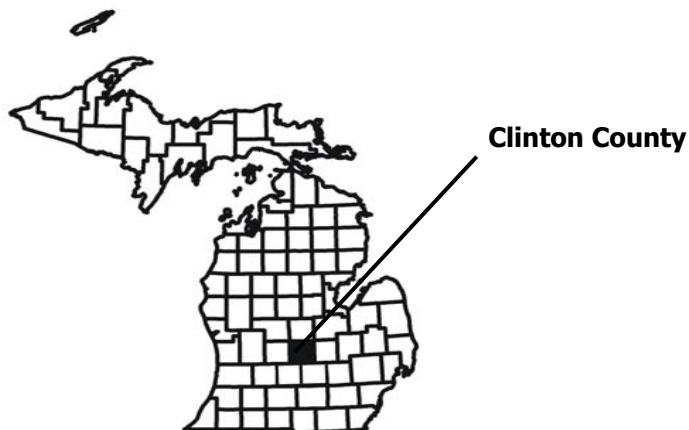


CHAPTER 1: INTRODUCTION

Guiding Clinton County with Common Vision

Visions provide direction and guidance for people to look into the future. Creating a vision statement gives us a chance to imagine what our community can become at its best.

In the simplest terms, a vision is a consensus image of what a community seeks to become. Adopted as a formal policy statement, a vision serves as both a blueprint for future direction and a yardstick against which to measure current and subsequent decisions and actions.



Early in the Comprehensive Plan process, key interviews were conducted with County staff and local officials to identify significant development issues, background data and sources of information to be used in the planning process.

At this time, the Planning Commission invited local officials, agency representatives, business owners, developers and interested citizens to attend a series of four focus groups in August 2001. Focus groups were held representing agricultural interests, business interests, recreation/open space, and local government interests. From the focus groups guiding principles for the Plan were identified. A countywide public forum was held in October 2001 to further refine the guiding principles developed to address government, quality of life, agricultural land preservation, land use, parks and recreation, community services & infrastructure, natural resources, economic development, transportation and public involvement.

In December 2001, the Planning Commission reviewed and compared the results from the focus groups and of the public forum and created a Comprehensive Plan Vision Statement. The Vision Statement is the foundation upon which the entire Comprehensive Plan is based.

The vision of the Clinton County Comprehensive Plan is to promote a high quality of life and continued commitment to preserve and enhance the unique and diverse character of the County through policies and programs to promote intergovernmental cooperation, preserve open space, agricultural and natural resources, provide recreational opportunities, ensure efficient and safe transportation network, desirable economic development, and active public participation.

Planning Process

The development policies identified within the Comprehensive Plan represent the collective desires of County residents, business, and local leaders regarding development over the next 10 to 20 years. The processes used for gathering input are detailed in Chapter 2.

County Wide Plan Update

The 2002 Comprehensive Plan consists of the goals, objectives and development policies for the 13 unincorporated townships in the County. Map 1 presents these townships which include:

- Bengal
- Dallas
- Eagle
- Greenbush
- Olive
- Riley
- Westphalia
- Bingham
- Duplain
- Essex
- Lebanon
- Ovid
- Victor

Tri-County Growth Study

Clinton, Ingham and Eaton Counties are participating in the *Tri-County Regional Growth: Choices for Our Future Project*. Initiated by the Tri-County Regional Planning Commission in 1999, the project involves 78 jurisdictions and local officials. The Project will create a comprehensive and coordinated action plan to guide growth choices in the Tri-County Region for the next 20 years. The Clinton County Comprehensive Plan was developed concurrent with the Tri-County Growth Study.

Organization of the Plan

The Comprehensive Plan is a product of the on-going effort to identify the County's strategic goals, to document the planning process and to provide a vision for the future.

Chapter 1: **Introduction** to Clinton County's areas of emphasis.

Chapter 2: **The Planning Process** chapter outlines the public involvement efforts used to create the Plan.

Chapter 3: **Visions, Goals and Objectives** are the backbone of the Plan. This chapter sets forth the desires of the Clinton County citizens and provides the direction for the land use plan.

Chapter 4: **The Future Land Use** chapter describes the future character, growth and development pattern for Clinton County. The mainstay of the Plan focuses on preserving and protecting the existing character of the County while allowing managed and directed growth and development.

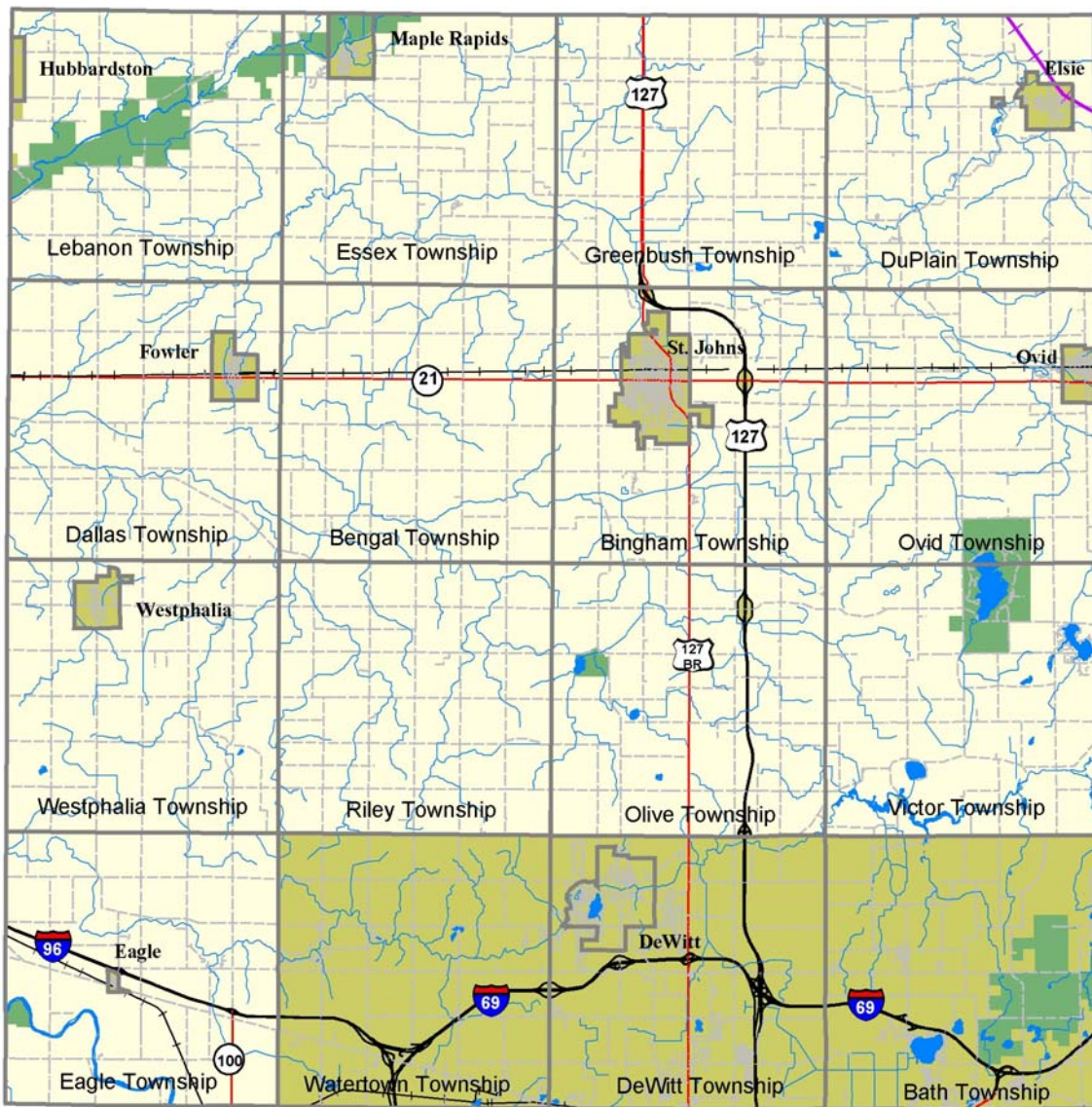
Chapter 5: The **Implementation** chapter details the necessary policy steps for utilizing and implementing this document. It provides guidance for ensuring that the Plan remains a living document to be used by the leaders and decisions makers in the County.

Chapter 6: **Administration** section describes the Plan administration and amendment procedures.

Appendices:

- Appendix A: Community Inventory and Analysis
- Appendix B: Parks and Recreation
- Appendix C: Definitions

Map 1: County Base Map



Source: Clinton County Community Development Department

Base Map

Legend:

- Township & City Boundaries
- Interstate
- State Trunkline
- County Roads
- Railroad
- Abandoned Railroad
- Rivers / Creeks
- State Lands
- Water
- Excluded



Map 1