YEAR FIVE: EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

After extensive input from the community, the Board of Trustees in July 2010 adopted a comprehensive plan laying out goals for our community and objectives by which to accomplish them. We – including our administration, staff, employees, and appointed board members – use them as the guiding principles behind the decisions that we make on a daily basis. The comprehensive plan highlights the community's future intentions, but it also assists the Township by serving as a guide for the overall growth and redevelopment for residents, businesses, and public officials; serving as a basis for administering the zoning resolution and for making reasonable decisions on development and rezoning applications; promoting innovative, sustainable, and green development and redevelopment practices; ensuring the continuity of long-range economic development, planning, and capital improvement policies and programs; assisting the Township in applying for state and federal grant programs; preserving the aesthetic and natural character of Howland Township; and promoting the safety, prosperity, health, morals, and aesthetics of our residents.

This is the third update to show you how these lofty goals manifest themselves. Each project, policy, or program is described on the left-hand side of the accompanying tables, and, on the right, you will see a mark indicating how that project, policy, or program addresses one or more of the various categories. This is our checklist to see how we are doing and to ensure that we are continuously marching towards those goals. Many also further the major initiatives that were identified in the comprehensive plan.

You will see that we continue many of the projects and policies from the previous updates and, in some cases, have built on them and continued the progress on others. We are particularly proud of our work with the City of Warren, the Trumbull County Commissioners, and the Trumbull County Engineer in leading the collaborative efforts to develop a \$10 million infrastructure improvement plan for the Golden Triangle, a 1,000-acre industrial area within our borders in which nearly 3,000 people are employed by 30 businesses. This fulfilled a grant that we received from the U.S. Economic Development Administration in September 2014. It is now time for us to find the funds to make these improvements.

And work continues on a smaller scale on some of the other areas, such as the outside, all-volunteer Howland Wellness Committee coordinates projects that enhance our community's health and wellness and the USDA has awarded us a grant to further develop our popular Farmers Market. We also see how recent changes that modernized our zoning resolution with ideas unique to our area, including stormwater management requirements and alternative parking considerations, have come to fruition through new development projects. The results have been projects for which your response has been positive. Our Zoning Commission will continue to work with our planning and zoning staff in this area.

The comprehensive plan is a living document and not a punch list. We strive to be a strong, forward-thinking community and the best-run township in Trumbull County, operating in a professional, transparent manner. We encourage you to read this update – together with the previous ones – to get the full picture of where your Township is headed.

Your township trustees,

Rick G. Clark January 13, 2016 Dr. James J. LaPolla, Jr.

Matthew G. Vansuch

| Township Project/Policy/Program | Demographics & Housing | Land Use | Economic Development | Natural Resources | Public Health | Community Services & Facilities | Transportation, Mobility & Accessibility |
|--|------------------------|----------|----------------------|-------------------|---------------|---------------------------------|--|
| The Township annually appoints a representative to the Trumbull County Health Advisory Board to ensure issues | | | | | | | |
| that may affect Township residents are learned and | | | | | X | | |
| appropriately addressed. | | | | | | | |
| The Howland Township Wellness Committee, an all- | | | | | | | |
| volunteer community group, coordinates projects that | | | | | | | |
| enhance the health and wellness of the community. | X | | | | X | X | |
| Projects in 2014-15 include the clean-up of Bolindale Park | | | | | | | |
| and the offering of health-themed educational talks. | | | | | | | |
| For two consecutive years, the Township received the Ohio | | | | | | | |
| Department of Health's "Healthy Community Award." The Award recognizes the outstanding achievements of communities across that state of Ohio in their work toward reducing tobacco use and tobacco exposure, increasing healthy eating, and ensuring that the built environment promotes healthy living choices. The Howland Township Wellness Committee wrote the successful application. | X | Х | | | Х | | х |
| Township employees raised \$15,000 to support the Bolindale and Howland Community Church food pantries in 2014-2015 to help sustain the pantries. The Bolindale Food Pantry at Bolindale Christian Church serves 70 to 90 families every other week. Staff from the OSU Extension provide nutrition education to these families. Many other community groups donate to this worthwhile effort to support the food pantries and the families they serve. | | | | | Х | | |
| The Township continues to coordinate a summer recreation program with Kent State University's International Center for Sport & Tourism Management and the Center for Sport & Recreation. Kids between the ages 6 and 13 can participate in fishing, football, cheerleading, soccer tennis, golf, swimming, outdoor adventures, painting, drawing, and pottery. This popular community program encourages physical activity, teaches new skills, builds confidence, and enhances the social bonds of the community. | | | | X | X | X | |

| Township Project/Policy/Program | Demographics & Housing | Land Use | Economic Development | Natural Resources | Public Health | Community Services & Facilities | Transportation, Mobility & Accessibility |
|---|------------------------|----------|----------------------|-------------------|---------------|---------------------------------|--|
| The Township demolished three blighted, single-family dwellings and all associated accessory structures in 2014-15, with the related costs were assessed to the property taxes of each property. | Χ | | | | Χ | | |
| Trumbull County Sanitary Engineer implemented the Ridge Road Sanitary Sewer Improvement Project which involved the construction of over 1,000 linear feet of sanitary sewer pipe to service 7 residential dwellings, 1 commercial establishment, and 1 church in southwest Howland Township. This project eliminated 9 failing and obsolete septic systems preventing ground and surface water contamination. | Х | | | X | Х | Х | |
| Each spring, Howland Township acquires twelve 50-gallon rain barrels for Howland High School art students to paint. The barrels are then auctioned to the highest bidder and proceeds go to a local organization determined by the students. Once installed, rain barrels contribute to water conservation and storm water management in surrounding neighborhoods. | | | | Х | | | |
| The Howland Farmers Market continues to grow with new farm and food vendors coming onboard every year. The market is held weekly during summer months and monthly November through May. The 25-30 fresh produce, meat, and value-added vendors generated over \$120,000 in gross sales in 2015 alone. In October 2015, Howland Township received an \$88,985 USDA grant to institute marketing and professional development programs aimed at growing the market and contributing to the growth of the local and regional food economy. | | Х | Х | | Х | | |
| The Township continues to offer scrap tire collection to residents through a Geauga-Trumbull Solid Waste District grant. In 2014 and 2015, approximately 2,446 tires were collected and recycled and thus diverted from landfills. | | | | Х | Х | Х | |

| Township Project/Policy/Program | Demographics & Housing | Land Use | Economic Development | Natural Resources | Public Health | Community Services & Facilities | Transportation, Mobility & Accessibility |
|--|------------------------|----------|----------------------|-------------------|---------------|---------------------------------|--|
| The Howland Fire Department received an \$181,413 FEMA grant in 2015 to integrate Mobile Data Terminals (MDT) into its EMS units. These terminals integrate call dispatch with the 911 center. The call information is transmitted to the crew in the ambulance at the time of dispatch. Crews then manage and communicate the status of each call by tapping the appropriate touch screen tab corresponding with their action. The implementation of MDT's in our fire and EMS units improves overall service delivery by: Providing accurate information for the crews to review while responding. Provides improved safety for responders when entering into hostile environments. Provides improved accuracy of response time monitoring. Reducing the fee per call for service to 911, i.e., cost savings. Improving accuracy of units to respond by the use of integrated GPS for unit location. | | | X | | X | X | |
| The Howland Fire Department received a \$40,000 Bureau of Worker's Compensation Grant in 2014 to install vehicle exhaust removal systems in fire station #30 on Niles-Cortland Road NE and in fire station #32 in the Morgandale neighborhood. The system captures and removes all exhaust fumes when engines are running in the apparatus bay. The improvement to the fire houses will help to maintain a safe and healthy work environment for the fire staff by capturing airborne particles and reducing exposure. | | | | | X | | |

| Township Project/Policy/Program | Demographics & Housing | Land Use | Economic Development | Natural Resources | Public Health | Community Services & Facilities | Transportation, Mobility & Accessibility |
|--|------------------------|----------|----------------------|-------------------|---------------|---------------------------------|--|
| The Township received a \$400,000 Safe Routes to School (SRTS) grant from the Ohio Department of Transportation in 2013. Grant dollars will be used for safety improvements in and around the Howland Middle School campus. Construction commenced in September 2015 and will finish in 2016. | | | | | Х | | х |
| Howland Township, Warren City, Trumbull County Commissioners, and the Trumbull County Engineer's Office were awarded an EDA Local Technical Assistance Grant on September 23, 2014 that led to the fall 2015 unveiling of a \$10 million infrastructure improvement plan for the Golden Triangle, a 1,000-acre industrial area within our borders in which nearly 3,000 people are employed by 30 businesses. | | х | х | х | | | х |
| As the largest township in Trumbull County, Howland Township serves on the Trumbull County Land Reutilization Corporation (Land Bank) board. Since the start of the Land Bank, thirty-five Howland properties have been sold. This includes nine improved properties, two of which were private demolition by adjacent properties owners and seven which were sold as is to buyers willing to renovate the homes. The renovation of these homes has leveraged \$220,000 in private reinvestment in Howland neighborhoods. Additionally, twenty-six side lots have sold over the past four years. In 2015, the Land Bank sold six properties, two improved properties, leveraging \$39,000 in reinvestment, and four side lots. The Land Bank has also acquired six properties to add to its ever evolving inventory of properties. | X | X | | | X | | |

| Township Project/Policy/Program | Demographics & Housing | Land Use | Economic Development | Natural Resources | Public Health | Community Services & Facilities | Transportation, Mobility & Accessibility |
|--|------------------------|----------|----------------------|-------------------|---------------|---------------------------------|--|
| The Township Zoning Commission continued to modernize the Zoning Resolution. Changes that took effect in 2014 include upgrading the code's definitions and integrating an administrative section that outlines the powers and duties of the Board of Zoning Appeals and Zoning Commission and establishes variance standards and appeals procedures. In 2015, the parking standards were amended to be more flexible while maintaining aesthetic objectives and storm water functionality. | Х | X | X | Х | X | | Х |
| A new traffic signal was installed at the end of 2015 at the intersection of Howland Wilson Road and Warren Sharon Road (Old SR82) in collaboration with the Trumbull County Engineer's office. | | | | | | | Х |
| The Trumbull County Engineer's Office, in collaboration with Howland Township, received \$525,000 to improve North River Road by eliminating the deep stormwater ditches alongside the road and installing sidewalks, street trees, benches, and waste receptacles. Construction began in 2015 and is expected to be completed in 2016. | | | | | | | Х |
| The Township installed a 30"-stormwater pipe in the area of Henn Hyde road to alleviate the flooding on that road and the potential damage to surrounding and downstream properties. | | | | х | х | | |
| The annual leaf and Christmas tree collections and the semi-annual limb and branch collection events divert biodegradable material from landfills. The collected material becomes compost and is reused. Approximately 200 cubic yards of limbs and branches and 1,100 Christmas Trees are collected every year from residents and diverted from landfills. | | | | Х | | Х | |

| Township Project/Policy/Program | Demographics & Housing | Land Use | Economic Development | Natural Resources | Public Health | Community Services & Facilities | Transportation, Mobility & Accessibility |
|---|------------------------|----------|----------------------|-------------------|---------------|---------------------------------|--|
| Construction began in 2015 on needed improvements to Commonwealth Avenue in the Golden Triangle, including stormwater retrofits and intersection upgrades, through collaboration with the Trumbull County Engineer's Office to secure a \$215,000 grant from the Appalachian Regional Commission. | | | X | | | | X |
| Two properties in the Golden Triangle moved one step closer to redevelopment thanks to Howland's participation in the Trumbull County Brownfield Coalition. In 2013, the Coalition, led by the Western Reserve Port Authority, received a \$600,000 USEPA Brownfield Assessment Grant. In 2014 and 2015, Phase I and Phase II site assessments were performed on two properties to ready them for redevelopment. | | х | х | | | | х |
| The Township actively participates in the Trumbull County Health Department's Creating Healthy Communities (CHC) initiative, a cross-sector collaboration committed to preventing and reducing chronic disease. Howland Township has received grants through the CHC aimed at improving access to and affordability of healthy food, and increasing opportunities for physical activity. Specifically, we received \$6,000 in 2015 to install security lighting in Bolindale Park to boost park use and \$1,000 to capitalize a Double Up SNAP program at the Howland Farmers Market. | X | | | | х | X | |
| The Township declared over 160 "public nuisances" in 2014-2015 due to high grass and general neglect of property. These nuisance properties are by and large abandoned homes. After the owner of record is notified of the declaration and given the appropriate amount of time to remedy the violation, the Public Works Department cuts the grass and subsequent fines are assessed to the property. | Х | | | | Х | | |

New construction valuation totals for 2014 and 2015 are trending up over the two prior years. Eleven new single family homes were constructed in 2015 and ten in 2014. New home construction outpaced demolitions in both years. Residents continue to show a strong sense of home-ownership and commitment to the Township, which is shown by their willingness to invest in their properties. Investment in residential additions, accessory structures, pools and fences, although down from 2014, remains strong. New commercial and industrial construction improved over prior years, with notable commercial construction of Retina Associates, Eye Care Associates, Chick Fil-A, Dollar General, and Gander Mountain. In the industrial area of the Township, National Lime & Stone will develop a site on Deforest Road to be part of their national distribution network of aggregate.

| | 2015 (#) | 20 | 015 (valuation) | 2014 (#) | 2014 (valuation) | 2013 (#) 2013 (valuation) | | 2013 (#) 2013 (valuati | | 2012 (#) | 2012 (valuation) |
|----------------------------------|----------|----|-----------------|----------|------------------|---------------------------|----|------------------------|-----|-------------|------------------|
| Total Permits* | 186 | \$ | 12,085,951 | 194 | 7,798,350 | 204 | \$ | 2,919,657 | 191 | \$3,750,662 | |
| Single Family Dwellings | 11 | \$ | 2,049,975 | 10 | 2,617,095 | 7 | \$ | 1,608,625 | 4 | \$635,040 | |
| Multi-Family Dwelling (2-6 famil | 0 | \$ | - | 1 | 162,000 | 0 | \$ | - | 0 | \$0 | |
| Residential Additions/Other | 28 | \$ | 539,376 | 47 | 1,207,909 | 36 | \$ | 738,600 | 23 | \$292,700 | |
| Detached Garages | 8 | \$ | 137,500 | 10 | 135,000 | 11 | \$ | 128,511 | 4 | \$18,257 | |
| Fences | 26 | \$ | 91,457 | 34 | 95,680 | 38 | \$ | 133,779 | 25 | \$65,201 | |
| Storage Sheds | 15 | \$ | 39,256 | 13 | 46,590 | 17 | \$ | 60,600 | 28 | \$55,800 | |
| Swimming Pools | 9 | \$ | 47,700 | 9 | 218,476 | 11 | \$ | 227,371 | 17 | \$325,800 | |
| Residential Investments** | 97 | \$ | 2,905,264 | 124 | 4,482,750 | 120 | \$ | 2,897,486 | 101 | \$1,392,798 | |
| | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Commercial Additions/Accessor | 2 | \$ | 85,687 | 3 | 110,000 | 1 | \$ | 15,000 | 4 | \$582,000 | |
| New Commercial | 3 | \$ | 8,039,800 | 3 | 3,193,080 | 0 | \$ | - | 1 | \$1,500,000 | |
| Industrial/institutional | 2 | \$ | 1,055,200 | 1 | 12,520 | 0 | \$ | - | 3 | \$270,800 | |
| Business Use Permits | 24 | \$ | - | 10 | 0 | 19 | \$ | - | 15 | \$0 | |
| Signs/Temp Signs | 53 | \$ | - | 43 | 0 | 40 | \$ | 7,171 | 44 | \$64 | |
| Non-Residential Investments** | 84 | \$ | 9,180,687 | 60 | 3,315,600 | 60 | \$ | 22,171 | 67 | \$2,352,864 | |
| Demolitions | 5 | \$ | | 10 | | 23 | \$ | <u>-</u> | 23 | \$5,000 | |
| TOTALS | 186 | \$ | 12,085,951 | 194 | \$ 7,798,350 | 203 | \$ | 2,919,657 | 191 | \$3,750,662 | |

Appendix: Goals and Objectives

DEMOGRAPHICS & HOUSING

DEMOGRAPHICS

Goal: Provide bases for public policies through up-to-date population, demographic, and socio-economic data.

Objectives:

- 1. Acquire federal, state, regional, and local source data for use in the development of public policies, particularly U.S. Census data;
- 2. Regularly update the Comprehensive Community Plan data; and
- 3. Make population, demographic, and socio-economic information available to the general public.

HOUSING

"Howland Township is a community with well-established, attractive and diverse neighborhoods. Because the Township's land base is predominately occupied by single family residential homes and an aging population, the Township is focused on maintaining a high quality residential living environment..." Comprehensive Community Plan, July 2010

Goal #1: Preserve and enhance the quality of life in existing neighborhoods.

Objectives:

- 1. Strengthen and promote neighborhood stability;
- 2. Create neighborhood empowerment and engagement programs;
- 3. Evaluate the type and number of residential zoning classifications and "right-size" certain districts; and
- 4. Reduce the incidence of property maintenance and nuisance regulations.

Goal #2: Provide adequate, high quality, and diverse housing and living opportunities within Howland Township.

Objectives:

- 1. Provide a range of housing options to serve the long-term needs of the Township;
- 2. Encourage the provision of additional public and private amenities, the preservation of open space and environmentally responsible development practices;
- 3. Evaluate the need for, and proper location of, senior housing;
- 4. Encourage mixed-use residential;
- 5. Develop neighborhood overlays to define and delineate locally significant districts;
- 6. Promote the re-development of older residential areas; and
- 7. Evaluate potential markets for residential growth.

LAND USE

Goal #1: Preserve and enhance the character and quality of life in residential areas.

- 1. Promote residential development that protects existing, low-density neighborhoods while allowing greater flexibility at the periphery and core of the Township;
- 2. Protect and enhance the quality of life in existing residential neighborhoods;
- 3. Develop incentives to encourage the provision of additional public amenities;

- Ensure that all development is compatible with the surrounding use, scale, and character;
- 5. Encourage preservation of open space and environmentally responsible development.

Goal #2: Ensure that Howland is well-served by attractive, cohesive commercial districts in appropriate locations that meet the daily needs of its residents and visitors.

Objectives:

- 1. Provide a broad range of office and commercial venues;
- 2. Enhance the appearance of existing and future office and commercial development;
- 3. Promote small- to medium-scale office and commercial developments;
- 4. Promote re-development and infill of existing, underutilized commercial areas; and
- 5. Allow for greater flexibility to accommodate progressive development strategies, and greater control by the Township to ensure a high quality development environment.

Goal #3: Maximize the benefits derived from public investment in community facilities and infrastructure.

Objectives:

- 1. Create and enhance land use policies that promote efficient use of public infrastructure; and
- 2. Promote the location of community facilities in areas compatible for their use and which area accessible to the public served.

Goal #4: Achieve a sustainable balance between development activities, preservation of natural resources, and open space.

Objectives:

- 1. Ensure that Township Resolutions reflect a high priority for the environment;
- 2. Establish a unified open space and greenways network;
- 3. Encourage preservation of trees and forests;
- 4. Protect and enhance surface and ground water quality;
- 5. Develop and promote innovative grading and soil conservation practices;
- 6. Promote local food production; and
- 7. Enhance scenic qualities along major roadways and gateways to the Township.

Goal #5: Eliminate annexation in order to maintain our current boundaries.

Objectives:

- 1. Establish cooperative relationships with neighboring municipalities and townships to manage sustainable growth and development;
- 2. Develop strategies to guard against annexation;
- 3. Encourage infill development through incentives; and
- 4. Identify objectives, policies, and programs for joint planning and decision-making.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Goal #1: Ensure that Howland Township is an attractive environment for economic development.

- 1. Retain existing industries and businesses;
- 2. Promote Township resources to prospective businesses and industries;
- Revitalize industrial areas and brownfields to provide for adaptive re-use or other types of development;
- 4. Provide regulations and incentives that encourage sustainable development and enhance community character; and
- 5. Formulate and adopt an Economic Development Plan for Howland Township.

Goal #2: Ensure diversity in the Township's employment base.

Objectives:

- 1. Provide a variety of jobs at varied skill levels within the Township;
- 2. Broaden the Township's partnership with local Universities and trade schools;
- 3. Recognize, enhance, and promote employment, cultural, academic, and recreational opportunities within Howland Township;
- 4. Promote a balance between industrial, office, commercial/retail, and residential property tax revenues; and
- 5. Work with local, regional, and statewide organizations to promote Howland Township as a desirable place to start a business.

Goal #3: Reinforce existing corridors as Township commerce centers.

Objectives:

- 1. Promote the sustainability of the Golden Triangle;
- 2. Promote mixed-use development in the Howland Corners and Elm Road areas to encourage a vibrant and sustainable commercial environment;
- 3. Promote Howland Corners as the office, commercial, and cultural center of the Township and encourage activities that attract a diverse and multi-generational population; and
- 4. Enhance highly-traveled gateways into Howland Township with unique and distinctive landscaping, signage, and other design features.

Goal #4: Become a leader in the development of manufacturing, office, and research facilities associated with the health care industry "tech-belt" promoted by Congressman Tim Ryan

Objectives:

1. Identify compatible areas for a range of uses within the Township.

Goal #5: Welcome green and ecologically sound businesses, developments, and solutions.

Objectives:

- 1. Understand barriers and opportunities for new and existing business development;
- 2. Develop incentives to assist in small business development that will help grow the green economy;
- 3. Promote energy technology that is conservation-based and draws from renewable sources to help existing and future industry and business; and
- 4. Support the principles of sustainability (transportation, energy efficiency, green building, and waste minimization).

NATURAL RESOURCES

Goal #1: Retain the beauty and function of the natural environment that characterize Howland Township.

Objectives:

- Ensure that conservation of natural resources and the environment is a high priority;
- 2. Restore and improve natural environs previously impacted; and
- 3. Establish a unified open space and greenway network.

Goal #2: Protect, maintain, and enhance the Township's forest and tree resources.

- 1. Realize the amenity value of the Township's wooded areas;
- 2. Preserve existing trees and forests; and
- 3. Preserve and improve the quality of the tree-growing environment.

Goal #3: Maintain and protect the quality and quantity of surface and ground water resources.

Objectives:

- 1. Preserve and enhance existing watershed resources;
- 2. Protect a safe and reliable water supply for all sectors of the community; and
- 3. Support water conservation measures in all sectors of the community.

Goal #4: Promote energy conservation and pollution prevention practices to reach a sustainable use of natural resources.

Objectives:

- 1. Link land use and transportation planning to reduce vehicular miles traveled;
- 2. Embrace alternative, renewal energies and investments in alternative energy sources; and
- 3. Coordinate with governmental and non-governmental agencies to promote waste and emission reduction, the purchasing of power saving items, preserving green space, and implementing lasting energy saving policy.

Goal #5: Preserve scenic features that characterize Howland Township.

Objectives:

- 1. Preserve and enhance visible topographic and other notable features;
- 2. Preserve and enhance scenic qualities along roadways and gateways; and
- 3. Ensure that the design of new development embraces, complements, and enhances the Township character.

PUBLIC HEALTH

Goal #1: Support healthy lifestyles in Howland Township.

Objectives:

1. Consider public health impacts in all land use, transportation, and community design decisions.

Goal #2: Improve air quality and subsequent respiratory health.

Objectives:

- 1. Decrease dependence on motor vehicles through affordable, safe, and sustainable transportation options;
- 2. Promote alternative and renewal energies;
- 3. Maximize investments made in infrastructure; and
- 4. Maximize coordination with governmental and non-governmental agencies on exposure reduction.

Goal #3: Improve the built environment to encourage active lifestyles.

Objectives:

- 1. Ensure street, sidewalk, and bike path safety and accessibility for all users;
- 2. Increase and enhance park, open space, and recreational facilities; and
- 3. Ensure accessibility, safety, beauty, and cleanliness of public spaces.

Goal #4: Establish a stronger local/regional food system.

- 1. Promote community gardens and farmers markets;
- 2. Encourage small scale agriculture in the Township; and
- 3. Encourage county/regional farmland preservation to advocate a local agriculture economy.

Goal #5: Improve access to medical, mental health, and social services for all residents.

Objectives:

1. Maximize use of available resources and programs through other governmental and non-governmental agencies.

Goal #6: Improve water quality through greater consideration in land use decisions.

Objectives:

- 1. Preserve and enhance existing watershed resources; and
- 2. Protect a safe and reliable water supply that can be used by all sectors of the community.

COMMUNITY SERVICES & FACILITIES

Goal #1: Continue to support recycling of as much of the solid waste generated by residents and businesses as possible.

Objectives:

- 1. Encourage waste reduction and cost-effective re-use and recycling through appropriate policies and programs;
- 2. Ensure convenient access to recycling facilities for Township residents; and
- 3. Enhance existing curb-side collection programs when possible.

Goal #2: Prepare for catastrophic events to minimize damage and effectively implement recovery operations.

Objectives:

- 1. Maintain and periodically update an effective emergency response program;
- 2. Reduce the potential for loss of life and property damage in areas subject to flooding; and
- 3. Reduce the potential for loss of life and property damage due to fallen power lines.

Goal #3: Continue to provide adequate police and fire protection and emergency medical services to Township residents.

Objectives:

- 1. Minimize the response time for all emergencies; and
- 2. Ensure safety in existing and future neighborhoods.

Goal #4: Ensure adequate provision of utilities and services provided by non-Township agencies and service providers.

Objectives:

- 1. Inventory current sewer and water infrastructure and identify future needs;
- 2. Identify areas with failing septic systems;
- 3. Support conversion to underground utilities; and
- 4. Work with existing utility providers to maintain or improve services to the Township.

Goal #5: Increase access to information technologies and its utility for all residents of the Township.

Objectives:

- 1. Improve computer and information technology access in the Township; and
- 2. Use technology to improve internal processes and service to residents and businesses.

Goal #6: Promote quality active and passive recreational and cultural opportunities for Township residents and businesses.

- 1. Inventory existing facilities available to the public;
- 2. Increase the number of active and passive parkland acres to meet or exceed National Recreation and Park Association (NRPA) standards through coordination with the Howland Township Park District;
- 3. Identify future recreational facility needs; and
- 4. Engage in long-term capital planning for Township facilities, parks, and infrastructure.

TRANSPORTATION, MOBILITY, & ACCESSIBILITY

Goal #1: Provide greater choice, accessibility, and flexibility for all people to move about the Township. **Objectives:**

- 1. Require multiple modes of transportation as part of new developments;
- 2. Incorporate multiple modes of transportation into road construction projects, and work on cooperative maintenance agreements;
- 3. Encourage pedestrian networks in local business districts to allow a friendly built environment for living, shopping, visiting, or passive enjoyment;
- 4. Encourage the connectivity of open spaces, greenways, and recreational areas with public multipurpose trails;
- 5. Encourage public transportation into and through the Township on main thoroughfares;
- 6. Implement safety improvements at substandard intersections;
- 7. Retro-fit existing neighborhoods with sidewalks and bike trails, where applicable;
- 8. Develop a Safe Routes to School (SRTS) Plan for Howland Township.

Goal #2: Promote safe and efficient flow of vehicular, bicycle, and pedestrian traffic.

Objectives:

- 1. Participate in area transportation planning efforts;
- 2. Increase traffic calming measures;
- 3. Improve traffic flow by reducing congestion on the major corridors serving the Township;
- 4. Improve and expand alternative transportation systems;
- 5. Develop a Town Center circulation plan for the Howland Corners area; and
- 6. Continue multi-year capital planning for roadway improvements.

Goal #3: Provide connectivity to adjacent communities, throughout the region, and beyond.

Objectives:

- 1. Plan for Howland access to regional, statewide, and nationwide alternative transportation and multi-modal planning efforts;
- 2. Encourage safe and efficient use of existing rail lines; and
- 3. Maintain and enhance the Township's access to railroads and air service.

Goal #4: Protect and enhance the natural environment along transportation corridors.

- 1. Limit road expansion and widening by offering progressive solutions to traffic issues; and
- 2. Promote beautification efforts along corridors and entrances to the Township.