WHEATLAND TOWNSHIP MASTER PLAN

ADOPTED AUGUST 1998

Prepared By:

Wheatland Township Planning Commission

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HISTORICAL PROFILE

In order to better understand the present and future pattern of development in Wheatland Township it may be beneficial to research the history and profile of the community. This is potentially a source of much interest due to historical preservation efforts or building upon past development trends in certain locations. In the case of Wheatland Township, this history portrays a sense of community which has existed for over 150 years.

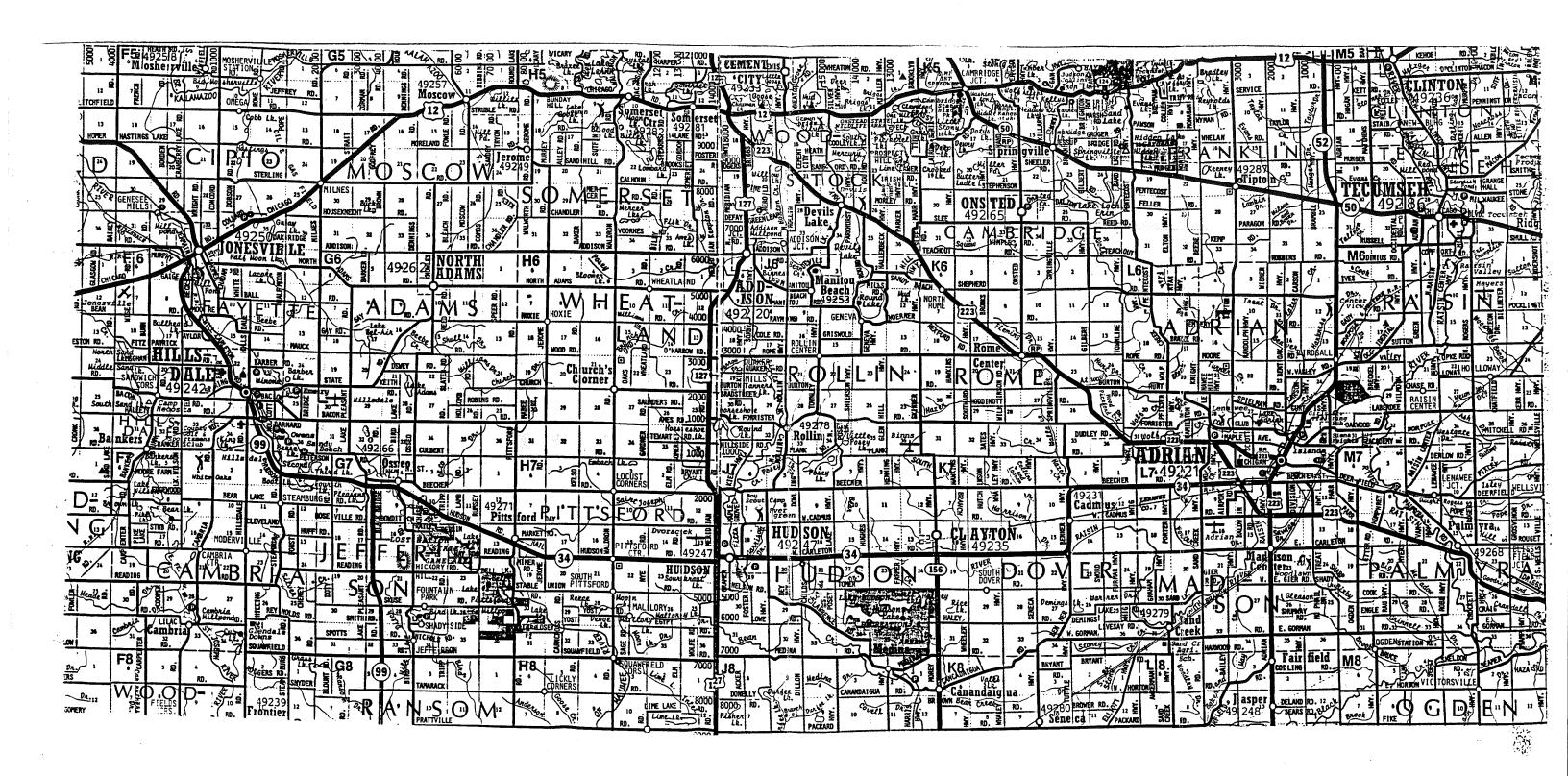
In March of 1835, the Township of Vance (now the entire County of Hillsdale) was divided into four separate townships. These townships ran the county from north to south, with Wheatland Township defined as the entire eastern quarter (now a four township area). Over the next three years, this area was divided further, first into Pittsford Township to the south (1836), Somerset Township to the north (1837) and then Wright Township from Pittsford in 1838.

The first post office for Wheatland Township had been established in what became Somerset Township, so a new post office was established at Wheatland Centre (corner of Wheatland and North Adams Roads). By the end of 1838, the Township of Wheatland contained a post office, a saw mill and a population of 729 persons. This was a period of tremendous growth considering the first white settler was documented just four years earlier in 1834. One of the more prominent individuals leading this growth was Zebulon Williams. Over the years he served in numerous township offices (supervisor, clerk and treasurer) and, in 1847, was elected to the state legislature.

The 1874 State Census identified Wheatland Township with a population of 1,398 persons (692 male and 706 female), with the number of farms stated as 208. Based upon a total township acreage of 22,662 acres, this would indicate an average farm size of just over 100 acres. By this time, an additional post office had been established at Church's Corner. The 1894 Atlas for Hillsdale County identifies at least six schools, three churches and two cemeteries.

The history of Wheatland Township, while inclusive of normal changes in land use over the years, has continuously been defined as a more rural landscape with agriculture as the primary pursuit. Several historical sketches of the township have indicated Wheatland as "the best farming township in Hillsdale County". This history is further supported in the Geographic Profile element of the plan.

Why the growth pattern did not continue in the 1900's can be traced to a number of factors, yet the primary influence relates to locational considerations away from the population centers of Hillsdale, Jackson and Adrian (in Lenawee County). With increased desire for more rural lifestyle and willingness to commute longer distances from home to work, this pattern may have now changed and more growth may occur in the years ahead.



DEMOGRAPHIC ANALYSIS

This element of the plan is to provide the background information necessary to begin the planning process. Generally, a description of the past and present conditions will allow for potential to better define the future. The following tables and demographic data are provided to lay the foundation for this future development. The surrounding townships and the overall numbers for Hillsdale County are provided for comparison purposes. Rollin Township, to the east of Wheatland in Lenawee County, was only included in the population data. Despite the growth potential at Manitou Beach (Devils Lake and Round Lake) this township also lost population between 1980 and 1990.

Population

	1990	1980	% Change 80-90
Wheatland Township	1,225	1,255	-2.39
Adams Township	2,339	2,260	3.50
Pittsford Township	1,595	1,550	2.90
Somerset Township	3,416	3,142	8.72
Hillsdale County	43,431	42,071	3.23
Rollin Township (Lenawee)	3,323	3,428	-3.06

The percentage change between 1980 and 1990 is not a significant factor in terms of the influence of population in Wheatland Township in comparison to those surrounding townships. A 5% gain to a 5% loss in population occurred somewhat randomly for communities in Hillsdale County. While population estimates are not available since 1990, a more significant data source may be an analysis of the building permit data for the communities over the last five years. This will be addressed later in this analysis. Somerset Township, directly to the north of Wheatland, has experienced more population growth, with this partly due to its central location near the intersection of US 12 and US 127. This provides greater options for commuting between employment in Hillsdale, Jackson, Ann Arbor, or Adrian.

Age Group Breakdown - 1990

	0-17	%	18-64	%	65+	%
Wheatland Township	357	29.1	720	58.8	148	12.1
Adams Township	636	27.2	1,425	60.9	278	11.9
Pittsford Township	480	30.1	940	58.9	175	11.0
Somerset Township	863	25.2	2,107	61.7	446	13.1
Hillsdale County	12,256	28.27	25,464	58.6	5,711	13.1

The age group breakdown statistics are segregated into three categories for purposes of analysis. The 0-17 age group may reflect the influence of that population on future growth in the community. Larger concentrations will impact local schools and may provide benefit in terms of locating new business due to labor availability. The 18-64 age group is typically the employed population and may influence development based upon job location and commuting patterns. The 65 and over group may reveal the need for more retirement housing or transitional needs in terms of available transportation and the location of social services. Higher concentrations in the latter two groups may indicate that population growth may be difficult to maintain due to smaller percentages in the 0-17 category. This may be the result of less affordable housing or higher property values, which may limit the ability for the younger population to remain in the community. Such trends may influence the planning process in terms of the desire to provide more affordable housing, which may equate with smaller residential lots and/or higher density housing.

Housing Units

	No.		Vacant		Owner	Renter	
	Housing	No.	Housing	Vacant	Occupied	Occupied	Renter
	Units	Households	Units	Percentage	Housing	Housing	Percentage
Wheatland							
Township	444	412	32	7.2	358	54	13.1
Adams							
Township	938	864	74	7.9	725	139	16.1
Pittsford							
Township	579	546	33	5.7	448	98	17.9
Somerset							
Township	1,728	1,273	455	26.3	1,159	114	8.9
Hillsdale							
County	18,547	15,637	2,910	15.7	12,071	3,566	22.8

The housing unit and household data reflects the distribution between owner and renter occupied households. This also defines the number of vacant housing units, which differentiates households from housing units. In many instances, these vacant units are either directed at seasonal housing, where the unit is not the principal resident, or rental units, which may not be rented at the time of census collection. Wheatland Township is characterized by a higher percentage of owner-occupied households (almost 87%), and a fairly typical vacancy condition. This may reflect the township as a stable community in which to live, with little turnover of housing stock.

Valuation/Structure

	Median Value	Median Contract/Rent	One Unit Structure	Two or More Units/Structure	Mobile Homes/Trailer
Wheatland Township	41,300	242	359	NA	85
Adams Township	40,500	254	729	20	189
Pittsford Township	36,400	258	498	15	66
Somerset Township	72,800	279	1,501	9	217
<u>y</u>	41,400	251	13,903	934	2,720

The valuation of the housing stock is a key element in terms of support for new housing development in a community. Private development is attracted to those areas where valuations are higher, reflecting increased demand for units and likely population growth. Stable communities are typically those that are consistent with the overall county figures, as reflected in the comparison between Wheatland Township and Hillsdale County as a whole. Again, as with other data previously listed, Somerset Township to the north is experiencing this higher valuation structure and more potential for population growth.

Type of Employment/Number of Employees - 1990

	Wheatland Township	Adams Township	Pittsford Township	Somerset Township	Hillsdale County
Government	44	112	90	185	1,966
Construction	38	65	36	118	919
Manufacturing	166	415	267	413	6,834
Transportation	17	28	22	65	625
Wholesale/Retail	70	185	96	304	3,120
Finance/Ins./Real Estate	14	32	22	25	602
Services	80	218	185	451	4,746

Employment Data

	Labor Force	Employment	Unemployment	Unemployment Rate
Wheatland Township	577	528	49	8.5
Adams Township	1,178	1,083	95	8.1
Pittsford Township	773	714	59	7.6
Somerset Township	1,633	1,532	101	6.2
Hillsdale County	20,347	18,810	1,537	7.6

The employment data presents an outdated portrayal of the economy as it now exists. This data is presented and will be more useful as the 2000 census is completed and these statistics can be compared for significant trends. Generally, the shift from manufacturing to service employment has resulted in fewer higher paying positions, yet more employment opportunity at lower wage levels.

Income

	1989 Median Annual Household Income	Percentage at \$0-24,999	Percentage at \$25,000-49,000	Percentage at \$50,000+
Wheatland Township	28,750	39.4	45.8	14.8
Adams Township	26,098	47.9	36.0	16.1
Pittsford Township	30,742	37.8	45.7	16.4
Somerset Township	35,044	31.8	46.1	22.0
Hillsdale County	26,019	47.8	37.7	14.5

The income data presents the stability in the community through its definition of a "middle class". In the cases of Wheatland, Pittsford, and Somerset Townships, the middle class is the dominant percentage at around 46%, yet differences exist at the higher and lower wage ranges. The influence of this data may be that closer proximity to employment centers may result in higher wage levels for residential and define patterns for future growth and development.

GEOGRAPHIC PROFILE

The natural features present within a community play a vital role in defining whether the township can support additional development and the type of man-made improvements required to further such growth. In Wheatland Township, these features are generally recognized as supportive of agricultural and larger-lot residential development and less supportive of commercial and industrial land use. The following areas are addressed with regards to this profile.

LOCATION

Wheatland Township is located in eastern Hillsdale County, which is a centrally located county in the southernmost tier of counties in the State of Michigan. Locally, it lies east of the City of Hillsdale, south of the City of Jackson and northwest of the City of Adrian. These areas may also provide the closest urban markets in terms of employment and the provision of commercial services.

Transportation

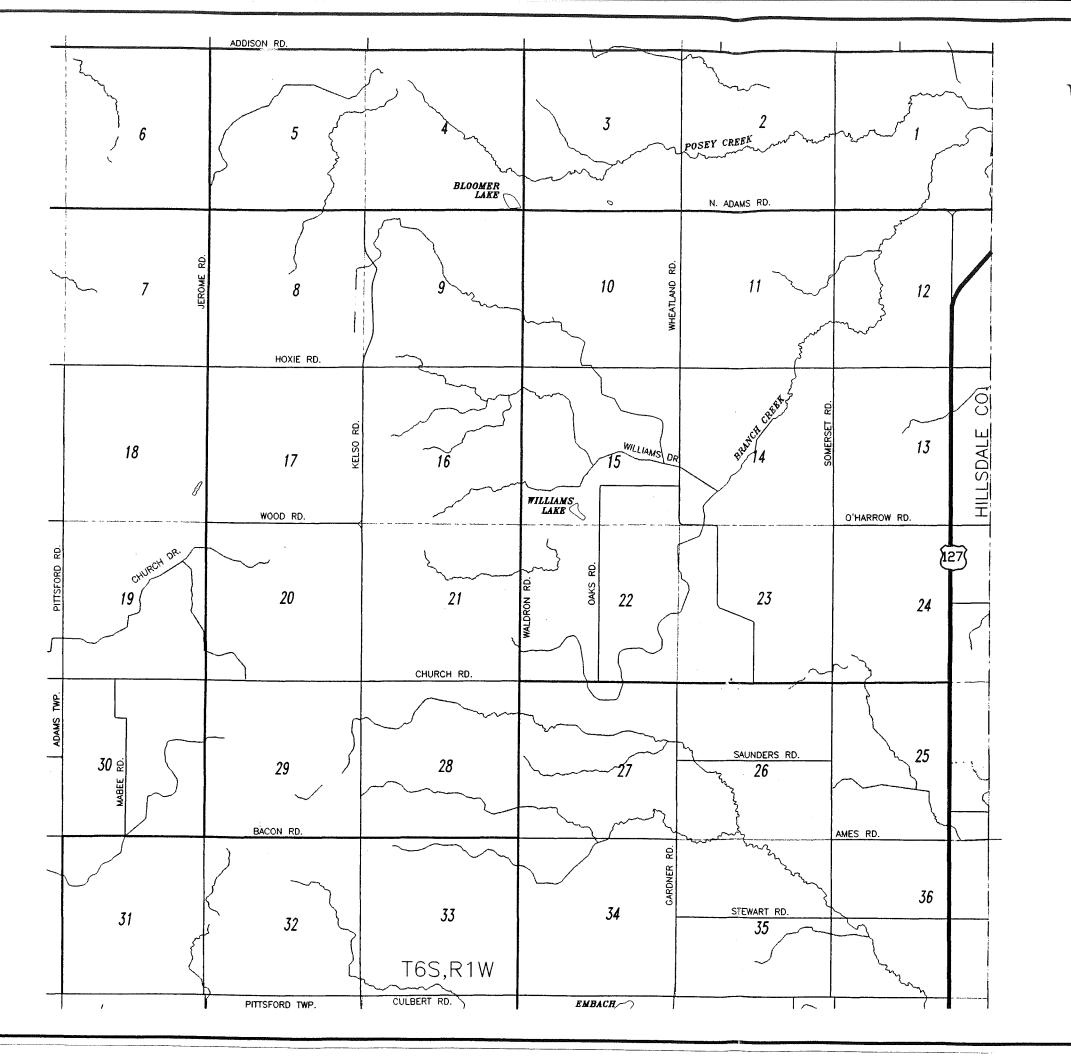
Wheatland Township is accessible from both state and county road systems, with US127 providing access north to the Cities of Jackson and Lansing. Statewide east/west traffic bypasses the township to the north (US12) and to the south (M34), with these trunklines accessed via US127 or by county roads. The county road system is comprised of several improved roadways along the northern portion of the Township (Addison and North Adams), as well as several providing north/south movement along Waldron and Jerome Roads. Improvements to the county road system will have a major impact upon the potential for increased development within the Township.

NATURAL FEATURES

Wheatland Township is characterized by level to gently rolling topography, with elevations ranging around 1000 feet above sea level. There exist several creeks in the Township which provide linkage with four river basins in Michigan; the St Joseph, the Kalamazoo, the Grand and the Raisin. The Township is also considered part of the Bean Creek Valley, which runs southerly from Devil's Lake east of Wheatland.

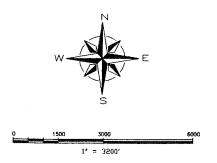
Soils

The Hillsdale County Soil Survey identifies a broad range of soil types in the Township. Most dominant are the Williamston-Conover complex and the Miami loams. Few areas exist in the Township where soils are generally suitable for installation of private septic systems. The Hillsdale County Health Department has established policy whereby minimum lot sizes have been established at ten (10) acres in order to minimize impacts of such private systems on groundwater supply.

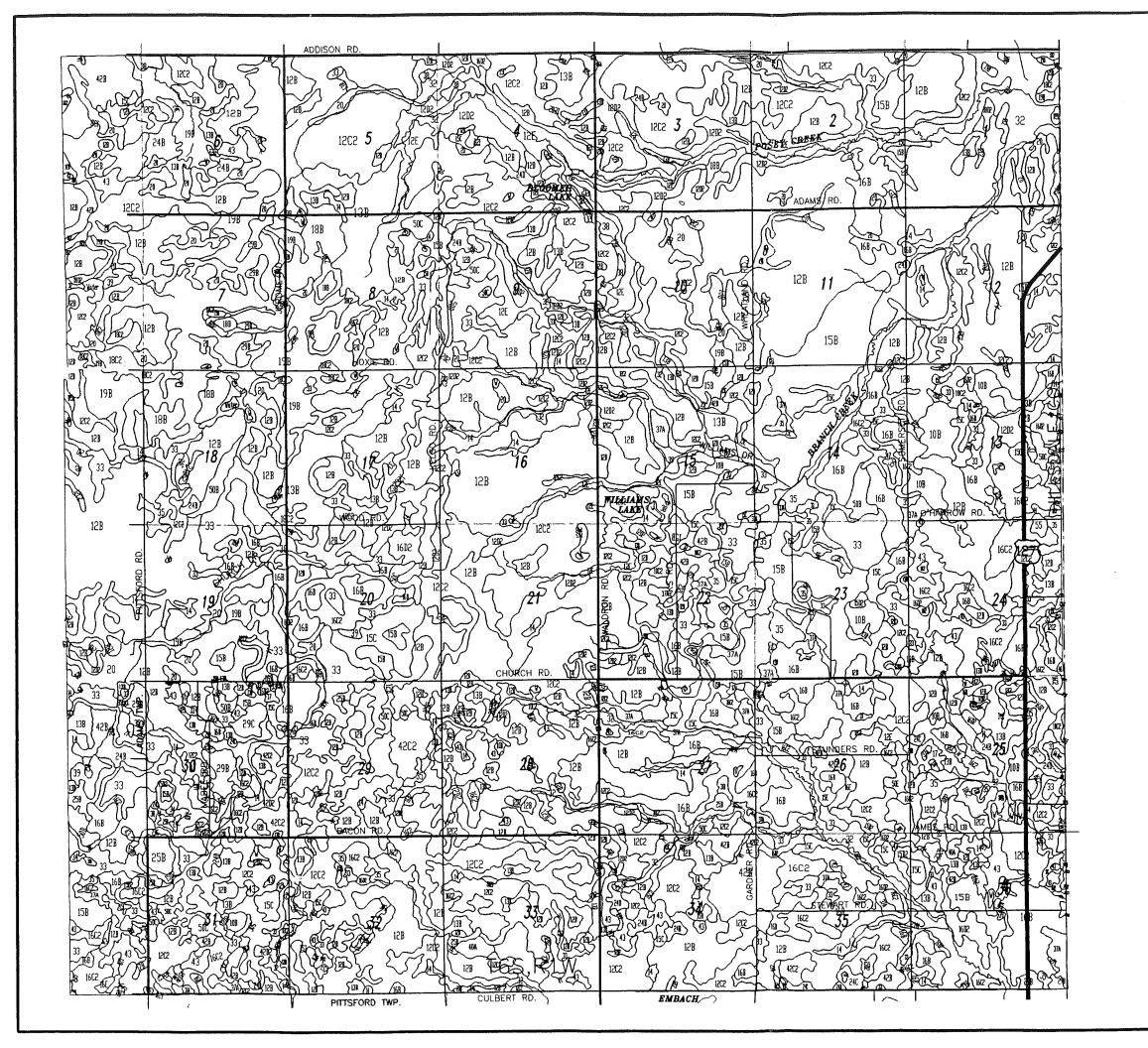


WHEATLAND TOWNSHIP HILLSDALE COUNTY BASE MAP

STATE TRUNKLINE
PRIMARY (HARD SURFACE)
LOCAL (GRAVEL)
TRAIL



WILKINS & WHEATON
AN OFFICE OF PREIN & NEWHOF
169 PORTAGE STREET
KALAMAZOD, MICHIGAN 49007
PHONE: (616) 345-1158



WHEATLAND TOWNSHIP HILLSDALE COUNTY SOIL MAP

LEGEND

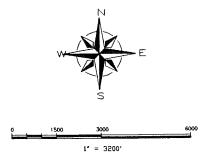
SOIL BOUNDARY

STATE TRUNKLINE

PRIMARY (HARD SURFACE)

LOCAL (GRAVEL)

TRAIL



MAP COMPILED BY
WILKINS & WHEATON
ENGINEERING Co., Inc.
169 PURTAGE STREET
KALAMAZUD, MICHIGAN 49007
PHUNE: (616) 345-1158

Hillsdale County Identification Legend November 1990 () obsolete symbols

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(10A)
                                       108 Hillsdale-Riddles complex, 2-6% slopes
    (10C)
                                       10C2 Hillsdale-Riddles complex, 6-12% slopes, eroded
                                      1002 Hillsdale-Riddles Complex, 8-12% slopes, eroded 1002 Hillsdale-Riddles Complex, 12-18% slopes, eroded 10E Hillsdale-Riddles complex, 18-35% slopes 11B Eleva channery fine sandy loam, 2-6% slopes 11C Eleva channery fine sandy loam, 6-12% slopes 11D Eleva channery fine sandy loam, 12-25% slopes 12B Williamstown-Compver complex, 1-6% slopes 12CC
    (10D)
    (10EZ)
    (62B,63A,63B)
    (62C,12C)
                                      12C2 Miami loam, 6-12% slopes, eroded
                                   12D2 Miami clay loam, 12-18% slopes, eroded
12E Miami loam, 18-35% slopes
    (12D)
    (12E2)
                                              Conover loam, 1-4% slopes
Wolcott silt loam
   (13A,30A,27A,27B)
                                      13B
   (41,28,31)
                                      14
                                      (use Brookston)
158 Boyer loamy sand, 1-6% slopes
15C Boyer loamy sand, 6-12% slopes
15D2 Boyer gravelly loamy sand, 12-18% slopes, eroded
   (64A,52B,15A,53B)
(15C2,52C)
   (15D)
                                      15E Boyer gravelly loamy sand, 18-35% slopes 16B Fox sandy loam, 1-6% slope
   (15E2)
   (47A,47B,26B)
   (160,470,4702)
                                      16C2 Fox sandy loam, 6-12% slopes, eroded
   (16D,47D,47D2)
                                      16D2 Fox gravelly sandy loam, 12-18% slopes, eroded 16E Fox gravelly sandy loam, 18-35% slopes
   (16E2,47E,47E2)
                                              Sebewa loam
                                   18B Glynwood-Blount complex, 1-6% slopes
18C2 Morley loam, 5-12% slopes, eroded
18D2 Morley diay loam, 12-18% slopes, eroded
18E Morley loam, 18-35% slopes
19B Blount silt loam, 0-4% slopes
   (18C)
  (18D)
   (18E2)
  (18A,19A)
                                             Pewamo silt loam
Spinks loamy sand, 0-6% slopes
Spinks loamy sand, 6-12% slopes
Spinks loamy sand, 12-18% slopes
  (21)
                                     20
  (54B)
                                     24B
  (54C)
                                     24C
                                     24D
  (23A,45B)
                                     259
                                             Thetford loamy sand, 0-4% slopes
Steamburg sandy loam, 2-6% slopes
(use Owose)
  (29A)
                                     27B
                                     29C
                                             Steamburg sandy loam, 6-12% slopes
                                              (use Owosso)
                                             Steamburg sandy loam, 12-18% slopes
                                              (use Owosso)
                                     32
                                             Sloan silt loam, frequently flooded
                                             Houghton muck
                                     33
                                     34
                                             Adrian muck
                                     35
                                             Palms muck
 (48A,36A)
                                     37A Matherton loam. 0-3% slopes
                                    28
                                            Edwards muck Thingford sandy loam
 (49)
 (42A)
                                    40A Lock fine sandy loam, 0-3% slopes
                                   42B Riddles sandy loam, 2-6% slopes
42C2 Riddles sandy loam, 6-12% slopes, eroded
42D2 Riddles sandy loam, 12-18% slopes, eroded
42E Riddles sandy loam, 18-35% slopes
. (42C)
 (42D)
 (42E2)
                                            Histosols and Aquents pended
                                   43
                                   448 Leoni gravelly sandy loam, 1-6% slopes
44C2 Leoni very gravelly sandy loam, 6-12% slopes, erode
44D2 Leoni very gravelly sandy loam, 12-18% slopes, eroc
 (44C)
 (44D)
                                           Napolean muck, ponded
Wallkill silt loam
                                   50B Coloma loamy sand, 0-6% slopes
50C Coloma loamy sand, 6-18% slopes
(22B)
 (22C,22D,50D)
                                   50E Coloma loamy sand, 18-35% slopes
 (24E)
                                   51
                                           Glendora mucky loamy sand, frequently flooded
                                           Pits, Gravel
(57A)
                                   57
                                           Shoals loam, 0-2% slopes, occasionally flooded
                                          Seward loamy sand, 0-4% slopes
                                  588
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EXISTING LAND USE

The planning process included a review of existing land use on a section-by-section basis. The dominant land use is agricultural or vacant open space, followed by residential development on large lots and residential on smaller lots. Only a few commercial uses exist in the township.

Agricultural/Open Space

An initial step in reviewing this general type of development included an analysis of those properties enrolled in P.A. 116; the Farmland and Open Space Preservation Act. This program allows property owners to contract with the State of Michigan to preserve farmland and open space and identifies areas in the township where this intent is the strongest. In Wheatland Township, these enrollments are throughout the township, supporting the preservation of agricultural land as the primary land use. Under this program, the property owner agrees to give up their development rights for a period of time (no less than 10 years) in exchange for a tax credit, based upon their income in relation to their property tax expenditure. In most instances, those properties enrolled are larger parcels (at least 40 acres) of existing agricultural use. A list of properties enrolled in the program are provided within the appendix.

Single Family Residential

Several areas of the township support existing single family residential use, with most scattered throughout the township on larger tracts of land. There are several areas of the township where smaller residential parcels exist, with these along the primary roads such as Church Rd. and North Adams Rd., as well as along US 127.

Two Family and Multi-Family Residential

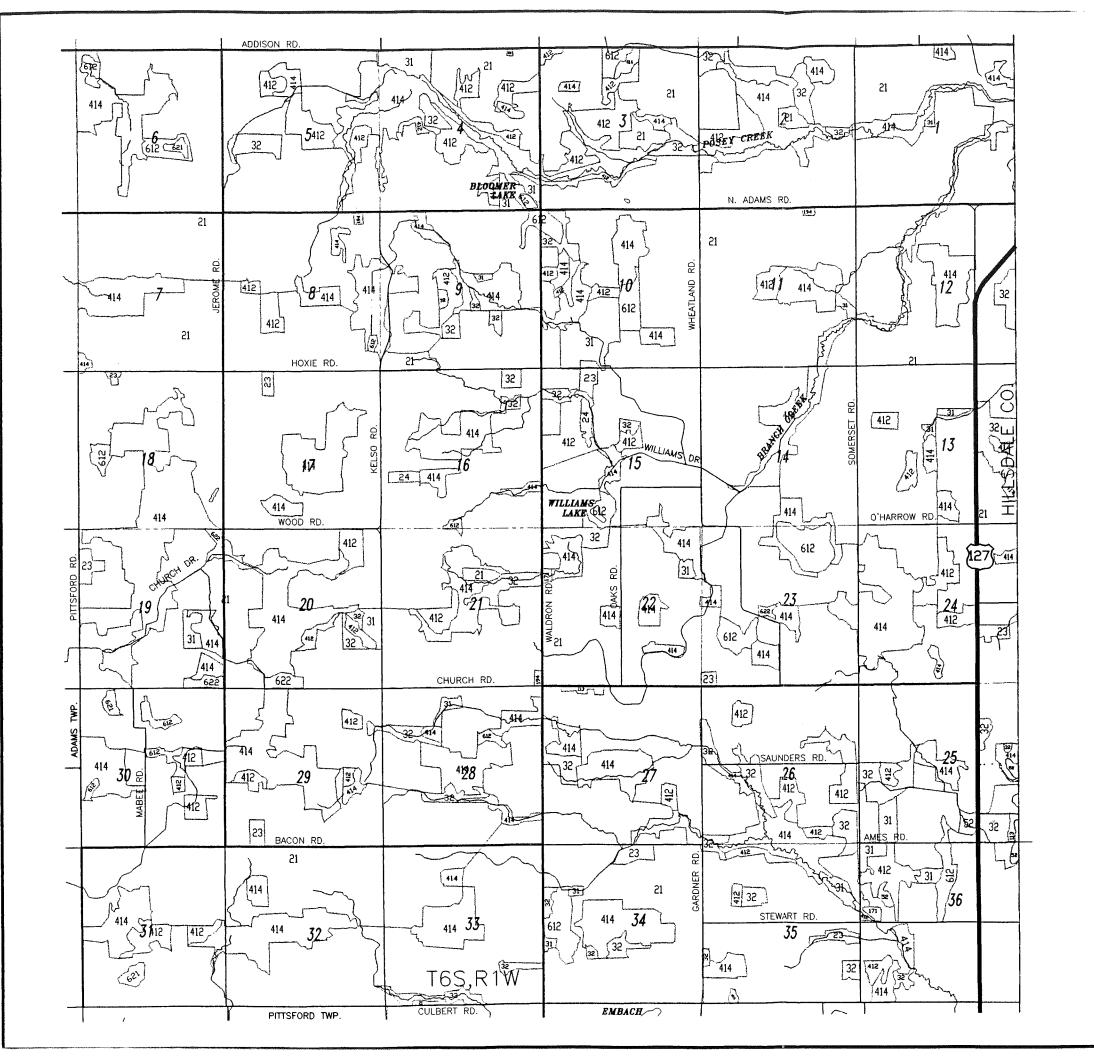
While there may be residences in the township divided into more than one unit, there do not exist any traditional two family or multiple family development areas.

Commercial

Few commercial developments exist in the township, with one located along US 127 and a couple of others along North Adams Road. Historically, the Wheatland Centre and Church's Corner areas were the primary locations for schools, churches and postal centers. In most cases, local commercial needs are met in the surrounding areas of Pittsford, Hudson, Addison and North Adams.

Industrial

There do not presently exist any industrial uses in the township, with these uses typically defined by their concentrations of employment.

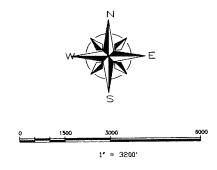


WHEATLAND TOWNSHIP HILLSDALE COUNTY LANDCOVER MAP

LEGEND

LANDUSE BOUNDARY

STATE TRUNKLINE
PRIMARY (HARD SURFACE)
LOCAL (GRAVEL)
TRAIL



WILKINS & WHEATON

AN OFFICE OF PREIN & NEWHOF

169 PORTAGE STREET
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LAND USE/LAND COVER

MICHIGAN RESOURCE INFORMATION SYSTEM DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

1.URBAN

11.RESIDENTIAL

111. Medium/High Rise Multi-Family

112.Low Rise Multi-Family

113. Single Family, Duplex

115. Mobile Home Park

12.COMMERCIAL, BUSINESS,

INSTITUTIONAL

121. Central Business District

122. Shopping Center, Mall

124. Secundary Business District

126. Institutional

13.INDUSTRIAL

138. Industrial Park

14.TRANSPORTATION,

COMMUNICATION, UTILITIES

141. Air Transportation

142. Rail Transportation

143. Water Transportation

144. Road Transportation

145. Communication Facilities

146. Utilities, Waste Disposal

17.EXTRACTIVE

171. Open Pits

172. Underground Mines

173.Wells

19.OUTDOOR CULTURAL,

RECREATIONAL, ASSEMBLY

193. Outdoor Recreation

194. Cemeteries

2.AGRICULTURE

21.Cropland

22. Orchards, Vineyards, Ornamental

23. Confined Feeding

24. Permanent Pasture

29.Other

3.OPEN FIELD

31. Horbeccous

32.Shrub

33.Savannah

4.FORESTED

41.DECIDUOUS.

411. Upland Hardwood (Northern Zone)

412. Upland Hardwood (Central Zone)

413. Upland Aspen, Dirch

414.Lowland Hardwood

42.CONIFEROUS

421. Upland Pine

422. Other Upland Conifer

423.Lowland Conifer

429. Christmas Tree Plantation

5.WATER

51.River

52.Lake. Pond

53. Reservoir

54. Great Lakes

6.WETLAND

61.WOODED

611.Forested

612.5hrub

62.NON-WOODED

621. Aquatic Bed

622. Emergent

623.Flats

7.BARREN

72. Beach. Riverbank

73.Sand Dune

74.Exposed Rock

ANALYSIS OF SURVEY RESULTS

In order to gain greater input from residents during the land use planning process, the Wheatland Township Planning Commission conducted a mail survey of residents. A copy of the survey and the statistical breakdown of results are presented within the appendix of this plan.

The survey was made up of fourteen (14) questions, with some directed at the background of the respondent and some at their desires for the future of the township. A total of 163 surveys were returned, with varying levels of responses for each question. These are summarized and analyzed as follows:

- 1) The first question related to where the respondent lived, with this divided into six (6) categories depending upon location. This provided a good cross-section of the township, with a high of 34 responses in the west central area (Area 3) and a low of 19 responses in the northeastern area (Area 2).
- The next question concerned the location of employment, with this also divided somewhat equally, with Hudson (20), Adrian (19), Jackson (16) and Hillsdale (15) providing the most frequently named location. The highest percentage of respondents (30%) indicated that they were retired with the next highest (21%) indicating other locations than those listed, which may include those working in agriculture or at home in Wheatland Township.
- 3) The third question requested the age of the respondent, with this again a good cross-section of the community, with 40% age 45-64, 33% age 65 and over, and 27% age 44 and younger.
- The next question identified the number of residents per household, with almost half (45%) reporting two residents in the household. The balance was somewhat equally divided between one person (17%), four persons (16%) and three persons (14%).
- 5) The fifth question related to owner occupancy, with only one renter responding out of 158 surveys. This reflects a common tendency for owner occupants to be more vested in the community and more concerned with efforts related to their future in Wheatland Township.
- The sixth, and final, question (relating to the demographic profile of the respondents) concerned the number of years they have lived in the community. Of the total respondents, approximately 29% have lived in the township less than ten years, 30% from 10 to 25 years and over 41% have lived in the township more than 25 years.

- 7) The seventh question requested input relating to what characteristics the respondents liked the best about Wheatland Township. The "country atmosphere" rated the highest (with 41%), followed by the people and the quiet surroundings. Some general responses could be linked together to portray a rural, agricultural community, with lower crime rates, lower taxes, less regulation (unzoned) and other characteristics supportive of the "country" lifestyle.
- The next question posed the opposite request; that being what the respondents liked least about the township. Poor road maintenance was cited by approximately 31% of the respondents. The presence of mobile homes, poor property maintenance and junkyards were also listed as dislikes. Several other responses were directed at the increasing development pressure and the need for zoning while others identified administrative and communication concerns at the township.
- 9) The ninth question related specifically to preferred land use type, with these prioritized from 1-5. Agricultural use was defined as most desirable and industrial use as least desirable. Single family housing was considered second most desirable while multi-family housing and office /retail were listed as next least desirable uses. This ranking is consistent with the direction outlined in questions 8 and 9 concerning the likes and dislikes in the community.
- The tenth question was directed at what the minimum lot size should be in the agricultural areas. This question resulted in the most evenly balanced responses. One acre lots or less were cited by 34 respondents (approx. 24%), ten acre lots were cited by 19%, forty acre lots and two acre lots both received 17%, followed by twenty acre lots (12%) and five acre lots (11%) respectively. This question identifies the difficulty in defining agricultural land, with many supportive of larger minimum parcels yet others concerned with their ability to split their property, as they desire. Generally, the results could be divided between those wishing ten acres or more (48%) and those desiring five acres or less (52%).
- The next question concerned residential development preferences. The most desired choice was single family housing on large lots. This response was followed by single family housing on smaller lots. The least desirable housing type was either multi-family or manufactured housing in a park setting. Manufactured or modular housing on its own merits was cited as both favorable and unfavorable. When combined with the single-family units on smaller lots, this may support the desire for affordable housing choices in the township.

- Question number twelve inquired about the possible location of office and commercial development in the township. Approximately one-third of the respondents indicated along US-127. The next highest responses identified that commercial development should be in surrounding communities or nowhere in the township. Other responses cited the Wheatland and Church's Corners areas or in the northeast portion of the township. More general responses included along paved roads or on land that could not be farmed.
- 13) The thirteenth question asked to prioritize the type of business or industry in the township. Office uses were rated the highest, followed closely by retail and light industrial uses. Manufacturing operations were clearly the least desirable of the choices listed.
- 14) The last question asked what were the most important issues facing the township. Preserving agricultural land was cited as the issue of greatest concern followed by environmental (pollution) considerations. Growth management was identified as the third most pressing issue, with traffic and industrial pollution the least important issues facing the township.

The survey also provided a space for additional comments. These focused on keeping the township the way it is, with agricultural and residential uses. Some regulation of mobile homes and accumulation of junk were cited as needs, as were better roads and some access management (driveway) issues.

Overall, the survey provides an excellent response based upon its return, the cross-section of residents responding, the issues addressed and the direction established. This provides support for an agricultural/rural residential community, with limited commercial development (primarily in the northeast section and along US-127) and preservation of the country atmosphere. Some increased road and property maintenance is desired, but within the scope of minimal expenditure and regulation in those areas.

FUTURE LAND USE PLAN

The Future Land Use Plan establishes the direction for land use by designating areas of the township for development over the next 15-20 year period. The plan has been created based upon the analysis of the township's history, demographic profile, geographic characteristics, existing use of the land, and the survey of residents.

The result of this review and analysis is the creation of the plan, both in terms of the map and the supporting narrative for the land use designations. For purposes of this plan for Wheatland Township, six designations have been selected. The acreage calculations for each designation are intended to be very general guidelines for future development and/or for preservation of open sapce and agricultural lands. These are listed as follows:

Open Space

This land use designation is the least intensive in terms of allowable development. This would include areas of the township where soil conditions and/or topography may limit the use of the land, or at least require more in-depth review when requests for development are presented. Generally, these areas are designated based upon environmental sensitivity or natural drainage areas. These include the Posey Creek and Branch Creek tributaries, the Williams Lake and Williams Drain areas and smaller open areas draining the land to the southeast and southwest. As development occurs, these natural areas provide for improved drainage patterns in the Township. The Future Land Use Map identifies roughly 2,647 acres for open space, with the intent to support natural drainage, agricultural use and some single family development where specific topography and soils may support such use.

<u>Agriculture</u>

This land use designation provides for the largest area of the township due to existing use of land for that purpose. These areas are predominantly farms and/or single family residences on larger parcels. Properties enrolled in P.A. 116 (The Farmland and Open Space Preservation Act) may be deemed supportive of this designation when clustered together in certain areas of the township. The desired density is for one residential unit on no less than two acre parcels, with this further defined by Health Department standards for the installation of private septic systems. This land use dominates the plan with approximately 19,489 acres or 85% of the total land area.

Low Density Residential

This land use designation is supportive of those areas where single family residential development may be the primary land use. This may include areas where single family homes are in closer proximity to one another, along primary roads or

established plats and in closer proximity to commercial service areas. The desired density is for one residential unit constructed on less than a two-acre parcel but no less than a half-acre parcel, again subject to restrictions from the County Health Department. It is intended that approximately 524 acres be designated for this land use type, with this primarily along the US 127 corridor and around the Church's Corner area.

Medium Density Residential

This land use designation supports residential development established in areas where public or private infrastructure is in place or can be provided as part of the development proposal. Such development would include cluster housing, mobile or manufactured home parks, or other single-family development on smaller residential lots. For purposes of this plan, the desired density is for between two units per acre and four units per acre, depending upon the restrictions for providing on-site water and wastewater systems. Approximately 150 acres of land have been designated for this category of uses.

Commercial

This land use designation identifies areas in the township where business services of an office or retail nature can be provided to township residents or the travelling public. Stronger locational characteristics support this type of development, with state trunklines (US-127) and/or intersections with county primary roads the preferred areas. This plan has designated approximately 159 acres of land for this type of development along the US 127 corridor.

Light Industrial

This land use designation is directed at business of a heavy commercial or light industrial nature, including warehouse and storage facilities. Such use shall be established along roadways where existing infrastructure can support truck traffic and turning movements without negative impacts to surrounding residential areas. The plan seeks to designate such an area along the US 127 corridor, within close proximity of more intensive residential and commercial areas. Roughly 71 acres, or less than 1% of the land area, has been designated for this land use type.

Acreage Breakdown

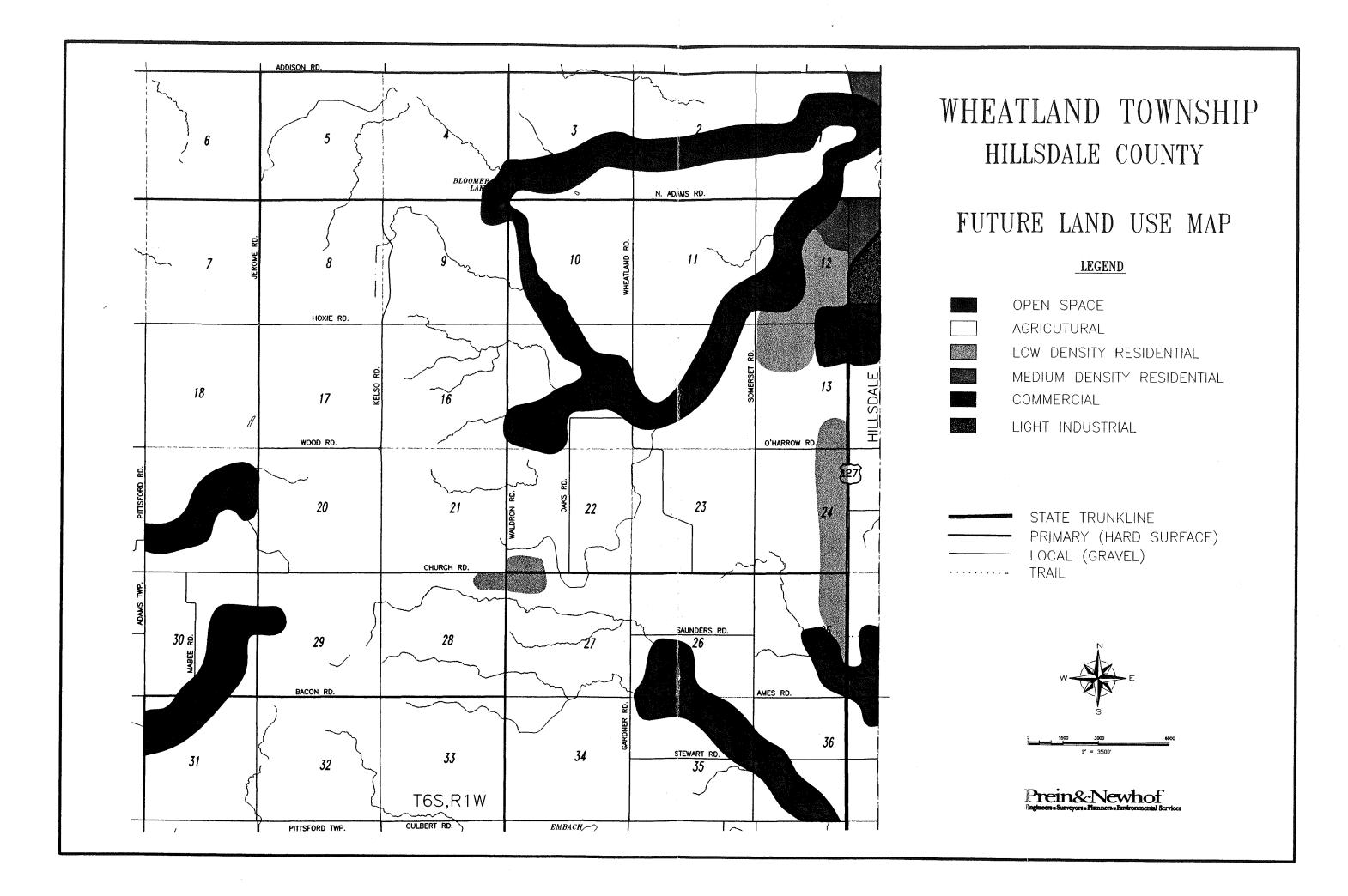
The calculation of the land use designations is based upon a rough estimate of the acreage for a standard township (640 acres \times 36 sections = 23,040 acres). Areas devoted to public right-of-ways have not been defined based upon the general nature of this planning effort. The calculations are as follows:

Land Use Designation	Acreage	Percent of Total(%)
Open Space Agriculture Low Density Residential Medium Density Res. Commercial Light Industrial	2,647 19,489 524 150 159	11% 85% 2% 1% 1% 0%
Totals:	23,040	100%

Implementation

The implementation of the Master Plan, and the direction for future land use in Wheatland Township, will be based upon the desire to first develop the US 127 corridor while preserving agricultural and open space areas in the balance of the township. The 15-20 year time horizon for this plan, with possible amendment and update every 5-10 years, should provide opportunities for development without reducing the rural and country atmosphere supported by the residents within the survey.

While this initial plan will predate any zoning ordinance for the township, the at will be for zoning to provide the means for plan implementation. This will include creation of zoning districts compatible with these land use designations within the ordinance text. This will leave the property owner the option of requesting a change in zoning from the likely agricultural classification of most lands in the township.



APPENDIX

·		e .	ACE	116 F	Martin	d T OAS R U		•	,	Sant S					:	
Con	trac	t Date		organic		County	Township or City	•		Acres	î kp	Rns	i fe	e Outort	9	French
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31719	74 104 110 83	(3/71/2024		KILLSDALE		Reed, C Hel VISFATI AND	CI	15	065	011	17	\$E	
31764	01/01/1982					Lewis, Douglas D	C 1	26	063	01W	04	HE	
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33120	01/01/1982	12/31/2021	•	HILLSDALE		Mackey, Bernard D	T		06\$	014	33	NE	
33136	01/01/1983	12/31/2002		HILLSDALE		WHEATLAND Additional, Larry L	•			014	07	SU SE	
33149	01/01/1983	12/31/2002		BILLEDALE		VHEATLAND Patrick, Lawrence E	CF		968				
33310	01/01/1983	12/31/2012		BILLSDALE		WHEATLAND Tucker, Robert L	C		968	014	22	KM.	
33311	01/01/1983			MILLSDALE		WHEATLAND WHEATLAND	CI		06\$ 06\$	01W	05 08	NE NE	
33383	01/01/1983					Haines, Roscoe E WHEATLAND	C	: 94	06\$	011	06	NW SW	
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33768	01/01/1983	12/31/2002		MILLSDALE		Carpenter, Bernel J WHEATLAND	Ç		068	01W 01W	20 29	SE SF	
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34213	01/01/1963			HILLSDALE		Cunningham, Verlyn G. WHEATLAND	C I	29	946	01W	33	NE	
34214						Cunningham, Vertyn G WHEATLAND	c i	70	260	01w	27	s#	
34215	01/01/1983			WILLSDALE		Cunningham, Verlyn G	£ 1	140	065	01W	34	NW	
35841	01/01/1983			HILLSDALE		Letherer, Donald D	C !		068	012	22	RE SE	
37116	01/01/1983	12/31/2012		HILLSDALE		WHEATLAND Bolenbeugh, Artic U.					24	NE NU	
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38112	01/01/1983			HILLSDALE		Schoenberger, Darver UHFATLAND	Ţ.	185	065	01W	08	SE	
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39973						Boumen, Joe L. WHEATLAND	7 1	124	058	011	01	NW	
40820	01/01/1984			HILLSDALE		Lewis, Clarence E WHEATLAND	т (100	280	014	29	NU SW	
41556	01/01/1984	12/31/1998		HILLSDALE		Herritt, Jerry L.	T 1		065	01W	21	SW SE	
41744	01/01/1984	12/31/2003		MILLSDALE		WHETLAND Irish, Earl J.	·		065	אוכ	08	NL:	
45226	11	1 /	Temp	HILLSDALE		WHEATLAND Swander, Everett E.	T !					NIN.	
43913	01/01/1985	12/31/1994		HILLSDALE		WHEATLAND Sober, Rendy P.	T		055	014	35		
46069	01/01/1985	15/31/1994		HILLSDALE		WHEATLAND Vallad, Len E.	T !		06\$	01W	18	W	
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46347	01/01/1985	12/31/2004		HILLSDALE		WHEATLAND Gale, Curtis L.	C	F 120	065	Olv	13	NY SY	
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468812		12/31/2074		WILL STALF		Decker, Beth A. WHEATLAND	C	F 120	06\$	OTH	05	SE	
49895	01/01/1986			HILLSDALE		Godfrey, David A. WHEATLAND	c	F 110	058	01W	34	NE	
50383	01/01/1986			HILLSDALE		Relater, Arnold V. WHEATLAND	T	F 131	06\$	011	19	NY	
503114						Reister, Arnold V. WHEATLAND	r	F 36 0	260	010	19	NE VE	
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52170	01/01/1986	12/31/2005		MILLSDALE		WHEATLAND Read, Craig A.						SE	
536 IZ	01/01/1987	12/31/2006		HILLSDALE		WHEATLAND Codfrey, David A.	C		065				
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2

WHEATLAND TOWNSH	IP SURVEY/FU	ITURE LAND	USE PLAN	
The Wheatland Tow people to look at enclosed survey w interests and con- Your input is ver- the direction of Your time and con- survey will be great	nship Board future land ill give you cerns to the y valuable t future land	has appoin use in th an opport township o us and w use within	e township. The unity to express planning commit ill be used to	e s you: tee. set
1. Using the map Township where	, please ind you live.	icate the	section of the	
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	3 CHURCH 13	17 KON	3 4 5	
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(optional) Name and Addro	1	66		
2. Where do you	vork?			,
Hillsdale Adrian Jonesvill	Ja Hu =Ot	ckson dson her(Coldwater Addison	_,
3. Your age catego	ry.			
25 or under	26 to 4	445 t	o 6465 or	over
4. Number of perso				
5. Do you own or			•	
6. How long have y			Township?	_
7. What do you !!!			-	
				P
8. What do you lik	e least abou	ut the tow	nship?	

 Prioritize the land uses you support (1 being highest or best, 5 being the lowest or least desirable):

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BILLEROKD NI 43511-3300 70345 CHIBEKL KD MHEYLIYHD LMB BLYNNING CONNISSION BOOZLYGE MIT BE EVID BA YDDUESZEE

BUSINESS REPLY MAIL

11: RESIDENTIAL DEVELOPMENT: Prioritize the type of residential development that should occur in Wheatland Township (1 being highest or heat and
a pring one towest of lesst desirable).
Single Family on large lots Single Family on small lots Duplexes and Multi family (3 or more units) Manufactured Housing or Modular Housing Manufactured Homes in Parks
12. OFFICE/COMMERCIAL: If there were to be future office/commercial development in the township where would you prefer it to be?
13. BUSINESS/INDUSTRY: Prioritize the type of business and industry you wish tattract to Wheatland Township (1 being highest or best and 6 being lowest or least desirable).
Offices (Doctor/Professional)Light IndustryHeavy ManufacturinHeavy Manufacturin
14. Prioritize the issues facing the township in terms of future development (1 being the highest or best, 6 being the lowest or least desirable).
Agricultural PreservationIndustrial PollutionGrowth ManagementTrafficOther (specify
Additional Comments:

PLEASE RETURN BY FEBRUARY 15, 1998

Dear Property-Owner,

It is the desire of the Wheatland Township Planning Commission to be completely open and honest with all of our township's residents. To this end, we have begun the process of establishing appropriate land use guidelines by soliciting your input. We received 163 responses to our survey and have included a copy of the results for your review.

Over the coming months we will be formulating land use regulations to submit to the Township Board. Their final approval will result in a set of zoning regulations that we hope will help maintain the beauty and atmosphere of our agricultural township. During this time your opinions and suggestions are more than welcome. Plan on attending our meetings and giving us your opinions. We look forward to hearing from you.

Bill Rupnow	Russ LaFollette	Pete Wines
Judy Poling	Dave Godfrey	Christina Brasher
John Fouty	Burt Cox	Jim Crowley

We meet at the Wheatland Township Hall, 2991 N. Waldron Rd., at 7 p.m. on the third Wednesday of each month. The Township Board meets on the second Wednesday of each month.

22 28

Total surveys received: 163

N. of Hoxie: E. of Waldron 19 S							N. of Church; S. of Hoxie; E. of Waldron S. of Church; W. of Waldron S. of Church; E. of Waldron (T/R): 155						
2. Loca	tion of employm Hillsdale Adrian Jonesville	ent: 15 19 4		Jackso Hudsor Retired	n	16 20 51 T/R:	170	Ad	ldwal dison her			0 9 6	
3. Age	of respondents: Under 25 2	2	5-44	41		45-64 T/R:	64 159			Over	65	52	
4. Res	idents per house 1 26	hold: 2 69		3 21		4 25 T/R:	152	5	10	•	5 5	i	
5. Res	pondents that ov Own 157		lent	1		T/R:	158						
6. Year	s in Wheatland T Less than 5 yea 5-9 years			10-14 y 15-25 y		17 28 T/R:	152		-49 yı + ye:		4	2 1	
7. Wha	t respondents lik Country atmosp People Quiet Farming Uncrowded	here 5 1: 1: 1:	7 8 7	townsh Unzone Low cri Wildlife Low Ta: Little Tr	ed me xes	9 3 3 2 2	Twp par Access Open to Afforda Availab	to l o m ble	akes obile	home	1	i.	
8. Wha	t respondents di Poor road main Mobile homes Poor Property n Junkyards Increasing prop	enance naintenanc		ship: 36 15 12 7 6	Smashe People Desire	ed mailb	t busine:			1 1 1 1			

	Lack of zoning regulations Development Power outages Potential zoning regulations Traffic Poor twp communications No bathroom at twp hall Farmland wasting development Too many large farms					Trucks on N. Adams Road Nosy busybodies Lack of dog control Building/buying large homes No twp police Lack of community activities Inability to contact twp officials Long distance phone expense Hoxie drain tax					
9. Preference of township landuse: Most desired Least desired											
	Use Agricult Single t Multi-fa Office/F Industri	tural family mily Retail	Most d	esired 1 120 49 4 4	2 15 65 7 2 5		3 6 47 25 12	Leas 4 0 5 14 54 14	5 0 2 43 27 82	T/R 138 127 115 112 117	
10. Min	imum lo 40a 20a	t size perference/a 25 17	agricult 10a 5a	tural: 27 16			2a 1a	25 33		Other: T/R:	1 (1/2a) 144
11. Pre	Use Lg sing Sm sing Multi-fa Manufa	le family gle family	elopme Most d	nt: esired 1 101 36 2 14 8	2 16 46 2 29 2		3 5 21 23 37	Leas 4 1 4 38 24 20	st desired 5 6 14 55 18 85	T/R 129 121 120 122 125	
12. Pre	Preference in commercial development: Along 127 40 On paved roads In surrounding towns 18 Area #5 Nowhere in township 18 Near M-34 Anywhere 14 Jerome & N. Adams Far from my residence 10 North end of twp Wheatland Center or Churches Corners 6 Waldron Road On unfarmable land 4 Busiest 4 corners Area #2 3 T/R 123							2 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1			
13. Pre	ference i	in business or ind			ment:			1	ام میام مام ک		
·	Use Offices Retail Light In Heavy Other		Most de	1 40 17 23 9	2 20 30 15 3	2	3 20 21 18 5 4	7 15 14 25 3	t desired 5 5 4 20 19 3	6 11 11 13 38 2	T/R 103 98 103 99 28
14. Importance of issues facing township:											
	Traffic Industri		Most di	esired 1 108 46 12 13 15	2 16 52 13 11 19 2	3	3 6 18 31 15 31	Leas 4 3 6 30 26 26 3	t desired 5 2 3 23 35 17 4	6 0 1 7 16 9 8	T/R 135 126 116 116 117 23

Additional comments:

Keep it as is (11), Keep commerical / industrial development out (4), Place limits on mobile homes (4), Control accumulation of trash and junk (4), Improve roads (3), Each residence should have its own driveway (2), Keep it agricultural / residential (2), Stop farms from being divided (2), Need zoning (2), Do not need zoning (2), Keep up good work (2), Road graders damage my property, Need to preserve farmland, Development is not a problem we have enough farmland, Keep developing along 127, Keep it simple, Don't limit property size, It is good to investigate zoning, We need better cooperation between farms that pollute, We need a park, We need more police to control speeders more police to control speeders.