



Goals and Objectives

Goals from the 2002 Plan

- To increase the tax base.
- To expand housing options in selected locations to meet the needs of residents at various life-stages
- To preserve the Township's sense of openness and keep "green areas green"
- To create a positive Township image
- To strengthen Springfield Township's community identity
- To encourage and support the expansion of public water and sewer service, and prioritize critical locations such as schools and older, dense neighborhoods with failing septic systems.
- To create key partnerships to address future growth issues and improve the quality of life in the Township
- To better manage traffic throughout the township.

The purpose of a comprehensive land use plan is to help guide the future development of the community over the next 10-20 years. Central to that guidance are the goals and objectives, which form the foundation of a long-term vision for Springfield Township. The goals and objectives also provide the outline for the other plan elements including the land use plan, transportation plan, community facilities plan, and other elements. The following are general definitions for goals and objectives:

- A **GOAL** is a desired end state or target that, if pursued over the long term, will contribute to the attainment of the community vision.
- An **OBJECTIVE** is a more specific (and often measurable) desired short-term end, or benchmark, that in conjunction with other objectives can cause the achievement of the goal.

The goals and objectives are broad statements of policy that will transcend changes in leadership and are what the township can aim for during the implementation of the various strategies. Specific strategies and action steps that the township can use are included within the various plan elements, and these will be evaluated through the lifespan of this plan.

The goals and objectives on the following pages are based on the goals established in the previous planning effort with revisions as necessary to clarify goals and objectives and expand certain goals to further address issues such as sustainability. These goals and objectives should be read with an understanding that many of the statements are interrelated. For example, improving the overall transportation system or creating a community identity can both contribute to the quality of life in the township. In cases where the township may find a conflict between certain goals (e.g., where a specific transportation project may conflict with the protection of natural resources), the township should not use this plan to choose one goal over another but should use it to find the best balance among the goals in order to achieve the shared vision of the community.

Goal 1: The township will have an expanded, diverse tax base that balances the need to attract and maintain businesses while creating high-quality activity centers within the community.

1. Attract new businesses (commercial, office, and industrial) to the township while continuing to work with local businesses to ensure their long-term viability.
2. Encourage local entrepreneurial efforts.



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3. Open up a continuous dialogue with existing business owners to help identify issues related to business development in the township as well as promoting an overall collaborative approach to economic development.
4. Work with the City of Akron to maximize the benefit of the Joint Economic Development District (JEDD).
5. Concentrate nonresidential economic development in designated areas along major roads and highways where suitable infrastructure is available or is expected to be available at the time of development.
6. Identify potential sites for new businesses and encourage the redevelopment of underutilized sites based on township and regional planning efforts.
7. Find methods of marketing the township that can both help to expand the tax base and promote the identity of the township.
8. Market the township's prime business location within the region with strong highway access and close proximity to major urban areas balanced with more diverse housing opportunities, lower taxes, and a high quality of life.
9. Allow for some transitional areas within the township, particularly along major roadway corridors, where a mixture of uses may be appropriate including higher density attached housing, transitional commercial and office uses, or true mixed-use developments that blend both residential and nonresidential uses together on a single development site.

Goal 2: The township will be a place where individuals and families of different demographic and economic backgrounds can reside throughout their various life-stages.

1. Identify appropriate areas for various types of housing (including attached housing) at a variety of densities based on available infrastructure, natural resource preservation objectives, and the ability to develop the housing within the context of existing development patterns whether through appropriate buffers or mimicking adjacent development densities.
2. Allow for higher residential areas in key areas of the township where infrastructure is available and where such densities may serve as a form of land use transition (e.g., transitioning for commercial uses to lower density residential development).
3. Provide for the flexibility to evaluate new types of housing that may fit the needs of certain groups of the population (e.g. patio homes, townhomes, landminiums, or condominiums) that might be targeted toward the elderly, empty nesters, or young couples without children.

Goal 3: The township will be a community of well-maintained neighborhoods.



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1. Develop tools and programs to encourage and/or require the maintenance and upkeep of housing as the housing stock continues to age.
2. Consider the creation and implementation of a property maintenance code that will work simultaneously with the zoning resolution to ensure the long-term maintenance of neighborhoods and business areas.
3. Continue to plan for parks or greenspace in and around major residential neighborhoods to allow for easy access by local residents.
4. Continue to work cooperatively with township property owner's to resolve issues related to zoning violations.

Goal 4: The township's sense of "openness" and expansive green areas will be protected for future generations.

1. Protect those areas and resources that contribute to the open space character of the township including, but not limited to wetlands, wooded areas, riparian corridors, and other natural resources.
2. Implement applicable portions of the *Summit County Trail and Greenway Plan* including the protection of the greenway along the Tuscarawas River.
3. Support the development of conservation subdivisions that protect the valued resources while also establishing setback requirements to make the housing less visible from roads and adjacent development.

Goal 5: The township will have a strong, unique identity known throughout the region that emphasizes the township's central location, unique qualities, and abundant resources.

1. Develop and expand upon the areas around Springfield Lake that currently serves as a "center" for the community.
2. Encourage the renovation and upgrade of key gateways (entrances) into the township to clearly identify the township to residents and visitors alike.
3. Promoting Springfield Lake as a primary asset of Springfield Township and a gathering place for the community. Identify additional resources and assets that the township can market as part of their overall identity.

Goal 6: The township will be a key partner in facilitating the appropriate expansion of public water and sewer service, and the provision of necessary services.



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1. New public facilities should be situated in locations that will best serve the population through accessibility and ease of services. As such, the township should identify areas that are in need of sanitary sewer and/or improvements due to increased growth, maintenance issues, or necessity.
2. The township should meet or exceed minimum standards for police, fire, and emergency medical services in staffing and response times.
3. Work with appropriate agencies to identify solutions and planning efforts necessary to improve stormwater runoff and minimize damage from flooding.
4. Promote continued development of state-of-the-art telecommunications systems and other technologies.
5. Collaborate with surrounding local governments on infrastructure improvements to address economies of scale, resource management, and infrastructure utilization for mandated and other services provided to citizens.

Goal 7: Residents will have a high quality of life within the community through the availability of quality schools, entertainment and cultural activities, and a strong parks and recreation system.

1. Work with the school systems to identify potential collaborations with the township that will maintain a high level of education in the community and preserve an excellent school system. This can also serve to help promote a unique identity for the township through the programs that may arise from such collaboration.
2. Create partnerships with local and regional organizations (e.g., neighboring communities and the Springfield Township Senior Center) to create and promote a variety of arts and cultural programs as well as the venues to encourage performances.
3. Utilize economic development programs to attract entertainment and recreation businesses that will provide citizens with “things to do” while simultaneously expanding the local tax base.
4. Look for methods of incorporating community activities and activity areas in new public facilities, such as new park buildings or a new government center (i.e., multi-use buildings).
5. Provide for services and accessibility for people of all ages and with all levels of abilities. In particular, address the special needs of our aging population so that Springfield Township is a positive place to age.
6. Work with area hospital systems to explore building a health and wellness center or other health-related facilities to provide health and wellness services to Springfield Township citizens.

Goal 8: The township will have adequate parks and open space to provide recreation opportunities to the



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residents and will maintain open spaces to enhance the quality of life in the township.

1. Develop a parks, recreation, and open space plan for the township that will evaluate the current facilities and make strategic recommendations about how to expand and diversify the programming and facilities of the Springfield Township park system.
2. Consider long-term approaches to permanent, public open space and parks such as a greenspace or parks levy to raise funds for the purchase of open space. Such approaches could be explored as part of an overall parks, recreation, and open space plan.
3. Allow for conservation subdivisions that incorporate attached housing that may allow for the preservation of 60-75% open space.

Goal 9: The township transportation system will be a model for other communities, addressing both vehicular and nonvehicular modes of transportation.

1. Develop partnerships with the county and state, along with any regional agencies and task forces, to address the township's transportation needs.
2. Develop methods and incentives to encourage people to utilize alternative modes of transportation.
3. Maintain a high level of maintenance of the local roads to minimize the need for costly repairs.
4. Encourage the connection of new or existing roadways to create improved interconnectivity within the community. Discourage the use of cul-de-sacs as they limited interconnectivity.
5. Ensure that there is adequate access to all properties for emergency vehicles.
6. Develop and implement and township-wide trails and sidewalk plan. Look for avenues to expand sidewalk and bike trail connectivity.
7. Support the engineering and construction of county and regional bike trails and multi-use paths.

Goal 10: The township will have incorporated sustainable practices within the daily functions of township government as well as embracing and encouraging sustainable development practices.



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1. Evaluate and implement more sustainable practices in the day-to-day operations of the township including, but not limited to, increased recycling efforts, promotion of energy conservation, and encouraging employees to use alternative methods of travel to get to work (e.g., walking, biking, and/or mass transit).
2. Eliminate barriers to sustainable development practices that may include a range of strategies from the easy (e.g., clearly allow for solar panels, green roofs, and rain gardens) to the more complex (providing for higher densities or other incentives in exchange for Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) certified buildings and/or developments).
3. Incorporate sustainable development provisions in the zoning resolution that will promote walkability, encourage localized food production and safety, enhance energy conservation methods, and reduce impervious surface coverage, amongst other related sustainable requirements.