

FUTURE LAND USE

Introduction

The Future Land Use Map (Map 18), which is presented in this chapter, is the culmination of the comprehensive planning process. This map is based on consideration of the analyses, goals, policies and strategies set forth in the plan.

The Introduction laid the foundation for the plan, emphasizing *Quality of residential life* as a primary goal. Public meetings and hearings reveal that residents equate a high quality living environment with preservation of natural features and rural characteristics. Responding to residents' opinions, the plan set forth preservation of natural features as a prevailing objective in all future development.

The plan addresses the issue of natural features preservation, setting forth a vision of continued development of a variety of land uses, including commercial, office, industrial, open space, and recreational uses in locations that will enhance the quality of the residential environment.

Even though development will alter the natural features of a site, through careful design practices significant features can be preserved. Development can be achieved that reflects the community's appreciation of the natural environment.

Existing Patterns of Development

The Existing Land Use chapter noted that the basic patterns of development have been influenced by the predominance of agriculture, major roads and railroads, proximity to the Detroit metropolitan area, soils limitations, and natural features and resources.

For most of its history, agriculture was the predominant land use in the Township. New Hudson and South Lyon existed primarily to serve the surrounding agricultural community. New Hudson was settled at the crossroads of Pontiac Trail, a state territorial road, and Grand River Avenue, the primary east-west route that connected Detroit and Lansing. New Hudson became a rail stop on the Pere Marquette line from Detroit to Grand Rapids, further elevating its importance in the late 1800's and early 1900's.