

9 | Public Infrastructure & Utilities

9.1 Introduction

The intent of the Public Infrastructure & Utilities element of the Comprehensive Plan is to ensure that schools, public safety facilities, utilities, and other government-provided amenities meet and exceed the needs of Township residents and visitors, positively impact the overall quality of life for residents, and preserve the rural character of the Township.

Painesville Township, like many Ohio townships, does not have the same level of amenities as incorporated urban and suburban areas. Over time, the existing public facilities and utilities within the Township may need to be reevaluated and updated. There is room for improvement, but without sacrificing the rural character and unique qualities of the Township.

The Township is surrounded by other growing communities, with whom water, sewer and other utility facilities are shared. Issues affecting the provision of utilities are sometimes beyond the control of the Township. The lack of sewer or water capacity can impede residential development, the redevelopment of brownfields and obsolescent commercial areas, and the potential range of commercial and industrial uses. This plan provides a basic inventory of utility services in the community, as well as goals and policies.

Please note this is not a capital improvement plan. A capital improvement plan is a budgetary document that links the programming of capital projects, such as public facilities, to the planning goals found in this document.

9.2 Schools

Painesville Township is located within the Riverside Local School District, formerly known as the Painesville Township School District. The Riverside Local School District serves the entirety of Painesville Township as well as large portions of Concord and Leroy Townships. This section focuses upon location and capacity of public schools and does not address non-infrastructure items such as curriculum.

Of the six elementary schools currently operated by the Riverside Local School District, four are located within the political borders of Painesville Township. The other two include Melridge Elementary School, which is located in Concord Township, and Leroy Elementary School, which is located in Leroy Township. The Riverside Local School District has recently announced a plan to build two new elementary schools targeted to be operational for the 2019-2020 school year. One will be built on the site of the current Madison Ave. Elementary School in Painesville Township. The site of the second

school is undetermined as of this writing. The plan includes the closure and probable demolition of the Leroy Elementary School, Madison Avenue Elementary School, Hale Road Elementary School and Hadden Elementary School. The plan will be funded by a bond issue which was approved by voters in November 2016.

Hadden Elementary School and Buckeye Elementary School are located in the SW region of the Township. Hale Road Elementary School is located in the NE region of the Township. Madison Avenue Elementary School and the Riverside Campus, which is comprised of John R. Williams Junior High School, Riverside High School and the district offices, are located in the SE region of the Township. There are no public schools in the NW region of the Township. There are no private, parochial or charter schools located within Painesville Township.

**Table 9.1
Riverside Local School District: Schools located within the political borders of the Township**

School name	Address	Grades	Year built	Enrollment 2004	Enrollment 2014	Capacity	Acres
Buckeye Elementary School	175 Buckeye Road (SW)	K-5	1964	282	416	387	8.3 ac 3.4 ha
Clyde C Hadden Elementary School	1800 Mentor Avenue (SW)	K-5	1940	283	207	208	9.2 ac 3.7 ha
Hale Road Elementary School	56 Hale Road (SE)	K-5	1925	358	428	429	34.7 ac 14.1 ha
Madison Avenue Elementary School	845 Madison Avenue (SE)	Pre K-5	1928	359	310	286	13.6 ac 5.5 ha
Riverside High School / John R Williams Junior High School	585 Riverside Drive (SE)	8-12	1956	1,711	1,688	1,731	107.4 ac 43.5 ha
Total	n/a	n/a	n/a	2,993	3,049	2,575	173.2 ac 70.2 ha

Attendance boundaries for individual schools may extend beyond Township borders. Riverside High School is the only high school in the district, with students from Painesville Township, Grand River Village, Concord Township and Leroy Township.
(Fanning/Howey Associates, Inc. 2001)

Enrollment has fluctuated over time for most Township Schools. From 2004 to 2014, enrollment increased from 282 students to 416 students for Buckeye Elementary school, equating to a 47.52% increase. This was the most significant enrollment increase of all elementary schools within the Township. It is predicted that this enrollment increase can be attributed to increased residential development in Concord Township and the City of Painesville. During the same time period, Hale Road Elementary experienced an increase in enrollment from 358 to 428 students, which equates to a 19.55% increase. This increase in enrollment may be attributed to increase in residents due to the development of the Lake Erie Shores subdivision. From 2004 to 2014, enrollment decreased from 283 students to 207 students for Clyde C. Hadden Elementary School, equating to a 26.86% decrease. During this same time period

enrollment also decreased for Madison Avenue Elementary school, from 359 to 310 students, which equated to a 13.65% decrease. (Table 9.1)

Riverside High School and John R. Williams Junior High School, both located at 585 Riverside Drive in the SE region of the Township, experienced a relatively small decrease in enrollment from 1,711 students in 2004 to 1,688 students in 2014. This decrease equates to a 1.3% decrease in enrollment during this time period. (Table 9.1)

The 1960 Lake County Comprehensive Plan proposed three more elementary schools for Painesville Township, based on very optimistic population projections at the time. The Riverside Local School District, in early 2016, began discussion of the potential closure of as many as four of the current elementary schools along with a planned consolidation and construction of several new buildings. As mentioned above, this is no longer a discussion but is a plan which has won funding approval by the voters in the school district.

The Auburn Career Center provides career services for students from Riverside High School.

9.3 Public safety

Resident surveys conducted in 2015 indicate that the majority of residents are satisfied with the quality and response times of police and fire protection services in Painesville Township.

Fire Protection

The Painesville Township Fire Department operates out of three stations, including: 55 Nye Road in the SW region of the Township, 141 Bowhall Road in the SW region, and 550 Hardy Road in the NE region. The Hardy Road station was built in 2008 to serve the rapidly growing residential population. The fire department employs 26 full-time and 20 part-time firefighters to provide 24-hour protection to residents. It is also the EMS provider for the Township. The fire department was reevaluated in 2013 by the Insurance Services Office (ISO) and received an improved fire class rating from 5/9 to 3/3X, Fire class ratings are determined by a complex formula involving, but not limited to the following components: distance and response time, equipment, personnel, training and water supply. The new rating by this organization indicates that the department has improved in almost every category measured by ISO and places the fire department in the top 6% of fire departments in the country.












Law Enforcement

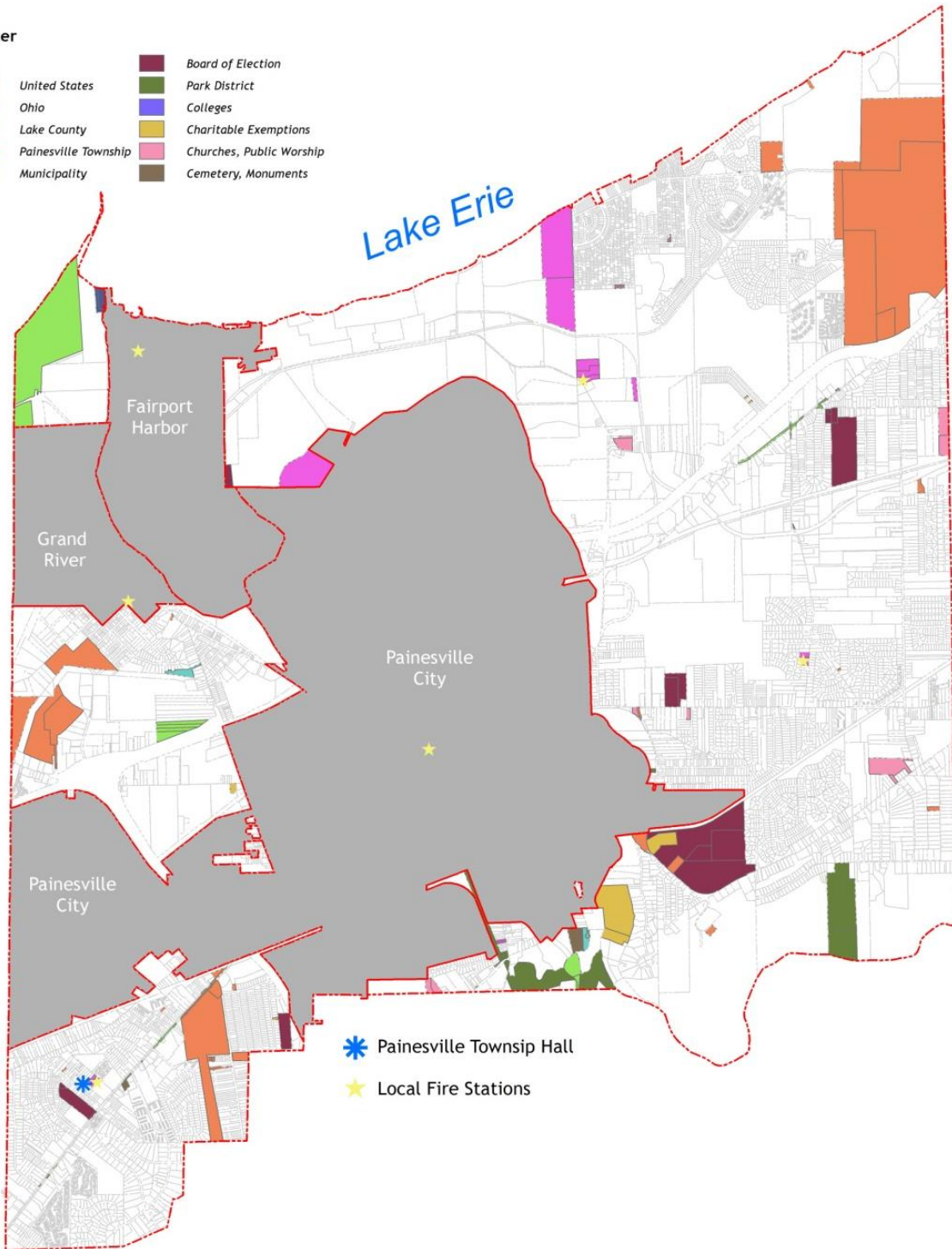
The Lake County Sheriff's Department patrols the Township, with local calls dispatched from the Emergency Operations Center in Kirtland. The Sheriff's Office is located in the City of Painesville CBD, central to the surrounding Township.

Painesville Township

Tax Exempt Properties

Owner

- | | | | |
|---|----------------------|---|--------------------------|
|  | United States |  | Board of Election |
|  | Ohio |  | Park District |
|  | Lake County |  | Colleges |
|  | Painesville Township |  | Charitable Exemptions |
|  | Municipality |  | Churches, Public Worship |
| | |  | Cemetery, Monuments |



9.4 Township Government

Town Hall

Town Hall shares a 1.3 acre site with the Painesville Township Fire Department in the SW region of Painesville Township, located at 55 Nye Road. Town Hall houses Township administration and Zoning Department offices. The building was constructed in 1997.

Service Department

The Painesville Township Service Department's garage and yard is located on the northeast corner of Fairport Nursery Road and Hardy Road in the NE region of the Township.

Heavy equipment and vehicles are stored in the enclosed yard. The yard is visually screened from the Fairport Nursery Road by the garage building and from Hardy Road by a well-maintained cedar fence. Galvanized chain link fences define the north and east property lines and there is no visual screening towards other properties.

The Painesville Township Service Department currently employs 8 full-time workers and one Service Director. This department offers a variety services, including road maintenance of Township roads, annual leaf collection, annual brush collection, and curbside collection. According to the 2015 resident survey, residents of the Township are in favor of increasing the number of brush and leaf collection days.

Garbage collection in Painesville Township is currently carried out by multiple providers. Due to the quantity of garbage trucks servicing the area, Township roads are negatively impacted. As of 2015, there is discussion of whether or not the Township should pursue a single hauler for garbage collection. Another option to improve upon the garbage collection services in the Township is the establishment of a partnership with nearby communities. Decreasing the number of garbage collection trucks on Township roads will result in a decreased negative impact that these vehicles have on Township infrastructure.

Cemetery

There are currently two cemeteries located within Painesville Township. Blish Cemetery, also known as Mentor Ave. Cemetery, is located in the SW quadrant in the neighborhood of Township Hall. Saint Mary Catholic Church owns a private cemetery located off of State St. south of the Bank St. intersection. Cemeteries in the City of Painesville are available to residents of Painesville Township.

9.5 Utilities

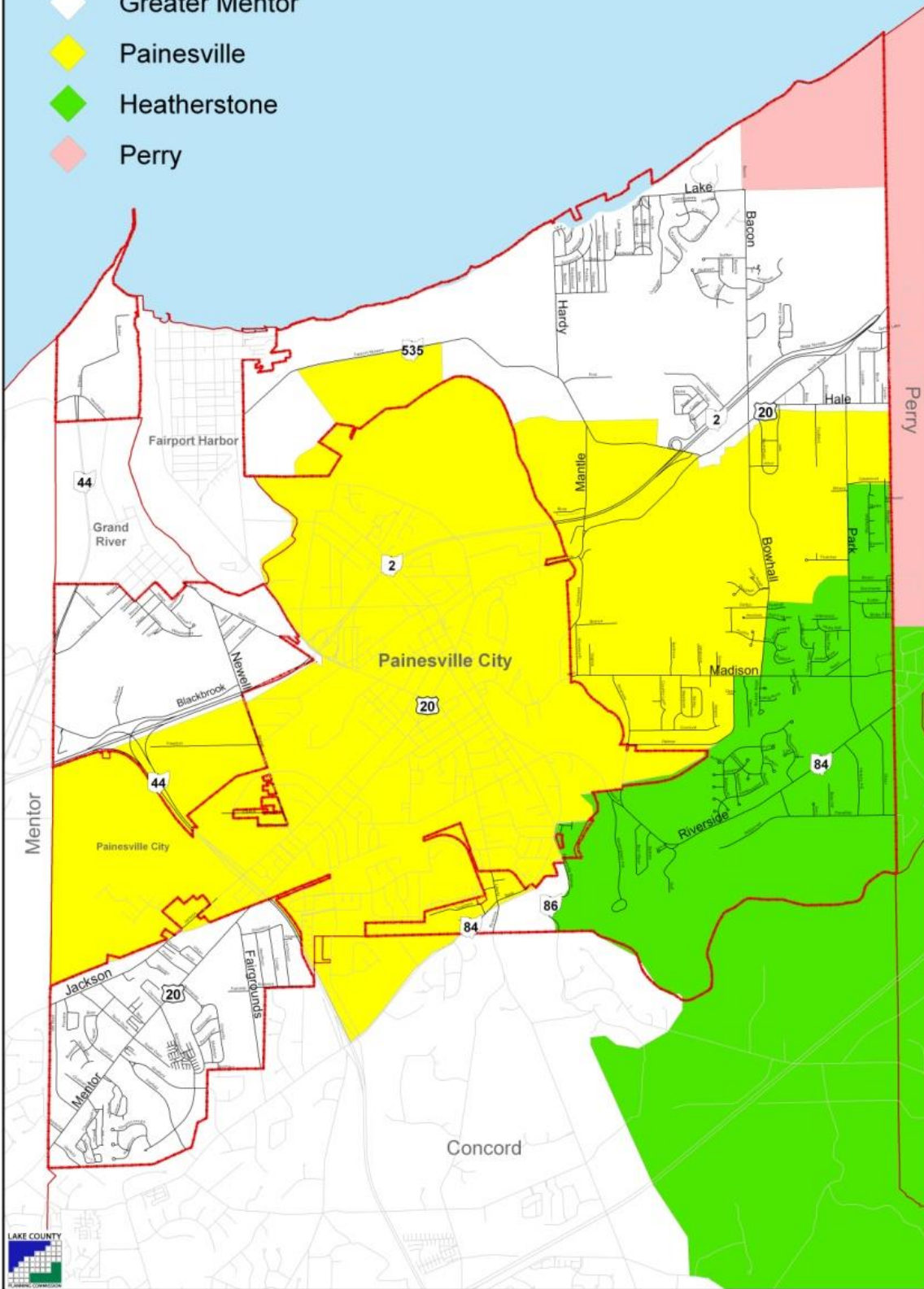
Sewer Service

All developed areas in the NW and SW regions of Painesville Township are serviced by sanitary sewer. The Lake County Department of Utilities provides sanitary sewer service for the SW region of the Township. Wastewater from the western portion of Painesville Township is treated at the Gary R. Kron Water Reclamation Plant in Mentor, Ohio. Treated wastewater is discharged into Lake Erie. The last area within Painesville Township to acquire sanitary sewer and water access was the Mill Morr subdivision in the mid-1990s. A few areas adjacent to the City of Painesville receive sewer service from the Gary R. Kron Water Reclamation Plant.

The NE region of Painesville Township, north of North Ridge Road (US 20), is also serviced by the Gary R. Kron Plant in Mentor. A gravity system channels wastewater underneath the Grand River and into the Mentor plant.

Painesville Township Area: *Sewer Districts*

- ◆ Greater Mentor
- ◆ Painesville
- ◆ Heatherstone
- ◆ Perry



The Heatherstone Water Reclamation Plant, located within the Township on Riverside Drive by the Grand River, services sewered areas in the SE region of the Township. The Heatherstone plant was built in the 1970s, with a design capacity originally intended to accommodate the future wastewater needs of Painesville Township, Concord Township, Perry Township, and Leroy Township. The Heatherstone plant was built with lower capacity than originally intended. In the 1980s, the Lake County Utilities Department requested permission to expand the plant from the United States Environmental Protection Agency. The request was denied because the Grand River is classified as a “Wild and Scenic River” and known for its high water quality.

In 2004, the Lake County Commissioners, City of Painesville officials and R.W. Sidley established a joint agreement entailing that the City would provide sewer service to the remaining unsewered areas in the SE region of the Township and surrounding communities. Due to the subprime mortgage financial crisis of 2007, this plan has been put on hold and there is no clear sign of when it will resume. This plan exists for the construction of a new interceptor sewer, known as the Red Creek interceptor sewer, which is to flow to a master meter at the City of Painesville boundary. According to the agreement, the flow of wastewater will continue to the city water reclamation plant on North St. Clair Street and the City of Painesville will charge the Lake County Department of Utilities a bulk rate for treatment. In turn, Lake County will bill customers in the area.

Some wastewater that currently flows to the Heatherstone Water Reclamation Plant is planned to be diverted into the new Red Creek interceptor sewer once it is constructed. This will free capacity at the Heatherstone Plant for other projects in the southern part of Painesville Township, as well as developing areas of Perry Township and Leroy Township.

Putting this plan on hold has resulted in large vacant tracts of property along the Bowhall and Park Rd. corridors without sanitary sewer service. Until this plan resumes, some areas within the Township may experience a development standstill.

The City of Painesville already provides sewer service to a small portion of the Township in the Casement road area.

Water Service

Aqua Ohio Water Company provides water service to the NW and SW regions of the Township. The Aqua Ohio water plant is located in Mentor-on-the-Lake.

Water for the eastern half of Painesville Township is supplied by the Lake County Department of Utilities. Their water plant is located within the Township, on Lake Road at the intersection of Bacon Road.

Electricity

CEI / First Energy provides electrical service to the SW region of the Township. The City of Painesville provides electrical service to the remaining areas. The site of the CEI Perry Nuclear Power Plant is two miles from the eastern boundary of the Township.

Most electric utility lines in the Township are above ground and strung on poles placed in the public right-of-way. Utility lines are buried in newer subdivisions. County subdivision regulations require underground utilities, but there is no such requirement for lot splits.

If increased commercial development occurs on undeveloped sites and brownfields, or a site in an existing commercial area is redeveloped, the Township should require burial of existing overhead utilities as a prerequisite. This would gradually reduce the visual impact of unsightly overhead power lines in commercial areas, at little or no cost to the Township. Tax increment financing (TIF) can also be used to fund utility line burial. As a result, property values will increase and revenue from the increased assessment can potentially be used to fund the cost of burial.

Although, undergrounding existing overhead utility lines can be relatively expensive the Township should work towards a long-term goal of placing all utility lines underground. This plan also recommends that electrical substations should be carefully situated, as well as well-designed and screened so they are visually unobtrusive.

CEI / First Energy has not announced any plans to provide Broadband over Power Line (BPL) service in Painesville Township or Lake County.

NOPEC

A state provision that took effect in January 2001 deregulates the generation factor of electric costs. One provision of the new state law allows consumers to authorize their local government to become a public aggregator in order to purchase power for their consumers. With this provision, the consumer, with the local government acting on their behalf, gains greater leverage in the marketplace.

Painesville Township is a participant in the Northeast Ohio Public Energy Council (NOPEC) Electricity Opt-Out Aggregation Program, the Natural Gas Opt-In Program, and Natural Gas Opt-Out Aggregation Program. NOPEC is comprised of 112 member communities in eight Northeast Ohio counties. Voters in each of these communities, including Painesville Township approved the formation of NOPEC in November 2000. NOPEC is the largest public utility aggregation in the United States.

Natural Gas

Dominion East Ohio and others provide natural gas service within Painesville Township. Gas service is typically expanded as new subdivisions are built and the developers are willing to pay the expense of extending the service.

Telephone / DSL / Cable Television and Broadband

Utility services in these categories have undergone rapid and continuing growth and evolution. Traditional land-line telephone service continues to exist although wireless telephone communications, including internet access, are growing immensely. Traditional dial-up and DSL Broadband internet services continue to exist but have been replaced in many residences with DSL Broadband services which include telephone, internet and cable TV. AT&T and Time Warner Cable provide service to the Painesville Township community. Television services are also available via satellite and are provided by Dish Network and Direct TV.

Telephone lines, DSL Broadband lines and cable lines are above ground in parts of the Township where electrical lines are also above ground.

9.6 Goals & Objectives

PIF-1 The Riverside Local School District will continue to offer high-quality, conveniently located public schools.

PIF-1-01 Work with the Riverside Local School District to ensure potential expansion needs are fulfilled should enrollment projections change.

PIF-1-02 Assist the school district to acquire land for the potential site of an elementary school in the northern portion of the township, if needed.

PIF-2 The visual impact of utilities will be decreased.

PIF-2-01 Encourage utility companies to work with property owners and lessees when constructing utility facilities.

PIF-2-02 Require undergrounding of all wired utilities, such as electricity, telephone, and cable television service, in all new subdivisions.

PIF-2-03 Require undergrounding of existing overhead utility lines when commercial development occurs on the site.

PIF-2-04 Work towards a long-term goal of undergrounding all wired utilities in the Township.

PIF-2-05 Require visual screening for new utility substations. Work with utility companies to screen existing utility substations.

PIF-3 Natural gas availability will be expanded.

PIF-3-01 Work with natural gas utilities to ensure operations in the Township are safe and reliable.

PIF-4 Telecommunications infrastructure will remain up-to-date.

PIF-4-01 Work with telephone and cable television companies to ensure the Township is provided with the same level and quality of service and technology as in urban areas.

PIF-4-02 Work to ensure high-speed internet access is available to all residents and businesses in the Township.