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## Section 1 Introduction

Change is an inevitable fact of life. Communities will change over time, regardless of whether they *plan* for change or not. Lakefield Township is no exception – the community has changed over time and will continue to do so.

At this point, it is appropriate for Lakefield Township to examine present community conditions, evaluate the problems and opportunities facing the Township, and develop strategies for the future.

This document, the Lakefield Township Master Plan, is an attempt to quantify, assess, and respond to change. Also, the plan is both a statement and a vision concerning the Township's desire for its future growth and development. Furthermore, Lakefield Township's Master Plan is a "basic plan" intended to serve the following purposes:

- Help members of the Township Board, Planning Commission, Zoning Board of Appeals, and Township residents make informed decisions about how the community develops over time.

- Provide a legal foundation for the Township Zoning Ordinance.
- Encourage the establishment and implementation of land use and development policies that promote and protect the health, safety, and welfare of the community's residents.
- Establish goals and policies relating to land use, development, and public services.
- Provide guidelines for the preservation and enhancement of the Township's character.
- Define a vision of the Township's future.
- Provide guidance to the process of reviewing land development project proposals.
- Identify positive actions that can be taken to assure that future development is consistent with the goals and policies expressed in this plan.
- Identify areas of the community that are suitable for different types of land use and development.

Provide a basic plan consistent with the requirements of the Township Planning Act (PA 168 of 1959, as amended) and (P.A. 110 of 2006, as amended).

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This Master Plan has been prepared in accordance with the requirements of

**MICHIGAN PLANNING  
ENABLING ACT  
Act 33 of 2008**

AN ACT to codify the laws regarding and to provide for county, township, city and village planning; to provide for the creation, organization, powers and duties of local planning commissions; to provide for the powers and duties of certain state and local governmental officers and agencies; to provide for the regulation and subdivision of land; and to repeal acts and parts of acts.

This Act charges the Township with the responsibility to *“make and adopt a basic plan as a guide for the development of unincorporated areas of the Township”*. The Lakefield Township Master Plan is meant to be just that sort of guide to development.