

Chapter 6

Implementation

This Master Plan will be useful to Paw Paw Township if it is consistently consulted when making land use related decisions and actively updated and implemented in coordination with the adjacent Village of Paw Paw and the Township’s regional partners: Van Buren County and the Southwest Michigan Prosperity Region.

This chapter outlines and prioritizes specific actions identified to successfully implement the Plan.

Each implementation action is listed with a ‘priority number’ and assigned a general time frame for completion. The body primarily responsible for moving the action forward is also identified.

The ‘prioritization scheme’ applied within the Implementation Plan is as follows:

Priority 1: These projects should be given immediate and concentrated effort. They are the first projects that should be started after the Master Plan has been adopted.

Priority 2: These projects are those necessary to implement the plan, but either depend on the completion of Priority 1 projects or require more complex or coordinated effort.

Priority 3: These projects implement elements of the Plan but are not urgent and can be delayed for a longer period of time. Further, these projects may be limited by budgetary constraints.

Implementation Plan

Plans, Policies, and Ordinances

Action	Responsibility	Time	Priority
1. Review the Zoning Ordinance to determine if any existing provisions inhibit or prohibit implementation of the Plan. Make amendments as necessary.	<i>Planning Commission Township Board</i>	<i>1 Year</i>	<i>1</i>
2. Amend the Zoning Ordinance to include successful Plan implementation techniques, such as mixed-use zoning and overlay districts. (ie. ‘gateway’ or corridor overlay district; agri-business / agri-tourism zoning options)	<i>Planning Commission Township Board</i>	<i>1-5 Years</i>	<i>1</i>

<p>3. Develop a Capital Improvements Plan that coordinates Township funding with implementation priorities.</p>	<p><i>Township Board Planning Commission</i></p>	<p><i>1 Year and annually</i></p>	<p><i>1</i></p>
<p>4. Work with the Village of Paw Paw to adopt waterfront/shoreline protection approaches into land use regulations within the entire community of Paw Paw that encourage low-impact development, waterfront setbacks and vegetative buffers.</p>	<p><i>Planning Commission Township Board Village of Paw Paw</i></p>	<p><i>1 year</i></p>	<p><i>2</i></p>
<p>5. Develop a strategy for promoting the development of ‘missing middle’ housing stock in identified Village Fringe areas.</p>	<p><i>Planning Commission Township Board</i></p>	<p><i>1-2 Years</i></p>	<p><i>2</i></p>
<p>6. Review and initiate amendments to the Zoning Map that will implement the Plan.</p>	<p><i>Planning Commission Township Board</i></p>	<p><i>As Needed</i></p>	<p><i>2</i></p>
<p>7. Work with the Village of Paw Paw to adopt a joint recreation Plan to create funding opportunities for planned improvements.</p>	<p><i>Planning Commission Township Board Village of Paw Paw</i></p>	<p><i>2-4 Years</i></p>	<p><i>2</i></p>
<p>8. Incorporate a ‘pathways plan’ in the Recreation Plan that coordinates planned bike lanes and non-motorized paths with area-wide trail systems and provides connectivity between community activity centers.</p>	<p><i>Planning Commission Township Board Village of Paw Paw</i></p>	<p><i>2-4 Years</i></p>	<p><i>2</i></p>
<p>9. Conduct the required 5-Year Review of the Master Plan to respond to changing conditions and priorities.</p>	<p><i>Planning Commission Township Board</i></p>	<p><i>Annually or as needed</i></p>	<p><i>3</i></p>

Transportation Corridors

Action	Responsibility	Time	Priority
1. Work with MDOT to incorporate 'complete streets' elements on Red Arrow Highway, specifically within the Village Fringe corridor segments.	<i>Staff Township Board</i>	<i>1-2 Years</i>	<i>1</i>
2. Develop a 'sidewalk plan' with the Village of Paw Paw that promotes 'walkability' and connectivity objectives established within the Village Fringe areas.	<i>Planning Commission Township Board Village of Paw Paw</i>	<i>2-3 Years</i>	<i>2</i>
3. Adopt a sidewalk ordinance that will implement the 'sidewalk plan' and work to maintain connectivity within the network.	<i>Planning Commission Township Board</i>	<i>2-4 Years</i>	<i>3</i>
4. Develop, fund and implement a wayfinding sign program in conjunction with the Village of Paw Paw.	<i>Township Board Village of Paw Paw DDA</i>	<i>2-4 Years</i>	<i>3</i>

Economic Development

Action	Responsibility	Time	Priority
1. Work with the Village to develop a marketing scheme that emphasizes the <i>Community of Paw Paw</i> as a 'destination' in the region and capitalizes on its reputation for wine tasting.	<i>Staff Village of Paw Paw</i>	<i>1-2 Years</i>	<i>1</i>
2. Coordinate local events/festivals with Township agri-tourism opportunities.	<i>Staff Local Organizations</i>	<i>1-2 Years</i>	<i>1</i>
3. Work with the area businesses and surrounding communities to	<i>Staff Village of Paw Paw</i>	<i>1-2 Years</i>	<i>1</i>

develop a plan for the cross-promotion of agri-tourism attractions.	DDA		
4. Promote economic development opportunities near agricultural and waterfront assets through Township-supported improvements and zoning options.	Planning Commission Township Board	2-4 Years	2
5. Establish a property maintenance education and incentive program in densely developed areas surrounding the Village of Paw Paw.	Staff	1-3 Years	3

Keeping the Master Plan Up-to-Date

Change is constant and there will be circumstances that may warrant changes to the Zoning Map that are not consistent with the Master Plan. If and when this occurs, an amendment to the Future Land Use Map

in the Master Plan needs to be considered. The following criteria should be reviewed to determine if a proposed change to the Future Land Use Map is warranted:

- ✓ *Does the proposed new land use classification meet the objectives of the Plan?*
- ✓ *Is the zoning district and its permitted uses designed to implement the new land use classification compatible with and appropriate in the vicinity of the property under consideration?*
- ✓ *Have any conditions changed in the area since the Master Plan*
- ✓ *was adopted that justify this change?*
- ✓ *Will there be any impacts on the community that should be considered, such as increased traffic, that might create a need for additional services or improvements?*
- ✓ *Are there any environmental considerations that may be contrary to the intent of the*

existing or proposed classification of the land?

- ✓ *Was the property improperly classified when the Plan was adopted or amended? Are the qualities of the property (or area) different than those described in the Plan?*

✓ *Will there be any adverse effects on adjacent properties*

✓ *as a result of the proposed change?*

✓ *What impacts of the proposed change will result on the public health, safety and welfare?*

Conclusion

Although this Plan is a comprehensive guide for land use planning in the Township over the next 20 years, it is difficult to predict with certainty what changes may occur in and around the community. Therefore, decisions related to development should be considered carefully in light of the recommendations of this Master Plan.

The Michigan Zoning Enabling Act requires the Township Zoning Ordinance to be *'based on a plan to promote the public health, safety and welfare, to encourage the use of lands in accordance with their character and adaptability, to limit the improper use of land, to conserve natural resources and energy, to meet the needs of*

the state's residents for food, fiber and other natural resources, places of residence . . . and other uses of land.'

Since the Zoning Map is part of the Zoning Ordinance, changes to zoning boundaries should be in conformance with the Master Plan. If future development decisions take these factors into account, and if the Plan is reviewed at least every five (5) years (as required by the Michigan Planning Enabling Act) and amended when necessary, then Paw Paw Township can feel confident that development will reflect the desires of its citizens as reflected through the adopted Master Plan.