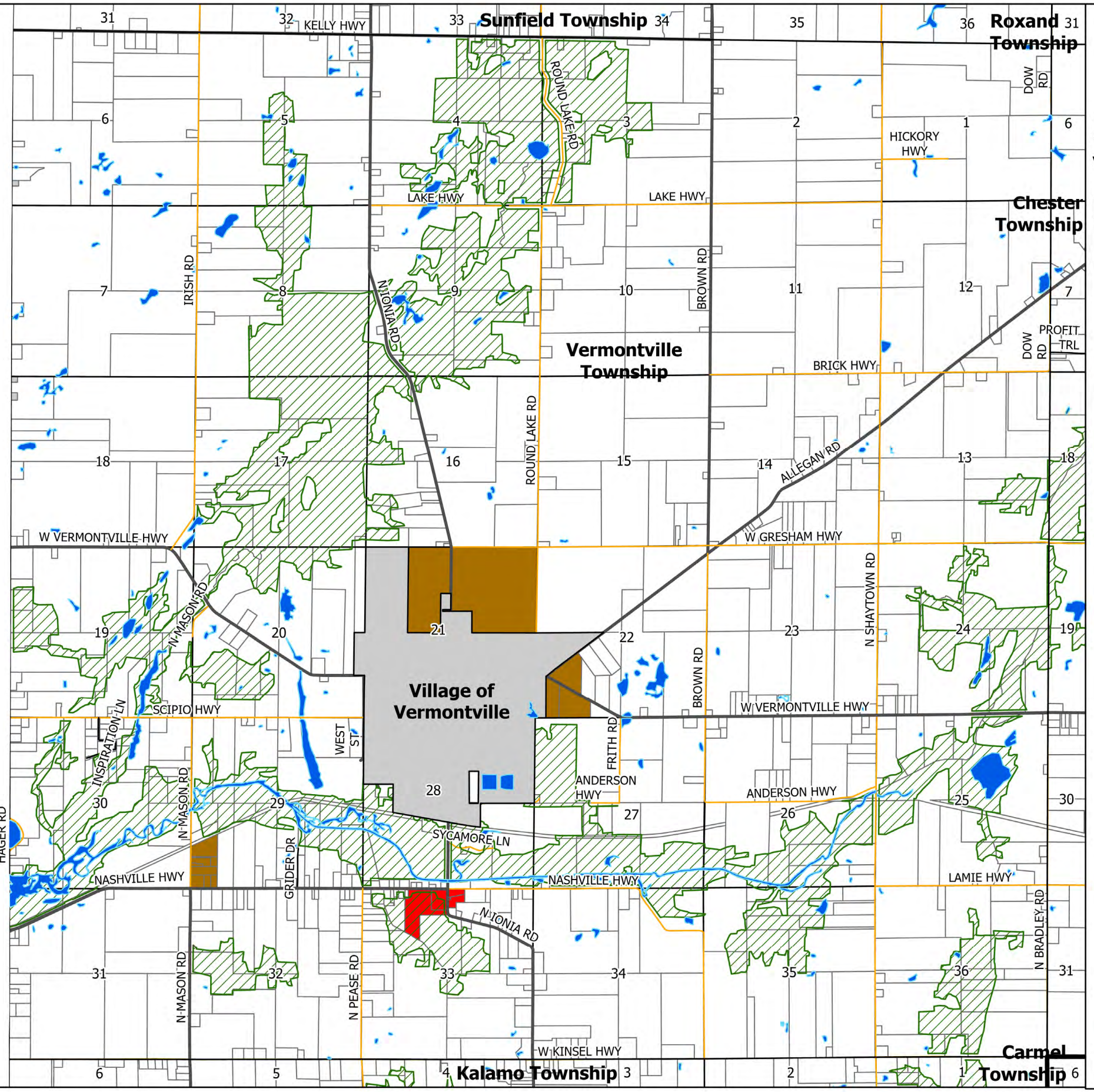
2023 Master Plan Update: Vermontville Township Future Land Use



Legend

- Water Bodies
- Section Lines

Roads

- Highway
- County/Local Road
- Unpaved
- Other

Future Land Use

- Agricultural Preservation
- Rural Residential
- Mixed-Use Transition
- Local Business
- General Business
- Industrial
- Resource Conservation
- Not Under County Zoning

0 0.5 1 2 Miles

N

ROWE PROFESSIONAL SERVICES COMPANY

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Vermontville Township Future Land Use

Legend

- Water Bodies
- Roads
- Future Land Use
  - Resource Conservation
  - Agricultural Preservation
  - General Business
  - Industrial
  - Local Business
  - Rural Residential
  - Secondary Agricultural
  - Not Under County Zoning

N

0 0.35 0.7 1.4 Miles

ROWE PROFESSIONAL SERVICES COMPANY

Date Exported: 9/5/2023

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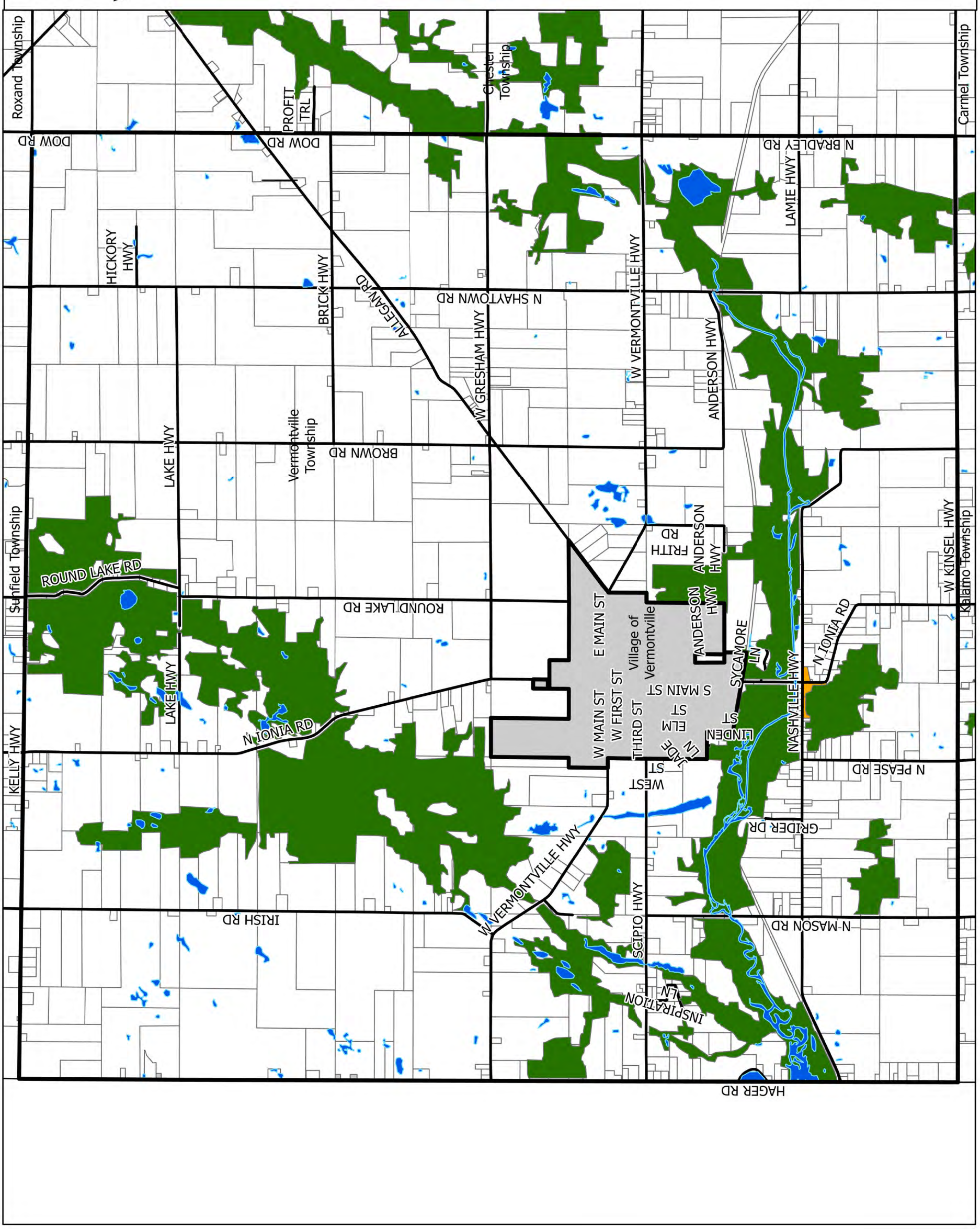
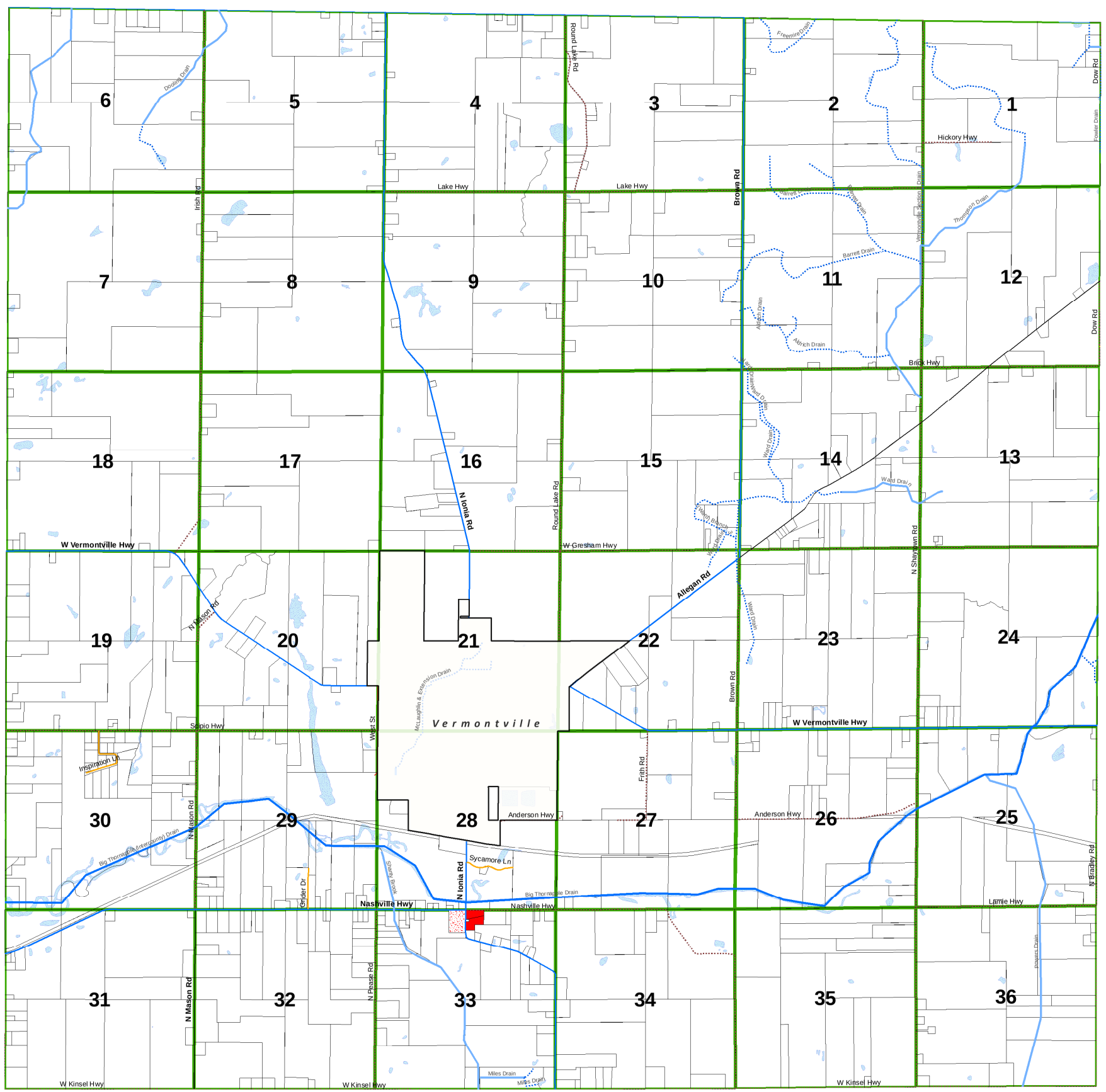




Eaton County Community Development

Vermontville Township Zoning Map

Zoning

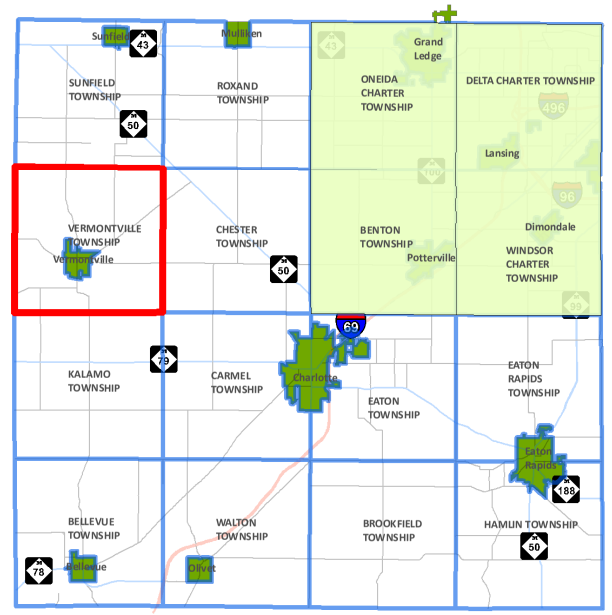
- LA
- R1
- R2
- C1
- C2
- I
- RC

County Drain

- Open Drain
- Tile Drain
- River
- City/Village
- Section Lines
- Waterbodies
- Railroads

Roads

- City
- CLP
- CPP
- Interstate
- Interstate Ramp
- Private
- State
- Unpaved



0 750 1,500 3,000 4,500 6,000 Feet

1 inch = 1,500 feet

Printed:
April 2024

Zoning Records:
Community Development

Data Source:
Eaton County GIS
Eaton County Community Development

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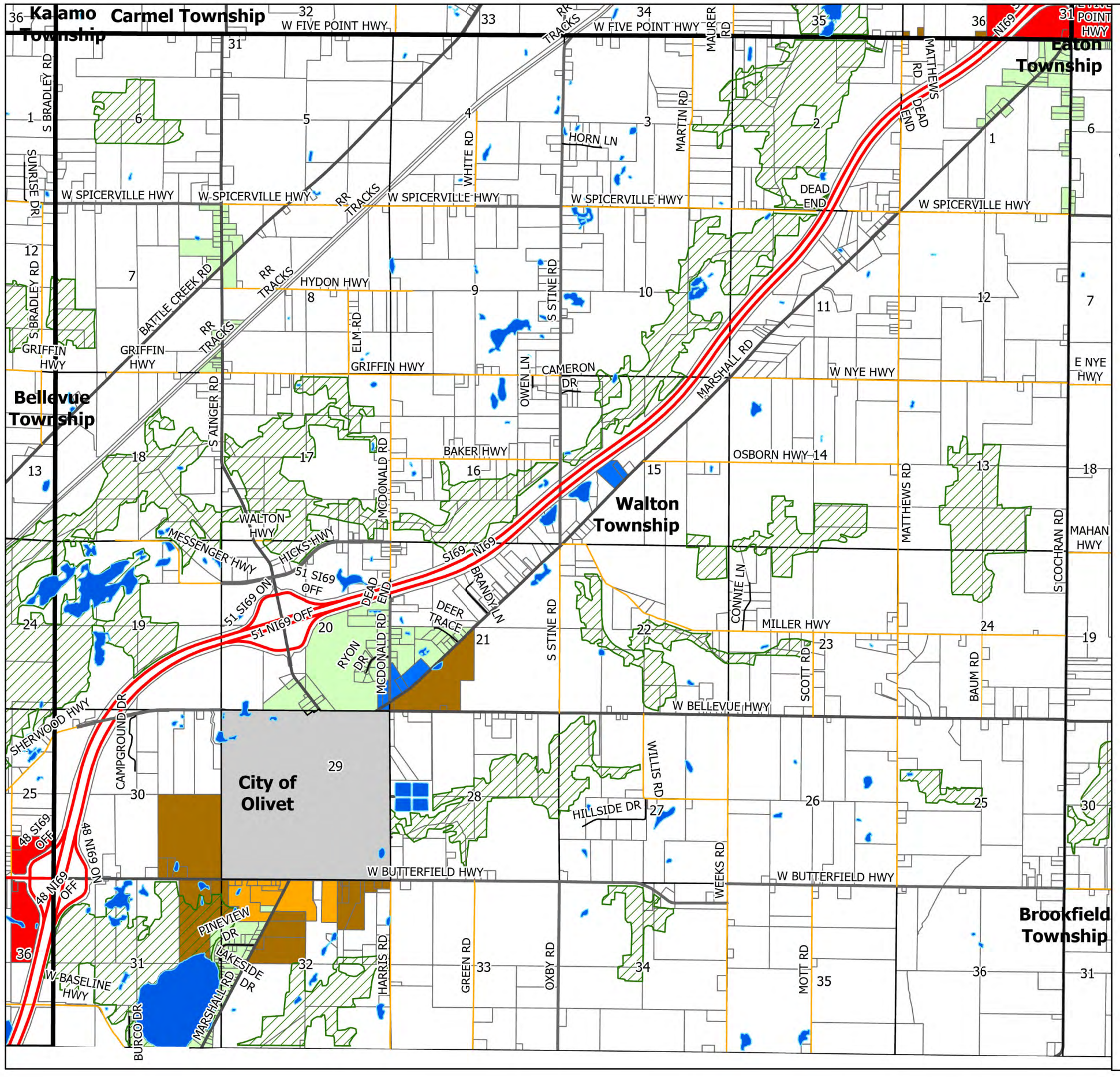
2023 Master Plan Update: Walton Township Future Land Use



Legend

- Water Bodies
- Section Lines

Roads

- Highway
- County/Local Road
- Unpaved
- Other

Future Land Use

- Agricultural Preservation
- Rural Residential
- Mixed-Use Transition
- Local Business
- General Business
- Industrial
- Resource Conservation
- Not Under County Zoning

0 0.5 1 2 Miles

N

ROWE PROFESSIONAL SERVICES COMPANY

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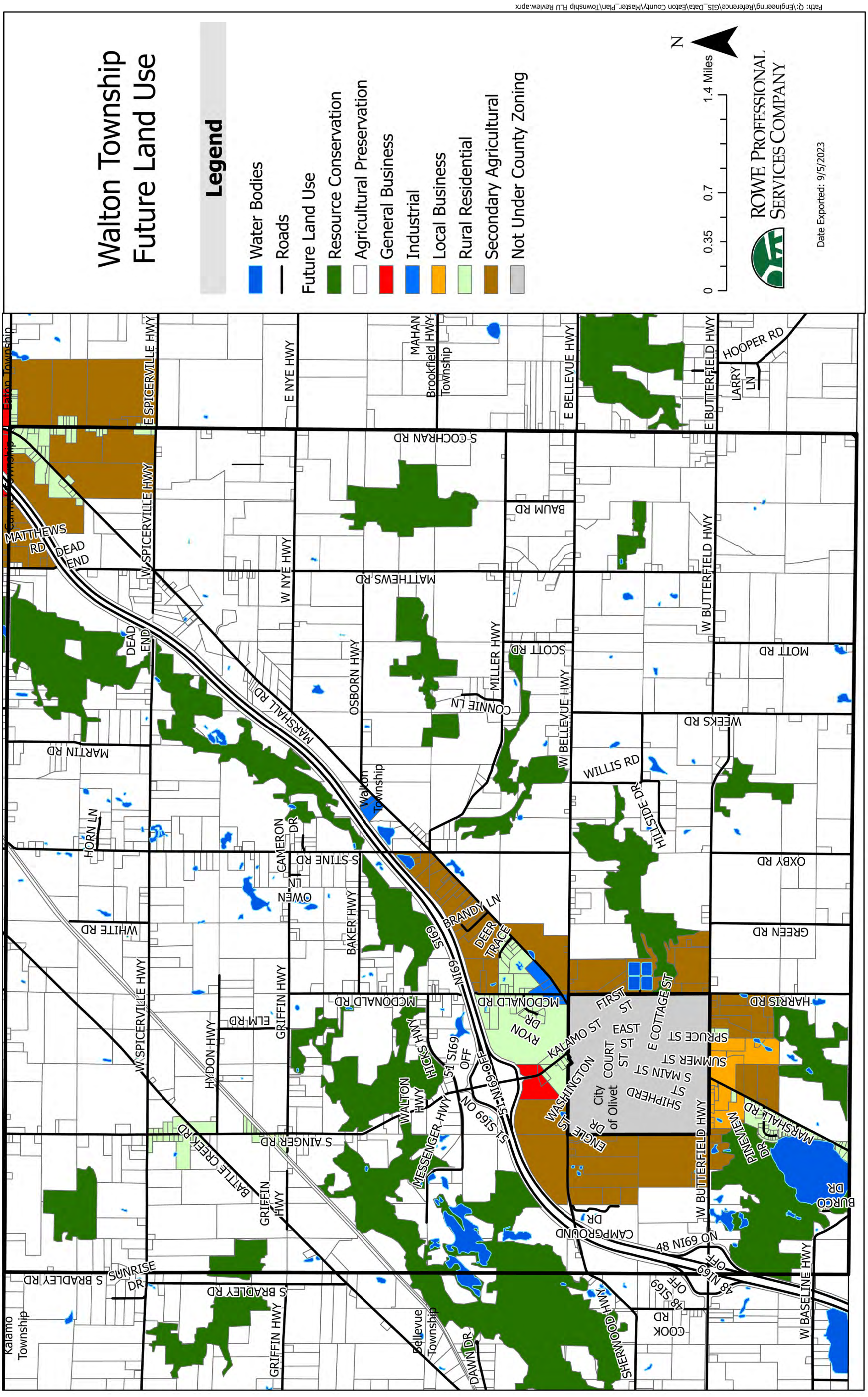
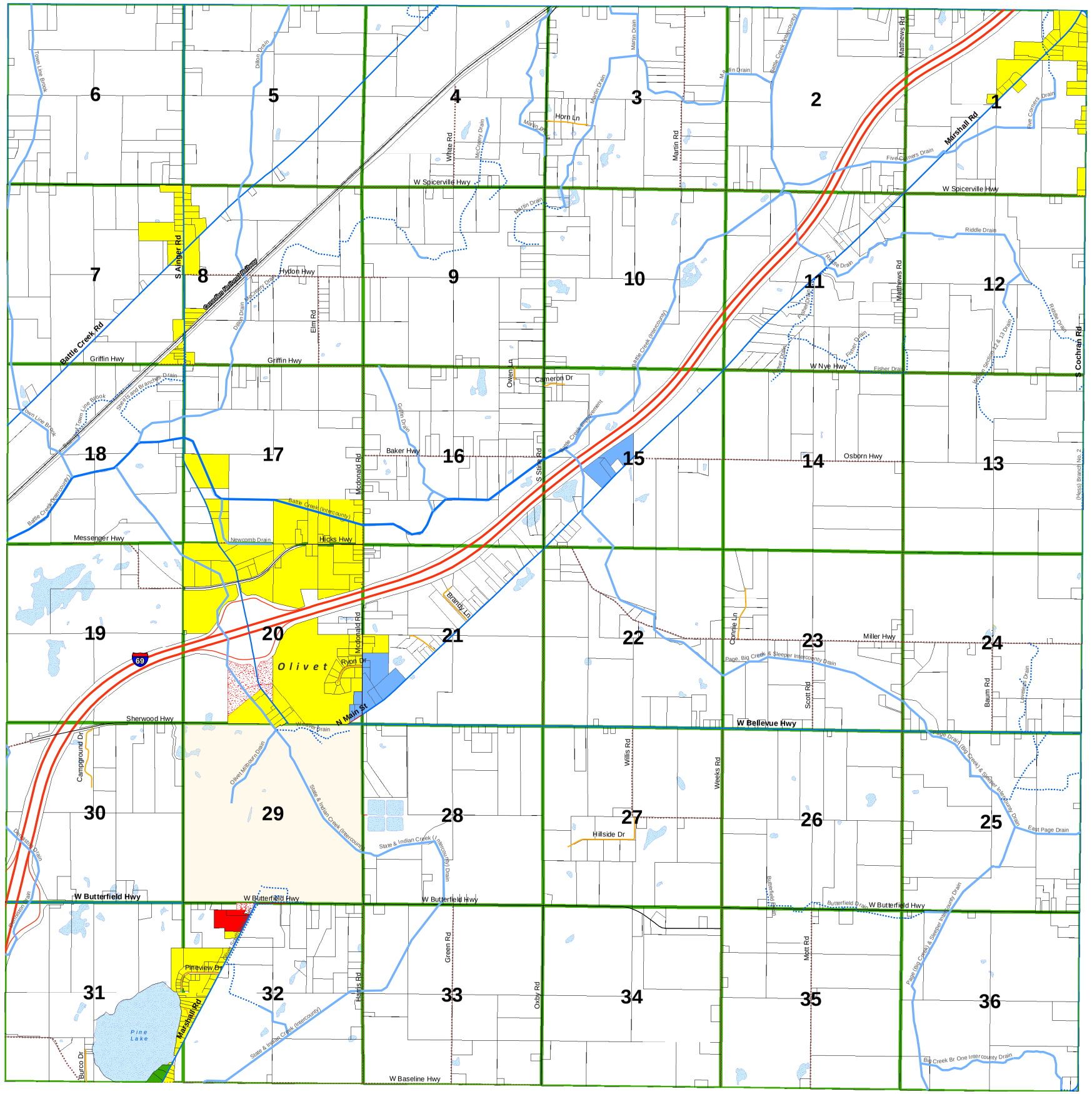

Walton Township
Future Land Use
Legend
Water Bodies
Roads
Future Land Use
Resource Conservation
Agricultural Preservation
General Business
Industrial
Local Business
Rural Residential
Secondary Agricultural
Not Under County Zoning
N
0
0.35
0.7
1.4 Miles
ROWE PROFESSIONAL SERVICES COMPANY
Date Exported: 9/5/2023
Path: Q:\Engineering\Reference\GIS_Data\Eaton County\Master_Plan\Township FLU Review.aprx
E SPICERVILLE HWY
E NYE HWY
MAHAN
Brookfield HWY
Township
S COCHRAN RD
E BELLEVUE HWY
E BUTTERFIELD HWY
HOOPER RD
LARRY LN
BAUM RD
MATTHEWS RD
W SPICERVILLE HWY
W NYE HWY
MILLER HWY
SCOTT RD
W BUTTERFIELD HWY
MOTT RD
MATTHEWS RD
DEAD END
OSBORN HWY
CONNIE LN
W BELLEVUE HWY
WEEKS RD
MARSHALL RD
MARTIN RD
Walton Township
WILLIS RD
HILLSIDE DR
HORN LN
CAMERON DR
S STINE RD
OWEN LN
OXBY RD
WHITE RD
BAKER HWY
BRANDY LN
DEER TRACE
SI 69
GREEN RD
MCDONALD RD
FIRST ST
E COTTAGE ST
HARRIS RD
RYON DR
KALAMO ST
EAST ST
SPRUCE ST
SUMMER ST
S MAIN ST
COURT ST
City of Olivet
SHIPHERD ST
ENGLE DR
WASHINGTON ST
PINEVIEW DR
MARSHALL RD
ELM RD
GRIFFIN HWY
HYDON-HWY
HICKS HWY
SI SI69 OFF
SI-NI69-OFF
S AINGER RD
BATTLE CREEK RD
WALTON HWY
MESSENGER HWY
SI SI69 ON
BURCO DR
CAMPGROUND DR
NO 69IN 48
OFF
48 NI69
48 SI69
COOK RD
SUNRISE DR
S BRADLEY RD
Kalamo Township
Bellevue Township
DAWN DR
SHERWOOD HWY
W BASELINE HWY



Eaton County Community Development

Walton Township Zoning Map

Zoning

- LA
- R1
- R2
- C1
- C2
- I
- RC

County Drain

- Open Drain
- Tile Drain
- River
- City/Village
- Section Lines
- Waterbodies
- Railroads

Roads

- City
- CLP
- CPP
- Interstate
- Interstate Ramp
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- State
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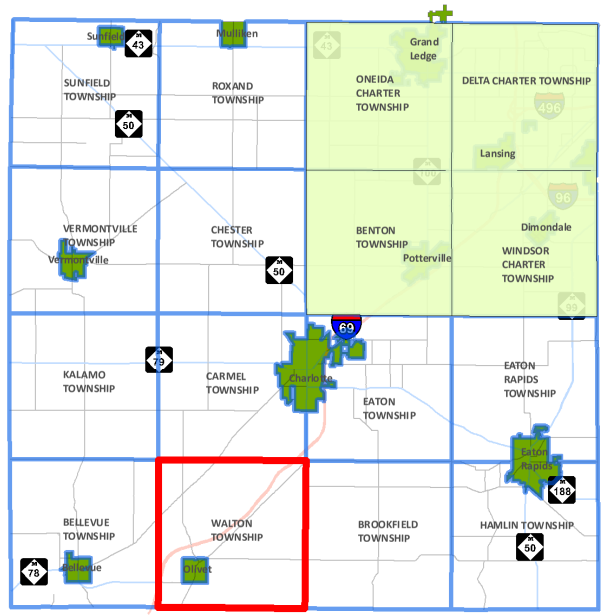

Printed:
April 2024

Zoning Records:
Community Development

Data Source:
Eaton County GIS
Eaton County Community Development

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HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES COMMITTEE MEETING

MONDAY, MAY 6, 2024
9:00 A.M.
MINUTES

MEMBERS PRESENT: Commissioners Brian Lautzenheiser, Mark Mudry, Blake Mulder, Joe Brehler, Scott Hansen, Barbara Rogers, and Jeanne Pearl-Wright.

ALSO PRESENT: Commissioner Jim Mott, Connie Sobie, Martha Richard, Andrea Radel, Kate Long, Amanda Ittner, and Claudine Williams.

The May 6, 2024 regular meeting of the Health and Human Services Committee was called to order at 9:00 a.m. by Chairperson Lautzenheiser.

The Pledge of Allegiance was given by all.

Commissioner Rogers moved to approve the May 6, 2024 agenda as presented. Commissioner Hansen seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

Commissioner Rogers moved to approve the March 4, 2024 minutes, as presented. Commissioner Mudry seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

Limited Public Comment. None.

Martha Richard, CEO of Eaton County Health & Rehabilitation Services (ECHRS), was present to provide a semi-annual report. It was stated their financial performance is starting to show profitability. It was also noted significant deferred building maintenance and capital needs are expected in the coming year and into the following four years. There was discussion in reference to the long range forecast of patients, nurses, and income.

Tri-County Office on Aging, Executive Director Andrea Radel, and the Planning and Program Development Manager, Kate Long, were present for a semi-annual report. Ms. Long gave an update on various programs and events.

Mid-State Health Network Deputy Director (MSHN) Amanda Ittner spoke about the requirement with MDHHS to create a Substance Use Disorder Oversight Policy Board. It was noted there is a resolution requesting the approval of an Intergovernmental Contract, which has a renewal term of three years. Deputy Director Ittner stated there are three changes from the previous agreement: to operate under the bylaws of MSHN, to update anti-discrimination language to reflect current laws, and to allow for an alternate to vote if the appointee is not present. Commissioner Brehler moved to recommend approval of the Intergovernmental Contract with MSHN for a three-year renewal term to the Board of Commissioners. Commissioner Mudry seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

Discussion was held in reference to how funds are distributed to MSHN, which went from a 50/50 split to 60/40 (sixty to Eaton County and forty to MSHN). Commissioner Brehler moved to recommend the County distribution reflect the previous split with MSHN to the Ways and Means Committee. Commissioner Mudry seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

DRAFT

Claudine Williams, Director of Intergovernmental Affairs and Development, provided an update on the Substance Use and Misuse Strategic Plan. The MSU survey has closed and they are now working on a final report for the needs assessment. Amy Dolinky from MAC is assisting with the recommendations report using data from MSU and the health department. The Chairman's Opioid Workgroup met and began discussing the next steps for when the plan is completed.

Ms. Sobie gave an update on the county's participation in a lawsuit regarding pharmacy benefit managers.

Miscellaneous. None

Limited Public Comment. None.

Chairperson Lautzenheiser adjourned the meeting at 9:40 a.m.

The next regularly scheduled meeting of the Health and Human Services Committee will be held on **Monday, June 3, 2024** at 9:00 a.m., in the Board of Commissioners Room of the Courthouse located at 1045 Independence Blvd, Charlotte MI 48813.

_____

Brian Lautzenheiser, Chairperson

DRAFT

PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE

THURSDAY, MAY 2, 2024
4:00 P.M.

MINUTES

MEMBERS PRESENT: Commissioners Tim Barnes, Brian Droscha, Scott Hansen, Mark Mudry, Jacob Toomey, Brian Haskell, and Frank Holmes

ABSENT: Brandon Haskell

ALSO PRESENT: Sheriff Tom Reich, Undersheriff Jeff Cook, Tony Terranova, Deputy Troy Hansbarger, Connie Sobie, Kelly Cunningham, Ryan Wilkinson, Mitchell Carlson, Melanie Achenbach, Capt. Robert Block, and Sgt. Justin Barber

The May 2, 2024, regular meeting of the Public Safety Committee was called to order at 4:00 p.m. by Chairperson Barnes.

The Pledge of Allegiance was given by all.

AGENDA ADDITIONS AND CHANGES
Commissioner Droscha moved to approve the agenda. Commissioner Toomey seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES
Commissioner Droscha moved to approve the April 4, 2024, meeting minutes. Commissioner Hansen seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

LIMITED PUBLIC COMMENT
None.

SHERIFF'S OFFICE UPDATE
Sheriff Reich reported the highlights for the month of April, 2024.

RESOLUTION TO APPROVE WAVERLY SCHOOL RESOURCE OFFICER (SRO) AGREEMENT
Waverly High School Principal Terranova addressed the committee encouraging ratification of the agreement. Principal Terranova stated Deputy Hansbarger has served as the SRO for one and a half years and has provided security at the complex and sporting events. Additionally, Deputy Hansbarger has developed relationships with the students, and is a wonderful resource. Principal Terranova stated the program has created a positive impact with how students view law enforcement and he has nothing but positive things to say about the program. Chair Barnes invited the SRO, Deputy Hansbarger to comment. Deputy Hansbarger spoke about working with the students and stated his work also includes reviewing and recommending changes to safety policies and making recommendations for complex security. Commissioner Droscha moved to recommend approval of the Resolution to Approve Waverly School Resource Officer (SRO) Agreement to the Board of Commissioners. Commissioner Hansen seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

DRAFT

QUARTERLY REPORTS
Controller Sobie presented the quarterly reporting of Reimbursement, Jail Census, and Court Security reports. Reimbursements are better than planned for and are on track for the budget set. The Jail Census count average for the year so far is 176, with a capacity of 374. Court Security now includes the courts as well as the administration side of the building, which is reflected in the higher numbers.

CENTRAL DISPATCH UPDATE
Dispatch Director Cunningham reported the Dispatch floor remodel is underway with an estimated completion date of August. National Public Safety Telecommunicator Week was celebrated, and an Awards Ceremony was conducted. Portland EMS responding to the Sunfield area was discussed.

RESOLUTION TO APPROVE AMENDMENT TO THE EATON COUNTY 9-1-1 PLAN (ADMINISTRATIVE FINDINGS)
Director Cunningham requested approval of administrative changes to the 9-1-1 Plan. Commissioner Droscha moved to recommend approval of the Resolution to Approve Amendment to the Eaton County 9-1-1 Plan (Administrative Findings) to the Board of Commissioners. Commissioner Mudry seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

EMERGENCY SERVICES UPDATE
Emergency Services Manager Wilkinson reported on the Mortuary Response Team full-scale exercise held at the Eaton County Fairgrounds Wednesday, May 1. There were 200-300 participants in this successful exercise. Mitchell Carlson, MSU Sophomore in Social Work, started his summer internship May 1st. Ella Gardner participated in the third session of the National Emergency Management Basic Academy and Ryan Wilkinson participated in the third session of the National Emergency Management Advanced Academy.

COMMUNITY CORRECTIONS ADVISORY BOARD (CCAB) APPOINTMENT – PROBATE JUDGE
Ms. Sobie explained Probate Court is a required position on the CCAB and noted Judge Amanda Pollard was recently appointed to the Bench as Eaton County Probate Judge. Commissioner Droscha moved to recommend Judge Pollard be appointed as a member of the CCAB to the Board of Commissioners. Commissioner Holmes seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

MISCELLANEOUS
None.

LIMITED PUBLIC COMMENT
None.

DRAFT

ADJOURNMENT

Commissioner Barnes adjourned the meeting at 4:30 p.m.

The next regularly scheduled meeting of the Public Safety Committee will be held June 6, 2024, at 4:00 p.m.

_____

Commissioner Timothy Barnes
Chairperson, Public Safety Committee

DRAFT

INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY AND COMMUNICATION COMMITTEE MEETING

WEDNESDAY, MAY 1, 2024
4:00 P.M.
MINUTES

MEMBERS PRESENT: Commissioners Brian Droscha, Barbara Rogers, Frank Holmes, Mark Mudry, Jacob Toomey, and Scott Hansen

MEMBERS ABSENT: Commissioner Haskell

ALSO PRESENT: Connie Sobie, Logan Bailey, Eric Daley and Nathan Nighbert

The May 1, 2024 regular meeting of the Information Technology and Communication Committee was called to order at 4:00 p.m. by Chairperson Droscha.

The Pledge of Allegiance was given by all.

Commissioner Mudry moved the approval of the agenda. Commissioner Toomey seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

Commissioner Rogers moved the approval of the March 6, 2024 meeting minutes. Commissioner Holmes seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

Limited Public Comment. None.

Communications Director, Logan Bailey, presented the department's monthly report. He noted Resource Recovery is promoting the Eaton County Spring Clean-Up in the County Journal and the Sheriff's Office Deputy Paramedic Program promotional materials are in development.
Mr. Bailey stated the GIS team is collaborating with the Controller's Office to build new platforms for residents looking for information on property values, taxes, and other geographic data. An update on Eaton County's social media and upcoming press details was also provided.

Technology Services Director, Eric Daley presented the department's monthly report. Director Daley reported RFP's have been sent out for the five-year aerial imagery project for the Tri-County area and are due back by May 15th. It is expected this project will be completed in 2025. It was noted all of the technology equipment for the Youth Facility expansion has been ordered and is on track with the building completion timeline. He also stated the GIS team is working with Construction Codes on remapping all 249 private roads in Eaton County. An update on Broadband was also given.

Limited Public Comment. None.

DRAFT

Chairperson Droscha adjourned the meeting at 4:22 p.m.

The next regularly scheduled meeting of the Information Technology and Communication Committee will be held **Wednesday, June 5, 2024**, at 4:00 p.m. in the Board of Commissioners' Room in the Eaton County Courthouse located at 1045 Independence Blvd, Charlotte MI 48813.

_____

Brian Droscha, Chairperson

DRAFT

PUBLIC WORKS & PLANNING COMMITTEE

WEDNESDAY, MAY 8, 2024
9:00 A.M.

MINUTES

MEMBERS PRESENT: Commissioners Blake Mulder, Barbara Rogers, Joe Brehler, Terrance Augustine, Trevor Youngquist, and Brian Lautzenheiser and Scott Hansen

ALSO PRESENT: Commissioner Jim Mott, Connie Sobie, Claudine Williams, Brandy Miller, Debbie Penfield, Jarod Bogdanov-Hanna, Travis Keeton, and Richard Wagner

The May 8, 2024 regular meeting of the Public Works and Planning Committee was called to order at 9:00 a.m. by Chairperson Rogers.

The Pledge of Allegiance was given by all.

Commissioner Augustine moved to approve the agenda. Commissioner Lautzenheiser seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

Commissioner Lautzenheiser moved to approve the April 10, 2024 meeting minutes. Commissioner Augustine seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

Limited Public Comment. None.

Drain Commissioner, Richard Wagner, presented the 2023 Annual Report. He stated the total spent on drain petition and maintenance was $14,367,746.00. It was noted there are seventeen petitions currently under construction and/or done. Mr. Wagner reported by putting drain accounts in interest bearing accounts, over $1.2M in interest earnings was received for 2023. He stated this money goes directly back to the drain districts.

Brandy Miller, Code Enforcement, gave the monthly report for Construction Code and Planning & Zoning. Commissioner Mulder moved to recommend approval of the Eaton County Master Plan to the Board of Commissioners. Commissioner Augustine seconded. Motion was carried unanimously.

Resource Recovery Director, Jarod Bogdanov-Hanna, presented the department's monthly report. Discussion was held in reference to an amendment to the EGLE Electronics Grant to purchase a mobile trailer specifically for the collection of electronics. Commissioner Lautzenheiser moved to recommend approval of the Resolution to Approve Michigan Department of Environment Great Lakes and Energy Rural Electronics Collection and Infrastructure Recycling Grant Amendment. Commissioner Augustine seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

DRAFT

A Memorandum of Understanding Between Eaton County Resource Recovery Department and Calhoun County Recycling and Solid Waste Department was presented. Discussion was held. Commissioner Mulder moved to recommend approval of the Resolution to Approve Entering into an MOU with Calhoun County Solid Waste Department to the Board of Commissioners. Commissioner Augustine seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

A Resolution to Approve the Appointment of the Designated Planning Agency (DPA) for the Eaton County Materials Management Plan was also presented. Commissioner Augustine moved to recommend approval of the Resource Recovery Department and the Director of Environmental Sustainability as the DPA for Eaton County. Commissioner Brehler seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

Parks Director, Travis Keeton, presented the department's monthly report. Director Keeton spoke about several open projects. He also gave an update on the Pinch Road – Fox Park access. Commissioner Lautzenheiser moved to recommend approval of a Resolution to Approve the 2024 (Cycle 2) Eaton County Parks Community Grant Program Award Recipients. Commissioner Mulder seconded. Discussion was held. Motion carried unanimously.

Chad Powers, Facility Manager, presented the Landfill Semi-Annual Sampling Report. There were no major findings.

Limited Public Comment. None.

Chairperson Rogers adjourned the meeting at 10:38 a.m.

The next regularly scheduled meeting of the Public Works and Planning Committee will be held on Wednesday, June 12, at 9:00 a.m. in the Board of Commissioner Room of the Courthouse located at 1045 Independence Blvd, Charlotte, MI 48813.

_____

Barbara Rogers, Chairperson

DRAFT