

## Introduction & Community Profile

### Preface

The Allendale Township Master Plan has been prepared by the Township Planning Commission under the provisions of the Michigan Planning Enabling Act, Public Act 33 of 2008 as amended. This Plan is a policy guide that is used by township officials to guide future development and growth. The Michigan Planning Enabling Act authorizes municipalities to prepare and adopt a plan for the following purposes:

- To promote the public health, safety, and general welfare;
- To encourage the use of resources in accordance with their character and adaptability;
- To avoid overcrowding of the land by buildings and people;
- To lessen congestion on public roads and streets;
- To facilitate a transportation system, sewage disposal, safe and adequate water supply, recreation and other public improvements; and,
- To consider the character and suitability of land for particular uses.

Although the Master Plan has no regulatory power, it states specific land development and preservation goals. The Master Plan assists Township officials in making both day- to-day and long-range land use decisions. Some of these instances include but are not limited to:

- Review of rezoning and special use permits
- Review of public improvement projects
- Review of plats and site condominiums
- Providing a legal framework for zoning actions
- Managing growth while maintaining the character of the Allendale community
- Providing consistency to decision-making

This Master Plan has been developed based upon several factors: the existing natural and cultural resources of the Township; current land use trends; the need for different types of land use including industrial and commercial uses; and the desired community character as expressed through work sessions with local officials, and a Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities and Threats (SWOT) workshop with the public.

Despite its purpose as a policy document, it is important to recognize that the Master Plan is general in scope. It is not always intended to establish the precise boundaries of land use areas or exact locations of future uses. Rather, the Master Plan is an organized approach to analyzing development issues and proposing recommendations to address these issues. Its function is to guide growth and provide a framework to ensure that future detailed decisions can be made based on a community-wide perspective. Given that the needs and desires of the community change over time, the Master Plan must be regularly reviewed and periodically updated.

### Community

Physical and environmental conditions establish limitations on how some areas of the Township will develop. The physical and environmental makeup of the Township influences the population, housing, economic, and labor force composition of the community. Given the steady increase in population, demands will continue for additional infrastructure, for the conversion of farmland, and for the

preservation of the natural environment to accommodate additional residential and commercial growth. The Master Plan must therefore provide for appropriate areas to be served by public sewer and water utilities as well as establish future residential, commercial, industrial, agricultural, and recreational areas within the township in order to adequately address the needs of the community as a whole and prevent incompatible uses.

Allendale Charter Township is located in the central portion of Ottawa County and has a total land area of 31 square miles. The largest single category of land use is Agricultural and Rural, however there has been an increase in single family residential development, planned unit developments, and commercial developments in recent years. Allendale Charter Township is also home to Grand Valley State University and the total enrollment for the 2019 academic year was 25,049 students. The area surrounding Grand Valley State University continues to grow and has been identified as an opportunity to increase the partnership between the community and University in creating a strong quality of life for its' residents.

One limitation to development has been in regard to wetlands that are regulated by the Michigan Department of Environment, Great Lakes and Energy. Land containing regulated wetlands has limited development potential, due to natural development constraints as well as wetland protection regulations and therefore it is vital for Township Officials to consider the rural character of the land and future land use. In addition, due to the overall growth in not only the Township, but Ottawa County as a whole, the Township should focus on groundwater preservation efforts in accordance with Ottawa County's Groundwater Sustainability Initiative.

### *Definition of Terms*

The following terms are recognized and used within this Master Plan as defined below:

*Rural Character* – is recognized as the natural features of the earth that minimize the visual exposure of buildings, structures, and other man-made features and which create scenic character. It is also recognized as the natural features of the earth that provide environmental buffers and/or habitat that is characteristic of the Township. Features are found to include:

- Woods, woodlots, forest areas, and native trees
- Wetlands
- Natural vegetation
- Wildlife habitat
- Natural field areas
- Scenic vistas

Rural Character also includes farmland, which is recognized as natural features that are organized and managed by man.

*Open Space* – is recognized as areas of land unoccupied by buildings, structures, or other man-made features, that are preserved to be unoccupied by buildings, structures, or other man-made features within a project. Open Space is not intended to include displays of art or other cultural features; bridges, signage, utilities, and other essential service structures; or grade level features such as ponds.

*Wildlife Corridor* - An asymmetrical area of natural habitat that provides passage for wildlife, colonization, and the breeding of plants and animals, throughout a development and across artificial obstacles such as dams, roads, pedestrian pathways, and railways.

### *Findings*

Below is a summary of the findings derived from the 2019 Master Plan Update SWOT public workshop responses. The entirety of the results can be found within the Appendix:

- Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities and Threats (SWOT) Workshop (Summer 2019)
  - Participants found the library, school system, and quality of life to be the top strengths in Allendale Charter Township.
  - Participants found the high-speed limits on the roadways to be the top weakness in Allendale Charter Township. The second top weakness identified in the Township is the lack of a Town Center. Given that speeds are generally outside the authority of the Township, the lack of a Town Center was the primary weakness that the Township could directly impact.
  - Providing pedestrian bridges was identified as the top priority. The second top opportunity identified was increased communication in partnership with Grand Valley State University.
  - Overwhelmingly, public workshop participants identified the top threat to Allendale Charter Township as big box stores locating in the community.

### **How to Use this Plan**

For each land use or attribute chapter, the plan identifies goals, recommendations, and strategies, which are the basis for future development. The goals, recommendations, and strategies are designed as follows:

- Goals – These are community objectives derived from significant public input and Planning Commission oversight.
  - These are applied most frequently during land use review to ensure a proposed development meets and is consistent with the core values of the Master Plan.
- Recommendations – These are pointed direction to achieve the goals.
  - These are applied the strongest during land use review to ensure proposed development is consistent with the intent of the Master Plan
- Strategies – In an effort to accomplish the goals and recommendations of the Master Plan, the strategies are the legislative methods to mandate certain physical form, through zoning ordinance or police power ordinances.

## Chapter One Agricultural Uses

### Introduction

Although Allendale Charter Township continues to grow and develop, the community maintains its strong agricultural presence. Many active farms still exist and farming is a prevalent component of the economy and heritage of the Township. However, as generations and attributes continue to change throughout the Township, the agricultural community must evolve and recognize increasing residential, commercial, and industrial development that was attracted to the Township by the very character agriculture provides.

The Prime Farmland Soils Map classifies areas of the Township on the basis of soil suitability for general agricultural crop production. It shows the location of soils classified as prime farmland in their natural state and those that are considered prime when altered to improve drainage characteristics. It also shows those, which for a variety of reasons, are not considered prime as rated on a relative scale, by the United States Department of Agriculture. Prime farmlands are naturally endowed with the soil qualities, growing season, and moisture content necessary to sustain high crop yields under average farming practices.

As illustrated by the Prime Farmland soils map, provided in the Appendix, the highest concentration of prime agriculture lands is located within the eastern portion of the Township, however prime farmland is also scattered throughout the central and northern portions of the Township. The southeastern area has experienced significant growth, due to the expansion of Grand Valley State University and the development of non-farm single family dwellings. However, there is still a significant number of parcels that are at least 40 acres in size, that are used for agricultural use. It is envisioned that through a combination of improved state farmland preservation policies, market conditions, and local land use policies, farming will continue throughout the Township and therefore continue to represent a significant part of the economic and social fabric of the Township. In order to continue to provide an environment in which our agricultural character can thrive, the following goals, recommendations, and strategies were developed. It is important to note that the implementation of these goals, recommendations, and strategies is subject to the Michigan Right to Farm Act and may restrict the totality of their intent.

### Goals, Recommendations, and Strategies

#### *Goals*

- Obtain a balance between development and agriculture by anticipating and planning for the gradual transition of certain agricultural and open space lands into planned developments while minimizing the impacts of such development on ongoing farming operations
- Support agricultural operations
- Protect and preserve those elements which contribute to the rural character of the Township including woodlands, wetlands, farms and farmlands, pastures, fields, open views, the dark night sky, and architectural styles
- Prevent residential or commercial developments that are isolated from compatible zoning districts and uses as well as necessary utilities, transportation networks and other public services, which are designed to provide interconnection between developments, to protect premature development of farmland

### *Recommendations*

- Incorporate the preservation of natural features into site development design as a function of site plan review
- Encourage crop production and livestock use to minimally impact existing open spaces.
- Encourage all farm building construction to be designed in a central or same location to preserve the most farmland as possible and minimally impact existing open spaces
- Design a “no-cut” zone along right-of-ways to protect the natural landscape, maintain open space, and rural character, as well as preserve the native drainage system and reduce flooding
- Limit the orientation of parcel development to protect the rural image and blend development with the natural landscape.
- Require clustering of housing
- Accommodate wildlife corridors within development

### *Strategies*

- Support private conservation efforts such as county and state level farmland preservation program initiatives (e.g. purchase of development rights (PDR) and transfer development rights (TDR) programs) to assist long term farming operations
- Continue to support the enrollment of agricultural lands into the PA 116 Program
- Encourage soil conservation practices, the prudent use of fertilizers and pesticides and other means of conserving wildlife habitat, wetlands and woodlands
- Require the clustering of parcel divisions
- Create new zoning regulations to restrict the number of new lots that could be created for non-farm dwellings
- Review and revise Zoning Ordinance regulations as necessary to put into place development requirements which will contribute to keeping rural character
- Review the Agricultural and Rural Zone (AG) and Rural Estate Zone (RE) Districts and allow farming only in areas where appropriate
- Require more compact residential developments in order to maintain open lands in the Township
- Adopt Zoning Ordinance regulations that require minimum open space requirements for Planned Unit Developments (PUD)
- Require open spaces which are accessible to all persons in developments
- Develop open space incentives for developers to both help maintain the rural character of the Township and provide a buffer area between residential development and farmland
- Create development boundary that protects prime farmland soil by generally restricting residential neighborhood development, commercial development, and industrial development within that area
- Consider adoption of regulations which require the preservation of a natural vegetation filtration strip along lakes, rivers, and streams
- Consider adoption of regulations which require Wildlife Corridors within development

## Chapter Two Residential Uses

### Introduction

While Allendale Charter Township still has a strong agricultural presence, residential uses continue to grow as the Township further develops. Much of this can be attributed to the semi-rural character of the Township, proximity to both Grand Rapids and the Lakeshore, general quality of life, and the continued growth of Grand Valley State University.

In the 2019 Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities, and Threats (SWOT) workshop, the participants identified the growth of the residential population as one of the greatest strengths for the community. Over the years, there has been an increase in a variety of housing styles, ranging from single-family dwellings, multi-family dwellings, and student housing. While such growth is beneficial to the Allendale community, participants also identified a concern of managing the residential growth rate. Given this, there is a need to evaluate current residential development regulations to appropriately guide future development, while ensuring there will not be a negative impact on existing uses. In addition, in order to preserve the semi-rural character of the Township and quality of life that exists, there is a need for regulations to preserve open space and existing physical attributes.

As a result of the 2019 SWOT Workshop, as well as numerous planning meetings and other planning mechanisms, the following goals, recommendations, and strategies were developed.

### Goals, Recommendations, and Strategies

#### *Goals*

- Build a sense of community
- Provide for strong neighborhoods with a range of residential styles and densities, which incorporate into the landscape of existing neighborhoods
- Concentrate the density of residential land uses to protect open spaces and rural character
- Development along M-45 should be designed to enhance traffic safety, establish walkable access from adjacent neighborhoods and be compatible with existing and future land uses in these neighborhoods
- Protect and preserve, to the extent practicable, those elements which contribute to the rural character of the Township including woodlands, wetlands, wildlife habitats, farms, pastures, fields, open spaces and other natural areas, particularly those that are useful as water retention and ground water discharge areas and which have important aesthetic and scenic value
- Create a walkable community
- Ensure that student housing is located and designed to avoid conflicts with existing and planned single family housing
- Ensure that multi-family housing is located and designed to avoid conflicts with existing and planned single-family housing
- Preserve the natural resources and groundwater quality of Allendale Charter Township

## *Recommendations*

- Require housing development to utilize clustering techniques
- Require that development layouts blend with the natural features and existing physical attributes
- Provide safe trails and sidewalks between destination land uses and along roadways for pedestrians, skaters, wheelchair users and all non-motorized users to create a walkable and connected community
- Require higher density housing on lands that have the capacity to support such development by means of adequate public roads, public water and public sanitary sewer, and other available infrastructure
- Integrate development into the landscape of existing neighborhoods by abutting open spaces, creating a connection of roads, linking pedestrian pathways, and appropriately blending other public amenities
- Encourage, where appropriate, light pollution regulations to preserve the night sky
- Encourage, where practicable, the preservation of farmhouses, barns, fence styles, and other architectural and landscaping forms, which symbolize the architectural heritage of the Township
- Require the preservation of existing trees along the rights-of-way for future development
- Rezoning to the R-1, R-2, R-3, or R-4 Zoning District shall not occur without public water and public sanitary sewer present at the property
- Encourage groundwater preservation practices for new development that are in accordance with Ottawa County's Groundwater Sustainability Initiative
- Accommodate wildlife corridors within development

## *Strategies*

- Revise Zoning Ordinance regulations as necessary to preserve or enhance rural character, especially in regard to Planned Unit Developments (PUDs)
- Provide development incentives within the Zoning Ordinance which require the preservation of natural features and open space accessible to all persons in site development design
- Revise the Residential Open Space Development regulations of the Zoning Ordinance so that cluster open space is more appealing to developers than the traditional subdivision design pattern in order to preserve open space in the Township
- Review the Agricultural and Rural Zone (AG) and Rural Estate Zone (RE) Districts and allow farming only in areas where appropriate
- Rezoning to the R-1, R-2, R-3, or R-4 Zoning District shall not occur without public water and public sanitary sewer present at the property
- Require the lot layout, open space, roads, pedestrian pathways, and other site features of new residential developments to be extensions of existing neighborhoods, where practicable, to reduce curb cuts, provide for greater emergency access, and result in a better neighborhood design and public safety
- Require new residential developments to incorporate a pedestrian sidewalk system that ultimately connects with abutting developments to produce a walkable and connected community
- Utilize the Planned Unit Development concept as an incentive tool for development, as a means of preserving the natural character of sites, and to encourage the provision of structured, usable open space
- Strengthen as necessary, zoning regulations limiting the number of residential units in a multi-family building to lessen the visual impact of such buildings

- Strengthen as necessary, zoning regulations to reduce the minimum square footage required for a dwelling in the R-3 Zoning District
- Strengthen as necessary, zoning regulations to restrict the construction of new multi-family housing intended specifically for college students to not extend west of 52<sup>nd</sup> Avenue
- Adopt new zoning regulations to restrict light pollution to protect the night sky of open spaces
- Strengthen as necessary, zoning regulations which create greater building setbacks, limitations on building height and size and other development standards to reduce the impact of apartments on single-family neighborhoods
- Strengthen as necessary, zoning regulations that require student housing is located close to Grand Valley State University for easier and safer pedestrian access
- Strengthen as necessary, zoning regulations to allow an increase in multi-family density and to allow taller buildings in order to allow a greater concentration of students closer to Grand Valley State University's campus and reduce the need to extend student housing west of 52<sup>nd</sup> Avenue
- Require appropriate landscaping, building setbacks, placement and design, exterior lighting, safe driveway locations, and safety measures for pedestrian transportation
- Consider adoption of regulations which require Wildlife Corridors within development



## Chapter Three Commercial Uses

### Introduction

The growth of Grand Valley State University and accessibility to the City of Grand Rapids via Lake Michigan Drive continues to foster extensive commercial expansion along the eastern portion of the Lake Michigan Drive corridor within the Township. Coupled with this access, the Allendale community is also supported by a significant public water and sanitary sewer system, which has been advantageous for development. While the commercial growth along the Lake Michigan Drive corridor has been significant, participants in the 2019 Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities, and Threats workshop, identified the character of that commercial growth as a core opportunity for improvement. Participants supported neighborhood commercial amenities such as small markets and pop-up shops in the alternative to current trends. As the Township evaluates its commercial areas, with particular regard to Lake Michigan Drive, physical character as well as other factors will need to be considered such as the location, abutting land uses, traffic patterns and volumes, availability of utilities, and projected population growth.

In an effort to continue a healthy, controlled growth of commercial development to serve the local and regional needs of the community, we have concluded that the following goals are paramount in our commercial pursuits. In addition, recommendations regarding these goals as well as strategies to achieve success are provided below.

### Goals, Recommendations, and Strategies

#### *Goals*

- Promote the development, redevelopment, and rehabilitation of commercial areas to provide attractive sites, and to encourage a diversity of enterprises which will strengthen the tax base and increase employment opportunities
- Development along Lake Michigan Drive should be designed to enhance traffic safety, establish walkable access from adjacent neighborhoods, and be compatible with existing and future land uses in these neighborhoods
- Concentrate the density of commercial land uses to protect open spaces and rural character
- Protect and preserve, to the extent practicable, those elements which contribute to the rural character of the Township including woodlands, wetlands, wildlife habitats, farms, pastures, fields, open spaces, and other natural areas, particularly those that are useful as water retention and ground water discharge areas and which have important aesthetic and scenic value
- Create a walkable community
- Preserve the natural resources and groundwater quality of Allendale Charter Township
- Encourage a building scale and design that softens the physical appearance of large commercial spaces and promotes a welcoming pedestrian relationship

#### *Recommendations*

- Intensive commercial land uses should have the resources to support such development, and be located within the boundaries of the water and sanitary sewer service areas, accessible from adequate roads, and other available infrastructure

- Continue to require development to provide for the construction of sidewalks along major arterial streets; incorporate the design concepts of “Complete Streets” into existing and future streets
- Provide safe trails and sidewalks between destination land uses and along roadways for pedestrians, skaters, wheelchair users, and all non-motorized users to create a walkable and connected community
- Require that future commercial development does not intrude upon the residents in abutting single family neighborhoods
- Encourage the preservation of existing trees along the rights-of-way
- Encourage groundwater preservation practices for new development that are in accordance with Ottawa County’s Groundwater Sustainability Initiative
- Accommodate wildlife corridors within development
- Improve and expand upon existing business areas that will provide functional, safe, convenient, and attractive shopping and service opportunities
- Require that development layouts blend with the natural features and existing physical attributes

### *Strategies*

- Strengthen, as necessary, the commercial site development standards in the Zoning Ordinance to ensure that the operational characteristics of commercial uses (parking lot lights, vehicle noise, lighting, emptying of dumpsters, etcetera) do not disrupt the residential uses which exist or are planned in close proximity to the commercial uses on Lake Michigan Drive
- Revise Zoning Ordinance regulations, as necessary, to preserve or enhance rural character, especially in regard to Planned Unit Developments
- Review existing regulations regarding the development of commercial properties to ensure they address contemporary uses and development practices and that they balance the need for public safety and good site design with the economic considerations of the business community
- Consider rezoning Planned Unit Developments which contain only commercial uses to the General Commercial District
- Review existing land uses along Lake Michigan Drive and potential commercial development locations, to evaluate if additional buffering should be required to minimize the impact on adjoining residential uses
- Approximately every five years, evaluate whether there is a need for more commercial zoned land in the Township
- Strengthen, as necessary, language to improve the aesthetics of building facades and streetscapes
- Ensure adequate on and off-street parking in a manner that compliments the compactness in local commercial areas
- Ensure that commercial land uses are separated from non-commercial uses with landscaping, buffered thoroughfares, or transitional land uses
- Consider adoption of regulations which require Wildlife Corridors within development
- Utilize the Planned Unit Development concept as an incentive tool for development, as a means of preserving the natural character of sites, and to encourage the provision of structured, usable open spaces

## Chapter Four Industrial Uses

### Introduction

A majority of the industrial land within Allendale Charter Township is located east of 56<sup>th</sup> Avenue and north of Lake Michigan Drive. These parcels are served by public water and sanitary sewer, have good access to Lake Michigan Drive, are relatively flat, and can be easily developed. Given this, Allendale Charter Township has a number of attributes to foster industrial development.

According to Lakeshore Advantage, a non-profit organization whose purpose is to provide professional economic development services to Ottawa County and its local governmental units, Grand Valley State University serves to attract businesses, as the University provides a ready source of educated employees. Lakeshore Advantage also finds a strong market for agricultural food processing facilities in Ottawa County, which could be advantageous for industrial growth within Allendale Charter Township. As a result of collaboration between Grand Valley State University and agricultural businesses, there may be opportunities to increase industrial uses within the Township.

In an effort to continue a healthy, controlled growth of industrial development, we have concluded that the following goals are paramount in our industrial pursuits. In addition, recommendations regarding these goals as well as strategies to achieve success are provided below.

### Goals, Recommendations, and Strategies

#### *Goals*

- Create a walkable community
- Development along Lake Michigan Drive should be designed to enhance traffic safety, establish walkable access from adjacent neighborhoods, and be compatible with existing and future land uses in these neighborhoods
- Protect and preserve, to the extent practicable, those elements which contribute to the rural character of the Township including woodlands, wetlands, wildlife habitats, farms, pastures, fields, open spaces and other natural areas, particularly those that are useful as water retention and ground water discharge areas and have important aesthetic and scenic value
- Preserve the natural resources and groundwater quality of Allendale Charter Township
- Promote the development, redevelopment, and rehabilitation of industrial areas to provide attractive sites to a variety of enterprises which will strengthen the tax base and provide a place of employment for area residents
- Accommodate industrial development in areas that are easily accessible by major transportation facilities, are adequately served by public utilities and services, and are well positioned to avoid conflicts with emerging residential areas

### *Recommendations*

- Intensive industrial land uses shall be located within the boundaries of the public water and sanitary sewer service areas
- Continue to require development to provide for the construction of sidewalks along major arterial streets; incorporate the design concepts of “Complete Streets” into existing and future streets
- Encourage, where practicable, the preservation of farmhouses, barns, fence styles, and other architectural landscaping forms, which symbolize the agricultural heritage of the Township
- Require that development layouts blend with natural features and existing physical attributes
- Require the preservation of existing trees along the rights-of-way for future development
- Promote high quality industrial development through controlled access, service areas within the side or rear of buildings, screening of outdoor storage and equipment, as well as an emphasis on main building entry and landscaping
- Industrial nuances such as air pollution, water pollution, vibration, and outdoor storage of materials should be controlled by adequate site improvements
- Industrial sites should transition to adjacent uses with site design elements that are low impact
- Encourage groundwater preservation regulations for new development that are in accordance with Ottawa County’s Groundwater Sustainability Initiative
- Accommodate wildlife corridors within development

### *Strategies*

- Strengthen, as necessary, preservation of natural features into site development design as a function of site plan review
- Consider adoption of regulations which require preservation of a natural vegetation filtration strip along lakes, rivers, and streams
- Review existing regulations and development of industrial properties to ensure they address contemporary uses and development practices and that they balance the need for public safety and good site design with the economic considerations of the business community
- Plan for suitable land which is accessible by all season roads and public facilities for future industrial development
- Intensive industrial land uses shall be located so they are served by public water and sanitary sewer as well as paved roads
- Approximately every five years, evaluate whether there is a need for additional industrial zoned land in the Township
- Consider adoption of regulations which require Wildlife Corridors within development

## Chapter Five Public & Recreational Facilities

### Introduction

Public and recreational facilities are a vital component of community life within the Township. Access to public resources provides an opportunity to meet your neighbors, utilize space economically, and increase your overall health, among other benefits. Allendale Charter Township contains a variety of public and recreational facilities, including the Allendale Community Park, two Ottawa County park facilities, the Bass River State Recreation Area, and a growing number of non-motorized pathways. A description of each of the facilities can be found below:

#### Allendale Community Park

Allendale Charter Township operates the Allendale Community Park located behind the Township Offices. The 40-acre park consists of a handicapped accessible playground and restroom facilities, Little League and adult softball diamonds, soccer fields, splash pad, fishing pond, picnic shelters, basketball, tennis courts, fitness court, pickleball court, a band shell, and concession stand. The Knowlton House Museum and Veterans Memorial Garden of Honor are also part of the Community Park.

#### Ottawa County Parks

Two Ottawa County parks facilities are located within the Township. Kuits Bayou consists of 80 acres adjacent to the Grand River, and is accessible only by boat. Eastmanville Bayou consists of 157 acres adjacent to the Grand River, and includes a boat launch, three miles of trails, picnic areas, and a barrier-free canoe/kayak launch.

#### State of Michigan Parks

The Bass River State Recreation Area, a 1,665-acre facility, is located in the northwest portion of the Township adjacent to the Grand River. The area consists of open meadows, open brush land, mature hardwoods, small ponds and 300-acre Max Lake. The park is used primarily for boating, hiking, cross-country skiing, and mountain biking, horseback riding, and hunting. The facility contains six miles of trails.

#### Non-Motorized Pathways

In 2002, the Township prepared a Path and Greenway Master Plan that proposed a non-motorized trail system utilizing Ottawa County drain easements. Additional roadside non-motorized pathways as well as additional sidewalks were also recommended by the plan. Since then, the Allendale Charter Township Non-Motorized Pathways Plan has also been incorporated into the Ottawa County Parks, Recreation, and Open Space Plan to further enhance the regional network of non-motorized pathways.

In conjunction with the Allendale Charter Township Parks and Recreation Plan, we have concluded that the following goals are principal for maintaining the long-term success of the public and recreational facilities of Allendale Charter Township. In addition, recommendations regarding these goals as well as strategies to achieve success are provided below.

## Goals, Recommendations, and Strategies

### *Goals*

- Create a walkable community
- Preserve rural character
- Provide a range of recreation opportunities and facilities to meet the needs of citizens of all ages
- Preserve the natural resources and groundwater quality of Allendale Charter Township
- Continue the expansion of non-motorized pathways throughout the Township
- Develop new parks and public spaces within the Township

### *Recommendations*

- Provide safer pedestrian crossing locations on M-45
- Require pedestrian and bikeway connections to adjacent properties and trails where feasible
- Provide safe trails and sidewalks between destination land uses and along roadways for pedestrians, skaters, wheelchair users, and all non-motorized users to create a walkable and connected community
- Continue to require that site plans for new developments incorporate recreation design such as trails and bike paths
- Coordinate land use decisions with the goals of the Allendale Charter Township Parks and Recreation Plan
- Continue to require development to provide for the construction of sidewalks along major arterial streets; incorporate the design concepts of “Complete Streets” into existing and future streets
- Continue to incorporate the preservation of natural features into site development design as a function of site plan review
- Continue to identify future linkages with regional trail systems including, the Green River Greenways Trails, into site development design as a function of site plan review
- Encourage groundwater preservation practices for new development that are in accordance with Ottawa County’s Groundwater Sustainability Initiative

### *Strategies*

- Identify and pursue funding sources for the construction of sidewalks and trails
- Integrate the Allendale Charter Township Parks and Trail Master Plan into the Master Plan
- Cooperate with State and County agencies regarding plans for the use of the Bass River Recreation Area and Grand River Greenway Trail
- Update the Allendale Charter Township Parks and Recreation Plan every five years in order to continue to be eligible for state and federal recreation funding programs
- Encourage citizen participation to determine needed and desired improvements, and expansions to public facilities and recreation
- Utilize the Capital improvements Program as the means to implement the street plan elements of the Master Plan, as identified by Michigan Public Act 134 of 2010, and establish official Township policy for implementation of bike path and other recreational path construction in cooperation with the Ottawa County Road Commission and the Michigan Department of Transportation where appropriate

- Pursue recreation funding from the Department of Natural Resources through the Township Parks and Recreation Plan in accordance with the Department of Natural Resources rules and qualifications

## Chapter Six Public Utilities

### Introduction

A critical component in planning for the future of Allendale Charter Township is evaluating the expansion of public utilities to ensure safe and orderly growth for Township residents. Allendale Charter Township maintains sixty-seven (67) miles of water main lines and fifty-one (51) miles of sanitary sewer lines. Water for Allendale Charter Township is purchased from the City of Grand Rapids which it obtains from Lake Michigan. The Township system includes two elevated water storage tanks. A 250,000 gallon tank is located behind the Township office and a 200,000 gallon tank is located on the campus of Grand Valley State University. In those areas where public water and sewer are not available, private well and septic systems are often viable. In order to control growth and protect groundwater as much as possible within the Township, all plats, high density residential, commercial, and industrial development must be located within the public utility boundaries.

The municipal water system within the Township is intended to parallel the sanitary sewer system and is being extended on a regular basis consistent with area growth and development trends. Areas of the Township that are not served by municipal water currently rely on private well systems, which are placed and installed under the direction of the Ottawa County Health Department. The Township does not anticipate that municipal sanitary sewer or water service will be provided throughout the entire Township in any foreseeable planning period. Accordingly, the Master Plan focuses development towards the areas where the feasibility and timing of municipal sewer and water service can best be anticipated. Emphasis is given to system expansions consistent with the locations planned to support the highest density of residential, commercial, and industrial development.

Consequently, in an effort to continue to develop appropriate public sewer and water services for the residents and visitors of Allendale Charter Township, we have concluded that the following goals are paramount in our public utility pursuits. In addition, recommendations regarding these goals as well as strategies to achieve success are provided below.

### Goals, Recommendations, and Strategies

#### *Goals*

- Preserve the natural resources and groundwater quality of Allendale Charter Township
- Develop adequate public utilities that will ensure balanced, orderly growth, for the safety and well-being of Township residents
- Concentrate the majority of new growth to avoid sprawl, protect farmland, and minimize its effects on the majority of the Township where future public utilities could gain a foothold by being cost effective

#### *Recommendations*

- Intensive land uses should be located within the boundaries of the public water and sanitary sewer service areas.
- Provide public water and sanitary sewer services in areas of the Township identified for higher density residential, commercial, and industrial concentrations



- Encourage groundwater preservation regulations for new development that are in accordance with Ottawa County's Groundwater Sustainability Initiative
- Rezoning to the R-1, R-2, R-3, or R-4 Zoning Districts should not occur without public water and public sanitary sewer present at the property

### *Strategies*

- Consider the adoption of regulations which require intensive industrial, commercial, and residential land uses to be located so they are served by public water and sanitary sewer
- Consider adoption of regulations which require the preservation of a natural vegetation filtration strip along lakes, rivers and streams to preserve the water quality within the Township
- Support a general atmosphere of cooperation among adjoining units of government, school district, and other public agencies to maximize utilization of public investments Coordinate with regulatory agencies to ensure adequate protection of groundwater sources, where practicable
- Rezoning to the R-1, R-2, R-3, or R-4 Zoning District shall not occur without public water and public sanitary sewer present at the property
- Assist the Township Board of Trustees with updates to the Capital Improvements Plan
- Design commercial and industrial incentives which encourage private investment in public water and/or sewer expansion

## Chapter Seven Transportation

### Introduction

The road system within Allendale Charter Township is influenced by a number of agencies, from the Township itself, the Ottawa County Road Commission, and the Michigan Department of Transportation. The road system within the Township not only provides internal and external circulation of traffic, but also influences the shape and intensity of land.

For planning purposes, it is useful to recognize that various roads within Allendale Charter Township can have different functions. An understanding of these functions can lead to decisions as to the desirable use of each road segment, road right-of-way widths, building setbacks, and adjoining land use. Below is a brief description of the different road types that are important to consider in Allendale Charter Township.

#### *Arterial Streets*

Lake Michigan Drive, also referred to as M-45, is a State of Michigan highway that runs through the center of the Township from east to west spanning from Grand Rapids and terminating at Lakeshore Drive in Grand Haven Charter Township. This road is also classified as a major arterial street. Lake Michigan Drive within Allendale Charter Township is a four-lane boulevard from the east Township border transitioning to a two-lane roadway just west of 68<sup>th</sup> Avenue. The principal function of arterial streets is to provide traffic movement for higher volumes of vehicles.

#### *County Primary Roads*

Paved County Primary roads include 68<sup>th</sup> Avenue, Warner Street west of 68<sup>th</sup> Avenue, 48<sup>th</sup> Avenue south of Lake Michigan Drive, 96<sup>th</sup> Avenue south of Lake Michigan Drive, and Fillmore Street. This class of streets serves major movements of traffic within and through the Township. While these roads are mainly designed to move traffic, a secondary function is to provide access to adjacent properties.

#### *County Local Paved Streets*

County Local Paved Streets provide internal traffic movement within specific areas and connect those areas with the major arterial system. Generally, they are not continuous for great length. Paved Local County Streets include 54<sup>th</sup> Avenue, 60<sup>th</sup> Avenue, 64<sup>th</sup> Avenue, Alger Street, portions of Pierce Street, 96<sup>th</sup> Avenue, 84<sup>th</sup> Avenue, 78<sup>th</sup> Avenue, 76<sup>th</sup> Avenue, Rich Street and all of Lincoln Street. Unpaved County Local Streets include Warner Street east of 64<sup>th</sup> Avenue, 88<sup>th</sup> Avenue, portions of 92<sup>nd</sup> Avenue, 74<sup>th</sup> Avenue, Pierce Street, 84<sup>th</sup> Avenue and 52<sup>nd</sup> Avenue.

#### *Local Streets*

The sole function of these streets is to provide access to immediately adjacent property particularly within residential subdivisions. In developed areas, while they make up a major percentage of the streets within the community, they facilitate a small proportion of the overall vehicular traffic.

### *Multi-Modal Transportation*

While roadways are the predominant method of transportation throughout Allendale Charter Township, it is necessary to emphasize alternative methods of transportation as well. The prevalence of bicycling and walking continues to increase as alternative modes of transportation are available, with positive impacts for both the environment and health of Township residents and visitors. It is important to ensure that travelers that are not in vehicles have safe routes throughout the Township as well, connecting places of residence, business, recreation, and education.

Another mode of transportation which is available in the Township is The Rapid bus service, which provides daily bus service between the Grand Valley State University campus within the Township, and the downtown Grand Rapids campus.

### *Future Streets*

The Master Plan Map illustrates locations of future streets which are intended to connect to existing major north south roads and provide alternative routes to disperse traffic. The locations are general and are illustrated so that measures can be taken to ensure that road connections can be made during review of development plans.

As Allendale Charter Township continues to grow, the transportation network will also continue to become more complex. Given this, it is imperative to consider the impact of residential, commercial, and industrial development on the existing transportation infrastructure when reviewing land use plans. In that regard, we have concluded that the following goals are paramount for planning for effective modes of transportation within Allendale Charter Township. In addition to the goals, recommendations and strategies to achieve success are provided below.

## **Goals, Recommendations, and Strategies**

### *Goals*

- Maintain and plan for a safe, efficient, and functional roadway system
- Ensure balanced, orderly growth of sidewalks, bike paths, roadways, and other transportation routes to create logical transportation extensions and connections

### *Recommendations*

- Provide safe trails and sidewalks between destination land uses along roadways for pedestrians, bicyclists, skaters, wheelchair users, and all non-motorized users in order to create an accessible and connected community, to reduce vehicle trips and simply improve the quality of life for Allendale Charter Township residents
- Continue to require development to provide for the construction of sidewalks along major arterial streets
- Incorporate the design concepts of “Complete Streets” into existing and future streets
- Development along Lake Michigan Drive should be designed to achieve traffic safety, walkable access from adjacent neighborhoods and compatibility with existing and future land uses in these neighborhoods

- Encourage continued shared usage of non-residential driveways, where practical
- Encourage the continuation of limited access points to developments
- Consider the ability of existing roadway conditions to handle projected traffic volumes resulting from new development when reviewing site plans and rezoning requests

### *Strategies*

- Strengthen as necessary, access management standards to better regulate driveway locations and vehicle turning movements
- Continue to work with the Michigan Department of Transportation to lower the speed limit on Lake Michigan Drive through the boulevard portion to create safer conditions for both vehicles and pedestrians
- Collaborate with The Rapid bus service to identify opportunities to extend the public bus service west of 48<sup>th</sup> Avenue
- Plan land uses along major Township roads such as 48<sup>th</sup> Avenue and 68<sup>th</sup> Avenue which will preserve the primary function of these roads which is the safe and efficient movement of traffic
- Consider the ability of existing roadway conditions to handle projected traffic volumes resulting from new development when reviewing site plans and rezoning requests
- Pursue funding programs to repair and replace existing streets and sidewalks in disrepair and to expand the sidewalk system in areas of existing development where sidewalks do not exist
- Work with the Ottawa County Road Commission and the Michigan Department of Transportation to promote road improvement policies consistent with the goals of the Master Plan
- Utilize the Capital Improvement Program as the means to implement the street plan elements of the Master Plan, as identified by Michigan Public Act 134 of 2010, and establish Township policy for implementation of street construction in cooperation with the Ottawa County Road Commission and the Michigan Department of Transportation, where appropriate

## Complete Streets Analysis

### *Legal Basis for Complete Streets Analysis*

In August of 2010, PA 33 of 2008 (the Michigan Planning Enabling Act) was amended to require that local master plans include consideration of additional elements related to transportation. These elements include safe and efficient movement of people and goods by not only motor vehicles but also by bicycles, pedestrians, and other legal users including persons with disabilities. Additionally, the amended Act defines street as “a street, avenue, boulevard, highway, road, lane, alley, viaduct, or other public way intended for use by motor vehicles, bicycles, pedestrians, and other legal uses.”

In December of 2010, PA 33 of 2008 was further amended to require that local master plans also take into consideration the location, character, and extent of public transit routes and public transportation facilities in the preparation of the master plan, and to coordinate with public transportation agencies in the planning process.

In Allendale Charter Township, the following analysis was performed of existing transportation facilities, and recommendations were developed to insure adequate transportation for all users.

### *Existing Conditions*

#### Sidewalks

Allendale Charter Township is a predominantly rural township served by Ottawa County primary and local roads. Lake Michigan Drive traverses the Township from east to west. Commercial development is concentrated along the Lake Michigan Drive Corridor, while residential development is located along County primary and local roads, within residential subdivisions served by both private and public roads, and within multi-family developments that serve primarily the student population associated with Grand Valley State University (GVSU).

Sidewalks occur on both sides of Lake Michigan Drive (with minor exceptions west of 68<sup>th</sup> Avenue) for the length of Lake Michigan Drive from the Grand River to just west of 74<sup>th</sup> Avenue. While Lake Michigan Drive contains a median that extends most intersections, pedestrian crossings with accessible curb ramps are located within the median to facilitate pedestrian or bicycle crossing at 48<sup>th</sup>, 56<sup>th</sup>, 60<sup>th</sup>, and 68<sup>th</sup> Avenues.

Sidewalks constructed within the Ottawa County road right-of-way are subject to specific construction standards as required by statute and as adopted by the Ottawa County Road Commission.

#### Bicycle Lanes

No designated bicycle lanes exist within the Township. However, families and young children use the sidewalk network to bicycle. Along many of the paved roads, no room exists on the current paved width to add a bicycle lane. In some cases, especially where recent paving has occurred, room exists to add a marked bicycle lane. Many of the roadways within the Township are gravel, and therefore are not candidates for bicycle lanes until or if they are paved.

A paved shoulder of at least four feet or greater is striped on Lake Michigan Drive. This lane is not necessarily designated for bicycles, and some conflict may exist where deceleration lanes are present, or where vehicles must pull onto the shoulder. However, the striped lane does provide space for cyclists who do not wish to bike in the travel lane.

#### Non-Motorized Trails

Allendale Charter Township has one non-motorized trail on the west side of 48<sup>th</sup> Avenue, between Pierce Street and Lake Michigan Drive. In addition, the Ottawa County Parks and Recreation Commission has incorporated the Township's 2002 Path and Greenway Master Plan into the County's overall non-motorized trail plan, referred to as the Grand River Greenway. The plan proposes linking greenways, Township parks, and other Township facilities such as schools via pathways along County drain easements and via additional roadside paths and sidewalks. The proposed trail system also proposes to link to the County's proposed greenway trail along the Grand River corridor.

The Ottawa County Road Commission has a policy whereby they recommend that the construction of separated sidewalks or non-motorized facilities are designed to safely accommodate pedestrians and bicyclists with respect to the motorized traffic. Non-motorized facilities may not be designed as "exclusively" for bicycles as they are for all users.

The Ottawa County Road Commission has adopted policies and procedures for the construction on non-motorized facilities on County roads, as well as policies for paved shoulders. Specific construction standards are required for non-motorized facilities within the County road right-of-way. Providing for non-motorized facilities is the responsibility of the local unit of government. In addition, it is the policy of the County to not designate paved shoulders as bicycle or pedestrian facilities. Where additional paved shoulder width is requested, the requesting party will bear the cost of the construction of the additional paved shoulder.

In addition, in 2020 Allendale Charter Township was working to draft the Allendale Charter Township Parks and Recreation Plan, which addresses the development of creating an interconnected non-motorized path system within the Township.

#### Public Transportation

The Rapid (Interurban Transit Partnership) is the authority that provides a variety of public transportation services for the Grand Rapids metro area and beyond. It is organized and operates under Michigan Public Act 196 of 1986. The activities of The Rapid are overseen by a 15-member board of directors that represent the six municipalities in The Rapid service area.

The Rapid offers a GVSU Campus Connector that provides service from the Pew Campus located in downtown Grand Rapids to a major location on the GVSU campus, including service to several multi-family student living communities. The Campus Connector includes stops along Lake Michigan Drive en route to Allendale Charter Township and on return to the downtown campus.

All of The Rapid's regular route buses are accessible to individuals with mobility impairments, including those who use wheelchairs. All Rapid buses have low floors for level boarding or are lift equipped. In addition, the Rapid operates fixed route, demand-response services for seniors age 65 and over, and people with disabilities called GO! Buss which is available in the Allendale Charter Township regular route service

area. To qualify for GO! Bus, an individual must complete an Americans with Disabilities application for or a “proof of age” application. A low cost fee is charged.

Several private agencies within Ottawa County provide transportation for senior, low-income, or disabled individuals. These agencies vary from free to fee-based services. Agencies that serve the Township include Love in the Name of Christ, located within the Township; Pioneer Resources in Muskegon; and Ambu-Care West Michigan.

Due to the continued development and growth within Allendale Charter Township, it is vital to consider the impact of residential, commercial, and industrial development on the existing non-motorized transportation infrastructure when reviewing land use plans. In that regard, we have concluded that the following goals are paramount for planning for effective modes of non-motorized transportation in Allendale Charter Township. In addition to the goals, recommendations and strategies to achieve success are provided below.

### **Goals, Recommendations, and Strategies**

#### *Goals*

- Ensure balanced, orderly growth of sidewalks, bike paths, roadways, and other transportation routes to create logical transportation extensions and connections

#### *Recommendations*

- As development proposals are reviewed, the Allendale Charter Township Parks and Trail Master Plan should be consulted, once adopted. The approval of development proposals should include conditions that require either the trail or sidewalks to be constructed or that easements be approved with the site plan for future trail construction
- Any future trails or sidewalks should be constructed to ensure access for all legal uses including those with disabilities as defined by the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). Accessibility from transportation facilities to parks, schools, and the library, and other Township facilities must meet the requirements of the ADA
- Consider the addition of bike racks at commercial areas within the Township to accommodate those traveling by bicycle

#### *Strategies*

- Consider the construction of a non-motorized pathway along Pierce Street between 48<sup>th</sup> Avenue and 68<sup>th</sup> Avenue. Identify other suitable locations along roadways for a non-motorized path system
- Since it is not the policy of the Ottawa County Road Commission to designate paved shoulders as any special facility such as a bike path, Allendale Charter Township should continue to plan for off-road non-motorized facilities that are constructed for all users. When located within a County road right-of-way, non-motorized facilities are subject to construction standards adopted by the Ottawa County Road Commission
- Provide bike racks at key locations in the Township such as public facilities and parks to facilitate those traveling by bicycle

- Provide designated locations along major roads, such as Lake Michigan Drive, to accommodate for safe pedestrian crossings



## Chapter Eight Implementation

### Introduction

In order for the Master Plan to serve as an effective guide for the continued development of Allendale Charter Township, it must be implemented. Primary responsibility for implementing the plan rests with the Township Board, the Planning Commission, and the Township staff. This is done with a number of methods. These include ordinances, programs, and administrative procedures.

This implementation must come from the decisions of the Township Board and Planning Commission to provide needed public improvements and to administer and establish regulatory measures relative to the use of land.

The private sector, which includes individual landowners as well as developers, is also involved in fulfilling the recommendations of the Master Plan by the actual physical development of land and through the rezoning of land. The authority for this, however, comes from the Township. Cooperation and coordination among individuals, private developers, and public agencies is, therefore, important in successful implementation of the Master Plan.

### *Zoning and Land Use Regulations*

Zoning represents a legal means for the Township to regulate private property to achieve orderly land use relationships. Zoning is the process most commonly used to implement community plans. The zoning process consists of an official Zoning Map and accompanying Zoning Ordinance text. The official Zoning Map divides the community into different districts within which certain uses are permitted. The Zoning Ordinance text establishes permitted uses and regulations to control densities, height, bulk, setbacks, lot sizes and accessory uses, among other physical and linear attributes. The Zoning Ordinance also sets forth procedures for special approval provisions and regulates accessory structures such as signs. These measures permit the Township to control the quality as well as type of development.

The Planning Commission and Township Board should periodically review and make any necessary revisions to the zoning regulations based on the Strategies of this plan to ensure that the Goals and Recommendations of the Master Plan are instituted. Further, the Zoning Ordinance requires systematic and frequent updates to address needs resulting from changing trends, case law and state statutes.

### Relationship of Master Plan Classifications to Zoning Districts (Zoning Plan)

Complementing the text of the Master Plan is its map, which identifies land use classifications by which the Township organizes and intends future improvements and uses. These classification terms are intentionally general in nature so as to not necessarily be specific to one use or type of uses permitted by the Zoning Ordinance and its map. In other words, while the land use classifications are related to the Zoning Districts identified on the Zoning Ordinance map, as shown in the table below, specific future uses are determined by numerous natural and man-made features of the landscape such as public utilities, topography, soils, road improvements, surrounding uses, existing densities, and etcetera, as well as other planning considerations such as compatibility, public safety, access, and etcetera. Consequently, while the land use classifications of the Master Plan Map are designed to serve as a guide for future uses, they are not considered to be a mandate for immediate improvements, public, private, or otherwise.

Ultimately, while the Master Plan Map identifies areas for future uses, the feasibility of a proposed use is determined by the aforementioned, and the Zoning Ordinance with its regulations regarding height, area, bulk, location, etcetera for each of its Zoning Districts.

*Terminology*

Table of Master Plan Classification Terms & Zoning Ordinance Map District Terms

Master Plan Map Classification Terms	Zoning Ordinance Map Districts
Agricultural (AG)	Agricultural and Rural (AG)
Rural Estate (RE)	Rural Estate (RE)
Low Density Residential (LDR)	Low Density One-Family Residential (R-1)
Moderate Density Residential (MOD)	Medium Density One and Two-Family Residential (R-2)
Medium Density Residential (MDR)	Low Density Multiple Family Residential (R-3) and Mobile Home Park (R-5)
High Density Residential (HDR)	Medium Density Multiple Family Residential/Office (R-4)
Office (OC)	Office (O)
General Commercial (GC)	General Commercial (G-C)
Service Commercial (C-3)	Service Commercial (C-3)
Industrial (I)	Industrial (I)

Relationship of Master Plan Map Classification Terms to Master Plan Chapters

Several Chapters of this Master Plan identify the goals, recommendations, and strategies regarding future land uses within the Township. While the goals, recommendations, and strategies will likely always evolve, the intended uses related to the chapter titles will remain the same. Those chapter titles can generally be related to the Master Plan Map terms as provided in the table below.

Master Plan Map Classification Terms	Master Plan Chapters
Agricultural (AG)	Agricultural Uses
Rural Estate (RE)	Agricultural Uses
Low Density Residential (LDR)	Residential Uses
Moderate Density Residential (MOD)	Residential Uses
Medium Density Residential (MDR)	Residential Uses
High Density Residential (HDR)	Residential Uses
Medium Density Residential (MDR)	Residential Uses
Office (OC)	Commercial Uses
General Commercial (GC)	Commercial Uses
Service Commercial (C-3)	Commercial Uses
Industrial (I)	Industrial Uses

## Master Plan Classification Terms

The following is a description of land use Classifications identified within this Master Plan.

### *Agricultural*

The Agricultural Classification recognizes lands which are best suited for farming based on location, current utility served areas, soil type, parcel size, and active farm operations. This classification consists of agricultural land, but provides opportunities for very low density residential design, to preserve natural features and provide open space buffers between such areas and active farms thereby helping preserve rural character. Public water and sanitary sewer are not envisioned within this Classification. Agricultural lands are intended to provide for the continuation of existing agricultural uses while also allowing a gradual transition of certain lands to low density development.

### *Low Density Residential (LDR)*

The Low Density Residential Classification comprises most of the residential land use component within Allendale Charter Township and correlates with the permitted density of the R-1 Zoning District. The LDR Classification recommends a density greater than Agricultural but less than the Moderate Density Residential Classification. LDR planned areas should be served by public water and sanitary sewer.

### *Moderate Density Residential (MOD)*

The Moderate Density Residential Classification correlates with the permitted density of the R-2 Zoning District. The MOD Classification recommends a density greater than LDR but less than Medium Density Residential to provide a transition between use densities. MOD planned areas should be served by public water and sanitary sewer.

### *Medium Density Residential (MDR)*

The Medium Density Residential Classification recommends a density greater than MOD but less than High Density Residential to provide significant clustering and transition between use densities. The MDR Classification correlates with the permitted density of the R3 Zoning District. MDR planned areas require connection to public water and sanitary sewer.

### *High Density Residential (HDR)*

The High Density Residential Classification recommends the highest residential density within the Township to provide concentrated development and access to urban amenities and services. The HDR-Classification correlates with the permitted density of the R-4 Zoning District in which multifamily dwellings are the principal use. HDR planned areas are located in close proximity to Grand Valley State University and transient housing should not extend west of 52<sup>nd</sup> Avenue. HDR planned areas require connection to public water and sanitary sewer.

### *Commercial*

Commercial Classification uses typically serve the local and regional market, are automobile-oriented, and benefit from increased visibility and accessibility. Commercial uses generate large volumes of traffic.

Outdoor display and storage of goods are also common characteristics of uses in this land use classification, although design standards should be developed to manage the intensity, location, and environmental impact of such displays. It is the intent of the Township that parcels will not be rezoned to accommodate this classification until adequate infrastructure is present. This may include, but is not necessarily limited to, public water and sanitary sewer as well as roads.

### *Industrial*

It is recognized that industrial development is important to the economy and tax base of the region. The areas designated for Industrial Classification are located for easy access and where utilities are either available or are in the process of being established. Similar to the Commercial Classification, it is intended that these parcels will not be rezoned to accommodate this classification until adequate infrastructure is present. This may include, but is not necessarily limited to, public water and sanitary sewer as well as roads.

### Master Plan Map

Within Chapter Eight and the Appendix is the Master Plan Map of Allendale Charter Township.