

Statement of Community Goals and Objectives

The following goals and objectives are organized by topic that corresponds to each section of the comprehensive plan. A goal is an ideal or desired future condition and is usually not quantifiable or time dependent. An objective defines the purpose and commitment to achieve a goal or condition. The goals and objectives serve as the township's community vision for preservation, conservation, land use, and development. In 2004, a resident survey was mailed out to solicit comments and issues that helped to shape East Rockhill's community vision through the development of these goals and objectives as well as plan recommendations. (See Appendix A: Community Visioning Process.) During the preparation of this plan, discussions suggested that some of the original goals and objectives needed to be revised; some were deleted or revised; and new ones were added.

Residential Development

Goal: Provide for safe and adequate housing for present and future residents of the township.

Objectives:

1. Provide for a variety of housing types and arrangements to accommodate the projected population growth, provide a fair share of housing needs, and promote housing affordability.
2. Promote the health, safety, and welfare and to ensure a quality living environment by providing for quality housing through sound zoning standards and modern building and fire codes.

Nonresidential Development

Goal: Encourage nonresidential development that is well integrated and compatible with the surrounding context and character of the township.

Objectives:

1. Establish sufficient opportunities for nonresidential development that provides employment opportunities and a range of commercial services for residents.
2. Develop commercial and industrial use regulations that protect the health, safety, and welfare of township residents.
3. Minimize potential land use conflicts of nonresidential uses upon adjacent residential uses through appropriate land use and zoning measures.
4. Concentrate nonresidential development in areas zoned for such uses and that contain adequate infrastructure to support this development.
5. Promote well-planned industrial office park development that will provide positive image for the township.

Natural Resources

Goal: Protect significant natural resources such as floodplains, wetlands, woodlands, steep slopes, sensitive wildlife habitat, and bodies of water.

Objectives:

1. Allow the location of natural features to guide the type and intensity of land uses in the township.
2. Minimize negative environmental impacts related to growth and development.
3. Evaluate the environmental impact of all planning, zoning, and development decisions, and to minimize adverse environmental impacts through sound design and planning.
4. Prioritize the preservation and protection of significant natural resource areas and habitats.
5. Protect surface and groundwater resources from point and nonpoint source pollutants through appropriate methods.
6. Prevent further intrusion of hazardous materials into groundwater or other environmentally sensitive areas.
7. Maintain the natural biodiversity within the township that provides a healthy living environment for plants and animals.

Open Space and Farmland Preservation

Goal: Promote open space and farmland preservation that contributes to the rural character of East Rockhill Township as the community grows.

Objectives:

1. Preserve open space and farmland in strategic locations throughout the township.
2. Protect the township's farmlands from development, which may remove fertile soils from production or interfere with the existing practice of farming.
3. Support and strengthen the economic vitality of the township's agricultural base.
4. Promote the preservation of agricultural land through sound land use policies and regulations.
5. Provide flexibility in the agricultural zoning regulations to promote alternative sources of income to farmers.

6. Encourage farmland and open space preservation through conservation easement purchase or donation.
7. Promote private initiatives in conjunction with public funding sources to protect strategic open space lands.

Historic and Scenic Resources

Goal: Preserve significant historic resources and scenic views and vistas throughout the township.

Objectives:

1. Plan for future development that safeguards historic and scenic resources.
2. Protect the character and qualities of the historic villages through appropriate land use regulations, landscape buffering, or other appropriate methods.
3. Protect scenic roadways from the negative impact of future development through appropriate regulatory measures.
4. Promote private initiatives in conjunction with public funding sources to protect strategic historic resources.

Community Facilities

Goal: Promote the orderly and coordinated use of public facilities and services that will provide adequate service to residents of East Rockhill.

Objectives:

1. Promote sound development practices, which make it possible to provide public facilities and services adequately, including schools, recreation, and police and fire protection.
2. Provide adequate public safety and protection that makes East Rockhill a safe and desirable community in which to live.
3. Maintain and/or enhance facilities serving the existing and anticipated service requirements of residents, allowing for expansion as needed.
4. Coordinate land use planning with planning for water and sewage facilities.
5. Provide for the efficient use of areas currently served by public sewer and water facilities and to avoid the extension of these services until the areas around existing lines are fully developed.
6. Maintain the rural character of the township by providing the opportunity for services and facilities in areas that are appropriate for the growth of more

intensive uses and by prohibiting the intrusion of services and facilities in areas that should remain rural.

7. Plan for public sewer and water service within the designated Development Area to facilitate appropriate growth in the township.
8. Plan for the reliable supply of water, considering current and future water resources availability, uses and limitations, and provisions to protect water supply sources.
9. Provide the balance of aquifer withdrawals and recharge so that the long-term safe-yield of the aquifer is not exceeded.
10. Promote intermunicipal cooperation for water service and wellhead protection.
11. Manage stormwater runoff created by new development activities taking into account the cumulative watershed-wide stormwater impacts from peak runoff rates and runoff volume.
12. Preserve existing natural drainage and watercourses and provide proper maintenance of all stormwater management facilities.
13. Maximize groundwater recharge where appropriate and attainable throughout the watersheds to maintain the existing hydrologic regime.
14. Regularly monitor licensed waste haulers to ensure municipal waste haulers are properly collecting, transporting, and disposing of solid waste and recyclables.

Transportation and Circulation

Goal: Protect, maintain, and improve the capacity of the township's highway network to reduce travel times, minimize congestion, and eliminate hazardous conditions.

Objectives:

1. Maintain a safe and efficient transportation network.
2. Link transportation planning efforts with future land use planning.
3. Provide road improvements and implement traffic impact requirements that promote safe road conditions.
4. Regulate land use along the major roadways in the township to avoid hazardous situations and to maintain the road's primary function of serving through traffic.
5. Provide adequate cartway paving along rural collector roads and construct only those improvements necessary to maintain the safety of road and lanes for turning, acceleration, and deceleration.

6. Promote access management techniques that will protect the function of arterial streets (e.g., reverse frontage access roads, marginal access roads, or shared access driveways) should be considered for properties fronting on arterial roads.
7. Plan for improvements to the pedestrian and bicycle network to serve resident's needs.
8. Consider multimunicipal planning to address the regional transportation network.

Future Land Use and Growth Management

Goals: To control the form, location, and timing of growth within East Rockhill Township while protecting the natural environment, maintaining visual quality, and providing services and facilities necessary for its residents.

Objectives:

1. Foster a community with well-balanced mix of agricultural, residential, institutional, commercial, and industrial uses that support and complement a rural community.
2. Provide for future growth in areas best suited for development and provide appropriate land uses that will promote the protection of the township's overall character.
3. Maintain the integrity of agricultural and rural areas by limiting development and the extension of public infrastructure and services into these areas.
4. Provide for growth in a coordinated and timely manner through the implementation of the Development District Concept.
5. Locate the Development Area where more intense future growth can be concentrated and supported by infrastructure (e.g., public water and sewer) and basic services.
6. Use growth management techniques to preserve open space, protect environmental resources, and minimize site development costs.
7. Link the financial planning of the township with the policies established for future growth and development.

