

# 1. INTRODUCTION

## A. Authority

Townships first came into existence in Michigan through the Northwest Ordinance passed in 1787. Townships are typically comprised of 36 sections, each 640 acres (1 square mile), for a total of 36 square miles in area. However, each of Kimball Township's 36 sections are larger than 640 acres in size, with the largest section containing 697 acres. The larger sections result in a total Township area of 23,968.1 acres or 37.45 square miles.

According to Michigan Legislation, there are two forms of townships: General Law and Charter. The biggest distinction between a General Law Township and a Charter Township lies in their ability to levy taxes and their source of revenue. Charter Townships have the ability to levy taxes without the vote of the people. However, General Law Townships are funded mainly through State Shared Revenues and do not have the ability to levy taxes on their residents without the vote of the people. Kimball Township is a General Law Township.

Kimball Township derives its authority to update its Master Plan from the Michigan Planning Enabling Act, PA 33 of 2008.

## B. Purpose

The planning process is designed to involve conscious selections of policies relating to growth and development in a community. The master plan serves to promote these policies through the following:

1. Provides a general statement of the Township's goals and provides a comprehensive view of the community's preferred future.
2. Serves as the primary policy guide for local officials when considering zoning land division, capital improvement projects and any other matters related to land development. Thus, the master plan provides a stable and consistent basis for decision making.
3. Provides the statutory basis for the Township's Zoning Ordinance, as required by the Michigan Zoning Enabling Act, PA 110 of 2006.
4. Helps to coordinate public improvements and private development activities to assure the judicious and efficient expenditure of public funds.

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### **C. Planning History**

In 2007, Kimball Township adopted a new master plan to replace the previous plan, which was adopted in 1986 and updated periodically. This document represents an update to the 2007 plan, to take into account changing economic and development trends in the Township, the Blue Water region, the State of Michigan, and the nation as a whole.

The plan was updated in 2013 to reflect changing market conditions in the Port Huron region and to account for new data made available by the 2010 census.

### **D. Master Plan Organization**

The Kimball Township Master Plan is comprised of four primary categories: background studies; goals and objectives; the future land use plan for the Township; and an implementation plan. The background studies lay the framework for the Master Plan by providing the social, economic and environmental conditions of the Township. The goals and objectives chapter will be utilized as a guidebook for the decision-makers in the Township. The future land use plan is the vision of the Township, which will be realized through implementing the desired goals and objectives, in the manner specified in the implementation plan.