



# Jackson County Planning Commission

Staffed by the Region 2 Planning Commission (R2PC)

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## 2020 JCPC Annual Report

Section 19(2) of the *Michigan Planning Enabling Act* (PA 33 of 2008, MCL 125.3819(2)) states that “[a] planning commission shall make an annual written report to the legislative body concerning its operations and the status of planning activities, including recommendations regarding actions by the legislative body related to planning and development. Section 103(B) of the *Jackson County Planning Commission Bylaws* also includes the preparation of an annual report to the County Board as a duty of the Commission. Accordingly, the report for 2020 follows:

### 1. 2020 JCPC Membership & Officers

The Jackson County Planning Commission (JCPC) is comprised of nine (9) members. The following commissioners served in 2020:

- Mr. Eric Beda – Industrial and Economic Interests (May – December)
- Mr. Timothy Burns – At Large
- Mr. Roger Gaede – Environmental Interests
- Ms. Amy Guerriero – Industrial and Economic Interests (January – April)
- Ms. Nancy Hawley – At Large
- Mr. Ted Hilleary – Educational Interests
- Mr. Russ Jennings – At Large
- Mr. Corey Kennedy – County Board of Commissioners
- Ms. Jennifer Morris – At Large
- Mr. Jim Videto – Agricultural Interests

Ms. Morris and Ms. Hawley served as the Chair and Secretary of the JCPC, respectively.

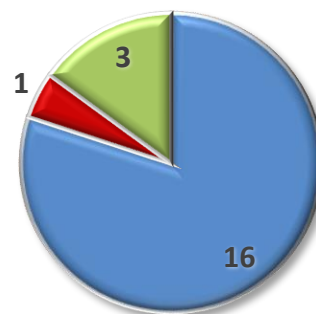
### 2. Immediate Responsibilities

Despite the COVID-19 pandemic, the Jackson County Planning Commission accomplished a lot during 2020, including the following responsibilities:

#### a. Coordinated Zoning

A primary responsibility of the Planning Commission is to review and recommend action on proposed amendments to township zoning ordinances.

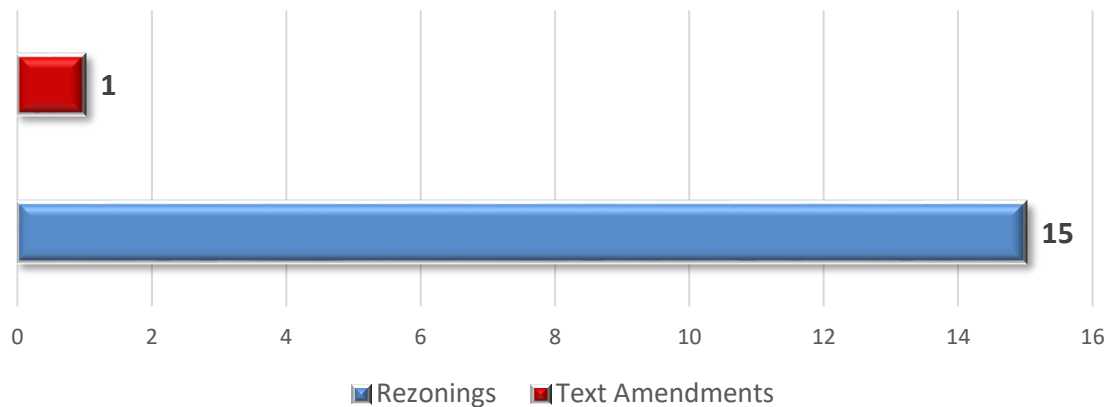
The JCPC made sixteen (16) recommendations regarding zoning amendments for seven (7) townships in 2020.



■ Zoning Amendments

■ Master Plans

■ PA 116 Agreements



A single text amendment —pertaining to mining and extractive operations— accounted for 6% of zoning ordinance amendment requests. Rezoning requests accounted for 94% of requests.

### b. Coordinated Planning

Another primary responsibility of the Commission is to review and provide feedback on municipal (i.e., city, village and township) master plans proposed within Jackson County as well as master plans proposed by surrounding counties. The JCPC reviewed and commented upon one (1) proposed municipal master plan in 2020.

### c. **Farmland and Open Space Preservation**

A secondary responsibility of the Planning Commission is to review and make recommendations regarding Farmland and Open Space Preservation (i.e., PA 116) applications to pertinent Township Boards. The JCPC made recommendations on three (3) applications regarding the preservation of farmland and open space in 2020.

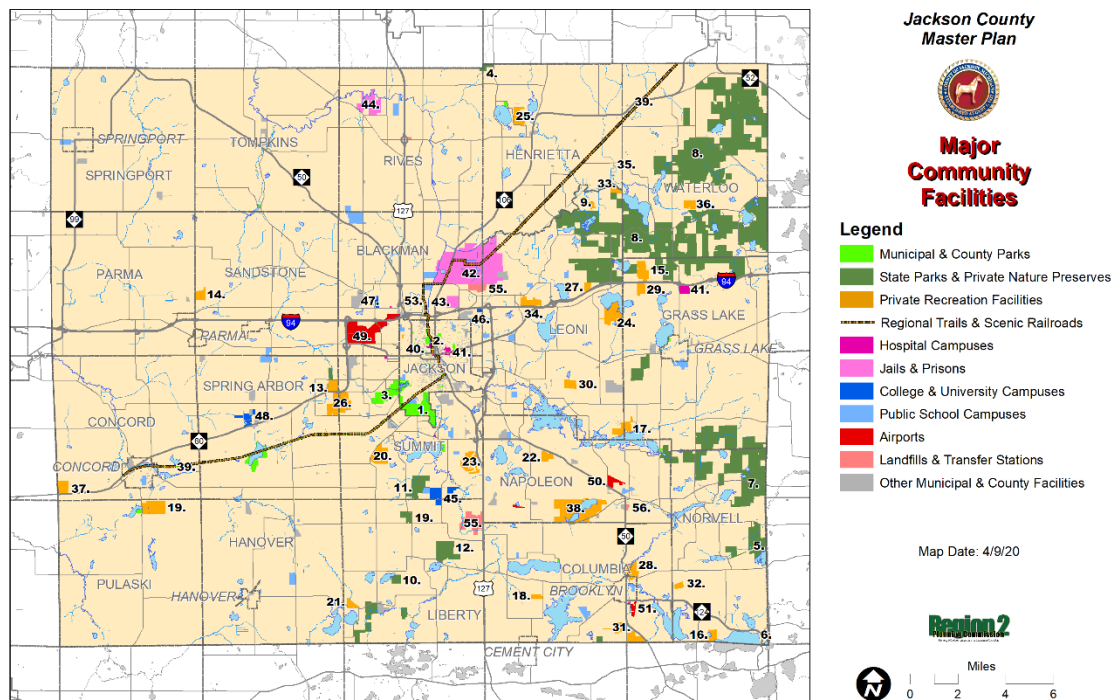


### 3. Ultimate Goal and Objectives

In the long-term, the JCPC seeks to coordinate planning throughout Jackson County while respecting the planning and zoning authority of municipal governments (i.e., the city, villages, and townships). This will be accomplished over time by:

a. **County Master Plan**

The Commission is also charged with developing a countywide master plan upon which it will base (in part) its recommendations regarding municipal master plans, township zoning amendments (i.e., rezonings and text amendments), and farmland and open space preservation applications. Towards that end, Commissioners continued work on a new edition of the *Jackson County Master Plan* in 2020. Comprehensive inventories of the components that comprise the county (e.g., land use and natural resources, community facilities and services, etc.) were completed.



- b. **Education and Advocacy.** The Commission will continue to maintain a webpage—located on [www.region2planning.com/jackson-county-planning-commission](http://www.region2planning.com/jackson-county-planning-commission)—regarding the County Planning Commission for the use of its members and the municipalities they serve. Agenda packets (which include staff reports on the requests reviewed by the JCPC), meeting schedules and minutes, and more can be found on the webpage.
4. **Meetings.** The County Planning Commission generally meets on the second (2nd) Thursday of each month at 6:00 pm in the Commission Chambers on the 5th Floor of the County Tower Building. However, some of those meetings were cancelled and others were conducted online in 2020 due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

*Submitted on the behalf of the Jackson County Planning Commission  
Grant Bauman | JCPC Staff and Recording Secretary | 2-1-21*