

### **YEAR THREE: EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

Three years ago, the Board of Trustees established comprehensive goals for our community and many objectives by which to accomplish them. They are the guiding principles behind the decisions that we – including our administration, staff, employees, and appointed board members – make every day. We strive to be a strong, forward-thinking community and the best-run township in Trumbull County, one that operates in a professional manner.

Two years ago, we identified what we were doing and how we were implementing those goals. We continue to do many of these items. In this update, we hope that you will see how we have built on that solid foundation and continued the progress on others. For example, in 2011, the Brownfields Collaborative had just selected an outside agency to prepare a federal grant application to secure funds to redevelop the Golden Triangle area. This past spring, the Western Reserve Port Authority secured funding from the US EPA to begin the assessment process and is in the process of selecting qualifying sites. And the Safe Routes to School program was just beginning; now, the Ohio Department of Transportation has awarded the Township a \$370,000 grant to upgrade the physical infrastructure around Howland Middle School. We press on.

In that time, the Zoning Commission and Planning & Zoning staff have spent considerable time reviewing and proposing revisions to the Zoning Resolution that address these goals and objectives. Many of these ideas are unique for this area. We recognize that there may be opportunities to improve or adjust based on our practical experiences with them. That is why the comprehensive plan is a living document and not a punch list.

We encourage you to read this update and the year one update together to get the full picture of where your Township is headed.

Your township trustees,

Rick G. Clark  
*December 27, 2013*

James T. Saker

Matthew G. Vansuch

## Howland Township Comprehensive Plan Goals and Objectives

	<i>Demographics &amp; Housing</i>	<i>Land Use</i>	<i>Economic Development</i>	<i>Natural Resources</i>	<i>Public Health</i>	<i>Community Services &amp; Facilities</i>	<i>Transportation, Mobility &amp; Accessibility</i>
Township Administration worked with the Bolindale Christian Church to establish a food pantry for residents living in the Bolindale area. The Trumbull County Health Department funded the collaboration with a \$4,000 healthy living grant. Since it began in early 2012 and through additional funding from the church, the pantry has served an approximately 90 residents each month and given away 13.4 tons of food, which is purchased through the Second Harvest Food Bank. Township employees worked “fill the boot” collections during the 2012 and 2013 holiday seasons; the 12,000 collected was donated to this food pantry and the one at Howland Community Church.					X		
Trustees and Planning & Zoning staff attended meetings at the Eastgate Regional Council of Governments that discussed inventorying bicycling capabilities throughout Mahoning and Trumbull counties and desired upgrades.					X		X
In fall 2013, the Trumbull County Health Department awarded the Township a \$5,000 grant with no local match to plan and install sharrows (share the lane traffic markings) on local roads that are suitable for vehicles and bikes to share the road. This project is scheduled to be implemented in 2014.					X		X
The Township applied for and received Ohio Public Works Commission Issue I funding assistance for culvert replacements on Cain Drive, Rolling Meadows, and Willow Drive in 2013. This is a no-interest loan from the OPWC. The Public Works Department also repaired culverts as part of its maintenance responsibilities.				X		X	
Beginning in 2013, vendors at the Township’s Farmers Market are encouraged to join the Lake-to-River “Mile Meal program” with a reduced fee for participating in the Farmers Market. The idea behind the 30-mile meal is to try to obtain as much of one’s food from local sources, <i>i.e.</i> , within 30 miles of home.		X	X		X		

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The Township continues to focus on retaining the businesses that currently operate in the Golden Triangle and attracting new opportunities.			X			X	
The Township partnered with the Trumbull County Engineer to hire URS Corporation to develop a corridor plan and grant application for infrastructure improvements in the Golden Triangle. Business owners were then invited to a meeting in February 2013 to discuss their needs and conduct a SWOT analysis. This input highlighted some projects that could have an immediate impact.			X			X	
On behalf of the Brownfields Assessment Group, the Western Reserve Port Authority applied for and received a \$600,000 grant from the US EPA. The funds provided by the grant will be used to conduct a brownfield inventory of approximately 35 sites encompassing 200 acres, perform approximately 30 Phase I and 20 Phase II Environmental Site Assessments, plan clean-up for approximately 7 sites, and organize community engagement activities. The sites involved include the former Delphi complex in north Warren, sites along the Mahoning River Corridor, and the Golden Triangle along Bronze, Dietz and Griswold Streets. All the sites have been severely impacted by plant closings. This promotes business expansion, redevelopment, and infill in the Golden Triangle area.			X			X	
In 2012, the Township applied for and received funding to demolish 13 blighted homes under the Neighborhood Stabilization Program. The Township also participated in the Moving Ohio Forward Grant Program in 2013 with the Trumbull County Land Reutilization Corporation for further demolitions. While the Township designated \$10,000 as a local match, not all of this needed to be used.	X				X		

## Howland Township Comprehensive Plan Goals and Objectives

	<i>Demographics &amp; Housing</i>	<i>Land Use</i>	<i>Economic Development</i>	<i>Natural Resources</i>	<i>Public Health</i>	<i>Community Services &amp; Facilities</i>	<i>Transportation, Mobility &amp; Accessibility</i>
After rains in summer 2013 exacerbated a sinkhole on Allyson Avenue, quick work by the Public Works Director and Township Administrator led to the Township applying for and receiving emergency grant funding from the OPWC to replace a 54" storm sewer.				X		X	
The Township partnered with the Trumbull County Commissioners and Trumbull County Engineer to apply for funding through the Local Government Innovation Fund to study converting our fleets to compressed natural gas (CNG). The grant was approved for \$100,000 in November 2013.				X			
The Township participates in curb-to-curb and through-the-door demand response public transit service through the Trumbull County Transit Board and now the Trumbull County Transit operated through the Trumbull County Commissioners. In 2012, residents made 2,897 trips.							X
The Fire Department regularly conducts Safety Town Days for residents and children.					X	X	
The Township finished the fourth of four phases in stormwater improvements in the Anderson-Venice Heights areas in 2012. Funding was secured through the OPWC. The last phase in the Red Oak area was finished last year. The projects repaired aging stormwater infrastructure and enhanced the streams' functionality. This has been very successful in reducing the occurrence and severity of localized flooding in these neighborhoods.				X		X	
The 46/82 Gateway project was finished in fall 2012. Brick signs declaring "Howland" appear at the northwest and southeast corners. Trees, natural grasses, and wildflowers were planted; the intersection will require little-to-no maintenance. Funding was secured through a transportation enhancement grant, and the local match was not needed because the project costs came in under budget.			X	X			

## Howland Township Comprehensive Plan Goals and Objectives

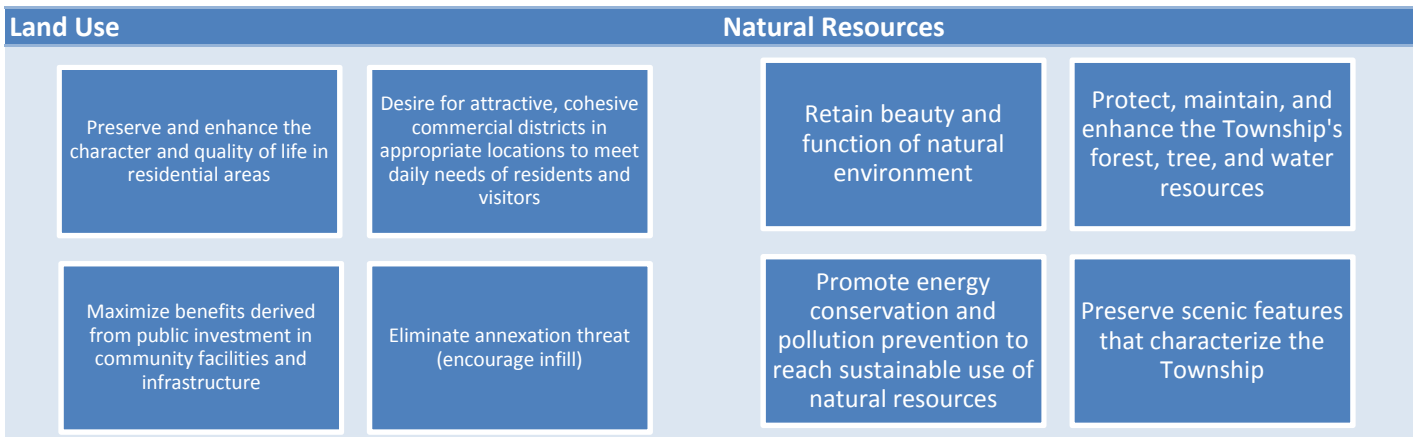
	<i>Demographics &amp; Housing</i>	<i>Land Use</i>	<i>Economic Development</i>	<i>Natural Resources</i>	<i>Public Health</i>	<i>Community Services &amp; Facilities</i>	<i>Transportation, Mobility &amp; Accessibility</i>
After reviewing the responses to Safe Routes to School (SRTS) surveys from parents at four schools (Glen, Mines, Spring, and Howland Middle School), the Township and the Howland Local School District refocused on HMS. Additional surveys and public input were received. Both boards adopted a SRTS plan for HMS in January 2013. The Township applied for and received a grant for \$370,000 in infrastructure improvements around HMS, slated for 2015.					X	X	X
The Fire Department sponsored gun lock and fire alarm giveaways in the Morgandale, Bolindale, and northeast neighborhoods throughout 2013.					X		
The Trumbull County Land Reutilization Corporation, or the "Land Bank," has provided new leases on life for blighted homes. If a property's taxes are delinquent and the county is about to file a tax foreclosure, the land bank can become a part of that legal process and remove the property from the foreclosure rolls. This avoids the home going into the financial institution's hands and the common story of houses sitting vacant and untended. The land bank then works with interested buyers who will invest in and rehab the homes. On its website, it lists the properties that are ready to be turned back onto the market. Several homes have been saved from the demolition lists and are now back on the market or being rented. An example is 3654 Evergreen in Bolindale.	X	X					
Starting in 2011, the Zoning Commission reviewed and recommended changes to the corridor review districts (CRD), parking standards, and signage to: (1) ensure that the Township remains attractive and its commercial corridors are cohesive in character; (2) ensure that all development is compatible with surrounding use, scale, and character; (3) allow for greater flexibility in stormwater management; (4) protect the Township's natural resources; and (5) promote infill development.		X	X				

Column1	Public Health	Economic Development
	<div data-bbox="212 201 492 365">Support healthy lifestyles/improve built environment</div> <div data-bbox="516 201 795 365">Improve access to medical, mental, social services for residents</div> <div data-bbox="212 396 492 560">Improve water quality</div> <div data-bbox="516 396 795 560">Establish stronger local/regional food system</div>	<div data-bbox="898 201 1166 365">Attractive environment for economic development.</div> <div data-bbox="1192 201 1461 365">Diversity in employment base</div> <div data-bbox="898 396 1166 560">Reinforce existing corridors as commerce centers</div> <div data-bbox="1192 396 1461 560">Welcome green and ecologically sound businesses, developments and solutions</div>
<b>CRD Uses &amp; Standards</b>	<p>New development standards enhance the built environment in the CRD and lend to healthier living. For example, curb cut standards aim to reduce traffic conflicts. Additional standards have been assigned to certain permitted uses that have questionable impacts on people living nearby.</p> <p>The character of the commercial corridors was enhanced through new development standards in the CRD. These standards provide for an aesthetically pleasing yet uncluttered commercial corridor. Landscaping requirements were increased, waste receptacles are now properly located and screened, and preferences for roof types and other architectural features were added, all to enhance the highly-traveled gateways into Howland and its commercial corridors. The attention on aesthetics and functionality reinforces the focus on sustaining existing corridors and commerce centers.</p>	
<b>Parking Standards</b>	<p>Introduced parking maximums, reserves, and shared parking to reduce impervious surfaces, which have been identified as having impacted Township infrastructure and our natural resources for decades. Stormwater features, such as bioretention cells, may be integrated into parking lot designs. These Low Impact Development (LID) design strategies remove pollutants from parking lot runoff. There are now provisions for Electric Vehicle Charging Stations (EVCS). Up to a quarter of parking spaces may be “compact” in size, further reducing the impervious area. Enhanced landscaping standards, bike rack requirements, and pedestrian access all support a healthy lifestyle through the built environment and the protection of water resources.</p> <p>Introduced parking maximums, reserves, and shared parking provisions to reduce impervious surfaces. Impervious surfaces have been identified as having impacted Township infrastructure and our natural resources for decades. Stormwater features, such as bioretention cells, may be integrated into parking lot designs. These Low Impact Development (LID) design strategies remove pollutants from parking lot runoff. There are now provisions for Electric Vehicle Charging Stations (EVCS). Up to a quarter of parking spaces may be “compact” in size, further reducing the impervious area. Enhanced landscaping standards, bike rack requirements, and pedestrian access all support a healthy lifestyle through the built environment and the protection of water resources. These regulations encourage sustainable development and enhance community character; the new parking standards integrate ecologically-sound solutions.</p>	

## **Sign Standards**

New sign standards reduce distractions to the traveling public by controlling their height and light intensity and by prohibiting the movement of signage or parts thereof. The height restrictions prevent a conflict between a mature street tree environment and signage. Street trees are an accepted traffic calming strategy.

Standardized height (8 feet) for all permanent signs will present uniformity in the character of the street sign environment and will minimize conflict with the street tree environment. Street trees are considered traffic calming strategy.



Currently allowed uses in the CRD, whether by right or by conditional use certificates, were evaluated. There are now additional standards for uses that may impact nearby residential uses or that have unique characteristics, such as places of assembly, where many people come or go at one time. Commercial properties located adjacent to residential uses have enhanced buffering requirements. Accessory uses like parking, waste receptacles, ground-mounted equipment, and outdoor storage are now screened from public view to de-emphasize the necessary but often unattractive accessory commercial land uses.

Reducing the front setback in the CRD allows for a more flexible building envelope to better avoid the developmental impact on natural resources. Soft scape landscaping materials are favored over hard scape ones. Enhancements were made to landscaping requirements with respect to the number of units used and their location on the property. Native species are preferred.

The new parking regulations apply to all commercial and industrial districts. These standards are designed to create an attractive and cohesive commercial district.

Introduced parking maximums, reserves, and shared parking provisions to reduce impervious surfaces. Impervious surfaces have been identified as having impacted Township infrastructure and our natural resources for decades. Stormwater features, such as bioretention cells, may be integrated into parking lot designs. These Low Impact Development (LID) design strategies remove pollutants from parking lot runoff. There are now provisions for Electric Vehicle Charging Stations (EVCS). Up to a quarter of parking spaces may be "compact" in size, further reducing the impervious area.



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New sign standards aim to create an attractive and cohesive commercial district by homogenizing the sign environment in terms of height, brightness, and landscaping, contributing to the character of Howland. New permanent signs in residential districts have size and lighting limitations to protect the quality of life in residential areas and their residential character.

Sign height has been uniformly adjusted to a maximum of 8 feet. This will minimize conflict with the street tree environment. Street trees are considered traffic calming strategy.

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## Demographics/Housing

## Transportation

Preserve and enhance the quality of life in existing neighborhoods

Provide bases for public policy through up-to-date population, demographic, and socio-economic data

Provide greater choice, accessibility, and flexibility for all people to move about the Township

Provide for connectivity to adjacent communities and beyond

Promote safe and efficient flow of vehicular, bike, and pedestrian traffic

Protect and enhance the natural environment along transportation corridors

Currently allowed used in the CRD and their potential impact to adjacent residential neighborhoods were evaluated. For uses that may have unique impacts, such as outdoor dining, additional standards were adopted to mitigate the impact on adjacent residential uses. For example, outdoor lighting cannot trespass onto neighboring property. Where commercial development occurs adjacent to residential uses, buffer and screening requirements were bolstered.

Landscaping units and green space requirements were pushed toward the transportation corridor to enhance the streetside natural environment. The natural slopes along SR 46 are protected by enhancing the building envelope. Traffic studies are required for situations that appear to have impacts on the traveling public. Curb-cut restrictions, the ability to have cross access, and the use of common driveways all speak to the safe and efficient flow of vehicular traffic.

Introduced parking maximums, reserves, and shared parking provisions to reduce impervious surfaces. Impervious surfaces have been identified as having impacted Township infrastructure and our natural resources for decades. Stormwater features, such as bioretention cells, may be integrated into parking lot designs. These Low Impact Development (LID) design strategies remove pollutants from parking lot runoff. New parking lot designs consider pedestrian traffic along with bike traffic.

Sign height was reduced to a height that is in line with the traveling public's field of vision without having the traveling public look up and off of the road. Electronic message signs and signs with movable parts, all distractions to the traveling public, are prohibited. A sign's brightness and its glare were also addressed.

**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.

**Objectives:**

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;

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3. Develop incentives to encourage the provision of additional public amenities;
4. 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.

**Objectives:**

1. Retain existing industries and businesses;
2. Promote Township resources to prospective businesses and industries;
3. Revitalize industrial areas and brownfields to provide for adaptive re-use or other types of development;

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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:**

1. 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.

### Objectives:

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.

### Objectives:

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:



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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.

**Objectives:**

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 multi-purpose 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.

**Objectives:**

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.