

# Chapter 9

## Goals & Objectives

### Introduction

Before a community can actively plan for its future growth and development, it must first set certain goals and objectives that define the boundaries of its needs and desires. This establishes a basis for the future land use plan formulation. These goals and objectives must reflect the type of community that is desired and the kind of lifestyle its citizens wish to follow, given realistic economic and social constraints. The following information outlines the goals, which are the ultimate intent of the Kimball Township Master Plan. It also describes the objectives to help the Township achieve its goals.

### Planning Process

To devise the goals and objectives for the Kimball Township Master Plan, several steps were taken. The master plan process began with a resident survey devised by the Kimball Township Planning Commission, which was conducted in October of 1998. The goal of the survey was to garner pertinent information from Township citizens regarding what makes Kimball Township a "great place to live."

Then in February of 2000, the Planning Commission along with the Planning Consultant conducted an "Open House" to allow Township residents the opportunity to discuss and give input into the Master Plan. An issues identification exercise was conducted with the residents to discuss the strength, weaknesses and elements that threaten or could improve the quality of life in Kimball Township.

The next step in the Master Plan process was to get a "vision" of how the Township will develop in the next ten to 20 years. To accomplish this goal, Township residents were asked to participate in a "visioning workshop" which was held in July of 2000. The workshop participants were placed into small groups where they created a visual representation of their vision for the future of Kimball Township.

After time spent reviewing and re-working the Master Plan, while at the same time focusing on other planning projects, the Township resumed the master planning process in 2005. An additional community workshop was held by the Planning Commission in October of 2005, with the intent of reconfirming the "vision" for development in the next 20 years.

### Action Plan

The results of these two workshops and the resident survey are the basis for the "action plan" for the Township. The Planning Commission compiled the information gained from the planning process to create the goals and objectives for the Township, as well as the Future Land Use Plan. The following information outlines the Master Plan goals and objectives for Kimball Township.

### Community Goals and Objectives

Kimball Township adopts the following goals to guide future development and enhance the quality of life in Kimball Township.

Kimball Township will:

1. Maintain a high quality of life for both present and future Township residents.
2. Preserve the physical, social, and environmental characteristics of the Township.

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3. Guide new development in a manner that conserves natural features, protects environmentally sensitive areas, and meets the long-term needs of the community.
  4. Balance the rate of land development with the availability of public facilities and services such as roads and utilities. Encourage development where infrastructure currently exists.

The above stated goals can be achieved if Kimball Township utilizes the following objectives and related strategies.

## Objectives Related to Agricultural Land Use

- Retain productive agricultural lands through available mechanisms such as open space and farmland agreements, conservation easements, and Township zoning incentives.
- Maintain an agricultural zoning district that discourages the development of non-agricultural land uses, including non-farm single-family residential units in the most prime agricultural areas.
- Discourage the rezoning, development, or expansion of infrastructure into prime agricultural area for non-farm related uses through the Township Zoning Ordinance.

## Objectives Related to Residential Land Use

- Guide the development of housing towards densities that relate to natural and manmade features.
- Direct higher density housing to locate on land that has or is planned to have the infrastructure capacity to support such development.
- Develop local incentives to encourage residential development that complements the Township's rural character, retains open space and balances the needs of the agricultural community with the interests of the non-farm residents.
- Consider the impact new developments will have on the Township's public facilities, infrastructure, and ecosystem.
- Encourage the incorporation of existing vegetation, topography, and other natural features into the design of new residential developments.

## Objectives Related to Commercial Land Use

- Provide reasonable opportunities for the establishment of commercial uses that meet the demonstrated market needs of Township residents.
- Focus commercial development in locations where compact and coordinated development can occur, preferably near areas of existing or proposed residential development, to promote pedestrian travel and land conservation.
- Discourage strip commercial development and isolated commercial uses.
- Promote commercial development in areas that are planned to have the infrastructure capacity to support such development.
- Require the establishment of transitional uses, landscape screening, and/or related buffering techniques between commercial and residential, agricultural, or open space land uses.
- Consider the impact new developments will have on the Township's public facilities, infrastructure, and ecosystem.
- Use locational advantage to attract higher quality development.

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## Objectives Related to Industrial Land Use

- Discourage industrial development that will negatively impact environmentally sensitive areas or require substantial changes to natural systems.
- Require the establishment of transitional uses, landscape screening, and/or related buffering techniques between industrial and residential, agricultural, or open space land uses.
- Consider the impact new developments will have on the Township's public facilities, infrastructure, and ecosystem.

## Objectives Related to Public/Semi-Public Land Uses

- Provide for public and semi-public use areas offering a variety of opportunities.
- Supply public facilities and encourage private community facilities in size, character, function, and location suitable to their user populations.
- Solicit citizen participation and utilize professional expertise to determine needed and desired public and semi-public improvements.
- Research alternative methods of providing public and semi-public services and choose those options most conducive to citizen needs and desires, considering sound budgetary practices.
- For Township provided facilities; plan, locate, and provide public areas based on a long-range general plan, short-range project plans, and capital improvements programming.

## Objectives Related to Community Facilities and Infrastructure

- Plan for the efficient location of public facilities and delivery of public services.
- Work cooperatively with other public agencies to facilitate the improvement of public facilities and services, especially road maintenance and improvements.
- Require that adequate public infrastructure be installed concurrently with the initiation of any new residential, commercial and/or industrial land development.
- Consider the construction or extension of public utilities only to those areas where existing population densities and natural resource conditions require such facilities to protect public health.
- Allocate costs of infrastructure improvements to those receiving the direct benefit of the services.

## Objectives Related to Natural Features

- Maintain the Township's scenic and rural character by minimizing the impacts of development on environmental features such as wetlands, woodlands, and scenic views.
- Encourage the retention of important farmlands, forestlands, and open space areas.
- Protect Township residents and property from natural hazards associated with development that infringes on natural systems.
- Maintain undisturbed natural buffers around wetlands and other sensitive environmental systems.

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- Foster the stewardship of privately owned forestlands, wetlands, and other environmental systems.
  - Include parks, bicycle and pedestrian linkages and open space areas in conjunction with new and established developments.
  - Ensure that all county, state and federal environmental regulations are adhered to in the development of land.

## Summary

The goals and objectives outlined above are guidelines for the future development of the Township. To ensure the success of the planning program and the desired growth of the Township, it is essential that these goals and objectives be seriously considered. However, these statements are suggested as a starting point for local officials. As the planning process progresses, the goals and objectives may be altered and new ones formed. Thus, these recommendations are flexible and need constant attention. It is recommended that the goals and objectives be reviewed and updated, as the Township Planning Commission believes necessary.