

1 Envisioning Painesville Township

(The layout of this section will be altered and reformatted before publication.)

1.1 Vision statement

By creating this plan, the community wishes to continue seeking opportunities to develop and redevelop Painesville Township. This plan is designed to preserve the diversity of land use along with financial and social stability of the community by promoting the township's natural features, educational systems and semi-rural atmosphere. This plan will also address the goal of attracting new commerce and industry through proper planning, while striving to maintain the integrity and identity of Painesville Township.



1.2 Why a comprehensive plan?

A comprehensive plan is a land use document that provides the framework and goals for land use decisions and other actions affecting the physical, economic, and social aspects of the community. It indicates, in a general way, how the local community wishes to develop in the future.

The basic characteristics of a comprehensive plan are that it is general and far-reaching. Another defining characteristic is that the plan is long-range and provides a base from which to make decisions.

The adoption of a comprehensive plan often becomes the driving force behind creation of a more targeted plan, such as transportation corridor studies and housing analyses.

The Painesville Township Comprehensive Plan is a major planning effort to guide the community toward what it will be like in the future as a place to live, work, and invest. It is being developed through an open, participatory process driven by four broad-reaching questions:

1. Where are we now?
2. Where are we going?
3. Where do we want to be?
4. How do we get there?

The comprehensive plan will identify a vision and broadly address the elements that build a community including transportation, housing, open space and natural resources, sense of place, government services, the impacts of new developments and more.

The Comprehensive Plan provides goals regarding land use and the built environment. Through goal setting, it will set priorities about land use, economic development, cultural and natural resources, transportation and other areas.

The Comprehensive Plan will not propose specific lot-by-lot locations for land uses or facilities, or address detailed regulations. A comprehensive plan is not a zoning resolution or subdivision regulation. However, such regulations are used as tools for implementing the Comprehensive Plan. The Comprehensive Plan is intended to provide the legal and rational framework for regulations, investments, and government action.

1.3 Comprehensive planning process

Survey-analysis-plan. This is the basic method used in the planning field. This plan expands on these 3 points while following the 9-step rational model:

1. Identify issues and options.
2. State goals and objectives; identify priorities.
3. Collect and interpret data.
4. Prepare plans.
5. Draft programs for plan implementation.
6. Evaluate potential impacts of plans and implementing programs, and modify the plans accordingly.
7. Review and adopt plans.
8. Review and adopt implementation programs.
9. Administer plan-implementing programs, monitor their impacts, and amend plans in response to feedback.

A very important part of the planning process is public participation; that those who live and work in Painesville Township have a role in charting its future. Citizen comments were encouraged through a survey distributed to every household. Meetings were held with committee members and community leaders throughout 2003 and 2004, to solicit their thoughts about the current state of the Township.

The Comprehensive Plan is a flexible planning tool that is not carved in stone. While the plan presents goals and policies to be pursued, future events, broad changes in community values, or the availability of financing could cause township leaders and residents to focus on other goals. However, it is good civic stewardship to ensure that revisions conform to the spirit of the plan and sound planning principles, and consider the best interest of the community as a whole. It is important to review plans on a regular basis, and keep them up to date. Good planning practice recommends major review and revision of a comprehensive plan every five to seven years.

1.4 Plan organization

Each element contains at least two parts: a narrative description of current conditions (often called an inventory) and possible courses of action for the town; and formal goals and objectives. To permit flexibility in implementing the plan, specific implementation steps are usually not included with individual goals.

The introduction, in the next chapter, describes the history, geography and geology of Painesville Township, along with a description of the challenges faced by the township. The **demographics** element describes attributes of the township population, how it has changed through the years, and how it may change in the future. The **land use** element describes the role of the built environment on the township and how land is being used. The **transportation** element describes the transportation system in Painesville Township; not just considering motor vehicles. The **housing** element describes home ownership and tenure trends, and addresses challenges such as affordable housing. The **public facilities** element describes all public land uses – public safety facilities, schools, parks and open space – and discusses future needs. The **utilities** element describes the role that utilities play in shaping the built environment of the township. The **economic development** element describes the business environment of the township, and goals intended to maintain a diverse tax base and reduce the tax

burden on residents. The **natural resources** element describes the features of the township built not by man but by nature, and ways to protect those gifts in the face of population growth.

1.5 Relation to adopted regional plans

The Painesville Township Comprehensive Plan is considered an amendment to the Lake County Comprehensive Plan. The County Comprehensive Plan was adopted in 1960, but is currently being rewritten, and will be adopted. The Painesville Township Plan will be considered an amendment to the County Plan and be incorporated.