

CHAPTER 1

INTRODUCTION

Mission Statement: (Draft forthcoming)

Fillmore Township is a rural township nestled among the more developed metropolitan areas such as the Cities of Holland and Zeeland and the community of Hamilton. It is known for its agricultural features and wide open spaces. The people of the community are known to be hardworking, caring neighbors who embrace family values and rural heritage. The Township's mission is to continue conservative stewardship of its farmlands and rural atmosphere by appropriately guiding growth in areas supported by available infrastructure.

The Township Master Plan

Fillmore Township recognizes the ever-changing trends, policies, development pressures and political will within and surrounding this jurisdiction through time. This Plan is drafted based on multiple areas of research, both quantitative and qualitative, to provide stable direction to improve and preserve the physical and cultural values of the community. Through meticulous research and careful consideration of the geographic and demographic resources as well as community input and, this plan has been crafted to outline a vision for the future of Fillmore

Township and provide a cohesive framework based on solid understanding of the community's long-term goals and policies.

Legal Basis for this Master Plan

This plan is created within the authority granted and responsibility required by the Michigan Planning Enabling Act, Act 33 of 2008. The Planning Enabling Act provides framework for the process of planning, from adoption to a review every five years to encourage each municipality to closely review its long-term goals and objectives. Communication, consultation and collaboration are paramount to understanding how each community creates its own identity as an integral part of a larger regional tapestry.

In the creation of this plan, the Fillmore Township Planning Commission has reviewed existing conditions, land use policies and patterns, and available infrastructure both in and surrounding the community. The Township has provided opportunity for neighbors and community stakeholders to offer input and guidance and has based this plan on the wide variety of information, much of which has been included herein.

The Fillmore Township Master Plan 2026 is intended to serve as the foundation and guiding document on long term development goals, while providing some flexibility where warranted by specific circumstance. The Plan includes data, text, and maps documenting the direction

provided herein as the Township continues forward through 2050 and beyond.