

1 | Envisioning Painesville Township



1.1 Vision Statement

This comprehensive plan outlines Painesville Township's common goals and aspirations as we move forward as an economically and environmentally sustainable community. Written with valuable input and guidance from our residents, we strive to enhance the quality of life for all by incorporating best practices to maintain our semi-rural character, unique qualities and identity. This comprehensive plan serves to guide decision-making within the community. It incorporates ways in which the Township will protect and effectively utilize our natural resources, become bicycle and pedestrian friendly, diversify housing so that all residents are accommodated, and strategically plan our business, residential and green space for economic stability.

1.2 Purpose

A comprehensive plan is a goal-oriented document that provides the framework for land use decisions and other actions affecting the physical, economic, and social aspects of a community. It distinguishes the needs of a community, as well as ways in which a community wishes to develop in the future.

Comprehensive plans serve as a base from which a community can make informed decisions. These plans are characteristically long-range, generalized, and far-reaching. The adoption of a comprehensive plan often becomes the foundation for the creation of more targeted plans, such as transportation corridor studies and housing analyses.

The Painesville Township Comprehensive Plan is intended to guide the community toward a desirable future as a place to live, work, play, and invest. It is developed through an open, participatory process and is driven by the following questions:

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

The Comprehensive Plan identifies a vision and broadly addresses the fundamental elements of which Painesville Township is comprised. The Comprehensive Plan does not propose specific lot-by-lot locations for land uses or facilities, and it does not address detailed regulations. The Comprehensive Plan is not a zoning resolution or a subdivision regulation. However, such regulations are utilized as tools for plan creation and implementation. The Comprehensive Plan is intended to provide the legal and rational framework for regulation, investment, and government action.

1.3 Comprehensive Planning Process

The process of creating a comprehensive plan is commonly guided by a 9-step rational model, which includes the following stages:

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 program implementation, 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.

In conjunction with the 9-step model, an essential and valued element of the planning process is public participation. It is crucial that those who live and work in Painesville Township have a role in charting its future. Citizens' comments were encouraged through an online survey, as well as hard-copy surveys. Meetings were held with the Painesville Township Comprehensive Plan Committee members and community leaders throughout 2015. During these sessions, discussions regarding the current state of the Township, as well as areas in need of improvement, took place.

The Comprehensive Plan is a flexible planning tool that allows for modification when deemed necessary. While the plan presents goals and policies to be pursued, future

events, broad changes in community values, or the availability of financing may cause Township leaders and residents to focus on goals unspecified by the plan. It is of good civic stewardship to ensure that all 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 and update plans on a regular basis. Good planning practice recommends major review and revision of a comprehensive plan every five to seven years.

1.4 Plan Organization

Each element of the Comprehensive Plan contains the following components: a narrative description of current conditions, possible courses of action for the Township, and goals and objectives. To permit flexibility in plan implementation, specific implementation steps are not typically included with individual goals.