

CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF OSHTEMO  
MASTER PLAN 2011  
Supporting Documents  
SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS



## **Supporting Documents**

1. Results of Community Visioning Session
  - a. Notes from Small Group Discussions
  - b. Map from Future Land Use Exercise
  - c. Turning Point Results Summary
2. Community Survey
  - a. Survey Instrument
  - b. Results Summary
  - c. Survey Comments
3. Genesee Prairie Sub-Area Focus Group Results
4. West main Street Sub-Area Focus Group Results
5. Other Correspondence





CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF OSHTEMO  
MASTER PLAN 2011  
Results of Community Visioning Session  
SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS



# OSHTMO VISIONING SESSION

October 23, 2008

Compiled/grouped by Staff 11/4/08

Strength or Opportunity	Description	# of Dots
S	Rural Character, visual beauty, topography, woodlands, open land, greenspace, sheep	22
S	Access and Convenience to: Shopping Highways Commercial areas Self-sufficient community	15
S	Kal-haven trail	8
O	Places for business to grow; Opportunity for upscale restaurants	5
S/O	Non motorized trails, sidewalks / connectivity	5
S	Concerned / active residents; proactive	3
S	Landscaping	3
O	Better buffering from large commercial to residential	2
O	Better control around existing airport (MDOT guidelines)	2
O	Science / technology near; economic growth	1
S/O	Parks (public and private) open space for passive recreation	1
S	Friendly neighborhoods	1
S/O	Controlled lighting - Appreciate attempts - Could be better	1
S	Mix of housing; diversity	1
S/O	Kalamazoo promise	1
S/O	Proximity to WMU & Kalamazoo College	1
S	Truck route	1
S	Lake Michigan relationship	
S	Education – choices; good schools; new elementary school	
S	Values / property rate high	
S	Culture / accessible and close, Arts, Library	
S/O	Public transportation / Care A Van	
S	Good mix of people	
S	Stable world	
S	Safety / crime positive; safe neighborhoods	

## OSHTMO VISIONING SESSION

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<b>Strength or Opportunity</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b># of Dots</b>
S/O	Form-based codes	
S	Agriculture	
O	Light industry (not dirty)	
S	No traffic congestion	
S	Sign laws	
S	Well kept / manicured	
S	Mixed use	
S	Wildlife	
S	Water quality	
S	Good staff; strong focus on planning	
S	Good roads	
O	Wind energy	
O	Village	
S	Senior Housing	
O	Opportunity for parkland purchase	
O	WMU land ownership	
O	Drake House	

## OSHTMO VISIONING SESSION

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Weakness or Threat	Description	# of Dots
W	Lack of pedestrian connection at/access over 131 at M43	15
T	Loss of natural heritage and rural character	8
W/T	Number of apartments	7
W	No downtown (central area), Identity	4
T	Density / blight	4
W	Parking lots – too big too much asphalt	4
T	Lack of water / sewer services	4
W	Lack of support from Township for environmental protection	3
T	Overbuilding of commercial	3
T	Loss of natural beauty of roadways	3
W	Disregard of community input in planning and development	2
W	Ordinance regulation (too much)	2
W	Native plants (lack of)	2
W	Not pedestrian – friendly, lack of sidewalks	2
W/T	Noise pollution (traffic, partying at apt. complexes)	1
T	Uncontrolled growth	1
T	Gravel mining, related truck traffic	1
T	Lack of control at Township borders – Jurisdictional cooperation	1
T	Loss of quiet quality of life	1
W	Taxes (high)	1
	Infrastructure sufficiency	1
W	Lack of wi-fi	1
W	Residential road maintenance, snow plowing, potholes, etc.	1
	Mixed housing	1
T	Spread of big box stores (should be in concentrated areas)	1
W/T	Dependency of City of Kalamazoo for water/sewer – unresponsive city water dept	1
W	In residential areas uncoordinated garbage pick-up	1
T	Leaf burning	1
W	Police protection, lack of full-time, response time; potential for more crime in large apartment complexes	1
W	Public transportation; limited bus routes	1

## OSHTEMO VISIONING SESSION

October 23, 2008

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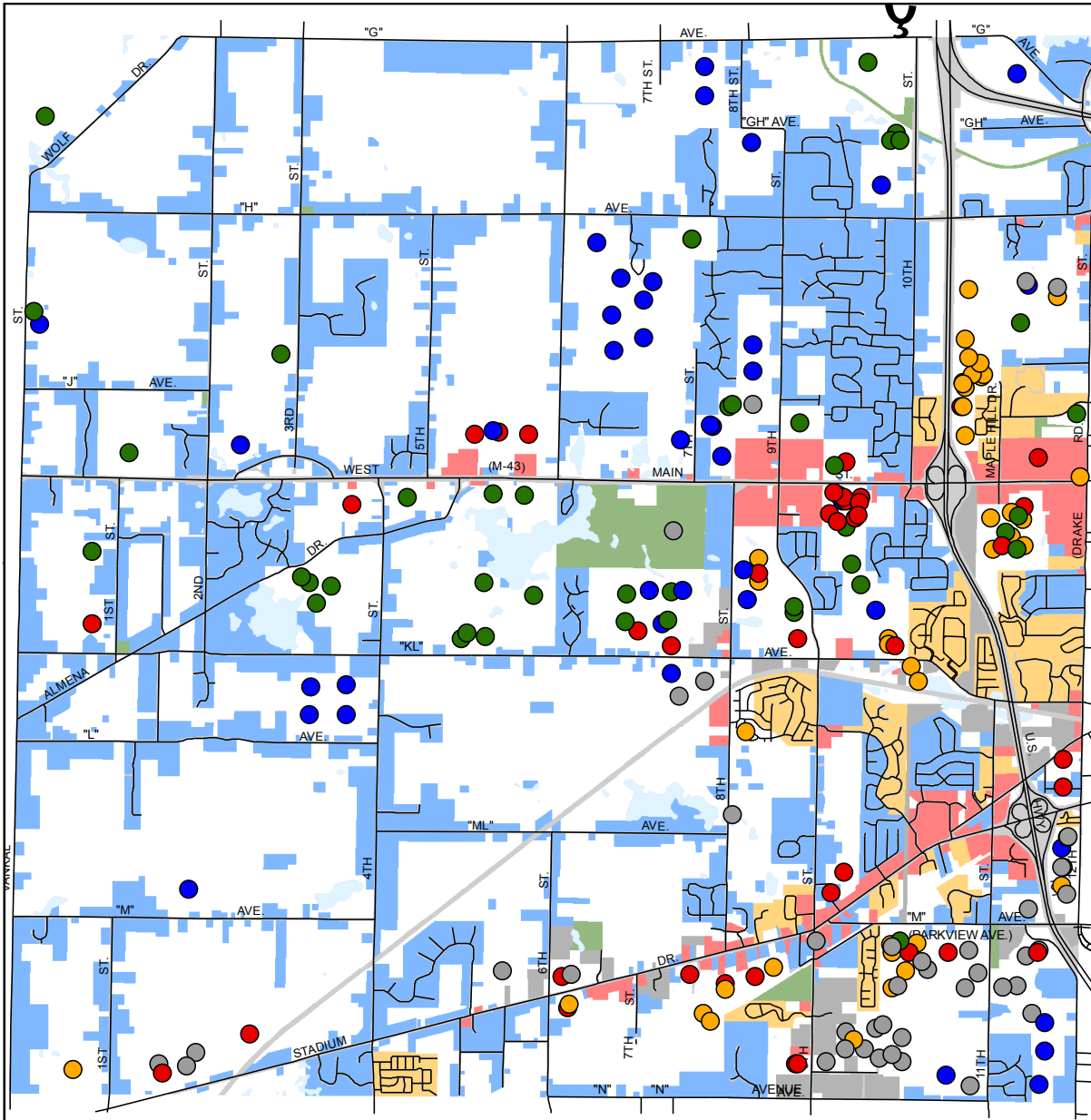
<b>Weakness or Threat</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b># of Dots</b>
W	Connectivity (park – library)	1
T	Traffic flow increase, congestion at major intersections	
W	Multiple school districts	
W	Lack of planning for carbon foot printing, emissions	
T	Clear cutting	
T	Potential rezoning – multiple family	
T	Traffic flow out of our control (state/county); transportation planning; speed limits	
T	Not getting share of transportation tax	
W	Vacant commercial	
W	Lack of picture/vision	
T	Loss of property value	
W	Lack of infrastructure - roads	
T	Ground water contamination	
T	Proximity of KL Avenue landfill	
T	Proximity WMU student housing (losing sheep)	
W	Cable access	
W	Public exercise facility – i.e. pool	
T	Shrinking funding from state / property values	
W	Lack of community involvement	
T	Loss of agriculture	
T	Student / transient housing	
T	Available land	
W	lack of industry	
T	In State of Michigan (poor economy, etc.)	
T	West side growth / style / type	
T	Gun shooting in residential neighborhoods	
W	Tornado sirens, shelters	
W	Historic preservation (lack of)	
W	Access for emergency vehicles	

# Community Land Use Preference Exercise

## DRAFT RESULTS

2008 Master Land Use Plan  
Visioning Session

OBJECTIVE: Using your color-coded dots, indicate where you believe future growth of each land use is most appropriate



### EXISTING LAND USE KEY:

**WHITE** - Farmed, Wooded, and/or Undeveloped Land

**BLUE** - Low to Medium Density Residential or Institutional  
(church, school, etc)

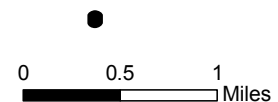
**ORANGE** - High Density Residential  
(apartment, senior housing, mobile home park, etc)

**GREEN** - Park or Public/Semi-Public Area

**RED** - Office or Commercial

**DARK GREY** - Industry or Public Service Utility

**LIGHT GREY** - Road or Rail right-of-way



Oshtemo Charter Township  
October 2008

# Oshtemo Charter Township Master Plan Visioning Session

## Turning Point Results

At the October 23<sup>rd</sup> Community Visioning Session for the Master Plan, the 42 participants at the session utilized the Turning Point technology to provide input to the Township on a number of different topics. Twenty-two different questions were presented through a PowerPoint presentation. All of the questions had multiple responses, and some of them included photographs. Each participant was given a remote, which enabled them to respond individually and privately to each of the questions. Then, all in the room were able to immediately view, and in some cases discuss, the compiled results. Those same results are presented here.

Because of the technology, we have also been able to analyze the results based on a couple of the demographic questions that we asked at the beginning of the process. We asked participants about their age and where in the Township they live. Then, the results for the other questions were analyzed based on these results. Where this cross-tabulation provided interesting findings, we will provide them as well.

### DEMOGRAPHICS

In order to help people learn how to use the technology as well as to better understand our audience, we asked a few basic demographic questions to begin the session. The majority of participants have lived in the Township for 10 years or more (69.05%). Over 16% have lived here for 4-9 years. There were three participants at the session that were not from Oshtemo Township, and there were no participants that were new to the Township (less than one year).

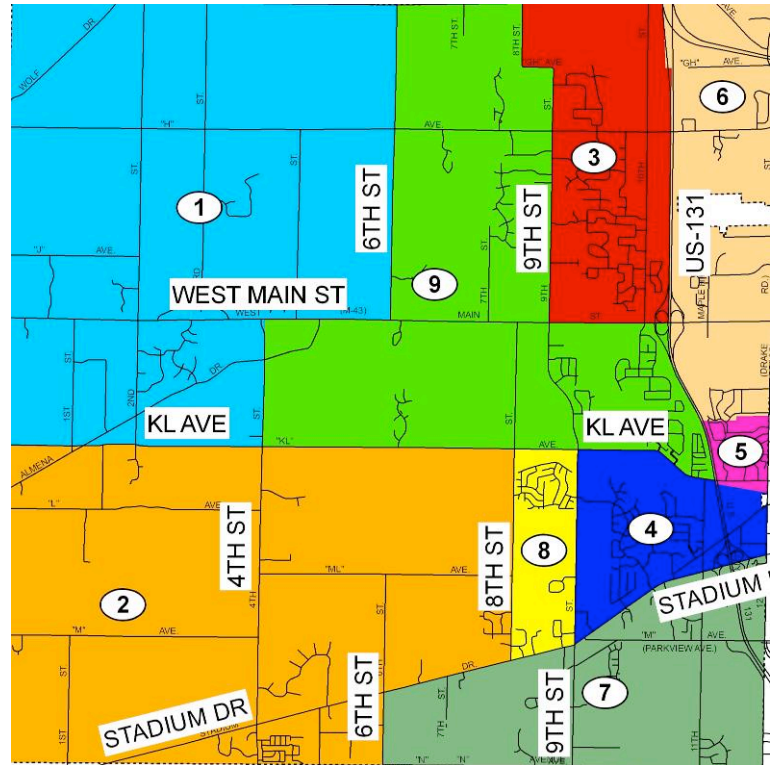
There were very few younger residents at the session. There was only one participant under the age of 35. The majority of participants were in the 50-64 age group (41.46%) or the 65 & over age group (39.02%).



We asked participants where they lived based on the nine voting precincts in the Township. Precincts 1, 3, and 9 were very well represented, accounting for over 80% of the total group. These precincts are located in the northern and northwestern portions of the Township. Precincts 5, 7, and 8 were unrepresented at the session.

### TOWNSHIP CHARACTER

After gaining a better understanding of who the participants were and how the technology worked, we moved into more specific planning related questions. In an attempt to better define the character of Oshtemo Township, we asked a variety of questions designed to describe and define the Township as it exists today.



**Oshtemo Township Precincts – Used to Designate Where Participants Lived**

We asked if the participants felt the Township was growing too slow, just right, or too fast. The majority felt the Township was growing too fast (47.62%), followed closely by just right (40.48%).

The participants were then shown two very different images. The first was an aerial photograph of a high quality, established neighborhood with open space and pedestrian connections but at a higher density than most development in the Township. The second was a photograph of a newly-built, well maintained fast food restaurant with a brick façade. They were asked which image they felt most positive about. Over three-quarters felt more positive about the residential neighborhood. (After seeing the results, participants indicated that the large inflatable coffee cup on the top of the roof as well as the amount of green space in image 1 influenced their decision.) Although the results were pretty consistent across the age and geographic groups, 35-49 year olds (the youngest age group of significant size) tended to feel more positively about the commercial image than the residential by more than a two to one margin.



**Image 1**



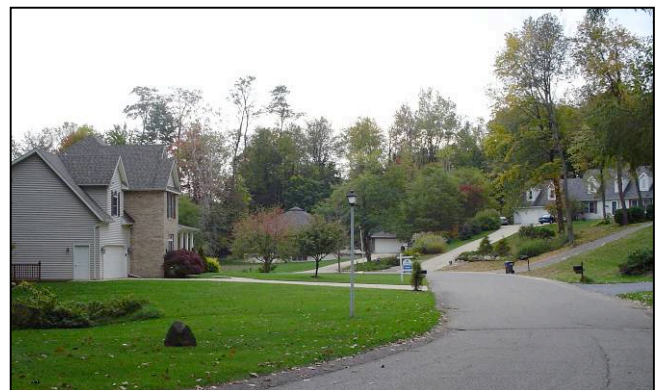
**Image 2**

Participants were asked to select one of the following words to best describe Oshtemo Township: suburban, commercial, rural, progressive, or growing/changing. Over two-thirds of participants selected “growing/changing”. With just over 14% of votes, “rural” was a distant second. Where a participant lived in the Township did not influence the results of this question.

After selecting a word to describe the Township, participants then viewed four images and selected which image best describes the Township today. The images included the West Main commercial area, a residential neighborhood, a rural corridor, and an apartment complex. Nearly half of the participants selected the residential neighborhood as best describing the Township. The commercial area and the rural corridor had the second and third highest number of votes respectively at around 20%. Surprisingly, there was no significant difference in the results based on where the participants lived. We anticipated that those that lived in more rural portions of the Township may be more inclined to think of the Township in those terms, but this was not the case. However, based on the residents who participated in this survey, the image of the Township is fairly universal.



**Image 1**



**Image 2**



**Image 3**



**Image 4**

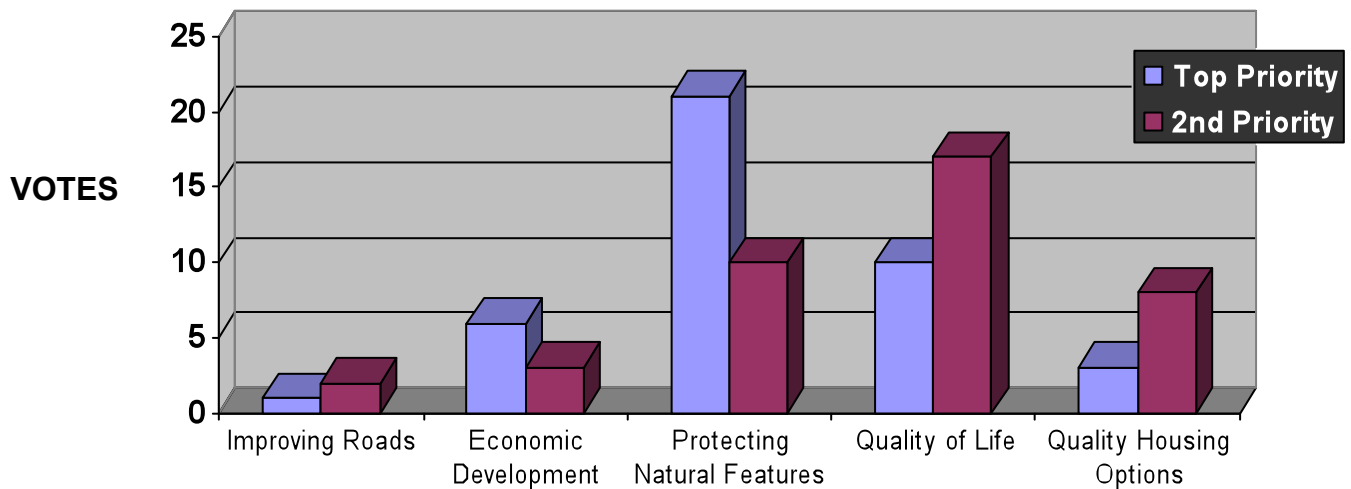
## TOWNSHIP PRIORITIES

One of the purposes of the Master Plan is to set the goals and priorities for the Township for the next 10-20 years. To assure that these priorities match those of the community, questions regarding goals and priorities are a key part of the public input process. We provided the participants with a list of five basic priorities: improving roads and infrastructure, economic development, protecting natural features, improving quality of life (i.e. parks, trails, sidewalks), and ensuring that quality housing options exist. This list was provided to them twice. We asked them to vote first on that they felt the TOP priority should be for the Township for the next 10-20 years. Then, we asked what they felt the SECOND priority should be for the Township. We instructed them not to vote for the same item both times.

Over half of the participants considered “protecting natural features” as the top priority with nearly 25% voting for “improving quality of life”. When the vote was conducted a second time, this pattern nearly reversed with just over 42% voting for “improving quality of life” and 25% voting for “protecting natural features”. These are clearly the top two priorities. “Economic development” and “quality housing options” are the third and fourth highest priorities with “improving roads” garnering the lowest vote totals each time.



### What Should the Township Priorities Be for the Next 10-20 Years?



### HOUSING

We then asked participants a series of questions about housing opportunities. Responses to these questions would indicate the types of housing that the participants feel are lacking in the community as well those they feel are in over-supply. This information can influence future policy decisions. We asked specifically about housing for seniors, baby boomers, young families, and college students. Participants were asked whether there were adequate housing opportunities for each group on a 1-5 scale: 1-“definitely not enough”, 2-“close, but just not enough”, 3-“adequate”, 4-“just a little too much”, 5-“too much”. They could also indicate if they don’t know.

In regards to housing for seniors, nearly 44% of participants indicated there were adequate housing opportunities provided in the Township. The average response of all participants (other than those who answered “don’t know”) was 2.58, which is less than adequate and indicates more housing for seniors may be needed. Only two participants provided responses of “4” or “5” indicating that they felt there was more than enough. Of the eight participants who indicated that they did not know, five of them came from the 65 & older participants. Of those in this age group who were able to respond, five indicated they felt there were adequate opportunities, and five felt there were not enough. As the individuals most likely to be interested in such a housing option in the future, the results from this group are particularly relevant. It would indicate a lack of information being distributed about the options as well as a perceived shortage in supply.

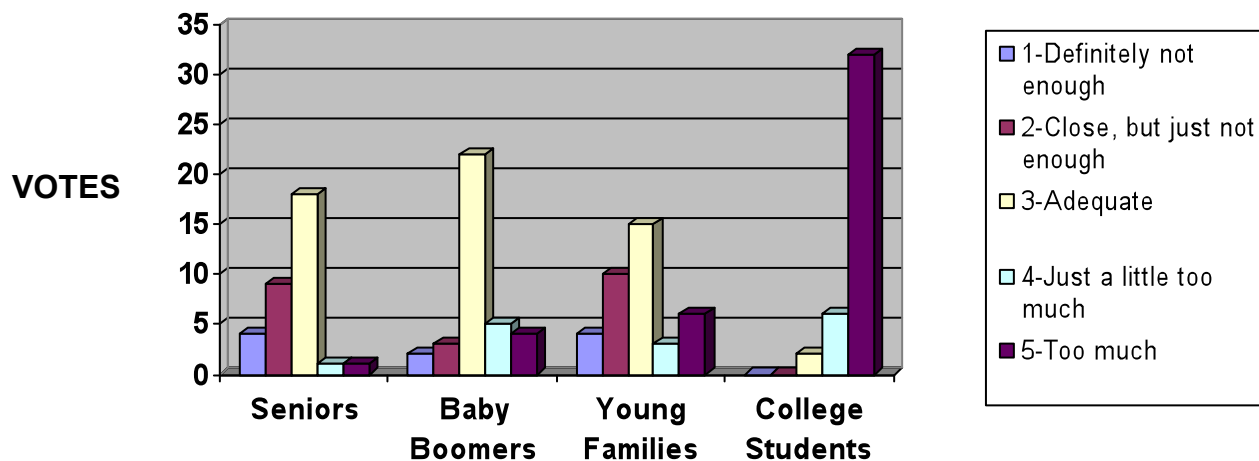
With the aging of the baby boomer population, having housing available for this cohort is going to be very important over the next 10-20 years. Over half of the participants felt there was adequate housing available for baby boomers in the Township. Nine participants felt there was more than enough housing available while five participants felt there was not enough. As a result, the average response was 3.17. As opposed to

the senior housing options, the response here indicates there are adequate to more than enough opportunities in the Township for this option.

We also asked about housing for young families. The average score was 2.92, indicating that the group overall generally felt that the housing was adequate. However, the details tell more of a story. Over one third of participants felt there was adequate housing available. Another third thought there was not enough (responded with a “1” or a “2”), most of which thought it was close, but just not enough – “2” on the 5 point scale. The rest either did not know or felt there was too much. However, a significant number, nearly 15%, indicated there was “too much” or “5” on the 5-point scale. This could be because of the type of housing, smaller lot sizes, or concerns over impacts on property values. Or it could be associations with multiple family housing. There was no discernible pattern related to any of the demographic groups.

Finally, we asked about housing opportunities for college students. There are a significant number of student housing apartments in the Township, which are a focus of attention in the community. Over three-fourths of participants indicated there was “too much” – “5” housing for college students in the Township. No one indicated that there was not enough in the Township (“1” or “2”) and only two participants said that the amount was adequate (“3”). As a result, the average score was 4.75. This is consistent with other feedback that has been received.

**Summary of Responses to Questions on Housing Options**



Although the participants feel there is an over supply of high density residential housing in the Township, it is likely that there will continue to be demand for this and requests for future development. Therefore, we asked these participants, who clearly indicated they did not want any more of such housing, where they would locate it if such a development came forward. They were provided with four options to consider. Nearly two-thirds of participants would encourage the redevelopment of older higher density developments with almost a quarter selecting to locate the use near existing higher density areas.

## COMMERCIAL

We then asked participants about commercial development. Using the same 1-5 scale as we did with the various housing questions, we asked if the participants felt there was an adequate amount of commercial development in the Township. Just over 30% of participants indicated that there was an adequate amount of commercial development in the Township with the other responses fairly evenly distributed across the other options. The average of all the responses is 3.12 indicating that the average respondent felt there was slightly more than enough commercial development in the community.

Two images were then shown, and participants were asked to select the type of commercial development that they preferred. Both of the images were Meijer stores. However, there were several differences between the pictures. As a result of these differences, 40 of the 42 participants preferred the first image to the second. After the results were displayed, the participants indicated that this was due to the landscaping and green space, the islands that broke up the parking lot, the variation in the architecture and façade treatment in the first image, and the amount of pavement in the second image.



**Image 1**



**Image 2**

We then showed two more images and asked the same question: “which image do you prefer?” This time, the two images were both modern, high quality developments. The first image showed a mixed use, pedestrian oriented, either downtown or new urbanist style development. The second image showed a retail strip center that was also high quality, newly constructed, and well-maintained, but was not mixed use or pedestrian oriented. Over three quarters of the participants preferred the mixed use, pedestrian oriented image over the strip center. When asked, they indicated that this was because of the pedestrian orientation, the style of the architecture, the mix of uses, the reduction in pavement, and that it was not a strip mall. Only the youngest age group (35-49 year olds) showed a preference for the strip mall image (4 out of 7 participants).



**Image 1**



**Image 2**

Assuming that there will be future demand for commercial development, participants were asked where this development should be located. Results here were very evenly distributed. Thirty percent (30%) of participants indicated that it should be located along Stadium Drive, 25% of participants indicated that it should be in the Drake Road / W. Main St. area, and 22.5% of participants indicated that it should be along W. Main St. east of 9<sup>th</sup> St.

## INDUSTRIAL

Finally, we asked participants about future industrial needs and development in the Township. Again, we asked if there was an adequate amount of industrial space in the Township using the same 1-5 scale we used throughout the exercise. Over 35% of participants indicated that there was an adequate amount of space (“3”) with nearly a quarter indicating that there was “definitely not enough” (“1”). The average score was 2.82, indicating that there is a perceived need for more industrial space in the Township.

We then asked what type of industrial space the Township should target to fill that space over the next 10-20 years. Participants could choose from corporate campus / business park; research & development; distribution & warehousing; and manufacturing. Over two-thirds of the respondents chose research & development with nearly a quarter of the remaining choosing corporate campus & business park. No one selected distribution & warehousing.





**Corporate Campus / Business Park**



**Research & Development**



**Warehouse & Distribution**



**Manufacturing**

Finally, participants were asked where this development should be located when it comes to the Township. Nearly two thirds of participants indicated that it should be located in proximity to Western Michigan's Business, Technology, & Research Park near Parkview & 11<sup>th</sup>.



CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF OSHTEMO  
**MASTER PLAN 2011**  
Community Survey  
SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS



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# Oshtemo Township

## Master Plan Public Input Survey

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The Oshtemo Charter Township Planning Commission is in the process of preparing a new Master Plan to help guide the future growth and development of Oshtemo. We have sent this survey to a randomly selected, anonymous group of residents and stakeholders like you in order to understand the community's preferences for the future development of Oshtemo. Because the sample size is limited, your input and response is VERY IMPORTANT to the future of Oshtemo Township!

Please take 10-15 minutes to complete this survey and help us in this effort. When you are finished, please return it to the Township in the enclosed, self-addressed, stamped envelope as soon as possible. All surveys must be received by **April 10, 2009**. For more information on the Plan, please check out our website – [www.mcka.com/oshtemo](http://www.mcka.com/oshtemo). If you have any questions, please feel free to call the Township Planning Department at (269) 216-5223. We greatly appreciate your valuable time in completing this survey.

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1. Please indicate your age as well as the age of the members of your household. (For your age, circle the age group that you fall into. Then, indicate the number of other persons in your home in each age group on the line below the category.)

**YOU** (circle one):      **Under 25**    **25-34**    **35-44**    **45-54**    **55-64**    **65-74**    **75 & Over**

**OTHERS in HOME:**      \_\_\_\_\_    \_\_\_\_\_    \_\_\_\_\_    \_\_\_\_\_    \_\_\_\_\_    \_\_\_\_\_    \_\_\_\_\_

2. Please circle the term that best describes your current, primary residence in Oshtemo Township (circle one for your primary residence)

<b>Single family or duplex (1+ acre lot)</b>	<b>Single family or duplex (less than 1 acre lot)</b>	<b>Condominium</b>
<b>Apartment Complex</b>	<b>Manufactured Housing Community (i.e. Woodland Estates, Fountain Springs)</b>	<b>Other:</b> _____

3. Do you own or rent your current, primary residence? (Circle one):      **Rent**      **Own**

4. What do you like about living in Oshtemo Township? (please identify specific qualities of the Township or specific items here): \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

5. What would you improve about living in Oshtemo Township? (please identify a few specific qualities of the Township or specific items here): \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

6. How long have you lived in the Township? (indicate number of years): \_\_\_\_\_
7. Refer to the enclosed map; please indicate the number of the area in which you live: \_\_\_\_\_
8. Please indicate the level of importance that the Township should give to the following: (check one box per item: 1=not important, 2=somewhat not important, 3=neutral, 4=somewhat important, 5=important, 9=don't know or no opinion)

	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>9</b>	
a. Encourage development of housing for first time homeowners.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
b. Expand high-tech industrial (research & development).	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
c. Expand commercial development.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
d. Increase availability of public water system.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
e. Increase availability of public sewer system.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
f. Increase preservation of the natural environment through regulation and land acquisition.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
g. Adopt ordinances requiring new development to be designed to reduce its impact on the natural environment.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	

1 = Not Important      5 = Important      9=Don't Know/No Opinion

9. Township Character: Please review the following list of terms that can be used to describe the character of a community. Circle the three terms that *best describe the character of Oshtemo Township today*. (circle three terms below)

<b>Involved Citizens</b>	<b>Suburban</b>	<b>Unsafe/Crime</b>
<b>Open Spaces Threatened</b>	<b>Family Friendly</b>	<b>High Density</b>
<b>Rural</b>	<b>Sprawl</b>	<b>Low Density</b>
<b>Well Regulated</b>	<b>Wooded/Rolling/Natural</b>	<b>Congested</b>
<b>Agricultural</b>	<b>Neighborhoods</b>	<b>Progressive</b>
<b>Over Regulated</b>	<b>Commercial</b>	<b>Other</b> _____

- 10a. Using the list of terms in Question 9, write up to three of the terms that best describe the portion of the Township between Drake Road and 8<sup>th</sup> Street: (write up to 3 terms here)

\_\_\_\_\_

- b. Using the list of terms in Question 9, write up to three of the terms that best describe the portion of the Township between 8<sup>th</sup> Street and Van Kal Street: (write up to 3 terms here)

\_\_\_\_\_

11. Community Issues. Please indicate whether or not you agree with each of the following statements: (check one box per item: 1=strongly disagree, 2=disagree, 3=neutral, 4=agree, 5=strongly agree, 9=don't know or no opinion.)

<b><u>Development Standards</u></b>	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>9</b>
a. As long as the overall number of lots doesn't increase in the development, smaller lot sizes should be allowed in exchange for setting aside and preserving natural feature areas.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
b. The Township should adopt standards requiring the preservation of natural areas in new developments.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
c. As compared to lots served by well and septic, smaller lot sizes should be permitted for lots served by sewer and water.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
d. The Township is managing development well.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

<b><u>Housing and Development</u></b>	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>9</b>
e. Additional areas should be set aside in the Township for future multi-family development.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
f. Rehabilitation of existing, older multi-family areas should be encouraged in lieu of allowing establishment of additional multi-family developments.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
g. The Township should acquire sensitive lands for preservation (e.g. wetlands, woodlands, etc.)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
h. The Township should continue the current master plan land use policy of directing denser development to the eastern portion of the Township where public infrastructure exists.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

<b><u>Township Services</u></b>	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>9</b>
i. If there were more bicycle and walking paths in the Township, I would likely use them.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
j. Adjacent property owners should be assessed for bicycle and walking path installations.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
k. Adjacent property owners should be assessed for water and sewer extensions.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
l. The response time of the Sheriff's deputies is satisfactory.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
m. The Township should provide curbside leaf pick-up.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Currently, the Township only collects 0.9765 mills to cover its general fund obligations. A mill is one one-thousandth of a dollar (\$.001) and is based on the taxable value of the property. So, a property having a taxable value of \$75,000 would pay \$18.75 a year for a millage of 0.25 mills.

<b><u>Financing Options</u></b>	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>9</b>
n. I would be willing to consider a nominal millage dedicated to increasing Sheriff patrols in the Township.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
o. I would be willing to consider a nominal millage dedicated to acquiring land for open space and natural feature preservation.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

12. Pressure for additional commercial development is anticipated over the next 10-20 years. Where would you like this commercial development to be directed? (circle all that apply)

**West Main Street  
East of 9<sup>th</sup> St.**

**West Main Street  
West of 8<sup>th</sup> Street**

**9<sup>th</sup> Street  
South of West Main Street**

**West Main Street /  
Drake Road Area**

**Other:**  
\_\_\_\_\_

**No Opinion/  
Don't Know**

13. What types of industry would you like to see develop in the Township? (circle all that apply)

**Research &  
Development**

**Manufacturing**

**Distribution &  
Logistics**

**Corporate Campus /  
Business Park**

**High Technology /  
Life Sciences**

**None**

**Other:**  
\_\_\_\_\_

**No Opinion/  
Don't Know**

14. Where would you like this industrial development to be directed? (circle all that apply)

**In proximity to  
WMU's Business,  
Technology &  
Research Park  
(Parkview/11<sup>th</sup> Street)**

**9<sup>th</sup> Street /  
N Avenue**

**KL Avenue  
West of 8<sup>th</sup> St.**

**Stadium Drive  
West of 8<sup>th</sup> St.**

**Other:**  
\_\_\_\_\_

**No Opinion/  
Don't Know**

15. Imagine 20 years into the future...Please describe Oshtemo Township as you would like it to be.

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16. Are there any additional ideas, suggestions, comments, or concerns you would like to express regarding the future of Oshtemo Township?

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*Thank you very much for your participation!! We appreciate it!!*

*For more information, go to [www.mcka.com/oshtemo](http://www.mcka.com/oshtemo)*

# Oshtemo Charter Township Master Plan Public Input Survey Results Summary

In order to gather input from a broad spectrum of the population regarding the vision and direction of the Township for the Master Plan, 1,390 Public Input Surveys were distributed to a randomly selected sample of the population. Using a random numbers tool in Excel, names and addresses of residents of Oshtemo Township were selected from the most recent Voter Registration Roll. Due to the increase in registrations leading up to the 2008 Presidential Election, this was determined to be a reliable source of recent information on residents, including both renters and owners of property.

Surveys were distributed in March and were collected over the next month. A total of 468 surveys were returned for a response rate of 33.7%. This is excellent, and this response from our sample allows us to be 95% confident  $\pm 2.5\%$  that our results are representative of the community as a whole.

Prior to distribution of the surveys, each person who was going to receive a survey was sent a postcard informing them that they would be receiving a survey in the near future and the purpose of the survey. This is an excellent means of building trust in the community and avoiding the “junk mail effect” whereby the survey is automatically dismissed without even being opened. It also serves as a test of the address list. When the surveys were sent, self-addressed, stamped return envelopes were included with the survey. This also helped to improve response rates by making it very easy for respondents to reply. Finally, two weeks after the surveys were distributed, all individuals on the mailing list were sent a reminder postcard encouraging them to return their surveys if they had not done so already.

The survey was crafted through consultation with the Planning Commission, Township Board and Planning Department. The survey itself included a wide variety of different questions and question types. (A sample of the survey is included as a part of the appendix of the Master Plan.)

## Demographic Analysis

A number of demographic questions were asked on the survey in order to better understand the respondents as well as to understand more about the answers they were providing. For example, where they live in the Township or their age can influence their thoughts and preferences on a variety of different issues. As we reviewed the results for each of the items in the survey, we also looked at how the results compare based on their age, where they live in the Township, and other demographic responses. Where there are interesting findings, they are discussed in this report.

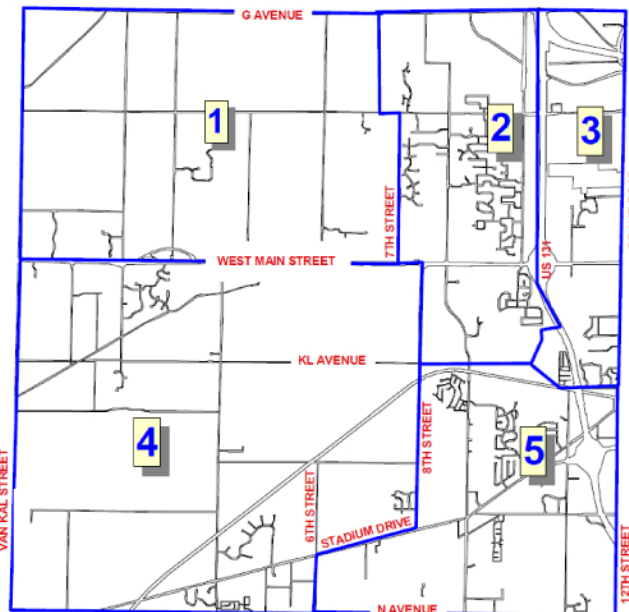
Table 1 below summarizes some of the demographic findings from the survey. The median age of respondents falls within the 55-64 year old age group; more than half of all respondents live in a single family dwelling or duplex. Most respondents own their residence, and the average length of time respondents have lived in the Township is 15 years, although a wide range of experience is represented. (A question was asked regarding other individuals living in the household, such as children or spouses. However, from the results, it was not possible to determine whether the question was clearly understood. Therefore, the results have not been included here in this analysis.)

Table 1 – Demographic Summary Table

This table summarizes the results from the demographic questions asked on the survey.

Age of Respondents			Current Residence		
Age Group	Percent	Respondents	Housing Type	Percentage	Respondents
< 25	4.3%	20	SF/Duplex (1+ acre)	40.3%	188
25-34	7.7%	36	SF/Duplex (<1 acre)	30.9%	144
35-44	12.0%	56	Apartment	9.4%	44
45-54	17.4%	81	Manuf. Housing	6.9%	32
55-64	23.4%	109	Condominium	10.7%	50
65-74	18.5%	86	Other	1.7%	8
75 +	16.6%	77			
How Long Lived in Township			Housing Tenure		
AVG	15.0 Yrs.		Own	86.9%	406
			Rent	13.1%	61

\* A few respondents did not complete the above questions/items.



Another key demographic question asked respondents where they lived in the Township. They were provided with a map of the Township that was divided into five areas, each boldly labeled. Respondents marked on the survey in which region they lived. The map and the results are shown here.

Table 2 – Geographic Distribution

Region	Percentage	Respondents
1	15.6%	70
2	23.9%	107
3	8.5%	38
4	24.3%	109
5	27.7%	124

\* A few respondents did not complete the above item.



The results show that the survey achieved a fairly good distribution of responses from throughout the Township. Region 3 was the least represented of the five. This area has a high concentration of apartment complexes, many of which are predominantly occupied by students. This population may not feel as connected to Oshtemo Township as they are to the City of Kalamazoo or their hometown. Also, they may remain registered to vote in their hometowns and may not have been included in the pool of potential respondents. (However, the spike in voter registrations leading up to the 2008 election, particularly among college students, leads us to believe this is a limited issue.) However, it is important to note that the random selection process resulted in each region having equal representation in the final survey recipients list; that is, if 15% of township registered voters live in region 1, then 15% of the registered voters in region 1 received a survey.

## Existing Conditions

The survey asked respondents to identify some of the positives and negatives of living in Oshtemo Township. Specifically, respondents were provided with an opportunity to identify specific items or qualities that they like about the Township and specific items or qualities that they would improve. The following is a summary of the overall results that were presented. (A full list of all of the comments presented is included in the appendix.)

There were a wide variety of responses from residents as to what they liked about living in Oshtemo Township. However, a couple primary themes emerged as the most prominent. Respondents enjoyed that the Township was convenient and close to the shopping and services available in the city while providing a rural character with open spaces close to nature. What came through clearly from these responses was that maintaining convenient connections to the city and its services and maintaining the rural character and feel of the township should be high priorities.

All of the comments that were provided have been included in the appendix and were grouped into several categories. The 12 categories with the highest number of total responses are shown below along with the percentage of the 423 respondents who answered this question.

Table 3 – What do you like about living in Oshtemo Township

Category	Respondents	Percentage*
Shopping, Services, Convenience, Close to City	254	60.0%
Rural, Open, Small town	164	38.8%
Roads, Freeways, Convenient access to...	75	17.7%
Woods, Nature	66	15.6%
Quiet, Peace	65	15.4%
Parks, Paths, Fields, Arboretum	34	8.0%
Library, Grange Hall, Post Office, Facilities	32	7.6%
Low Congestion, Low Traffic	27	6.4%
Neighborhood, Single-family homes, Housing	27	6.4%
Low Taxes	26	6.1%
Zoning, High Standards, Well Maintained	22	5.2%
Township Staff, Township Officials	20	4.7%

\*Percentage will exceed 100% because most responses included multiple categories.

The next question asked respondents to identify some of the qualities or items in the Township that they would like to see improved. The results here further support the conclusions drawn from the previous question regarding what was liked most in the Township – the ability to live in a rural area with the convenience and opportunities of the city nearby. The primary themes that emerged from the question about what respondents would like to improve were roads (improvement, maintenance, signals, etc.), sidewalks and bike paths, and control of growth and development in the community.

All of the comments that were provided have been included in the appendix and were categorized as a part of our analysis. The top 12 most often cited categories are presented in Table 4 below along with the percentage of the total number of 376 respondents who provided a response to this question.

Table 4 – What would you improve about Oshtemo Township

Category	Respondents	Percentage*
Roads (snow removal, maintenance, signals, etc.)	87	23.1%
Sidewalks, Pathways	47	12.5%
Growth, Development, Control and Management of...	44	11.7%
Shopping, Providing Broader Options, Nightlife	30	8.0%
Garbage, Junk pick-up, Recycling, Leaves	29	7.7%
Crime, Safety, Police, Fire	27	7.2%
Taxes	25	6.6%
Speed, Traffic	24	6.4%
Zoning Restrictions, Ordinances	19	5.1%
Sewer, Water	18	4.8%
Parks	17	4.5%
Apartments, Manufactured Housing Parks, Low-income	14	3.7%

\*Percentage will exceed 100% because most responses included multiple categories.

## Township Character

Questions 9 and 10 were designed to help define the character of the community. A list of 18 terms (one of which was “other” allowing for additional terms to be included) was provided. For question 9, respondents were asked to select the three terms that best describe the character of Oshtemo Township today. This type of question helps us to understand how the population perceives the Township, and depending on the items selected, if any corrective measures are necessary.

Table 5 below presents the results of Question 9. The table provides the overall results and the terms are sorted in order based on the percentage of total respondents who identified each of those terms. In addition, the table also provides the percentage of respondents in each of the five regions that identified each term. This particular comparison showed some interesting differences on a geographical basis.

Table 5 – What Terms Describe the Character of the Community Today

	Overall	Region 1	Region 2	Region 3	Region 4	Region 5
Family Friendly	<b>48.4%</b>	45.6%	<b>60.6%</b>	33.3%	46.2%	<b>42.6%</b>
Wooded/Rolling/Natural Neighborhoods	47.6%	<b>57.4%</b>	53.8%	<b>41.7%</b>	<b>51.0%</b>	36.9%
Open Spaces Threatened	31.6%	17.6%	34.6%	19.4%	28.8%	<b>42.6%</b>
Rural	30.4%	33.8%	29.8%	44.4%	26.0%	30.3%
Progressive	18.2%	29.4%	12.5%	8.3%	26.9%	14.8%
Involved Citizens	17.6%	19.1%	14.4%	33.3%	14.4%	18.9%
Well Regulated	13.6%	14.7%	13.5%	13.9%	14.4%	10.7%
Low Density	13.3%	17.6%	13.5%	13.9%	6.7%	15.6%
Commercial	12.2%	16.2%	5.8%	16.7%	13.5%	14.8%
Over Regulated	10.4%	4.4%	6.7%	19.4%	7.7%	13.9%
Congested	6.9%	10.3%	5.8%	<b>2.8%</b>	9.6%	5.7%
Unsafe/Crime	6.2%	<b>1.5%</b>	2.9%	16.7%	6.7%	8.2%
Other	4.9%	5.9%	1.9%	8.3%	2.9%	7.4%
Agricultural	3.6%	<b>1.5%</b>	1.9%	5.6%	2.9%	6.6%
High Density	2.9%	2.9%	2.9%	8.3%	3.8%	<b>0.8%</b>
	<b>1.8%</b>	2.9%	<b>1.0%</b>	5.6%	<b>0.0%</b>	<b>0.8%</b>

The top three terms used by respondents to describe the character of the Township today were “family friendly”, “wooded/rolling/natural”, and “neighborhoods”. The next most often selected item was “open spaces threatened”, selected by nearly a third of respondents. This shows a significant level of concern about some of the areas impacted by growth and development in the Township.

When we review the results from the various regions, a few interesting findings emerge. Region 1 is located in the northwest corner of the Township and contains some of the most undeveloped, open portions of the Township. It is not surprising then that “wooded/rolling/natural” was the most often selected term by the respondents from this region. Also, “neighborhoods”, “commercial” and “congested” were selected significantly less here than in other regions, while “over regulated”, “rural”, and “low density” were selected more often. Region 3 is located in the very northeast corner of the Township and contains some of the most intensely developed portions of the Township including high density residential and commercial development. The most often selected term in this region was “open spaces threatened”, likely because there are not many open spaces in this region. “Neighborhoods”, “rural”, and “family friendly” were selected significantly less often than in other regions, while “commercial”, “congested”, “unsafe/crime”, and “agricultural” were selected significantly more often than in other regions.

The terms “neighborhoods”, “rural”, “commercial”, and “congested” varied widely across the various regions. While this is not particularly surprising considering the variety of conditions in the Township, it identifies the importance of understanding those differences in the community when planning across the entire Township.

Questions 10.a and 10.b asked residents to consider the differences that exist within the Township, and using the same terms, identify the three terms they would use to describe the eastern portion of the Township (between 8<sup>th</sup> Street and Drake Road) and the western portion of the Township (between 8<sup>th</sup> Street and Van Kal Street). By comparing the results against each other, we can see how the residents of the community perceive the differences between these two portions of the Township. Table 6 presents the results from both Questions 10.a and 10.b.

**Table 6 – Describe the Character of Two Portions of the Township**

Between Drake Rd. & 8 <sup>th</sup> St.		Between 8 <sup>th</sup> St. & Van Kal St.	
Category	Responses	Category	Responses
Commercial	276	Rural	263
Congested	161	Wooded/Rolling/Natural	219
High Density	140	Low Density	177
Open Spaces Threatened	100	Agricultural	95
Suburb	73	Open Spaces Threatened	76
Progressive	70	Family Friendly	59
Neighborhoods	70	Neighborhoods	46
Sprawl	59	Suburb	43
Unsafe/Crime	41	Sprawl	36
Family Friendly	35	Commercial	14
Well Regulated	32	Well Regulated	12
Wooded/Rolling/Natural	22	Progressive	7
Rural	15	Unsafe/Crime	6
Low Density	15	Involved Citizens	5
Agricultural	8	Congested	5
Involved Citizens	8	High Density	3
Over Regulated	7	Over Regulated	1
Other	28	Other	31

The comparison between the two sets of responses above shows the clear difference in the perceived character between the more developed, commercial, urbanized eastern portion of the Township between Drake Rd. and 8<sup>th</sup> Street and the more rural, undeveloped, agricultural portion of the Township between 8<sup>th</sup> St. and Van Kal St. As the Township considers whether or not to continue its existing policy of focusing development to the east where existing infrastructure is already in place, this information may be useful.

There are a couple of interesting results within these responses as well. For the rural, western portion of the Township, nearly a quarter of the respondents (95/400) used “agricultural” to describe this portion of the Township. However, when asked to describe the Township overall, only 2.9% of all respondents used “agricultural”. The same percentage or less applies to the westernmost regions (1 and 4) when specifically looking at their results. Similar statements could be made about “rural” and “low density”. One might conclude from this that one’s perception of the

overall character of the community is often largely derived from areas of the Township not located between 8<sup>th</sup> St. and Van Kal St.

## Community Priorities

Question 8 provided a list of seven questions, which asked respondents to indicate the level of importance that the Township should give to each using the following scale: 1 – Not Important; 2 – Somewhat Not Important; 3 – Neutral; 4 – Somewhat Important; 5 – Important; and 9 – Don't Know/No Opinion. Each of the items involves important planning issues and potential goals or objectives to be considered during the planning process. Understanding the public perspective and the potential support of the public for various initiatives is vital when considering pursuing new objectives or changing established policies.

Table 7 below presents the results of Question 8.

**Table 7 – Should the Following Be Important for the Township?**

	Avg.	Not Important	Somewhat Not Important	Neutral	Somewhat important	Important	Don't Know / No Opinion
a. Encourage development of housing for first time homeowners.	2.54	<b>33.2%</b> (151)	14.5% (66)	20.7% (94)	14.1% (64)	11.6% (53)	5.9% (27)
b. Expand high-tech industrial (research & development).	3.29	17.9% (81)	9.1% (41)	20.1% (91)	<b>24.3%</b> (110)	24.1% (109)	4.6% (21)
c. Expand commercial development.	2.84	<b>26.6%</b> (121)	11.0% (50)	22.9% (104)	22.6% (103)	13.0% (59)	4.0% (18)
d. Increase availability of public water system.	3.29	15.6% (71)	8.1% (37)	<b>22.7%</b> (103)	21.6% (98)	21.8% (99)	10.1% (46)
e. Increase availability of public sewer system.	3.44	14.5% (66)	7.9% (36)	19.2% (87)	20.9% (95)	<b>28.2%</b> (128)	9.3% (42)
f. Increase preservation of the natural environment through regulation and land acquisition.	4.13	5.7% (26)	4.6% (21)	14.4% (66)	17.0% (78)	<b>53.3%</b> (244)	5.0% (23)
g. Adopt ordinances requiring new development to be designed to reduce its impact on the natural environment.	4.23	4.0% (18)	6.4% (29)	9.0% (41)	18.7% (85)	<b>55.2%</b> (251)	6.8% (31)

The results for Question 8.a show there is little overall interest in encouraging the development of housing for first time homeowners. This sentiment was particularly strong in Region 1 (53.7% indicated "1 - Not Important"). However, in Region 3, which has the youngest population and the highest percentage of renters, the highest percentage of responses (25.0%) was "3 - Neutral" and another 26.5% responded with a "4 - Somewhat Important" or "5 - Important". In addition, age had an influence on this response. Respondents in the under 25 and 25-34 age groups provided favorable responses to this.

Question 8.b asked about developing high-tech industrial uses in the Township, and the results showed a generally positive reaction, although a significant number of people did have an opposite opinion. Neither age nor geography seemed to play a significant role in the responses to this question. The responses fairly well mirrored the spread in the overall results.

There was generally positive reaction for industrial development, the response to commercial development in question 8.c was more neutral, with the responses spread amongst those certain that it is "not important" and those feeling it is "somewhat important". Regions 1 and 2 were the most strongly against the idea of commercial development while Region 3 had the most positive support.

Questions 8.d and 8.e asked about the importance of increasing the availability of the public water and sewer system. Generally speaking, increasing availability of the sewer system was viewed more positively than increasing availability of the water system, and this is supported by the written comments that were submitted for other questions as well. Not surprisingly, geography had a significant impact on the results for these questions. Region 1 was strongly against both the water and sewer systems, likely because most of this area utilizes private well and septic systems. Regions 3 and 5 were strongly in favor of increasing the availability of both the water and sewer systems. Region 2 showed fairly strong support for both systems ("5 - Important" was the most popular choice for both, but the distribution was spread more broadly in this region). In Region 4, there was fairly strong support for public sewer and moderate support for public water.

Questions 8.f and 8.g both address protection of the natural environment, and had a favorable response. This is not particularly surprising. Some of the regional results are interesting, however. Region 3 was the most supportive. If you recall, the term this region most identified with the character of the Township was "open spaces threatened". This confirms consistency within the document. Region 4 showed the lowest level of support, although it was still very high.

## Community Issues

Question 11 was a multi-part question, which included 15 different statements, and respondents were asked to indicate whether or not they agreed with each of the statements using the following scale: 1 - Strongly Disagree; 2 - Disagree; 3 - Neutral; 4 - Agree; 5 - Strongly Agree; and 9 - Don't Know/No Opinion. These statements address critical issues regarding services in the Township, priorities for the future, and general growth and development in the Township. Table 8 below provides a summary of the Township responses.

Table 8 – Community Issues

Statement*	Avg.	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	Strongly Agree	Don't Know / No Opinion
a. Smaller lot sizes should be allowed in exchange for setting aside and preserving natural feature areas	3.24	12.6%	15.5%	16.4%	<b>34.8%</b>	14.2%	6.4%
b. Adopt standards requiring preservation of natural areas in new development	4.16	4.4%	4.2%	10.8%	29.9%	<b>47.9%</b>	2.9%
c. Smaller lot sizes should be permitted for lots served by sewer and water	3.07	11.6%	18.2%	22.9%	<b>25.1%</b>	11.1%	11.3%
d. Township is managing development well	3.22	4.9%	13.5%	<b>31.6%</b>	30.3%	6.1%	13.9%
e. Areas should be set aside for multi-family development	2.24	<b>32.5%</b>	27.4%	17.7%	13.5%	3.5%	5.5%
f. Older multi-family areas should be rehabbed in lieu of establishing new ones	4.08	3.6%	3.8%	13.4%	36.3%	<b>39.0%</b>	4.0%
g. Township should acquire sensitive lands for preservation	4.02	5.9%	5.3%	13.4%	27.1%	<b>43.6%</b>	4.8%
h. Current policy of directing denser development to east where infrastructure exists should continue	3.87	2.7%	7.1%	15.6%	<b>36.2%</b>	26.2%	12.2%
i. I would likely use paths if more existed in Township	3.78	7.3%	10.2%	17.6%	21.8%	<b>39.1%</b>	4.0%
j. Adjacent owners should be assessed for path installations	2.17	<b>41.7%</b>	21.9%	14.8%	7.7%	9.3%	4.6%
k. Adjacent owners should be assessed for utility extensions	2.68	<b>26.3%</b>	15.9%	18.5%	24.5%	7.3%	7.5%
l. Response time of Sheriff's deputies is satisfactory	3.42	4.9%	8.6%	20.2%	24.6%	11.5%	<b>30.2%</b>
m. Township should provide curbside leaf pick-up	3.21	17.5%	11.3%	19.2%	<b>21.9%</b>	21.7%	8.6%
n. I would consider nominal millage for increasing Sheriff patrols in the Township	3.36	12.0%	12.2%	16.8%	<b>36.2%</b>	17.0%	5.9%
o. I would consider a nominal millage for acquiring land for open space and natural feature preservation.	3.37	14.3%	9.7%	17.7%	<b>33.6%</b>	20.3%	4.6%

\*Statements below are snippets of what was presented on the survey.



The first four questions addressed development standards within the Township. Questions a and c asked about allowing for smaller lot sizes in exchange for preserving natural areas or for being served by sewer and water. Although in both cases, the most popular response was "4 - Agree", the wide distribution of responses brought the average close to the middle of the range. Question b did not specify that density bonuses were provided but simply asked if standards should be provided requiring preservation of natural areas in new developments. This received a very positive response with nearly half answering "5 - Strongly Agree". When asked if the Township was managing development well (question d), the most popular response was "3 - Neutral", and the average was slightly above neutral.

The only question that seemed to vary geographically was question c regarding sewer and water. Regions 1 and 4, two of the more rural portions of the Township without sewer and water throughout the region, had the least favorable reactions to this question. The other, more urbanized regions, where sewer and water are more prevalent, were more agreeable. Since water and sewer service is more available and the regions are more developed, the impacts of smaller lot sizes would be relatively less in these regions than in Regions 1 and 4.

The next four questions (e-h) addressed housing and development in the Township. The results for question e show a clear response that additional areas for multi-family uses are not desired. The "1 - Strongly Disagree" option was the most often selected, and the overall average was very low. On the opposite extreme, respondents were very agreeable to questions f and g, which discussed rehabbing existing multi-family developments instead of building new ones and preserving sensitive natural areas. When asked if the current policy of directing growth towards existing infrastructure should be continued, respondents were generally agreeable – over 64% responded with a "4 - Agree" or "5 - Strongly Agree". This should provide some confidence for moving forward with the current land use policy.

Questions i through m addressed Township services. Question i asked if respondents would be more likely to use paths if more were provided. The response most often provided was "5 - Strongly Agree", with over 60% answering with "4 - Agree" or "5 - Strongly Agree". Regions 2 and 3 had the highest percentage of respondents providing these answers, while Region 1 had the lowest. The level of agreement also gets progressively stronger as the respondents get younger. Regardless of this support, there was broad consensus that property owners should not be assessed for being adjacent to pathways as they are constructed. Over 63% of overall respondents answered "1 - Strongly Disagree" or "2 - Disagree" to question j. Although the average for question k also remains below 3.00 (neutral), the responses were more widely distributed showing there is some support for assessing adjacent property owners for water and sewer extensions. Regions 1, 2, and 4 disagreed and do not support assessing adjacent property owners for water and sewer extensions. Regions 3 and 5 show more support.

Question l asks if the response time of the sheriff's deputies is satisfactory. In this instance, the most popular response was "9 - Don't Know / No Opinion". For those that did have an opinion, the overall results were generally agreeable. Although the results were consistent across all the regions, Region 3 had the highest level of disagreement with the proposed statement.

Finally, question m asked if the Township should provide curbside leaf pick up. Again, the responses were well distributed with the overall results showing general agreement with the statement. Region 3 and 5 had the strongest level of agreement with the provided statement while Region 1 had the strongest level of disagreement.

The final two questions, n and o, asked if respondents would be willing to support a millage to for increasing sheriff patrols or to acquire land for open spaces and preserving natural features. Information regarding the amount of millage the Township collects and the impact this has on properties in the Township was provided. In both cases, the average was greater than 3.00, meaning that over 50% of the respondents answered with “4 - Agree” or “5 - Strongly Agree”. Therefore, a majority of the respondents indicated that they would be willing to support a millage for each of these purposes. These results were consistent across the various geographic regions.

## Directing Development

Questions 12, 13, and 14 asked respondents to consider a variety of different development types that are expected in the future and where they feel that growth should be directed. A variety of options were provided for them to select from, each of which are geographically tied to the Township. Respondents were encouraged to reference a map that was provided.

Question 12 asked specifically about commercial development that is anticipated to continue over the next 10-20 years. Table 9 below shows the results from this question.

**Table 9 – Directing Commercial Development**

Location	Percent	Responses
West Main Street, East of 9 <sup>th</sup> Street	44.4%	201
West Main Street / Drake Road	43.5%	197
9 <sup>th</sup> Street, South of West Main Street	34.4%	156
West Main Street, West of 8 <sup>th</sup> Street	22.5%	102
No Opinion / Don't Know	11.3%	51
Other	10.4%	47

West Main Street is clearly the desired target for future commercial development. This is where existing development has been occurring, and respondents believe it should continue to occur there, specifically at Drake Road and east of 9<sup>th</sup> Street. The respondents from Region 2 had the strongest support for the West Main / Drake Road area, with less support for the other areas of West Main Street.

Question 13 asked respondents about the type of industrial development that respondents would like to see developed in the Township. This can help to determine planning objectives and future land use decisions regarding industrial development. Table 10 presents the overall Township results.

**Table 10 – Types of Industrial Development to Develop**

Type of Industry	Percentage	Responses
Research & Development	57.1%	262
High Technology / Life Sciences	56.4%	259
Corporate Campus / Business Park	44.4%	206
No Opinion / Not sure	13.9%	64
Manufacturing	13.1%	60
Distribution and Logistics	11.8%	54
None	9.2%	42
Other (please specify)	6.5%	30

These results demonstrate that residents of the Township are not against all industrial development, but they definitely have a preference towards the more modern, cleaner, professional type of industrial development. Whereas a traditional manufacturing type use is not generally preferred, R&D, high tech, and life science uses are encouraged. In addition, business parks, campuses, or corporate headquarters are preferable as well. Note that “none” was an option that could be selected as well, which would indicate that no industrial development was desired. This received relatively few votes.

Following up on those results, question 14 asks where respondents think this development should be located. Table 11 presents the results of this question for the Township overall.

**Table 11 – Where should Industrial be Located?**

Location	Percentage	Responses
In proximity to WMU’s BTR Park (Parkview / 11 <sup>th</sup> Street)	67.3%	297
9 <sup>th</sup> Street / N Avenue	27.0%	119
Stadium Drive, West of 8 <sup>th</sup> Street	24.3%	107
KL Avenue, West of 8 <sup>th</sup> Street	12.7%	56
No Opinion / Don’t Know	12.7%	56
Other (please specify)	4.5%	20

Over two-thirds of respondents indicated that industrial development should be directed toward the Parkview / 11<sup>th</sup> Street area so that it can be located in proximity to the existing Western Michigan University Business, Technology and Research Park (BTR Park). The existing park and surrounding development has been very successful, and there is vacant land across the Township line / over the freeway from the BTR Park, some of which is already zoned and planned for industrial use consistent with these findings.

## Future Vision

Question 15 gave respondents an opportunity to present their vision for what they believe the Township will be like in 20 years. There were many responses to this question (343) covering a wide variety of ideas concepts. All of the responses are provided for review in the appendix. The following summarizes some of the key themes that are repeated most often throughout the responses that are provided:

- Same as it is today
- Green space / parks
- Controlled growth so as to maintain rural character
- Sidewalks and bike pathways
- Family friendly / safe
- Rural / quiet / peaceful

## Additional Comments

The final question, Question 16, provided an opportunity for respondents to submit any additional ideas, suggestions, comments, or concerns regarding the Township. A little more than half of the respondents (256) took advantage of the opportunity and submitted comments. A full listing of all comments is provided in the appendix. The following summarizes some of the key themes that are repeated most often throughout the responses that are provided:

- Taxes – reducing current tax rates and making wiser use of tax dollars
- Apartments and housing types
- Gravel pit and associated truck traffic
- Roads, road maintenance, street lights, traffic, snow removal
- Township services, particularly police, fire, water, and sewer
- Trash, recycling, and leaf collection
- Green initiatives and sustainability

# Oshtemo Township Master Plan Survey Comments

Question 3. Please select the term that best describes your current, primary residence in Oshtemo Township.

Other:

AFC
Fountain Springs
Senior citizen subsidized apartment complex
Townhome
Agricultural family, 65 acres
Fountains Inn
Senior apartment complex
Woodlands Estates

## Question 5. What do you like about living in Oshtemo Township?

Convenient access to main roads and highways rural feeling, not congested.
Predominantly rural nature, yet close to Kalamazoo. Doesn't have the over-developed, urban sprawl found in Portage.
We like the tax rate better than Kalamazoo. Being close to shopping. Trash days are great!
Close to shopping, theatres, feels like the country--larger home lots, convenient to highways, lots of trees / greenery.
Close proximity to work, easy access to highway.
Not so crowded, but convenient to shop.
The Kal-Haven Trail, close to US-131 and I-94, location of stores and restaurants, west side of the County, great churches close to work, Township parks.
Space between lots
Easy access to highways.
Access to public transportation, schools.
A township atmosphere; close to things but not on main roads; good school boundaries, library, park, lower taxes, than city, city water.
Nearby shopping and services (dog grooming).
Location, surrounding neighbors w/ larger parcels.
Nice park, easy drive to grocery stores.
Living rural yet so close to main stream.
Convenience to essential services and stores, rural areas.
Live in the country, but we are very close to downtown.
Out in country/woods yet near Kalamazoo and work.
Country atmosphere, convenient location.
The convenience of being able to go any direction without long waits.
Close to shopping, 43, 94, restaurants, Bronson and not in "city" environment.
Low taxes, safe area, new developments, overall appearance of a "thriving" community, nice homes.
Relatively, low taxes.
I like living in the country without neighbors close by. I like using the library and having "dump days". I visit the park near the Township building.
Location, easy access to shopping and downtown. medical facilities availabilities. Low taxes
I like the atmosphere in Oshtemo. We moved from Milwood and it was busy, loud and not as nice. In our neighborhood everyone takes care of their home and yards. Except the 2 builders repos.
Relatively rural/suburban feel with proximity to the city consolidated areas of commerce and industry balanced with residential areas.
Rural property with selected plats, mixed together, commercial areas in close proximity to houses. Sweeping curbs in spring, summer maintenance on parks and Township property.
Township officials are focused on both residents and commercial interests Contemporary and visionary projects and personnel in township office are always professional but not officious.
Quiet neighborhood, yet it's very close to shopping.
Rural character - peace and quiet.
Rural nature, yet close to Kalamazoo. Helpful Township personnel. Well managed. Nice newer town hall. Trying hard to manage growth.
Convenient to shopping, doctors and township offices, library; 911 response.
Well controlled, every resident held to same high standards; dump days; proximity to highway, downtown, etc.
I don't have to travel far to meet my everyday needs. Lots of options available, but not as busy as downtown or the Westnedge area.
Wooded lot but close to Target, Meijer, etc.
Close to everything yet far enough away from the madness.
Rural nature.
The location is central to everything we need. Very nice library and park behind Township offices.
Close to work and school.

Lower taxes.

The rural atmosphere, less crowded living.

Not too overdeveloped, yet close to amenities. Well maintained Township (streets and lots).

I love the feel of living in the country so close to the amenities of city life.

Convenience to Kalamazoo and 131 commercial development.

The woods settings, being out of the city, but close to everything, tax rates are good. Medical and services are good.

I feel like I live in the country. I like having space around me and wildlife. I like the Kal-Haven trail.

Country atmosphere, library, low traffic, timely removal of snow.

Location is great. Most houses are well kept. Stores and restaurant are nice.

The combination of shopping, restaurants and other spaces.

Convenience to shopping, banking, interstates, friends, rural atmosphere, wildlife.

Having moved here from Portage - we miss the clean and pretty environment. Also, it felt somewhat safer. We also miss the bike trails, and good stores.

Rural nature, low density housing, shopping near Drake-W. Main area, Gov. services.

Close to K-zoo with country feel.

Wooded rolling rural character - friendly neighbors - safe.

Uncongested environment, with suburban feel.

Convenience of restaurants and shopping while maintaining a smaller community feel.

It is quiet, has lots of open space (prairies, woods) convenient shopping, low taxes.

Green space, so far relatively controlled commercial growth, quiet, family friendly safe to live in.

I like the parks, the saving of trees and the businesses and varieties that allow us to help in our own area.

That it has a lot of rural area. Country feeling but close to businesses and entertainment.

Trash in the park, easy access to the highways.

Rural environment, family here, hunting and fishing, good library with excellent staff.

Oshtemo seems like last frontier of Kalamazoo area.

The rural feeling, seeing the various types of wildlife, but knowing that everything we need is right nearby.

I like the "living in the country" feel, but also close to everything else.

Library, Mattawan school, reasonable taxes.

Metro transit bus service. Many businesses near my apartment.

We love the west side. We love living across from Buckman sheep farm. We love the lower taxes.

Not much do not think its better than any other city. Just happen to purchase a condo in this location.

Privacy, spacious, quiet, large houses.

Country living with shopping close-by. Family lives nearby.

Mattawan schools, the shopping in the area. About anything you need.

Wooded area with bird and wildlife habitat. Ample open, uncrowded space. Grange Hall availability.

Cooperative staff in Township Hall.

Feels like the country in the city.

Living here is nice and quiet. Place in the park. We have a difficult time, when trying to turn left to west main. We need a traffic light here. Please.

Close to city but feels like country-family friendly-dump days-parks, library, walking trails

Recreation/people.

Everything is nearby.

Suburban lifestyle, open natural space, high percentage of single family homes, good public services.

Quiet.

Convenient location, safe, nice neighborhoods, rural feel, well run, I like the recently developed bike trails.

I like the illusion of living in the country while still having access to major necessities and roads.

Quiet living

Close to shopping, work, medical.

Lower taxes, mix of rural, suburban areas, proximity of services, free parking.

I like the out skirts of town and the closeness to the grocery stores, gas stations, parks, banks, etc.

Close to Kalamazoo, Lake Michigan, and highways.

Close to shopping and yet quiet, rural.

Nature, solitude

Convenience to stores, highways, and feel fairly safe from crime.

Quiet, close to stores. Close to Western Michigan University.

Quiet - nice control of business section.

Living in a rural setting - woods.

Rural, close to town, spaciousness of area, close to stores, etc. privacy, good neighbors, good Twp. Board, involved citizens, good schools.

Proximity (2 hrs. to Wrigley Field, 45 min. to Grand Rapids, 15 minutes to Downtown K-zoo, 45 min to South Bend). Oshtemo is the center of a pretty nice universe.

Not as busy as near campus and downtown. Quieter.

Location, shopping, medical, 1st responders.

Rural but convenient to shopping, post office, library, and close to both freeways.

The rural area, yet close accommodations to stores, banks, etc.

Country living close to town, reasonable taxes, good neighbors, nice people in the Township offices.

Rural-residential, yet very close to many things-library, Kal-Haven, parks.

Closeness to Township office/fire dept./library/Meijer/voting precinct.

Close to schools, 7eleven and gas station. Close to shopping centers (food/clothes/essentials), close to highway.

Quiet, well managed, good response from Township office.

Location.

It is a quiet and caring community.

Location to highways, still many areas that are wooded and undeveloped; good small library; less traffic than Portage and downtown.

I like the west side of Kalamazoo due to less traffic, shopping, and close to highway.

Soccer field, lots of trees.

It's not in the city.

Convenient for shopping, continuous road and signal improvements, highway adjacent, age of neighbors (college base).

Open natural spaces. It's not city and not quite country where I live, but it's private. I can't see my neighbors...a must for me.

Park behind fire station, convenience to stores, movies, diners, etc.

Open spaces, friendly neighborhoods, involved citizens.

Rural setting with easy, nearby access to shopping as well as US-131 and I-94; library, trash dump days.

Quiet residential areas.

I live in a low-density portion of the Township and like the quiet.

Access to Kalamazoo and expressways. Fair tax structure.

It's quiet, good air quality and in the country but close to downtown Kalamazoo.

I lived before mainly on the east side of Kalamazoo. Once I lived out by 9th and stadium drive. It is nice that in this area there are restaurants and stores close by and the metro transit.

Quiet settings; responsive township; nature; open spaces

Close to 131 and I-94; close to major shopping centers.

I like the country feel with appreciation for leaving enough nature around to deep the country feel but also the closeness of stores and conveniences left in the already commercial areas.

Natural beauty yet close to downtown Kalamazoo.

Everything I need is close by.

I enjoy the library and relatively low traffic in most areas as well as easy access to Portage and Kalamazoo.

It's not Alamo. Close to shopping and restaurants.

Quiet convenient to shopping and schools, I-94 and 131 excellent location.

Rural atmosphere, easy access to downtown Kalamazoo.

I live in a townhome that is very affordable and comfortable.

It's small and quiet, not too much crime and I like the woods.

When we moved here we liked the rural setting with wooded lots but close to business across 131.



It's quieter than Kalamazoo.
Near WMU campus and close to entertainment.
Being close to WMU, KVCC and downtown. Having commercial business around the corner.
Friendly government.
Close to shopping yet rural area - nice subdivisions.
Undeveloped areas.
N/A
I like the local restaurants and the nature trails and wooded areas.
There are more things to do.
Quiet, rural but close to amenities, lots of trees in our neighborhood, lower taxes than City of K-zoo.
Nice, small neighborhoods.
Very safe, peaceful area.
Quiet, not too many students.
Convenient to Kalamazoo, but Country feeling.
Like living in the country, but you have all the convenience of a larger city.
Quiet but get close to town, still has wildlife in Township example deer, turkey, etc.
Quiet (for the most part), convenient location.
Low taxes, good schools, parks.
Proximity to Kalamazoo, west side location, relative lack of congestion lots of undeveloped areas.
I like the rural sections of Oshtemo Township.
Convenient shopping- close to highways. Convenience such as mail, beauty shop, senior service meals, etc.
We enjoy living out in the country on our 3 acre parcel while only minutes away from the developing commercial areas on West Main Street.
It's nice and quiet.
Country feel but close to retailing centers plus close to 131 and 94.
The business hours (open late) restaurant activities (free golf course and park especially).
Easily accessible to many business'.
Open area and farmland.
Not too congested with business having open areas when there are no buildings.
There is everything here stores, school, bank, dr. office.
Location of my home, low taxes.
Smaller type community, not like living in a big city.
Close to major highways. Easy, quick to get to downtown Kalamazoo and malls in Portage.
It's kind of rural in places yet close to the city and where I live, great neighbors.
Peaceful.
We love our secluded wooded small neighborhood-library-post office-grocery stores.
Convenience to highway, shopping, recreation. Convenience to K-zoo. Properties seem to be kept up/maintained. Most pride of ownership with residences. Reasonable rates for taxes.
Convenient mall, Meijer/Wal-Mart, post-office, library, township offices all within short distance of each other. #1 Rolling landscape beauty, best in the county.
I like living in the country.
Country living, nice neighborhood, agriculture is important.
Zone and plan seem good. Rural living with urban near (not too near I hope).
Quality of life issues - quiet neighborhoods, good communication abilities with Township officials.
Rural yet close to Kalamazoo.
Born and raised here. A good share of my family got out and moved to other counties and states.
Shopping on West Main and Drake Rd., semi-rural, convenience to I-94 and 131.
Close to shipping centers, dump days.
Proximity to Kalamazoo City and simultaneous proximity to outdoor areas: Kal-haven Trail, Southern Michigan Gun Club, Proximity (Drake) to WMU.
In the country away from town.
Rural living, yet provides close access to the city of Kalamazoo.

Large lots, small hills, beautiful curved streets. Other neighbors care about their homes (plant flowers, care for lawns, good upkeep of homes).
Proximity to shops and country living.
Close to everything but still feel like you are in the country.
I like country like atmosphere (larger lots), recreational activities (Kal-Haven & Kal-Valley Trails), parks.
The open areas and woods behind us. The closeness of medical services, shopping etc.
Rural nature yet shopping close by.
Close to business, but in a quiet neighborhood.
Rural yet close to downtown, restaurants, and major highways.
Small town feel.
Clean, friendly, small-town environment with convenience.
Close to Wal-Mart, Meijer, Hardings, and 131 highway.
It's not as crowded and busy as the Portage area and feels much safer, living out in the country and close to the Kal-Haven trail.
Lower taxes, large yard, sidewalk on West Main, close to "City".
As long as we stay away from the commercialized areas there is a feeling of country.
It is quiet, churches and stores nearby.
Quiet.
It's quiet, peaceful, a home your grandchildren can come too.
Close to all business. Quiet street, people here are very friendly.
Low property tax, the feeling of a small town, nature's still mostly preserved; urban development is controlled.
Friendly responses at Township office, West Main medical, library, Meijer, Hardings, and Wal-Mart
Schools, good housing, planning seems good, shopping, o.k.
Close to Kalamazoo. Nice restaurants and shopping nearby.
Convenient to many restaurants, grocers, freeway access, churches, schools.
It is rural, but still close to highways and shopping.
Not anymore. Too much traffic on 9th St./too fast. Do not like houses on Bela Ave. next to our lot.
Close proximity to amenities but still have privacy and wide open spaces.
Low crime, Prairie Ridge Elementary, low taxes, quality fire dept., close to work, yet rural.
Shopping is close by lakes, recreation and country living.
Quiet small town atmosphere, close to 131, I-94, and South Haven (Lake Michigan).
Distance between homes, woods/farms but not too far from town.
Close to 131 & 94, close to downtown.
Location to I-94 and downtown; wooded and natural surroundings.
Open spaces, natural beauty, lots of trees, road well maintained, good fire and EMS, protection and service, strong building and planning ordinances.
Mix of homes & rented businesses. Wonderful library, services like fire, dump days, police, Park behind Oshtemo Hall. I like overall plan with business clusters & not infringing on neighborhoods.
Location, my specific location allows my children to go to Mattawan schools yet we are still close to and in Kalamazoo.
Close proximity to west side shopping, restaurants, movies, school, church, jazzercise, health club. Nice parks.
Rural, natural. Friendly, accessible & helpful people who work in Township offices.
Quiet & peaceful yet convenient to shopping and town.
Close to Kalamazoo w/ a somewhat rural setting although this is diminishing.
Close to city, but more rural, nice parks.
It's quiet and convenient to almost all parts of the city.
Being able to live in a rural environment but have the convenience of major stores and malls close by.
Amenities of a big city, yet we live just outside, less crime, less traffic.
Close to highway and services, wooded area in which we have.
Space.
Rural feel, but still near the city activities.
Location, safety, low traffic; convenience.

The woods and fields, open with flowers and wildlife. I like living in the country.
Close to shopping, work, nature.
Country atmosphere yet easy access to highways & shopping.
I like living in a rural area with a lot of land.
Kal-Haven Trail.
Convenience of location, rural setting natural areas with trees and wildlife.
Location/access to work and schools.
Newer neighborhoods; quiet family life; clean country - like air; good tap water; near the highway and shopping, near a major university & colleges.
Close to Kalamazoo but still a country atmosphere, good shopping, good restaurants, I-94.
Rural living, not on bus line. School district.
The openness and easy access to stores and businesses.
Convenience of professional and commercial business, access to Hurys.
Our neighborhood, library (loved it when the bookmobile came to our neighborhood) the new -elementary school, and that someone is looking into the future development.
Access to everything and everywhere.
It's out in the "country" a little bit but close to the highway and businesses.
Additional space and "rural" feel as apposed to city living.
Where I live, the bus service, a number of good restaurants, stores.
Quiet neighborhood.
Wooded lots, proximity to 131 and W. Main, proximity to grocery stores, and basic shopping, Kal-Haven Trail, closeness to downtown.
West side convenience, natural beauty.
Rustic, lots of wildlife, spacious areas.
Quiet neighborhood, not to far for gas stations or markets.
Everything is close by, restaurants, church, grocery store, pharmacy, banks, doctors, clinic, etc. When you are a senior this makes a big difference.
Wooded, natural areas, close proximity to goods and services.
The feeling of being in the country when so close to the city.
Out of town but close to town and highways. Natural rolling woods is why we like it here.
The ease of shopping, Meijer, Menards, Kohls, etc. The highway is right there to get to Portage, G.R.
Natural environment, rural.
The community/people.
Convenient to shopping, movies, restaurants, etc.
A good distribution of suburban facilities & convenience, plus easy access to rural areas & outdoor recreation.
Family, country not city like Parks.
Quiet, near both highways.
Country like setting, newer side of city expansion, less blight. Higher income area to some degree. Lower population density.
Many friends close by, the library and close by shopping.
Family friendly, new schools, convenient to restaurants, shopping, downtown K-zoo.
Controlled development-out of town living.
It is situated with easy access to interstate highways leading north, south, east and west. This makes it a simple drive to reach other states to visit and receive visits from my children.
No opinion.
Living in the country. Lots of trees and farms. Clean. Our area is Otsego Schools, they are great. The library here is a real plus.
Parks, convenience to town with rural living.
Where we live it's quiet most of the time.
It currently is a safe, pleasant and family friendly place to live.
Rural flavor but with nearby convenience, quick access to any destination.
Large lots.

Close to the amenities of Kalamazoo City – yet on the outskirts.
Area, town w/country settings, clean convenient to many other locations.
It is living in the country yet close to cities & major highways.
Friendly community. Easy to get around. Shopping is near.
Convenient to stores, highway, quiet, safe.
Location.
Quiet – rural – peaceful. Please do not Ape Portage. Progress is maintaining the rural setting.
Clean, good shopping, fairly safe.
Proximity to the stores I frequent, easy to travel from one place to another, walking paths in parks.
Trees, hills, wildlife, country-look, but close to essentials.
Lower taxes than City of Kalamazoo, close proximity to shopping of all kinds, newer buildings and businesses.
Peace and quiet of our neighborhood, the park behind fire station, library and shopping very close, easy access to 131 and 94.
We like the rural quality of life and open spaces.
Quiet, close to the City without the noise and problems of the City.
Access to Kal-Haven trail; Oshtemo park and library.
Our neighborhood (wooded, family friendly) Springwood Hills, small town feel, but close to W. Main shopping and highways, enjoy Oshtemo park playground and library and Mattawan schools.
Close to shopping, but live on dead end street, so a pretty quiet neighborhood.
Proximity to major arteries and establishments with the ability to live in a quasi-rural environment.
Location, close to shopping and downtown.
Country living while being close to stores, restaurants and work (5-10 min.). We have great shopping in the area.
Close to town/shopping. Lower taxes.
The rural look.
Nice neighborhood, clean community close to library, shopping, grocery stores, & entertainment. Good Township government. Outstanding Fire department.
The semi-rural feel to the housing developments, i.e. nice size lots, contained retail development, major streets like 9th, 10th street, etc. are safe and well maintained. Country is close by and truck routes are kept to a minimum.
Mostly quiet, set back from the City – not too crowded.
I like the neighborhood setting that has a great amount of area to walk or bike within. Also, the constant presence of sheriff patrol. The safeness that I feel living here.
Location and clean.
I like where I'm located, it's more out in the country, type of atmosphere.
Close to convenient businesses but still small enough to feel like you live in the country side.
Close proximity to businesses & freeways; small & friendly; not over developed.
Close to shopping on West Main.
Country living, good police and fire protection, close to shopping, downtown Kalamazoo and hospitals, good library nearby.
We like the feel of being rural yet close enough to get to store, gas, restaurants quickly, we like the dump service/schedule, library, we like the fact we are in K-zoo yet Otsego schools.
Accessibility to store, major highways, and library.
Rural setting with close proximity to the City. Easy highway access for outer edges of Kalamazoo/Portage. Love the parks and the library.
Close to Portage and Kalamazoo, without living in a city. Still has a somewhat country feeling. Pastures, cornfields etc.
Like the area close to shopping but not in the city – history of the Township.
Peaceful, good access to stores and thoroughfares.
Because it's out from the city and we enjoy all the wildlife.
Quality of life, easy access to major points of interest.
Open spaces.
Location, parks, library.

Dumpster – close to interstate.
Like the quiet and close to the city.
Location is close to everything. Near Meijer and other steps, but feels rural.
Convenience-shopping-etc.
Convenient to shopping.
Location.
Proximity to businesses.
Woods Kal-Haven trail shopping nearby, not close.
Open spaces, wildlife, low traffic, nice people.
Location, highway access.
Space, wildlife, not too crowded suburb.
Outside city of K-zoo (lower taxes) yet convenient access to all. Well maintained neighborhoods. Parks. Kalamazoo Public School District.
Rural setting.
Quiet area, great location, close to highway, close to Oshtemo park at W. Main and Kal-Haven Trail and Oshtemo library.
Country living close to urban areas.
I like the more rural setting with farms, stores, credit unions, library, churches, fire dept., and restaurants nearby! Being close to both I-94 and 131! The roads and sidewalks are kept up.
Oshtemo library, Oshtemo park (near fire dept), adult group homes blended into neighborhoods.
Close to shopping, close to rural.
Rural close to city.
Very peaceful and close to everything I do.
Close to town, yet a country setting. I've lived in Oshtemo most of my life.
Close to restaurants, grocery stores and shops.
Ease of reaching shipping, close to Kal-Haven Trail.
Quiet.
Convenience to stores, highway, schools.
I like that you are in the city, but also in a country like are that you can get away from all traffic of people.
Open space, many parks, arboretum, Kal-Haven Trail, Fish Hatchery nearby, close to where we work, quiet and big lots, close to grocery shopping and many farm stands, orchards, cider mills, bike lane on M-43.
Close to business yet still have sheep grazing west of 9th st.
Accessibility to major highways (n/s and e/w) leafy neighborhoods, Kal-Haven, bike trails.
The township park (and the adjoining K College arboretum) are lovely places to walk my dogs. The lack of traffic congestion-even at rush hours. Dump Day (a great service). The Township Board listens to its constituents (i.e., the gravel pit issue).
The convenience of the main traffic arteries to access retail/service businesses. However, the peaceful, quiet, and limited traffic days are behind us.
Clean, zoning ordinance, a followed thru ideal local for retail centers and has great potential for private and commercial development.
Ready access to retail stores & restaurants - good library, underdeveloped spaces, close access to City of Kalamazoo.
Services and stores close by.
Quiet, peaceful, friendly, close to shopping and services.
Area businesses allow me to get what I need without going into a across town.
Rural yet close to town.
Pleasant area, location close to shopping, town, etc.
Has a good fire dept., good roads, close to different type of stores.
Near downtown, groceries, hospitals, KPS schools.
Convenience to shopping.
Easy access to needs/shopping.
Woody feel, quiet, "the new downtown", close to 131 and 94.
Nature, small, not too many apartments.

Convenience of City and country atmosphere.
More rural.
Quiet, convenient.
Close to shopping, medical care, major highways, but still has rural feel.
Easy access to shopping, business, schools.
I like the relative low density of dwellings, houses, and businesses. I like the Kal-Haven trail for safe biking.
Quiet, close to city convenience, undeveloped land, green space.
So appreciate being kept so well informed by Township. Love the westside and convenience of local establishments I patronize.
I live on the out skirts of Kalamazoo with easy access to shopping areas but not congested!
Country living near city amenities.
Small town-quiet.
Close to whatever you need.
Rural living close to Kalamazoo.
Near highways, stores, restaurants.
Trees and open areas.
Low crime rate - library - parks.
Away from congestion, quiet atmosphere.
A nice community -city water.
Convenience, low traffic, quiet, clean, safe.
We enjoy being close to the many services the K-zoo area has to offer and the rural feeling of Oshtemo.
Quiet, country setting, trash & recycle services, Kal-Haven trail, winter road care. I feel safe with police and fire Dept.
Conveniently located to shopping and work.
Convenience to city, still have space and room without close neighbors, nice place to live, nice roads, good shopping close by, great fire dept. close, nice parks, we love it here, very nice place to live and raise a family, dump day.
I love the beauty of the neighborhoods, the quietness of the neighborhoods. Enjoy the rural aspect, while at the same time have convenience to retail, restaurants and fitness facilities. Also, I am appreciative of the board. They represent the constituency very well.
Quiet, natural setting, convenient to shopping, highway, etc. but without too much build up. Still just a few steps from "nature".
The library, the park, the KPS schools.
Near highway and major stores, better part of town, nicer roads.
Location, newness, breadth of housing options, school options (Otsego, K-zoo, K-Christian).
The feel of living in the country.
It's home! Good to be back in Michigan. People are friendly.
Close to area businesses. Close to expressways.
Convenience to both jobs, restaurants, stores.
Close to major roads and stores.
Rural, low density, wooded, lower taxes, agricultural.
Reasonable traffic low; access to surrounding locations; not yet full-blown "Portage-like" clone; library branch; diversity of businesses and housing types.
Close to most businesses I need, my doctors and highway access. Approx. 20 minutes from downtown, hospitals.
Rural.
Great location, good highway connections.
Openness, fire department, closeness to business and shopping, friendly people.
Location.
Great location-close to everything w/o being in the middle of everything-much lower taxes than city of K-zoo.
The rural setting is great with shopping close by and a minimum of traffic.
Living close to my doctor, bank, garage, my cpa and my financial advisor.
Country atmosphere.

Dump days, fair taxes.
New bike path/library/access to Kal-Haven trail/growth of business area.
Good roads, traffic contact, residential development.
I like the people who work in the Township offices, I once had to call all. They came quickly.
Easy access.
Quiet.
Taxes, open areas.
Feels like we live in the country but we are close to everything without the constant pressure from developers.
Fire stations close, close to main streets (stadium) and highways. Close to main streets (stadium) and highways close to town. But small town feel-underground electric.
Rural feeling but close to the shopping businesses (west main) and even downtown Kalamazoo.
Oshtemo Township is spread out nicely. going to the store, out to eat, very easy to get around.
Lower taxes, still Kalamazoo Public Schools, close to Kalamazoo downtown.
I like the feel, neighborly but not like close like in the city. I like the peace at night. I like the dump day offered at the Township hall, it is really helpful.
Quiet, peaceful.
Close to Kalamazoo.
Quiet neighborhood, close proximity to M-43, US-131, and I-94. Open spaces in western part of Township.
It's close to other areas, nice shopping, nice neighborhoods, it's got a little bit of everything!
Country feel but close to everything.
The beauty of open rural land-the openness of the Township, i.e. not high density.
Nothing in particular-it's ok.
Country Living, clean well water, hospitals & services close by.
Mattawan School District, west side of K-zoo, acreage.
The rural yet close to city, availability of commercial needs.
Mix of suburban and urban environments.
Near Kalamazoo City, easy highway access, and a growing community.
Rural feel but close to major shopping/highways/entertainment.
Starting to get sidewalks, nice planned growth.
I love being in the country, yet close enough to get to stores that offer staples (groceries, building supplies, also restaurants) I also love being able to go out at night and see the stars, not city lights. I love nature.
Close to everything, increased sheriff presence
Rural, low crime.
Feeling of being out of town. Area that takes pride in their homes.
Neighborhood - location.
Relaxed, bordering on country, yet close to city feeling. Near shopping but not all built in.
Country atmosphere, tree lined roads, convenience to shopping while being separate from noise and traffic.
Quiet, close to stores yet still rural - nice back roads for biking and hiking, nice neighbors - lots of woods and "green areas".
Quiet, wooded and yet near amenities.
Open space and green belts.

## Question 6. What would you improve about living in Oshtemo Township?

Add a sidewalk or bike lane to N. Ave. between 9th & 11th (there is a large amount bicycle and pedestrians on busy road).
I would limit the number of unsightly developments like Bella Serra and Sky King on 9th St.
Winter snow removal.
J.C. Penneys, designer outlet mall, longer library hours, more than one park area, major stores like Sears.
Maintain country like neighborhoods, replant trees, re-route gravel trucks! Stop unplanned sprawl of business area, Stop any additional group homes.
Some free facilities. Like tennis court, swimming pool, etc. more family together activity place.
Traffic flow on Stadium Drive and 9th street, balanced and smart growth, promote home ownership.
More curbs and sidewalks - cars drive too fast in the neighborhood.
A new light at the entrances of Fountain Spring, there's been several accidents please get it done before it happens to us.
Prevent urban sprawl increase bus routes; limit development.
Recycling program; show removal; building apartments and condos too close; curb "building up w/chain stores, leaf pick up non-existent; dump days offered but ability/means to get there often unrealistic.
Would like to have the "Pass with care" sign removed from in front of our mail box and replace it with a "no passing" sign. Too many accidents on this part of Stadium Drive.
Not much. We are pretty satisfied living here. Close to library and Wal-Mart.
Keeping green space, no over-commercialization, respecting nature.
Would like to see the amount of farmland being developed into subdivisions and commercial property limited. I am also concerned about the speed, volumes of traffic and truck traffic on roads such as H. Ave., G. Ave., 6th St, 10th St.
Natural gas and cable in front of house.
Increase recreational activities (swimming specifically).
To help reduce traffic on both West Main and Stadium Drive more on and off ramps on US 131 could disperse the traffic better.
The library.
Reduce the number of large apartment complexes and encourage more development of "upscale" single family dwellings. Also enforce codes with respect to older apartment complexes to prevent them from falling into disrepair. This distracts/diminishes the positive image of Oshtemo.
Leaf and trash burning ban, neighborhood speed laws enforces; trash containers should not be left out after trash pick up.
We really miss "junk" pickup. I know we can bring stuff to a location. But the convenience of putting stuff at the curb is a bonus.
High speed internet access; public information about Township plans and voice, esp. in high cost changes that are often not desired by the citizens or area residents.
For most part Oshtemo is pretty tough to beat to raise a family and run a business.
A more visible presence of sheriff's officers.
Roads are bad, lots of pot holes. Property taxes are too high.
Tax assessments are questionable in this time of real estate price declines.
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Leaf pick up; sewer line.
I don't want it to get too over-developed. I like being able to see some nature. Seriously - don't sell all the trees.
Sewers.
Removal of the Township attorney. He creates most problems.
Some roads are in a state of disrepair, promote the Hal-Haven trail more - maybe put in a play park by the trail or near it.
People drive too far under posted speed limits even in fair weather (ticket them).
Trash /leaf pick up at home not Township hall, public sewer system in residential areas.
More usable bike trails, especially on backroads where there are no shoulders.
Keep farm land and greenspaces to keep the suburban feeling. Plan development carefully.



Preservation of open space, more park - like space,

Safety (police, fire, community). Environment (pollution, litter, upkeep). Keep it rural, promote land preserves, agriculture, natural resources, recreation hiking, biking sports fields, canoe/kayak rentals, roller blade areas.

Higher quality restaurants, fewer fast foods; major stores (right they are in Portage); better shoulder on first street; trees along M-43; better ordinances (or enforcement) where there is debris on personal residential lots.

Seems to be a lot of issues between residents and elected officials although I am not sure who's at fault. Would be nice if everyone could get along and not deal with all the politics.

In natural areas we need trees and farmland too.

Roads - such as 6th St. south of Stadium.

Better plowing of streets-mainly neighborhood streets. Leaf pick up in full- and cleaner environment. Trash pick-up once a year would be great. More accurate house assessments.

Stop high density housing; maintain rural nature; keep truck routes limited away from residential housing; limit commercial and industrial development to specific areas in order to avoid becoming like Westnedge in Portage.

Stop making requirements have enticing encouragement.

Preserve more natural areas, increase biking/walking trails, focus development in commercial areas and avoid rural wooded areas.

Improved bus routes, having dog park.

Less soliciting by religious groups, "handy" people and school fundraising people. Add recycling and leaf pick-up services-mandatory "assessed fee". Add sidewalk on W. Main especially over 131.

Keep taxes low, develop the downtown area, add more sidewalks, bike paths (along Stadium Drive). Increase bus access to areas that are further out.

Less development-There are enough empty apartment complexes and McMansion Acres for everybody. Expansion should not be a "party political" issue.

A light at top of hill on South 9th Street to make for safe driving for getting into 9th street from Fountain Springs and Quail Run and another one for Prairie Ridge School entrance and exit.

That people have equal say-not based on the population of an area-equality of homeowners whether we live on more land/rural vs. density.

Less traffic, especially trucks, no more subdivisions taking over farms, no more Wal-Mart and Meijer-type stores built.

I would slow down the expansion of subdivisions (when no one is buying the homes) and ugly strip malls (that sit largely empty with no tenants). More green space-let's keep what we've got.

More tennis courts and children's parks.

A park on the east side of the Township. Bus service to 9th street Wal-Mart.

Don't over develop it.

Businesses need to stay open longer on weekdays and weekends.

Nice parks with tennis courts, volleyball courts, basketball courts for children and young adults to play at.

I would bring back the recycling station. Fire protection seems inadequate despite the high dollar equipment. More training? A full time department rather than volunteers?

Repave 6th Street from Red Arrow to N Ave. With the economy, lower property taxes?

Extend the excellent commercial lighting code to cover street lights and residential property. Reduce the deer population.

Prepare Township to deal with continuing growth demands. Hopefully, major traffic routes like Stadium Drive and west main don't become variations of S. Westnedge Avenue.

We need a traffic light here at Fountain Springs-Quail Run Drive. School is very close off of Quail Run at school. Down the street-9th Street is a very busy street.

Better plowing in winter of subdivisions, better recycling programs curbside, (check out the programs used in western suburbs of Chicago-I used to live in Lagrange IL and the garbage-recycling system worked well!).

Sidewalks/trails near high traffic areas.

More bus lines.

Doing a good job-continue present policy. Need a plan to maintain and develop roads to accommodate traffic patterns.

Continue to improve space for bike trails along roads.

Additional walking and bike paths.

Faster response to requests.

Limit the growth of housing, apartments and urban sprawl. Reduce traffic congestion.

Would like to see more restriction on architectural design, signage and lighting, though these aspects have been much better addressed than in years past.

The snow plows that break my mailbox every winter, but I think that's with the state, so really no complaints.

I think we need to promote economic development, try to bring more jobs to area. Make locating a business less restrictive so more people can work in Oshtemo more restaurants, retail and entertainment needed.

Better snow plowing, sign limitations (no flashing signs, smaller signs) limit industrial expansion. Don't let matching funds from the state dictate projects. Ex. sidewalk on West main between Meijer and 131. I feel it was only needed on one side and should have been narrower.

Road repairs.

O.K.

Lower taxes, or improve the snow plowing. I know I cannot have both, but I would like one of them.

We need KFC near W. Main and 9th St.

Better roads.

Less pizza shops - more chicken takeout.

Make Oshtemo proper more attractive (Stadium Dr. and 9th St.).

Tax rates are too high!! Housing is becoming too congested-please keep out water and sewer lines in the country areas.

Better roads-less tar and gravel in my yard-better clearing of ice on roads in winter.

Traffic speed on "H" Ave. Keep up fight for our roads. We love no more semis-thank you.

Condition of roads- ex. Quail Run, light at 9th and Quail Run. Snowplows on Quail Run roughed up grass along sides of road.

More parks.

Make sure inspectors are on top of doing their jobs.

Leaf pick up.

Repair the holes on Quail Run. Really bad.

Bike trails that would lead to Kal-Haven trailhead. Smarter land use when building neighborhoods (keep more trees, they add more value than a "prairie" neighborhood with small trees). Keep the character-we love the sheep on 9th Street, the farms to the west, Husteds stand.

Remove/do not add anymore apartments-add more special retail stores.

More sidewalks, parks.

Force out or buy Nottingham Apts. A disgrace to the Township and quality of people. Try to persuade Best Buy and Barnes and Noble to expand their Kalamazoo base. Those are the only two stores that send me to Portage now.

Lower the speed limits on 9th to 2nd St. north of West Main from 55-45 mph. Limit urban and commercial sprawl-or at least be organized when it happens.

Bigger disc golf course, less personal aircraft. Less junk cars like the ones on W. Main and Wickford Dr.

Leaf pickup, street cleaning, more than once a year in neighborhoods, ordinance about picking up after dogs.

Better road maintenance, more parks/sports field (original plan for KL landfill recreation area?) Possibly an information center or kiosk near "downtown" Oshtemo.

Less commercialism.

Can't think of anything.

I have no complaints. I want to live in a Township that does not over tax and overreach. Townships should manage the items that they are authorized to manage and leave other areas alone. So far Oshtemo seems to do that.

Road condition on 6th St. between Stadium and N. Ave. I've never seen such a bad road! Concerned about the parking lot at the entrance across from Parkview. (Hardings, Post Office, etc.) People coming off 9th cross where traffic comes in off Stadium -need caution signs.

The places and people seem to be nice and considerate around here and that is very good! The bus service is not balanced as if you go to Hardings or Meijer. The buses will take an hour or more to get back home.

Stricter and enforced personal property maintenance ordinances; design and material guidelines for new construction to better manage cheap "warehouse" construction; more green space for kids; bike paths.

The condition of some roads.

Installing sidewalks that lead from W. Main back to the Fountains (past the theater complex).

Better plowing service in winter, slow down growth of strip malls, tear down big box stores.

More things for children and families.
Traffic light at 9th street at Quail Run Drive.
More local and regional businesses.
To have sewer line on 10th St. We have water but no sewer.
Access to public transportation & taxi service.
Review traffic patterns in Stadium, Drake and KL, there appear to be long waits and excessive traffic signals.
One more gas station on Red Arrow between 9th and Mattawan would be nice.
Stop making M-43 into so many businesses - we don't want another Westnedge.
My road is poorly maintained. Also, I dislike the new forced recycling ordinance.
More sunshine.
Quality of land and businesses in the area. Quality of the apartment structures, mostly the college based areas (Copper beach, the Pointe, University club, campus court). Crime rates in the area and fires lately.
Specific: sidewalk along Drake Rd., KL to Main.
More shopping - clothing, electronics.
More parks along KL West of 9th Street. Take down the car dealership that is empty and improve landscaping along 8th St. south of West Main.
N/A
Banning leaf burning, banning smoking indoors in public places including restaurants and bars, usually air quality is good.
I would lower the speed limit on some of the roads.
Don't let it get built up. No gravel trucks.
I would clear the streets of snow in the winter for starters.
More stuff to do, parks, nightlife, cinema, concerts.
Schools, schools, schools, high school.
Better Police protection.
Improve police protection, example patrols, etc.
In the winter Stadium Drive could be plowed/salted it is usually very slippery.
More recreation trails.
Lower the property taxes; add curb-side recycling; add spring and fall garbage pick-up; import road surfaces; reduce # of new housing developments; add parks , trails & bicycle lanes on curbs.
The growth of tightly congested neighborhoods needs to be closely monitored, controlled, and limited to preserve some of the rural qualities of the Township.
Nothing real everything you need is pretty close.
Swim area or pool I would expect to pay a reasonable membership-how about a bond issue?
I would like to see some organized flea market or trade events.
Review traffic on 9th street and do something about the speed.
Keeping the roads in good repair – maintaining the number of new homes and business in the area, not over populating.
Get rid of the gravel pit and trucks coming through my neighborhood!!! Ridiculous-makes me want to move!!
Fix the roads.
My road floods every time it rains. I have no street lights. New recycling role costs more money.
More bike lanes on roads, more sidewalks, more organized open space, walking trails.
Slow development and work with KPS schools. I know have a 18 mile trip to Loy Norrix instead of 6.5 to K Central.
Natural gas on our road.
Roads should have safe bicycle lanes intersection of Carver Dr. and N. needs a blind intersection sign or reduced speed limit sign coming from the east because of a hill limiting the view.
Intersection at 10th st. and m43/w. main needs a left turn signal added to existing traffic signal. Very high traffic intersection w/ accidents.
1. Reduced traffic on M-43 & Drake Rd. via other/experienced new routes (widen KL possibly). Unfortunately new roads to main arteries are needed (like 9th St. was expanded as example) due to increased population.
2. Improved # of police protection. 3. Remodel Maple Hill Mall and wasted parking lots.

Do not let W. Main become a S. Westnedge we do not need to wreck the residential neighborhoods with more business coming west.

Lower speed limit on 1st 2nd 3rd, etc.

ROADS! 6th between Stadium Dr. and W. Avenue and Stadium Drive between 4th and 6th - very dangerous. Too many individuals burning without permits.

Bring back recycling center.

Apply term limits to all Township employees both elected and hired.

More accessible Post Office, traffic light at 9th St. and Quail Run.

Improve plowing of residential streets.

Need more sidewalk, bike trails, open space parks, need better presence of law enforcement in urban areas on Drake Road. Very unhappy with response of Oshtemo County Sherriff's Office when problems occur in apartment complex.

Quit raising property taxes. Absentee ballots appreciated.

1. Weekly recycle pick-up. 2. Continue to fight to keep the gravel trucks off 10th street. 3. Twice a year junk pick-up at the curb.

Lower taxes.

Nothing at this time.

No gravel pits, (goes without saying). Better up keep of roads.

We have enough urban growth as well as businesses. Cut back on the growth.

More police coverage, more businesses to offset taxes. More community activities.

Check neighbors for keeping their property clean per house on Fairgrave - cars and junk.

Stopping urban sprawl, protecting farmland and medium to large parcels from development. Give incentives to improve existing areas that need redevelopment. Green incentitives.

Speed bumps on my street. Coddington Lane in Oshtemo Woods sub. lots of small children in this growing subdivision. Trash pick-up monthly like in Kalamazoo.

Pleased with the area. Snow removal could be better and recycling program, but its better than surrounding areas (not to mention some of the responsibility is independently contracted and not the towns responsibility).

More bike trails, or at least better shoulders (paved would be best). Also more parks that provide biking and walking. Along with play areas for little kids, too.

Less traffic, less fields turning into housing complexes.

Keep some non-commercial areas! More rural.

Improve water quality; lower taxes, better traffic control (Drake Rd., W. Main), prompt response fire/police, limit number of students; opening between Green Meadow and KL Ave.

Work on roads - need to be better.

The 9th St. has gotten busy sense Wal-Mart has open. We have one way to come out of Fountain Springs. A light there or a second way out of here.

Our street needs paved, getting worse since we moved here 9 months ago. Would rather have sanitary sewer rather than septic.

Stop burning of leaves.

Parks and amenities, a safe bike/walk trail with the Township.

More job creating activity.

More diversity - blacks.

Traffic light at 9th St. Fountain Springs entrance.

Would like to have more shopping, such as quality dept. stores. I miss the two malls we had 20 years ago.

More quality police protection and neighborhood patrols.

Better planning, to consider existing residences.

Bike paths, dog park very important.

New high school, so don't have to send kids to Loy Norrix.

Snow plowing & deicing of roads in winter.

More restaurants, boutiques, unique shops, dog park, major department store like Macys. I would like Yonkers to come to the west side of Kalamazoo.

Would like sewer/water instead of septic/well, have options for cable other than Comcast, fix power grid as we lose power a lot.

The crime, we need more police!

Reduce development.
More police coverage, people speeding thru main roads, more bike trials, thru woods and parks, not more on West Main. Move recreational like basketball courts. Leaf pickup.
I would LOVE a community pool to join.
More recreation areas, bike, paths and trails.
A wonderful place to love.
More free water hydrants, underground propane service.
Productivity of staff at Township office. Too much staff Township itself.
No more mobile home parks, please. Doubt we need more arts either.
Continued development.
The traffic on West Main from 131 to Drake is a pain.
Roads and taxes. Yet this is a contradiction. However, living in Stratford Hills I see little benefit from the Township.
Increase police coverage, slow down commercial development (less "pave it and tax it"), keep assessments realistic, drop speed limits on main roads.
More bike paths on 9th Street from W Main to Flescher Field.
Keep commercial and density populations in existing places. No not allow to "creep" or sprawl. We don't need a bank on every corner and five in between or -every food (especially fast) that exists.
Town center.
Put a red light at the corner of H & 6th and make it a four way stop. Keep gravel trucks off of 6th St. A lot more people will be affected by them than on 10th St. Lower property taxes when home values decline.
The roads and streets are going to need re-surfacing in the very near future! Our neighborhood is crumbling dramatically.
Completely satisfied, no changes are needed.
Better traffic management-cars and drivers ignore speed limits on Quail Run Drive and use it as a "cut through" - thus, endangering lives and eroding quality of life of homeowners.
More walking (sidewalks) on the Stadium - from Ryksies to 8th St., and on 9th St. from Main to Stadium.
Development of walking and bicycling trails and parks; a larger library.
Better control of home maintenance in neighborhoods, many parked cars, boat in driveway filled with junk, broken fences, gutters hanging off house, loose roaming dogs - impossible to sell home if this in you neighborhoods.
Quality of side roads. Lower taxes. Speed limit on side roads. Mail delivery earlier. Figure out how to have less power outages. Leaf pick up service.
Implement a "no burning" law.
Our neighborhood streets need paving, some new and contemporary stores in the Stadium/9th St. area, i.e. Barnes & Noble or Borders, a college-friendly clothing store, etc. has anyone seen Brighton lately, Wow!
Roads, adequate police protection more up-to-date persons on Township Board that will live and govern in 2009 not the 50's.
Do away with gravel pit or give them their own road. And not let Allen Edwin develop in any Oshtemo Township area.
Take stress off N. Ave. and 11th St. by working with county road commission to construct a service road between N Ave. & Beatrice Rd.
Sidewalks since I had to sell my car so need to walk to bank, stores and restaurants.
Bike paths, leaf pick-up.
No comment.
Snow removal in our neighborhood, more and better restaurants, bike paths on streets, leaf pickup.
More bike paths.
Minimize development of businesses - e.g. Wal-Mart & others like them. Begin more development of homes/housing. I hope this area doesn't begin to look like Westnedge Ave in Portage.
Clean up more peoples yards, Handeys Market, get rid of the car wash or clean it up.
Street repairs, the way the college kids drive that live behind us.
Would like to have more bike paths and sidewalks in developed areas. Public transportation system for developed areas.
Road between Stadium & N. Ave repave stop filling in multiple holes. Introduce inexpensive teen programs and festivities to be more involved with residents.

I live in West Port trails on the north side of H. Ave we have people that don't live in here who park and walk their dogs. Those dogs poop all over the yards. I try to keep things nice around here, there should be a law against this.

Limit apartment complex development, add green space such as parks. Oshtemo used to be rural now it looks like Westnedge.

Night life - things to do besides going out to bars.

Nothing.

Ban all outdoor burning of leaves & brush in platted areas. Require participation in recycling.

Stop building in country. Start trying to fill up existing homes not build new homes see if it would work out to have buses go further.

A video rental by M-43, e.g. Blockbuster, Hollywood Video. Best Buy by M-43 & 9th. Bring move people from nearby areas.

I don't know but thank you for working hard to try and keep it a quality place.

Better road maintenance on 6th South of Stadium - lower property taxes.

More sidewalks that are completed (not stop and pick up later down the road). This would help walkers get from one business to another easily.

No opinion.

Trying to control sprawl and building too many houses in a small area. Control spread of shopping centers and large business - use brownfield areas and empty building, ie. Franks.

Be cautious when dealing with the gravel pit situation. An unfavorable ruling could put a terrible financial burden on the restaurants of the Township. We can't get them out. I hate the notion of giving up, but I hate to see all of the other benefits of the Twp. suffer because of the situation.....

Lower speed limits on roads with a lot of residential.

Taxes - currently we are among the highest counties/townships in the state (drive down Kalamazoo taxes)  
Improve school systems!!!!

Don't give up fight against gravel trucks on 10th street. Improve trail markings in Oshtemo park. bike paths.

A stronger core existence for central Oshtemo "City".

My rental rate I think is higher than it should be but I don't believe that is controlled by the Township.

I love living in this Twp. but am fearful that with all the building in a few years, you might as well live in the city and the animals (deer, etc.) that we love to see will have no place to live.

Can't think of any.

Lower taxes.

So not allow the gravel pit to rundown 10th St. major mistake to Oshtemo.

Roads especially in winter.

Less subsidized housing. Seems to cause increase in crime.

More police visibility.

Some streets are in poor shape, need to be improved.

We would like sewers instead of septic tanks, fewer apartment, more upscale shopping.

Please pave 6th St. between Stadium and N. Ave. We need to protect the open and wooded areas.

Keep it very much the same. They library, Township offices, fire stations are great. We really need to have local police protection!

More bike paths, bike lanes on all roads.

Need public sewer run out further into Township.

More police patrol for the whole area.

Trash pick-up and recycling should be limited to 1 day per week per neighborhood.

More jobs!

Lower taxes and fees.

No opinion.

Monthly drop off of brush and yard waste. Protection of non-developed land limiting retail building on undeveloped land.

Catching the speeders that fly down Stadium Drive.

Better zoning -- separate housing further from commercial property.

Additional landscaping requirements along roadways for new commercial developments or large housing developments.

Reduce property taxes. The property taxes are outrageous! School district change for middle/high school appear to have been done solely for \$\$\$. Definitely was not for the benefit of our children.
Close to shopping and restaurants. Easy access to east-west and north-south highways.
Increase the biking paths and bike lanes throughout the Township, have sewer plan in place when major street repairs are made in the housing areas.
Better zoning, more locally owned businesses/restaurants.
In the winter, the plow takes a while to clear the streets and sometimes causes a hazard for those that live and visit (sliding into curve, getting stuck, school busses having driving issues).
City water and sewers.
Soften noise from 9th street.
No opinion.
General quality and level of housing. Quality and general education level of residents -- limit new apartment complexes, subsidized housing.
Better enforcement of traffic speeds on M-43. A Township board that listens better and responds to residents needs. Decisions that impacting walled that are not necessary in this economic climate i.e. Bike Path/walking path.
Family restaurants decrease speed limit on some congested areas -- put up signs -- do not block driveways -- residential -- more upgrade clothing stores.
Not give in to Alamo Twp. and aggregate industries.
Better bike paths along the roads.
Limiting the amount of development especially neighborhoods like Allen Edwin Homes.
Street improvement-stop lights synchronized-Stadium and 9th street stop lights improved.
Sidewalks in suburban areas.
More pedestrian walkways on the 9th. St. area, more bicycle paths.
Road conditions.
I would like to see more sidewalks along Drake. (the K-zoo side has them). We all need to walk more.
Stop light and 4 way stop corners on Drake north of Main, put a recycle station by the Township office on W. Main.
More sheriff presence, road patrols.
Keep commercial growth restricted from residential areas.
Parks and signals that give a person time to cross the street.
Traffic congestion, low density families (families, low income, people who do not take pride in the area).
Fill potholes, keep gravel pit out, do everything you can to keep taxes low, let library migrate to electronic, quicker plowing side streets in winter, don't build recreation anything.
Curbside leaf pick up.
I wish the taxes weren't so high so I could locate my business closer to home. Right now I've had to keep my business in other Townships because of the taxes and while expanding I've had to expand elsewhere.
Fewer trucks.
Address the problem of the drainage point at the edge of 10th St. and West Point. Continue to work against allowing gravel trucks to travel on 10th Street.
Need a shoe repair store on Stadium Drive or West Main.
Timelines of snow plowing side streets in winter. More community events like festivals or parades, etc. as a way to foster sense of community and meet neighbors.
Cable tv.
No gravel pit nearby-or road use from their trucks! More leaf pickup services (not necessarily curbside, but more available drop-off needed in spring), more frequent recycle services.
Have own police dept. not the Sheriff -- he doesn't know the people like local police would.
West Main to Oshtemo at Stadium for 9th Street. Stop light @ Quail Run and 9th Street. A second entrance/exit to 8th St. from Fountain Springs. A sidewalk on 9th St. from W. Main to Stadium.
Widening Red Arrow past 4th St.
I wish they could improve the roads as in completely relay them and not just fill the wholes (S. 6th street between Stadium and N. Ave. is in desperate need of a redo).
Better public transportation - e.g., commuter bus line along M-43 into WMU campus, downtown, more sidewalks -- especially LK Ave. from Drake to 9th and all new development should require sidewalks; not happy about commercial sprawl west on W. Main.

Improve quality of water.
More bike paths.
Set aside more space for parks as the township gets more developed. Establish bike paths-could become important if gas prices go up a lot. Leave some areas natural.
Many family events.
Control the number of new developments (too many already with too much increase traffic (noise) by limiting new roads or increasing lot size 2. Prohibit further MHC development.
Better enforcement of speed limits on "rural" roads. Planned pick-up of non-routine track (yearly).
Enough taxes! And if you build a new facility with tax money allow the tax payers to vote on the spending.
Current ordinances are not readily enforced and additional laws are needed. Our dwellings are allowed to dilapidate as more rental properties exist in single family areas. Junk, trash, and abandoned vehicles, create public safety and welfare issues.
A stop light at Fountain Springs and S. 9th St. eliminations of property or personal taxes in manufacturing communities since there is every high rate of tax "yes". Community pays every year with very little service rendered.
Install a traffic light in front of Hope Woods apartment.
Nothing but the land felt on G. Ave. It's great here.
Lower taxes!! Less crime please.
Stadium too many lights by 9th St. Some people are going to be hurt. Post office needs a driveway off Stadium.
Add a stop light to 6th & W. Main. Encourage more small business development.
Sidewalk- Croyden to Mall Dr. and Mall Drive to W. Main.
Lower taxes.
More better walking and bicycle trails. Better control of heavy truck traffic.
Keep heavy business (gravel mines) out of Township sidewalks.
I would like more bike paths and lanes so one could bike to stores and town centers. I would like less dense commercial development. Existing empty stores should be filled before new stores and more paving is allowed. Empty store fronts and lots become eyesores. e.g. Maplewood mall.
More parks.
Fewer apartments, more bicycle paths.
Reduce government by merging Townships.
Less apartments.
Hope you fill potholes on quail run drive other than that-like the area and township a lot.
Less traffic on Drake Road!
Decrease Township staff, eliminate library tax paid to Kalamazoo which benefits only a few.
Lower the speed limit on 11th St. between Parkview and "N" Ave. to 40 mph. Snow plowing.
Barking dog ordinance, better snow plowing service, leaf pick-up, large trash pick-up, no leaf burning in neighborhoods. Lower taxes considering what benefits we get.
Lower taxes, especially library tax.
Sewer.
A farmers market with locally grown foods. A lower speed limit on 9th street between KL Ave. and the new school.
Not sure.
Newer, updated schools, small classrooms, especially high school.
Board term limits, greater variety in food service choices available, more dump days - some homes could use it.
We'd really like city sewers, and no aggregate (that gravel company north of us) NOT to our roads, and cause traffic, dust, congestion.
Emergency sirens (can't hear them where we live) lower speed limit on KL Ave due to more residents and traffic.
Snow removal off main roads, parks north of stadium Police patrol - takes 2 hours to get a response.
A little more planning needs to occur in regards to drainage basins. Many are over capacity, threatening homes. Prefer the more natural looking basins vs. those with fences around them. For developers to set aside more space for this. Also need to worry about traffic control with increased development.



Leaf pickup; no gravel pit traffic; do away with some of the truck traffic.

Sidewalks on stadium between 8th and 9th Sts. badly needed.

More walking and bike paths, lower speed on M-43, one good breakfast joint, no more retail build up, actually stop building homes-keep the green spaces, more community events.

No park to go swimming in summer.

Good Township office communication.

More "green" development encourages and sought; fewer "bomb crater" stormwater detention ponds (there are better ways); encourage/mandate streetscaping to soften property frontage (business and commercial through tax breaks or other positive incentives for behavior changes).

Keep open land, more sheriff patrol, good 911 response.

Would like city sewer instead of septic system.

Overall I'm pretty satisfied with things.

More control of developers ex: empty condo's and office buildings that were constructed on 10th street near 131. All trees were demolished on this property and the landscaping (trees mainly) was not replaced.

The only thing I can suggest would be more signal lights, especially here at Hope Woods, its quite dangerous to make a left hand turn to get out on Stadium.

More police protection.

Enough apartment houses-no more and no more businesses on Drake Road, more traffic now than safety allows.

Remove the "lake" on 10th street because it flooded my house.

Improved traffic flow w/turn light at 10th Improved access to recycling/yard waste. Monitor fire truck calls to 10th Street-why so many at what \$.

Last year my mailbox was destroyed by the plow. I feel the township should replace the post and mailbox.

This light by Ted and Marias get rid of it - accident waiting to happen.

Less low income housing.

Natural gas, water/sewer.

Can't really think of anything.

I love living in Oshtemo and can't come up with any truly helpful suggestions here.

I like it No more government housing.

No billboards, hide commercial sites with lots of green (trees, bushes, etc.).

Public h2O and sewage.

I wish there was a few stores over here more like a Sam's Club or like a Best Buy.

Less regulation.

Police protection.

H Ave., 9th St., 10th St., etc. to the main roads-Drake-West Main, etc.

Some roads are in bad shape.

Not to allow too many businesses or large "cookie cutter" developments into the Township.

Improve some of the roads. Specifically, the section of 6th Street between "N" Ave. and Stadium Dr. is in awful condition. And that sections carry a lot of traffic.

A true "downtown" or city center. The 9th/stadium Dr. setup is a disaster! Poor traffic control, ugly development. Think Woodbridge.

The green space in mall areas and the traffic flow in mall areas.

High taxes.

Need to increase amount of commercial along main roads.

Sidewalks, recreation trails, and parks.

More park activities, bike trails, hiking trails.

More sidewalks on 9th St to West Main.

Keeping outdoor lighting down.... no street lights... low emission lights from businesses.

Leave natural land for wildlife. We have had as many as 13 deer and we live in a neighborhood.

Making people clean up their surroundings. Number of vehicles in driveways.

Leaf pick-up - walking and biking trails or paths along 11th St.

Keep gravel trucks off of 10th Street.

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Improve streets with shoulders for walking/biking. More natural preserve with public access. More public access to lakes for small fishing boats.

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Keep business at a minimum and housing "developments" as well.

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Keeping good separation of residential and commercial.

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Controlled development and traffic density.

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**Question 10. Please review the following list of terms that can be used to describe the character of a community. Select up to three terms that best describe the character of Oshtemo Township today.**

**Other:**

Becoming congested
Kal-Haven Trail
School friendly
Some agricultural and farm land (especially sheep)
Poorly regulated
Endangered natural spaces
College students
Stable
Balance homes/commercial
Under regulated
Reckless traffic
Lacks cohesiveness, lacks character, lack amenities like shopping mall/restaurants
Peaceful
Under regulated or inadequately enforced
Township Trustee, Bushouse needs to go
Diverse
Not business friendly

**Question 17. Pressure for additional commercial development is anticipated over the next 10-20 years. Where would you like this commercial development to be directed?**

**Other:**

Stadium to 7th street
Move county road garage area. Where trucks get gravel salt, off West Main.
Stadium Drive
Keep consolidated where already congested
No more commercial development
Not in Oshtemo
Stadium Drive
Stadium Dr. - West Parkview Avenue
Stadium at 9th and 8 <sup>th</sup>
Parkview/12 <sup>th</sup>
North of 9th and Main
W. Main between 8th & 6th St.
West on KL Ave.
Tenth St.
Stadium & 9 <sup>th</sup> .
Stadium Drive
East of 8th Street
Drake and KL Stadium
Stadium 9th to 11 <sup>th</sup>
None
West of 7th Street
Stadium east of 9th Street
Evenly - less congestion.
Keep it east of 8th St.
Stadium east of 9th St.
Keep commercial with commercial not mixed in with residential
W. Main Street, north of 9th Street
Stadium Drive
I simply do not want to see farmland acquired and turned into commercial property.
Stadium
Stadium and 9th
9th Street south of KL
Stadium E. of 8th
Stadium Drives 9th to 6th
No high concentration works well!
West Main and Van Kal
KL Ave., north of 9th St.
West of Stadium and 9th St.
None.
Anything to help tax base.
9th St between Stadium H Ave (expand business parks)
South of Stadium
10th St.
W. Main, West of 9th St.

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No where.

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Stadium Drive, West Main is turning into another Westnedge and should be avoided!

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Stadium W. of 9th

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Stadium Drive and Drake Road

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Stadium east of 9th St. and 9th St. south to 94

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**Question 18. What types of industry would you like to see develop in the Township?**

**Other:**

Retail
Repair facilities motorcycle, car, etc.
Any and all business
Anything that will employ people
A bus line between 9th St. and 8th St.
Brew pubs, all retail, wineries, entertainment restaurants.
Ag/greenhouse
Commercial
Any doesn't matter as long as they follow ordinances/laws and township enforces laws
Restaurants
Office space
Retail and shops
All of which are energy and environmentally related development
Uncertain, possibly R&D and life sciences
All the above
Commercial
Retail
Medical
Education
Alternative energy
Office Parks
Agriculture
Green
Green tech
Entertainment
Light industrial
Small service business/light industry
Anything to help the tax base
Alternative transportation = batteries, etc.
Stores, restaurants
Wind Power Plant
Mall

**Question 19. Where would you like this industrial development to be directed?**

**Other:**

None
None
On main roads
Parkview and 12th
Stadium Drive east of 8th Street
new business park?
At Old Elks Club golf course it's ruined/surrounded anyway
East of 8th Street
Kull Area
Downtown
Not developed
All that land on M-43 toward 9th Street
Stadium Drive East toward campus
West Main Street and 6th Street
W. Main West of 8th St.
West Main - East of 9th
Repurpose existing closed business
No development
Downtown
No where
KL 8th/Drake Rd.

**Question 20. Imagine 20 years into the future... Please describe Oshtemo Township as you would like it to be?**

A balanced community; some industry, some commercial, residential of all price ranges, open spaces, large lot sizes, low density, no congestion.
Still relatively low density population and more of a rural character. Provide the basic necessities for consumers, but leave the malls, traffic and congestion to Portage.
Family friendly
Parks, country style neighborhoods, nicely maintained roads, well planned mix of business and home.
A well designed suburban
Quiet streets no boom boxes; no big sand trucks
A community of homeowners who are dedicated to their neighborhoods and families.
Happy place to live
A Township that has been a good steward of the environment. One that leads the area in CO Reduction because all planning is assessed by an environmental committee
Not crowded; not commercial; neighborhoods; sidewalks or walking paths; recycling encourages and not charged; family friendly
The landfill area cleaned up or used in some way. Do not over develop commercially or with homes NW of 8th St & Stadium Drive. Encourage and don't regulate what little agriculture we have. No more Township ownership of private land. We don't need bigger gov't at any level.
Less congested, better roads, more police cars
Like it is now. Maybe a little more progressive would be ok
Commercial development limited to 9th St. and Drake Rd. (east to west) and W. Main to I-94 (north to south)
Would like to see natural landscape preserved. Would like to see limited commercial/industrial development.
More developed on East side and rural on west side
Family area with access to good schools, parks and recreation. No further increase in amt. of traffic.
A well regulated community I think the Townships surrounding Kalamazoo should work more closely together, perhaps as a stronger county, to avoid duplication of costly services
Balanced
In my opinion, the most desirable communities offer an aesthetically pleasing environment with open spaces, green spaces, attractively maintained buildings and pleasant, safe well-maintained neighborhoods. Upscale restaurants, upscale stores and a plethora of cultural offerings only add to the overall appeal of a community.
I would like to see a few single family neighborhoods developed. Open land should be preserved. Walking paths are not really necessary because we have the Kale-Haven Trail.
Peaceful, the place everyone want to live. no housing behind Meijer, we love the land and animals in our back yard not too many Allen Edwin's and if there are the design needs to be different we have a few in our neighborhood and they are fine, just don't want everything to look the same
Like it is today - consolidated areas of commercial, industrial, and residential with lots of rural open areas
A good, careful mix of new commercial, industrial areas along with planned neighborhoods that are not full of crammed houses
A progressive, well run and environmentally friendly community
It is well managed, like today. Its rural nature is preserved; it's why families come here. Industry is welcome; and it's siting/location is managed. Its development considers the "Kalamazoo Promise".
A good balance of homes, businesses and rural settings
Growing, vibrant community with well defined residential and commercial areas
I am scared to imagine it, because I already know there is not going to be a tree left in sight, this is a nice area of the city and it's already getting too congested. (west main)
I like it how it is
Retain its rural nature and become more like Alamo Twp. City planning and sidewalks should be abolished
I don't want to see major development of the west side of the township. The way it is set up now is great - maybe more parks or walking trails sometimes Kal-Haven is too long
A wooded, rural area that is unique in the county because the Township has succeeded in maintaining its rural low density atmosphere when other areas around it have failed to do so.



Not much different than it is today. I imagine the West Main/9th St. corridor will be fully developed commercially, but hopefully the areas north and east will retain their rural feel.
Wooded/rolling/natural/ low density west of 8th St.
Keep the park like atmosphere Require businesses to plant trees and natural plantings
As it is currently; but more jobs for people
Developed agriculturally, natural resources, green living, recycle, renew, reuse. Where I can enjoy my yard and the sounds of birds singing and not the noise of traffic or factories. A healthy place. A safe place.
Modern, clean industry - wide open spaces, large lots, pockets of upscale shopping and eating, upscale homes and low density, wonderful library, township beautification
Similar to now but additional development west on M-43 would be ok
A balance of single family dwellings, retail business and natural spaces - we don't need to development every inch of woodland and farmland
Not much different. There is already good access to retail, churches, entertainment and major highways. I would like lower speed limits on rural roads west of 9th and south of West Main.
Family friendly, safe, clean, lots of bike trails, parks, and restaurants. More accurate housing assessment. More nice family neighborhoods.
Single family; residential; low density; no increase in small lots; protected open spaces, commercial development west of 8th Street if necessary
Change is inevitable. I'd like to see residents be able to improve their property with encouragement from the Township
Retain its rolling wooded character/well planned development designed to compliment the green space.
Suburban, many green spaces, little commercial development well regulated for family-friendly living.
No gravel pit in Township or its traffic from other Townships. Green spaces and more trees i.e. 10th Street North of M-43/West Main where condos are built.
A place where business and residential development takes into account the need to maintain natural areas.
Family friendly, environmentally progressive/green spaces, wooded areas/non-invasive (not manufacturing) Industry Protection of existing neighborhoods from uncontrolled growth - more - student apartment complexes, etc.
I would like to see nature preserved, family friendly, progress in job related businesses, affordable education for all children, affordable health insurance and more importantly preventive health coverage.
An active business and entertainment area with rural housing, small rural neighborhoods with a country-like atmosphere. An area of suburban housing with services like bussing...for the elderly and those who like a city feeling/advantages
Suburban sprawl halted. Natural areas expanded. More bike paths, less traffic. No huge rock-hauling trucks. promoting agriculture and locally-owned businesses over developing more subdivisions and national chain stores
I won't be here, but if I were, would not want to see overdevelopment
I'd like to think that the Township would continue to be family-friendly, with green spaces, walking and biking trails (and/or sidewalks on w. main), and not overcrowded
Just to improve on what we already have. I love my area
I like the way it is now. I don't want too much over-development in my area. Please leave the sheep farm alone!
I would like to see less meth labs in the area. Especially when the focus is always on the south and north end of town
I would like a mall (the size of crossroads of bigger) on the west side of Kalamazoo. A wide variety of restaurants and plenty more businesses
Natural, safe, economical, clean, environmentally minded, politically neutral
We need to keep our farmlands and wooded areas to preserve wildlife
A few areas of commercial development, a modest increase in multifamily housing and single family developments (depending upon population trends) interspersed with farms and wooded, undeveloped areas
Commercial development is inevitable-avoid commercial sprawl. Concentrate on "clean" business. Diversity in population and income levels will make it a community in balance.
Continued with good neighborhoods but also lots of open country and wooded areas, don't want to see it overbuilt with multifamily, low income housing, or industrial developments
Family friendly, recreational eccentric
More diverse, commercial community yet keeping the natural preservation in some areas.

Family neighborhoods, low density, good services, and promote quality schools, maintain low crime level
Same as is now
I would like to see continued expansion of the bike trail system along the main arteries- West Main, 9th Street, and 10th Street, stadium drive with continued commercial development along West Main/Stadium.
Residences being developed without destroying the rural atmosphere
The same as today except with more biking and walking paths along roads, similar to along West Main by Meijer but on some of the connecting roads (9th, 10th)
Keep the open space. Retard the growth of apartments, condos and plats. Better manage the traffic. The 9th and Stadium area is a mess!
I am hoping for a buy out where I live for commercial property that will pay all my debts, but Oshtemo is a wonderful township to live. I love it.
I see a good place to live on the back roads, with plenty of shopping, restaurants, and entertainment on main roads with all type of work available on main roads.
hardware store and drug store corner of Stadium and 9th Street, maybe little shopping center in that area along 9th
A swimming pool in Oshtemo park; a tennis court in Oshtemo Park (lighted-outside) Buy land south of West Main just west of 10th for little league park, sell the white building on corner of Park and Stadium. sell old house Township bought
Public transportation (bus service)
Clean, easy to walk around. Bike access larger areas. Crime down or crime free. Easy access to transportation
Just like it is as much as possible
As close to the way it is, without any major development
Well maintained - some new businesses tied into the WMU tech area still a family community - with a good, response first police dept - (low crime). Mostly single family, or duplex homes, well maintained park areas. It's pretty good right now.
Family Friendly an still somewhat rural and quiet. Keep the baggage that comes with city living in the city.
Not total blacktop
As much as it is today-fewer developments taking away natural beauty land. Wetland areas preserved! No mandatory hook-ups for city water and sewer! Keep it country!!
Won't make any difference to me
Same as today
Maintained quality of houses, condos, etc. So it doesn't become anything close to a "ghetto"!
More high tech jobs
Still lots of trees and agriculture. Not fast food for miles! It should be distinguishable from other cities in the US. Farmers markets, trail rides, good parks. Businesses tucked into wooded settings
Slower growth and please stay as great as it is now.
Nice housing (single family) with more retail shopping and not junk stores
How it is today but wit less commercial emptiness. No more big box stores and not increased traffic lights. keep the structures, such as new bridge on 9th St. natural in its looks and surroundings
All the main streets with business. All the side roads left to homes and wooded nature
Growth no further than 4th street. New stadium/west main bridges/ramps over 131. Raise Amtrak onto a trestle at drake. No more trailer parks. fade out and acquire older housing/apts complex
I would like to see the stars at night...although I am already affected by light pollution. I don't want to see McMansions in my back yard and I don't want to live and drive in congestion
Much of the same. a few more subdivisions and parks
Balance between commercial development and residential/wooded spaces
Walkways/bike paths on 9th St. between KVCC and West main; park/open space with small shops, restaurants with setting similar to Parkview Hills shops-anything to change the present view of 9th St./Stadium Dr. intersection
More low-density housing areas
I like it the way it is
Steady growth ok but not crowded growth for the sake of growth. Encouraging all types of growth for the sake of increasing tax revenue should not be done
More commercial development out to 6th Street off Stadium. Continue to keep the feeling of country living yet accessible to commercial areas.

It would be better if things were more evenly placed. Where you can find stores and restaurants often enough when traveling or walking. Now it is either lots of places or housing in one area, then miles of woods, fields etc. in another area
Keyword: balance; new construction (quality) taking natural surroundings into high account
Convenient but natural, parks, more bike and walking trails, beautified with plants and flowers (sound like a dream)
Rural, residential, keep as much open space as possible, a land use plan that supports the development of existing corporate campuses/business parks, limit commercial development to small areas within township
Local and regional based businesses
I would like to see 2 or more "high end" retail stores in the W. Main Drake area. The soccer complex developed along KL would be appreciated.
I would like to see Oshtemo Township like east Grand Rapids with clean and pleasing setting with little development in wooded areas.
Peaceful, small areas of local merchants, parks.
Protect the awesome sheep pasture. The same as it is now.
Less cheap housing structures - replaced with nice living quarters, a park of two with industrial development relating to the look and feel of downtown Kalamazoo. Business or/and family oriented. Safe and minimum crime.
Like now.
Community centered, nice areas for homes/condos for all family groups. More businesses.
More parks, walking trails, more water. Keep Buckham Farms as it is the BEST part of living in the area!
Mandatory recycling of household materials from residential apartment complexes - onsite collection, criminal prosecution of anyone stealing shopping carts then abandoning shopping carts away from the stores the carts belong to. Curbside leaf pick-up, plenty and banning of leaf burning entirely.
More of the same generally
Rural neighborhoods, relatively quiet and peaceful, natural, lots of trees and space
We won't be here in 20 years
I won't be here
A little more residential - especially my neighborhood filling up, but close to the same.
More parks and recreation, high-tech / research to support local schools/universities/college. More small business, retail products
Parks, open spaces, trails, family oriented
Still have family friendly neighborhood but developed in office/ tech industry research industry to improve tax base along stadium and eastern side of township. Improve single family living in western half allowing for natural settings
Safe & secure with a good balance between development and rural
Urban are incorporated with nature areas
I hope that growth does not detract from the current rural feel of the western part of the township
Rural low property taxes, spring trash pick-up & curbside recycling, better roads
Not so congested with traffic, find traffic very unnerving
Similar to the Westnedge/Romence area of Portage but contained to the Drake Road/8th street area with open, rolling country areas preserved. New, multi-family developments will be needed but should be dispersed so the "rural flavor" remains.
I would like to see a safe and beautiful area where people could live well and be paid well. I also would like a strong retail area
Family friendly and activity oriented. Recreation based programs, parks and events
The main artery will be lined with commercial and industrial parks. the rest will be into housing of low to high density
More parks and sidewalks, no more businesses!
Don't expect to be here
Still small town atmosphere – some industry but not so much as to lose the small town feeling family friendly areas. Keep the open space
Bike lanes on every street. Local restaurant/bars/grocery/pizza within 1-5 miles of every neighborhood. More open playgrounds/recreation spots, pools, gyms, basketball courts etc. Local schools that you don't have a min. 30 min. drive to get to

Let's keep are kids on the side of the county for school. Keep open space maybe a neighborhood sharing horse barn and riding area. stuff like that
Additional linear parks for hiking, biking, for example-old fruitbelt model after Portage Creek linear park
Current with more businesses
Commercial areas and students apartment complexes wasting reduced. The apt. complex on Drake N. of W. Main GONE. - Cheap eyesore. West Main Maple Hall Mall rebuilt i.e.: smaller, compact. Existing unused parking lots restricted to green space.
I am afraid the farming community is going to be gone in the future.
I think we have honest and hard working township staff. I hope it stays that way.
Family and working professionals in neighborhoods, better roads, less commercial or controlled commercial development.
Green.
Unless Kalamazoo improves its school population Oshtemo should consider its own school system. Consider our water and sewage system in 20 yrs. We may have to draw water from Lake Michigan as cities on the east side of the state (Lake Huron, Saginaw Bay)
Same balance of residential/commercial/industrial.
Mixture of open space, suburban housing, business, and industrial sites, but not a suburban sprawl.
Safe areas for property owners, etc. Lower property taxes and not keeping and raising the assess evaluation of dwelling.
I would like Oshtemo Township to retain its rural flavor and yet have it take part in commercial and industrial development to increase our tax base.
Build on 9th Street south of W. Main. Keep the residential areas as they are. Protect the property values by restricting small lots. Keep the country feel to our Township. Keep fighting the gravel trucks on 10th Street.
Thriving, family friendly, safe and low taxes.
I like where I live and wouldn't make any changes at this time.
Family oriented neighborhoods with solicited industrial area and most of commercial businesses along West Main.
Stay like it is no more development
A thriving business community with quality of life for homeowners. I like to keep my dollars in my community. We need to be progressive to offset infrastructure costs.
More homes, light business with open areas.
I would like to see redevelopment, along West Main in the area of the malls. We need to preserve land, allowing Oshtemo to be rural community where crime is still low, education is good, and nature is abundant.
Higher end housing - single family.
Keep the west side open/preserve forestland (west of 131).
Rural, yet close to businesses w/o having to drive far into the city. Good roads where having trucks are restricted so they'll be preserved. Safe neighborhoods, etc.
Parks, natural spaces (i.e.: the Anderson Arb) sidewalks to those places, bike trails along roads, pedestrian bridge over 131 interchange lower pass so families can access business on W. Main.
A quiet rural family-friendly community close to, but not center of, Commerce.
Safe place to raise children; progressive, in tune with residents. Public transportation, green areas.
Haven't given much thought
Any future subdivisions should have larger lots than currently allowed to maintain the open space we have. No more apartments or mobile home parks. Require trees for new subdivisions or save ones already there.
20 years from now, I see this whole area expanding twice as big as it is. This area has a lot of open spaces that will be filled. The school credit union across the street is expanding. We have 2 schools in the area.
See question #5
No commercial development, bike and walking trails, neighborhood parks, no gravel pits.
Crowded, small communities but vibrant, easy accessible, public transportation much improved life train, I hope to see those same old trees in my neighborhood
A clean growth area
To be able to go outside on spring and fall days, without choking on the smell of cancer causing burning leaves.
Basically like it the way it is
Heavy industrial base

Neighborhood communities - schools, some commercial
Comparing the last 20 years of development, to the future 20 years, we would like to see our township stay between the past 5 to 10 years and the way it exists today. Otherwise, our township would become too heavily developed.
Commercial/Industrial/neighborhoods on the east side for tax basis and natural - open to township residents, natural areas to the west.
Family and business friendly, recreation area for walking, biking and a dog park
I vision growth to west of K-zoo on all roads and I-94-West
All homes to be on 1+ acre lots, more ponds, parks, wooded areas
Vibrant business, shopping community with family friendly neighborhoods.
Maintain rural nature, minimize growth.
No idea
I hope not to live in Oshtemo in 20 years. I don't feel safe here at all!
A lot of green natural space with bike trails to WMU campuses and downtown.
Continue open space, commercial development east of 9th St. south of KL Ave.
Continuing balance of homes & commercial. Keep commercial in clusters around West Main, East of 8th St. & Stadium Drive from 131 to 6th St. & 9th St. from W. Main, south to Stadium
Not congested, still maintain a somewhat rural feeling. A nice place to walk and ride bikes to bank, post office, ice cream shop.
Logical development
Primarily rural, nice neighborhoods, commercial at east end (much as it is now).
Fire dept has too much power and dictates things where there is no regulations. We have over zealous parking enforcers. Oshtemo has gotten to the point of having a large staff therefore more ordinances to keep staff busy. Oshtemo has become a not picky township unnecessarily in having some regulations over and above common sense.
Still lots of open space. I would love not much change.
Continuing to be progressive, more development; more like the Westwood neighborhood
More parks and bike trails. Commercial and residential areas apart from each other, less congestion, better traffic flow around commercial areas.
Nice suburb, communities with well preserved open space, walking paths. Downtown like shopping and entertainment area
Less traffic congestion, more true neighborhoods - not random development, better constructed homes, less apartment complexes geared toward college students.
Still with open areas and what is here now not run down and a dump.
Not much different then it is today, but I know you can't stop progress, just do it with good sense.
More park areas, more bike trails, high tech business parks, safe quiet neighborhood
Rural, rolling hills, nature, place for animals and woods. If we are not careful all we will have is concrete and congestions
Less commercial more rural and residential, more walking. Biking paths
Business base, wooded/rolling/natural areas preserved. Friendly place to love, parks, trails, town center improved and used.
If Alamo Township has their way, one big gravel pit!
I would like to see no more plats in the rural areas. Keep them near the business area.
Similar to today.
Balance of homes (mostly single-family), commercial, industry, and natural environment. Let's not let "sprawl" take over.
A very homey town - that people will gather at the local shops - and everyone would exchange pleasantries and will help their neighbors when they are in need. Where old, young and in between will repeat each other
A safe place for my children to live & raise their children; miles of bicycle & walking trails; more parks; commercially developed; beautiful neighborhoods of both affordable & upscale homes.
Clean, safe, not on bus. route, school districts areas changed, working paths, water city sewer (?), street side leaf and recycle removal
A "village" feel near 9th and Stadium, sidewalk for walking from neighborhoods. I like being able to walk to bank, Hardings, post office, coffee shop - more like a downtown of a small town.
Serene

Like Brighton, Royal Oak
Nice housing, businesses along with industry keeping the businesses and industry away from housing, particularly no industry intermingled with housing.
Neighborhoods where people could leave cars home, and be able to walk to grocery, doctor, work, school, sports, entertainment etc. TV shows western states are incorporating above ideas to enable more enjoyable free time but then I'm retired.
Commercial and business located in one or two clusters with residential areas set aside.
Bike paths, green space, natural spaces, good place to live but close to downtown.
Lot more restaurants, bigger park to take dogs and children too, cleaner environment, more bus drop offs.
Peaceful, open spaces -- Stadium Drive area 9th & Drake Road south of Main Street -- develop for residential development. Leave rest of Oshtemo for open land and single family dwellings.
Developed areas with open spaces preserved, retain open/wooded areas between development clusters, bike paths permitting safe travel on cycles and on foot.
Much natural areas with medium income housing (regulated) Keep industry & business on Stadium Dr. & Main St.
More commercial busier, and more business flow/exchange
Pedestrian friendly with walking and bicycle trails or paths. Strictly limited growth pertaining to housing/apt. developments and commercial establishments.
Currently a student at WMU. Unsure of future residence.
I hope there will still be undeveloped spaces, especially more park area. More trees, more landscape more visually appealing- let's encourage tree planting.
Make businesses - job opportunities.
I would like to see Oshtemo develop to be able to compete with Portage area.
The way it is now. "I" do not want change.
I hope that there still is country. Deer need a place to live. I don't want them to go extinct. I want the balance of nature they can control it themselves if people stay out of the way. Even the skunks if you look and don't smell are pretty.
There should always be areas of green - lots of trees and good roads.
I do not qualify to answer this question -- I will be not be around in 20 years.
Structured development - green multi-use areas: i.e. - bike paths- wetland preservation - parkland
I can't imagine it.
Sprawl controlled. Don't have it looking like South Westnedge and Portage Roads. Invite companies in who will use eco friendly technology. Keep it family and agricultural friendly. Limited small businesses along west main past 8th street
A clean quite area to live.
Safe, family friendly, low crime, middle to upper class, clean, low traffic
A nice blend of rural living with modern conveniences. Additional parks/recreation facilities would be a great addition. Perhaps a Township facility with a pool and small scale water park that could be used for skating/hockey in winter months.
A place you can still enjoy "the country" and nature
Same as today w/quality of life as we know it
Quiet, peaceful, safe, natural, well-kept
Safe - low crime.
We do need tax base so we need to allow for that development but I would not want to see the current residential areas compromised we have plenty of big box stores, grocery stores and credit unions!
Lots of trees, open spaces, country look, but with commercial development confined to planned spaces for it.
A green haven away from Kalamazoo. Emphasis on park & recreation (it still brings your money).
I would like to see it rival Portage in commercial development. I would like to see parks and areas of recreation that are family-friendly and most of all safe. I would like to see Oshtemo Twp lead the way in green-friendly technology.
Sewers - improve parks leave pick up
A family-friendly neighborhood where kids could roam the immediate neighborhood, collect lightening bugs and play flash light tag having the re-assurance that they are safe and the neighbors will watch out for them, too.

I realize that development will probably happen but it would be great if it could be kept on the east side and the west side could stay more open and rural for all of us to enjoy.
Growth spread out to even out the Township. More shopping areas of clothing in this area.
I want it to be safe both in my home and on the streets. I want there to be public transportation, housing for all economic levels, adequate shopping, fire protection, etc.
Lots of open public spaces with material features plus bike trails (lighted in places). Commercial areas clustered so as to concentrate into designated retail zones.
Limited growth!
Be a less intrusive government. Don't impose fees on people for things they may not want. Allow the growth to happen where people need it to happen.
Family friendly, natural on outskirts, good shopping, restaurants W. Main/Drake/9th Street area.
Less fast food restaurants – enforcement of littering and run down houses! Refurbished run-down commercial areas.
I would like it to be a well managed atmosphere. Right now it's pretty chaotic.
Progressive in zoning to allow greater density of development in exchange for maintaining a percentage of natural environment
A continuation of its suburban – rural character.
Suburban area with locally owned small businesses, and still keep the integrity of the land.
I would like to envision Oshtemo Township with family friendly activities like biking and walking trails. Neighborhood atmosphere rather than too much businesses.
Would like to see the Township pretty much the same as it is right now with changes as listed above
Small businesses with growth of family communities
No more development of open space off 9th South of W. Main. Affordable housing for low income people.
R&D, tech businesses, retail shopping, affluent housing and condos, parks, walk trails.
M-43 growth to be pleasing, upscale with considered thought to those homeowners in adjacent neighborhoods
Nice parks & things for family & youngsters to do.
Rural living with an emphasis on green spaces
Not like Portage.
1. Safe 2. Progressive 3.Recreation expanded
Pleasant suburban area - quiet /safe/affordable
No future development of any kind.
Environmentally preserved/ lots of green space; good walking/biking trails; adequate public transportation; family friendly
Mostly like it is now but that is wishful thinking
Leave area w of Drake, n of W Main as residential
Remain much as it is today. Keep commercial development in the areas where it already is-9th St., Drake Rd/w. Main, Stadium use common sense in making and enforcing rules--our accountant had to plant a certain number of trees and was told exactly where they had to be placed. Not much thought for future growth and power lines. They are way too close.
Enough apartments, high density areas, promote WMU area leave wooded natural areas alone
Balanced development. No high density on street like Westnedge. It is OK for folks to travel to other areas! Open spaces, low density housing, small commercial areas.
No opinion
More non chain restaurants suburban, no bid development off main drag, hi rise and high density kept east of 131, no telephone poles or above ground electrical west of 131
Farmers market for spring and summer, dog park
Controlled growth. Preserved natural landscapes. Stable, increased housing values. Low crime. Probably imagine it about like it is today, or at least wish it could be.
Sprinkle conveniences and revenue producers in zones, leaving rural charm and peaceful residential areas as natural as possible.
Business expansion east of 131. West of 131 remains neighborhoods, open areas, some small business owners.

No further expansion of commercial west of 8th Street. Continued business/commercial in the current areas. Good roads, safe environment, lost of natural areas for biking, hiking, x-country skiing. west of 8th mix housing between small developments and area lots

Safe, progressive, family oriented community.

Curbs and gutters and sidewalks with well-maintained lawns and landscaping along all combination commercial/residential roads. All roads paved and well maintained. A boys and girls club/community center.

Red Arrow widened. Cleaner, attractive, to attract business for employment.

Some neighborhoods with conveniently located businesses and stores. I would hope much of the wooded areas would be left alone or turned into family parks. I would not want it to be to industrialized like big cities

Prosperous and socio-economically diverse, with as much open space, farmland, woods, orchards, and parks as today, and with neighborhood and business clusters, allowing us to live greener and develop while preserving the Township rural areas. There would be sidewalks and bike paths and lanes everywhere, and public transport along major thoroughfares to connect the developed pockets.

Energy efficient, environment friendly transportation, knowledge based economy

Not sure

Oshtemo has many natural areas, parks, paths for bike and pedestrian traffic. Access to public transportation is easy. Homes are on large lots and attractive winding streets that are family friendly. It is considered a desirable community to live in, and property values are high, and many residents are professionals.

I'd like to see additional industrial development in a sensible way that doesn't crowd out neighborhoods.

like it is today, but with additional preserved natural areas and expanded high tech/research and develop/business parks in areas already being used for the same

Similar in aesthetic appeal, with a "rural" feel, but with additional businesses, well-spaced and well-integrated that benefit those living in the community (i.e. higher end grocery store, book store, etc.

Better maintained and policed than it is today. If you see a KCSD cruiser west of 6th St. it's a rarity. Usually a traffic accident. Requirements would need to be placed on all property owners, especially landlords, to safeguard the level of building upkeep.

I'll be dead by then.

More homes or plats

I certainly hope we do preserve some family friendly natural area and keep businesses from moving too far west.

Quiet, family friendly, sidewalks on Stadium toward 8th street. Rural, plant more trees for privacy!

Progressive to a small town feel

Walking/bicycle paths

No commercial development, bike and walking trails, neighborhood parks, no gravel pits.

Make 9th St. into 4 lanes for an outer highway of city. Have Police Dept. cover the area. Several open areas for recreational use.

Keep the green spaces. Families enjoy the current and added parks. No Walgreens/Wal-Mart on every corner. Balance of homes, businesses, churches, schools. Safe.

I would like Township buildings running on solar or wind turbines using local suppliers and know-how and manpower to maintain and to build. I would like it to keep it's rural look as some of it does now. I would like all homes equipped with solar panels and all homes (houses) required to compost with a township approved container

Many green spaces, bicycle & walking paths, well regulated

I would like to go back 20 years and remove some things that are here - like Meijer, Wal-Mart, Menards

Traditional bedroom community adjacent and cooperative with other governmental units - county and City of Kalamazoo.

I would like it to be a good neighborhood for families to raise there children with little crime, but good schools and opportunities!

Retain the feel of living in the country.

Pleasant wooded/rolling natural, family friendly neighborhoods. That's why we purchased our home in this area 4 1/2 years ago.

Relatively the same with minimal retail & business development. Natural land preservation with walking and bike paths and parks. No gravel pits or land fills.

I would like the western part of the township to remain rural with family friendly development along West Main

Rural and quiet with its countryside preserved as open and natural as possible.



Clean, safe, service's handy, shopping handy multi housing very limited, single family homes on 1/2 to 1 acre lots, would prefer increased protective services police patrols, new construction having restrictions on taking down large trees whenever possible commercial and residential
Not too crowded, no traffic from gravel company
A family friendly area, that isn't overly crowded with some technology updates but also preservation of the natural environment
Upper class homes w/access to great schools and shopping, work and parks
Family friendly - natural environment - safe not over developed.
More beautiful neighborhoods in natural settings. A few more upscale stores, especially clothing. More specialty retail. More employment opportunities. Still lots of rural character. Roads without potholes and with less congestion.
All major businesses located on W. Main St, Drake to Van Kal. No truck traffic in residential areas.
A quaint, quiet township with convenience
Much as it is today
The opposite of Portage! More trees than cement. A place that's easy to be outdoors. A community that is envied for the balance and quality of life. A good example of an eco-friendly community.
We would like to be around in 20 years so we could answer another questionnaire
Sidewalks set back from street edge w/varying width/height and vegetation between street and walkway. Increase bike paths that are used by residents. Excellent positive stimulus in pals for green developments in business commercial, industrial, and residential sectors. Oshtemo recognized for pro-active relationship with businesses and the approaches used to attract new businesses in the past 18 years. Others soon to follow what has been done here.
All public utilities buried. Lots of trees, flowers, and areas conducive to family activities: biking, hiking, picnicking, etc. We fully expect that the "master plan" remain the same not to be changed for any reason
Increased sidewalks, improved parks with water available for recreation stage area for community events.
Fairground area
Growing, safe, clean, good for all ages to live in harmony. Maintenance, historic places. (The current historical society doing a grand job.)
More upper middle class condos more nice restaurants (not fast food). No mega-churches that create traffic problems. No strip clubs, and adult bookstores.
Much like it is now
Exactly as it is today with parks, families and open spaces.
Similar to how it is now. Spacious, family oriented and family friendly. I hope that in 20 years the Alamo gravel pit is gone and the dust has settled and everyone will agree to not use the giant hole as a land fill. (Which would mean more trucks and instead of dust, we get birds!!!!)
Big neighborhoods. More new schools. community activities
Green space, no billboards, low signage or no signage, plan road usage for W. Main because it is getting to be like Westnedge.
Even more family friendly walking, biking, but still seeing trees. That's way we bought here. Close to town w/a far away feel.
I imagine that it would have a perfect balance between family and business. There would still be big lots and it would not be too populated. There would be a Sam's club type store and a best buy or similar store.
Like it was 20 years ago
A good place to raise a family
M-43 fully devoted to commercial/distribution or business parks; new residential in the west 1/3 only. Hands of 9th St.; KL, H Aves., more parkland
A modern, up beat natural thriving city where people can enjoy life
Not overpopulated, similar to now, successful community that is able to maintain a positive reputation
Kept as rural as possible-lot of wooded, rolling, natural, scenic beauty-as low density as possible-well maintained neighborhoods and single family homes-commercial property confined to specific areas.
Walking and biking trails, tax base increase by corporate development-stores, improved roads-6th St. between Stadium and N Ave.-disgrace
Family Friendly with equal to or less commercial development
Rural, Clean, Safe, Uncongested, Energy Efficient-powered by wind & solar

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Less residential developments like those across from Wal-Mart - looks horrible!! More redevelopment of existing commercial buildings vs. loss of landscape. Better working relationship with area business owners. No more student housing!

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I would like to see commercial development along W. Main and Stadium east of 8th with residential west of there keeping in mind that if sewer/water are available west of 8th along Stadium and W. Main commercial be allowed further west on these main corridors

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Oshtemo would be a small city with an identity in green technology, family neighborhoods, a full-time police department, a full-time fire department, and a downtown area.

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Keeping the rural aspect of the western part of the township with a heavily developed eastern section

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Walk/Bike all through Oshtemo (Segway's too!)

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I would like to think in 20 years Oshtemo would still remain a blend of rural & city. The landfill would either be a public park &/or a site for wind generators. That we would have kept as much of the natural beauty in the area as possible even if it meant less homes. That Oshtemo would demonstrate care for the existing environment with low carbon footprints. That as a community we would encourage small business growth vs. mega companies (like Wal-Mart ) the community would appeal to younger generations as well as the young at heart. I truly hope we'd never loose site of enjoying the gifts we have now, but always looking to preserve those for the future generations also.

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Wooded, rolling hills, less congestion

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Don't want to see this area look like area on

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Preservation of natural areas west of 9th St. More parks, bike trails and family friendly recreation areas, making Oshtemo the preferred living area in Kalamazoo County. Keep the malls and apartments in the 131 corridor and encourage the Orchards and small farms west of 9th

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More Parks, better roads and service to them. Potholes/cracks. No empty buildings or schools, better road markers, better pay for election officials.

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Primarily a bedroom community

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Same character as it has now

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**Question 21. Are there any additional ideas, suggestions, comments, or concerns you would like to express regarding the future of Oshtemo Township?**

Connecting parking lots in commercial business to allow exiting at traffic lights and eliminate curb cuts.
I think the Township has been very well regulated over the 40 years I have lived here and I appreciate the dedication of all the supervisors and board members. Most recently, I really appreciate the efforts to minimize the impact of Alamo's gravel pit on the township.
Would like more retail/upscale stores on the west side of Kalamazoo
No more Allen Edwin building; no more student homes (slums)
Protect property rights when dealing with zoning and planning issues.
Outlet mall
The "connectivity" of developing neighborhoods needs to be reinsinated. This application threatens my neighborhood and my quality of life for no good reason.
SO disappointed with: condos located behind Scenic Way Drive - so many trees removed and loss of homes to wildlife; 2) Why live in a neighborhood when a Battle Creek doc owns home across from you, had 7 renters and, as renters don't give a damn. Shame on Jacqua!!!
The black top strips on the south side of West Main were a waste of money and unnecessary confiscation of land. They are not being used. Also too many bikers are allowed in a group. They congest and endanger themselves and others regulate this if possible. (Bike groups on our hilly wooded rolling land). These groups should obtain permits and be limited in number unless it's a special annual event.
Need to have an officer in front of my house to catch people speeding or passing the school bus when it's stopped to let kids on or off
I've talked to a lot of people through the years that say how beautiful Oshtemo's rolling and wooded terrain is. Let's hope we can keep it that way. That why we live here.
Preserve historical homes and buildings - especially in area around Stadium and 9th St.
Keep up the good work. looking to future expansion being contained on east side of township
It would be really nice to have a recreation center with outdoor pool and tennis courts that the community could use.
Keep government frugal so "common working people can afford to live here
Deal with those older apartment complexes, which may be beginning to show signs of "decay". In my opinion, nothing detracts more from a community than those "pockets" of decay or deterioration in both housing and commercial structures.
I do not like living establishments like "The Pointe" on KL Ave. That promotes high crime and low income residents. It seems that Kalamazoo has too much of this type housing. The residents do not pay property taxes.
For my husband and me we don't have kids yet but some day will. We don't want to send our kids to a K-zoo high school. On our side of town we have an elementary school and soon a middle school. We need and high school we love living in Oshtemo and my husband works in Oshtemo. Everything is close and convenient.
Not sure if the whole truck route is worth all the attention. We need trucks, gravel, jobs in our Kalamazoo area - don't believe the speed of trucks would be such an issue
Your Township office personnel are dated. Only Anglos need apply? Sorry -you did ask.
Fletcher park needs more trees, at least along the road. More parks should be considered. Involving citizens, like with this survey is good, thank you and should be continued in general.
Did I mention leaf pickup??
Leave nature alone. The area already ahs everything, we don't need anything else. I will not stay after I graduate, if it gets any worse.
I think you are doing a fine job compared to the Township we came from (Comstock). Oshtemo appealed to us for many of the reasons listed in question #9.
Oshtemo does not have to be all things to all people. Its appeal is its low density living. We should maintain that, and in a few years, it will be unique among townships because of it.
Thank you for the opportunity to give input, and thank you for fighting the 10th Street truck route for the gravel trucks. I travel 10th St. daily, and it can be very congested at times, including foot and bike traffic.
Thank you for asking
Encourage and support safe healthy living, farmers markets, community involvement
Continuing education for all offered; cultural activities

Oshtemo has grown significantly over recent years with regard to business, housing, etc. This doesn't just add money thru taxes, but costs money to provide services. Let's not let it get out of control

I think there are too many multi-family developments. Many developed areas go unsold. Some rural roads need to be resurfaced not just patches. We have compromised wildlife. I moved here for a rural life.

I really think some major consideration needs to be given to security and safety of this area. More consideration to the tax payers-like leaf pick up, cleaner environment-a place you are proud to call your neighborhood/community.

We appreciate the efforts of the Township to control gravel truck traffic. I am greatly concerned about housing developments on small lots, barren landscape and shoddy construction.--map was difficult to follow

Could not get Master Plan on line. Had note to stay tuned.

An attempt should be made to retain as many trees as possible.

Not congested, see above, better bus service, existence of a friendly, large DOG PARK

Keep and stand firm on the truck traffic ordinance! Do not back down because of the threat of a lawsuit. Just because someone asks for \$10 million in damages does not mean they will be awarded it. Have our own traffic study done of 10th Street - the ones done by opposing parties are biased, as is Marty Dodge who keeps misrepresenting the study the Chamber did.

A place that is welcoming to all.

Current vacant areas could be used for community gardens/projects like the gravel pit fiasco not allowed to bulldoze the community. I think this is the best community in the area to live/work in. We can control growth and make it work for our community.

Keep citizens always involved and be open to their concerns, comments and suggestions. Makes for a happy, healthy well organized community.

Keep the large trucks off our country roads. We don't like the noise, danger, and inconvenience just as much as those who live in the more densely populated area! We like being rural for the country atmosphere and were taken advantage of by having less say, because there are less of us, because we chose to live on more land (which we pay more taxes for)

I live on Almena Drive. My property is now surrounded by truck routes-Almena, 4th Street, and M-43. I am deeply concerned about the process by which these streets were chosen to be truck routes. I believe it was done behind closed doors. This type of decision should not be made in secret. Will my taxes now go down?

Oshtemo is pleasant place to live

Please keep the gravel trucks away from 10th Street

No trucks on 10th Street. Keep the street safe, so many people use it for a variety of different things

I don't like that we don't have tornado sirens-that's something I would like us to have

Less crime and more focusing on non-colored Americans and better roads to drive on, in the next 15-20 years let's see if this survey really mattered

We need a way to stop the overpopulation of deer. Millions of deer run out on 9th Street, G Avenue and more busy streets. It is very dangerous. I don't mind the deer just not so many.

Just that we have seen 3 people's homes burn to the ground in the last 3 years, despite early arrival of the firefighters. Something needs to be done about that. Thanks for the opportunity to participate.

With housing down, bring taxes in line with today's market. Houses don't sell for as much as they did several years ago

Around the nation, more communities are becoming aware of the problems related to light pollution. Oshtemo Township has very good codes requiring shielding of commercial lighting (Meijer and Wal-Mart as good examples), but unfortunately street lights are usually decorative fixtures that emit light at all angles, and residences commonly use the notorious mercury lights with plastic diffusers. I would like to see proper shielding required on all types of lighting

Manage the growth. Even with tough economy, avoid growth for growth's sake.

You shouldn't force people to recycle, but you should reward those who do-see my notes on #5 re: the recycling/garbage sticker program in western suburbs of Chicago. it is a good system that let's people recycle for free (thus rewarding and encouraging more recycling) and only paying for whatever amount of garbage is actually disposed of

No

Continue to evaluate master plan to make sure Oshtemo grows and develops consistent with objectives

We need common sense approaches to development. There to many be the book situations on plats and business that don't make sense.

Keep up the good fight in seeking to prevent the use of 10th Street for gravel truck operations

Not really but keep up the good work. I like living on the west side of town.

I think jobs are a main need for Oshtemo and Michigan. I think Oshtemo needs to help and support small owner businesses to locate here with less regulations need more commercial in West portion of Township.

None

Since you represent the Township-do what you think is right for the Township-don't grab at matching funds just to fund projects of questionable future value

Long term living facilities, retirement village

Doing a nice job

I moved here for the beautiful rural setting west of town and I want it preserved.

Continue to be responsive to individual needs as well as the whole community. I have had a good relationship with Oshtemo Twp. over the years.

Fire Dept. does a great job. Keep up the good work boys.

Keep some green spaces, walks, parks, trees.

Always enjoy the Kale-Haven! Please put limits to huge developments and granting smaller lot sizes in these areas! Remember the wildlife and natural beauty which originally attracted us to the country.

Don't turn us into a "Portage"

Traffic (speed and appropriate lights to slow traffic) control between 9th and Stadium to 9th and W. Main (school safety and seniors living and driving on this stretch) Possible traffic lights at both ends of Quail Run

Please don't turn us into Portage! Please don't make West Main like Westnedge. Bring a Whole Foods store here! Or Wild Oats! Or Trader Joes!

Better snow removal

To be safer to live here

Wishful thinking on the infrastructure improvements but throwing them out there. Good luck.

Go green whenever possible with new construction -tax breaks for solar and other energy saving technology. Keep the air and water safe-plan wisely-don't be hasty-don't sell out the children.

Yes. Please put up a sign that reads Wickford Drive like the ones for 2nd Street, Spring Wood Hills Drive, and other streets along M-43. Why none at Wickford Drive?

I live in the Westport area and the roads are not cleared of snow adequately in the winter. Salt/gravel is seldom used and the streets are dangerous! Many people walk, children walk to bus stops and the roads are often icy and dangerous! Please try to do something about this situation.

Seek alternatives to Parkview-Stadium Dr. intersection-a constant source of congestion because of close proximity to 9th St. Perhaps making 9th St. and/or Stadium into a parkway theme such as Portage has done with portions of Sharer, Romance off Ct.

Keep out developers

Please don't fill it all up with development

Maintain zoning to protect current residents. Encourage renovation and upgrading homes and businesses. Keep taxes as low as possible to encourage quality building. Residents build what they can afford and taxes are part of the cost. In some Townships, taxes are too large as a percentage of cost, and quality building is hampered.

None-keep up the good work

To grow in all areas you need to attract people and companies, etc. The metro Transit was supposed to be country wide and should go to the heart of our town. Now it only goes to Meijer on W. Main and 9th St. on Stadium Drive. The bus goes to KOCC, that's all!

Better road care, continuing the quality look of what is already here. Improve snow removal of neighborhood areas

"Less is more" work closely with downtown Kalamazoo and not take actions that further stress the inner city look to expanding sewer system and improving roads

Take the 10th Street gravel route to the highest court. Surely an Oshtemo attorney will fight for our right to establish our own laws. Please find that attorney

I wouldn't like it if any more development came up around our house, I like it how it is.

I would like to see spring and fall yard waste pick-up and ban on burning. Smoke in subdivisions is very bad for everyone especially those with allergies.

I apologize for my lack of knowledge about Oshtemo Township - I am just a college student.

Less apartment fires, a lot of the buildings don't seem to be meeting building codes. Crime near The Pointe and Mt. Royale is getting out of hand. College housing like the Pointe and Copper Beach needs to have better accommodations for students. They are ripping students off on water, electric, and parking prices.

Do not let it get out of hand and end up looking like Westnedge in Portage area - way too much traffic and business upon business.
I would like to see more frontage landscaping along 9th and KL. Plant trees to replace those that fell during the winter. No development behind Buckham Highlands as we need all the nature we can get.
Banning leaf burning. Mandatory recycling of household materials from residential apartment complexes with on-site collection at the apartment complexes. A concern I have is residential apartment complexes during the winter months failing to clear deep snow from driveways and parking lots which interferes with emergency vehicles like police and ambulances getting access. I would like to see more enforcement to stop noise violations from loud music in cars parked and residential apartments.
Increasing traffic Drake Rd. KL Avenue are to be problems. (trucks, etc.) Wider streets? too much construction
More police protection, as much open space as possible
Urban sprawl is always a difficult adjustment for rural folks. Oshtemo needs to continue listening to the "natives" as well as the new folks. I pay non-homestead taxes of property in group 3,5 & 2
Oshtemo Twp. is getting very large (population, commercial) it may be time to obtain its own police Dept.
Consider collecting property taxes once per year
Keep it safe and people friendly- don't use up the park, try to use the building I sites not being used now before digging up more land
Please keep up the progressive attitude while remaining conservative when it comes to suburban sprawl. We don't want to lose the country living, relatively crime-free areas currently available but we do need growth and more opportunities
Outlet mall
My manufactured housing community does not have an on site manager at all times. In the past year this community has had many sheriff visits as crime has been on the increase here. I am sad to see how things have increasingly downgraded this community. Maybe the Township can draw some attention to management here.
I believe that appealing to the younger generations and collage students would help to build the community and improve retention
All industry and commercial must be with public sewer system, as will housing development of 20+ homes. As this keep our ground water pure. If public sewer cannot be installed, the land should be set aside for parks and open space.
Do something about the gravel pit! The traffic on 10th Street is out of control and ruining the road!
Keep any property in line with the area - doesn't over do it. There are still areas of openness. Keep it that way. Too much expansion is not good either. there will probably be some new expansion with new buildings but keep it environmental friendly
Free internet wi-fi available to all. Power supplied by windmills. Community resource centers to assist elderly and poor. Broadcast township meetings live, interactive over the web with instant messaging capabilities in order to ask questions.
I would encourage neighbors with adjacent property to share land for hiking trails, cross-country skiing etc. We must address the use of firearms as we become dense
Prohibit leave burning-provide alternative
Township should work with Westport and /or other gated/contained neighborhoods to contract garbage service with one (and/or limit to two) garbage disposal companies; to reduce number of trucks and days passing through neighborhoods
Resist and restricted high density in green for \$. Oshtemo is in mortal danger of being Portage. Preserve its nature versus gobbling up land for expansion. Does anyone remember W. Main & Drake in 1969 before the Mall, before even a stop light there? I do.
Keeping agriculture and allowing property owners to determine what they want to do with their land.
Traffic control, public use space and police/fire service need to keep up with growth.
Concerns about Twp. ability to defend against commercial lawsuits. Require users of library to pay fees and reduce taxes on residents. I pay almost \$500 for library taxes. I'd rather that money be used for fire/police services.
Consider electrical power supply (atomic/wind/solar) in the future and high speed train service may be available. I-94 and 131 will have to be toll roads in the near future.
Continue effort to keep gravel truck traffic off Tenth Street.
Not sure why West Drake is even part of Oshtemo, given lack of law enforcement resources to patrol or respond to complaints, and its proximity to Kalamazoo City.

More law enforcements patrolling the township, protecting the citizen's property and homes.
People on the Twp. Board seem to care what happens to this Township. I appreciate their effort. We all want to protect our investment, in our homes - do not let industry or commercialism spoil it.
Controlled growth is important. I don't want Oshtemo to loose all of its rural area and I would hate to see W. Main become out of control with traffic like sections of Westnedge in Portage/Kalamazoo.
There is no real "downtown area" in Oshtemo. We need to have something that brings people (dollars) into our Township. Require properties to be kept up and increase police protection.
Proposal A doesn't "REQUIRE" taxes be raised - it allows them to be raised. Think about current residents first and eliminate per projects. We in the country don't want to be in the city - co chlorinated water, no sewer. Years ago it was voted on for what areas were to be developed - why has that not been followed! We want rural-cows, chickens, horses, not more neighborhoods driving 90mph past my kids on bikes.
No
I was happy to read about the expansion of the S.W. Mi. Innovation Center in the Gazette. I think the potential for job growth in our area is very encouraging. Life science companies are they key to the whole Kalamazoo region's growth and will benefit our whole area.
How can we protect ourselves from another gravel pit disaster?
Limit the intrusion of big box stores and dealerships.
Pay attention to infrastructure maintenance and replacement. Most of our neighbors carry in water rather than drink from the faucet due to unnamed particulates in the faucet water.
Traffic light (Quail Run and Stadium)
Comments: There will be lots of small businesses pop up.
Planned, residential single-family development
Earlier comments on density
Need some balance for WMU. Don't want to it as the only employer
A weed free cemetery plot
I know Oshtemo Twp. will grow, but hope we can maintain a friendly relationship with nature.
1) We would like to see fewer college student housing complexes (such as the KL Ave and 11th St area) It creates too much crime in a family friendly community. 2) We would also like to see aggregate industries trucks to use 10th St. to H Ave to Drake Rd. It would be safer than trying to get out onto W. Main (M-43) at 6th St. w/no stop light at that intersection.
Need to persuade KPS to build new high school in Oshtemo Township, sending children down I-94 to other side of K-zoo is very undesirable.
Keep up the good work you are doing
Future growth is to be. We will get used to it. Good luck with survey
Don't put any more large subdivisions west of 8th St., we want to live out in the woods in peace and quiet
None
Something needs to be done about the crime! It would be nice to do something about a \$150.000 water bill. Lower the water/sewer price.
Sidewalk from Crondon to West Will give up who live at the Fountains to walk safely to the mall
Consider perhaps a master garbage pick-up contract for entire township. Qualified builders, lower yearly rate. Change added to homeowner yearly tax bill. Contract to cover spring and fall trash, etc. pick-up plus fall curbside bulk pick-up.
Community pool
That would involve residents in major decisions & direction of the Master Plan for development of Oshtemo Township.
Please try not to approve the open land immediately south of Newman's field for residential development.
If Oshtemo is going to spend money on another bike path - suggestion is W Main 9th St south to Stadium Dr. Right now bike path is utilized very little - goes nowhere.
I appreciate the Township trying to preserve our roads from the gravel trucks.
n/a
Fix 6th St., just south of Stadium. Horrible for 2 years! Add Stratford Hills to snow plow route. Better water quality. More places to eat. Add bike paths.
With the gravel trucks entering SB 131 we now need a wall along the highway similar to the one on I-94 and US-131 intersection. Thank you

Re-use existing buildings and developed land. Do not add subdivisions to rural areas. Maintain lakes, ponds, parks. Keep commercial & developments in existing areas.

I have thoroughly enjoyed living in Oshtemo. Please do not allow gravel trucks on 10th St.

The Oshtemo Twp. fight to halt gravel pit trucks traffic has been commendable. I feel they do a wonderful job!

Continue growing in a sensible manner; continue allowing contractors to build affordable homes such as Oshtemo Ridge.

Township board would regulate carefully where and how much business/industry is allowed to prevent "urban sprawl". We like the convenience of shopping/restaurants but also appreciate the country feel not too far from our house!

There needs to be more police control our home has been broken into twice last year with no police willing to help us patrol the area better

Educated, younger people involved in Township, this is no longer the 50's, this is 2009!

Township seems to be doing pretty good, I think!

Maintain roads better

Too many multi family, Township has improved in sensitivity to concerns of long time residents.

No growth of apartment, low income housing

9th Street -- could benefit from having shops, boutiques to maximum rural identification of this area -- no more chainy crap stores like Wall-mart.

I am concerned with the fast paced development in the Oshtemo area. I don't see provisions being made to preserve natural spaces. The Edison neighborhood requires all of the attention of the police force (response time), Oshtemo takes a back seat.

I would like to see more interest in the Public Library

Keep it a place of traditional American values that places a high regard for the work ethic as opposed to progressive social agendas.

Please try to keep the areas that are still wild, wild. Please see if business can use buildings like the old west main mall and put machines and factories in them. And other buildings that are abandoned like Sherwood the old nursing home and where the Halloween store was on Drake. Could you make use of these buildings instead of building new or at least ear them down and use the land that is already ruined for nature for people.

The elected officials should show some restraint. The Township hall is a huge waste of space and the library follows close behind.

Good luck with your long range plans!

6th South of Stadium is almost unusable and is in dire need of resurfacing. The lot at Stadium and 6th has been used as a construction dump long enough. Develop it or grade it level - it's an eyesore-regulation and enforcement of private property maintenance- (unkempt, dirty yards)

No.

A dog park would be nice, also some horseback trails. Keep businesses and congestion east of 8th and 9th street. Two malls west of 131 are enough - use pre-existing buildings instead of ruining more land. Trails, parks and historical areas are needed.

Over development will ruin the Township and its family friendly environment. Cheap housing can and will bring down property values and typically increases crime

If it appears that our burden with the gravel pit is going to continue, I urge the board to consider the impact to the Township financially should we fail. The current \$10 million suite would be disastrous to the young residents and elderly in the Twp., specifically but to everyone as a whole. In the current economic climate this is simply not affordable for anyone and would result in my family's departure from the Township.

As you can tell by my previous answers, I am concerned that we are and will be losing "country living" in this Township

We were extremely disappointed with the "zoning fiasco" with Buckham Heights.

Beware of the need to falsely labeled "progress." Increase your tax base by attracting same green parks & recreation areas. You can do it.

Please be responsible in growth, preservation of the environment and issuing of taxes.

We are concerned about 10th St truck traffic to gravel site too many apartments.

A "dog park" would be wonderful. Visiting Florida for the month of February gave us a look into how much our pooch enjoyed visiting with his new "friends" everyday. He loved the dog park!



We just moved here last year and we love the area. I like having access to the K-zoo and all that it offers. But it is also very important to me to have access to the farm stands, blueberry fields, and orchards that rural areas offer.

I would like current regulations to be enforced!

A large part of Oshtemo's character comes from its rural/suburban feel while right on top of K-zoo. The trick is to maintain that while growing to broaden the tax base.

I would like to see vacant properties being repurposed or rebuilt. This would make so much more sense instead of ignoring these buildings & building all new.

Love Oshtemo park for the kids, could use some new features. Maybe sprinklers for summer fun or a new piece of playground equipment. Need better police monitoring of Oshtemo park as disc golfers tend to smoke marijuana on the course (can smell it on the playground)

Preserving undeveloped land -- no new construction -- preserve nature for future generations

I feel that the entrance of Meijer right off of West Main should have a light or be closed all together, there are too many accidents there. There's no need for 2 exits right off of West Main St.!!!

Developers should be given some flexibility in placement of sidewalks or nature walks (subject to plan review) instead of both sides of street. My thought is developers that are creative in site layout will be rewarded with higher sale prices (a win-win situation for Township)

Sidewalk needed between 8th St. and 9th St. along Stadium Drive. I have seen several close calls with pedestrians walking to Hardings or that area from the apartments on the north side. The bike path on West Main is nice but never gets any use, that was a waste of money at this point in time!

Work towards lower property taxes. Ours have increased 2.6 times in the last 2 1/2 years. I would not have purchased this home in Oshtemo Twp. if I would have known taxes would have increased so much or so quickly. In today's economy, cut spending and stop tax increases.

Would like Oshtemo Township to construct a sidewalk from Croyden Avenue intersection with N. Maple Hill Dr. to mall access-Theater 10, Target, etc.

Commercial sprawl and its repetitious developments (i.e., Menards & Lowes; Meijer & Wal-Mart), the Township should continue to demand high development standards for the 360 degree look at character of commercial development, and require high maintenance standards of unused property commercial & private. E.g., the old flower-garden shop in Maple Hill Mall area is an eye sore.

This area needs more local restaurants and less multi-family developments.

Maybe put tennis courts in at either Oshtemo Park or the other park off of 9th St.

Rural, neighborhood and light industrial

would like to see another street like w. main from downtown Kalamazoo out to Oshtemo between W. Main and Stadium Dr. or maybe extend W. North St. to Drake Road

Maintain the rural atmosphere and open spaces. Reduce noise and congestion on 9th St.

High density, low income housing, while offering opportunity for some, detracts from the quality of life expected in Oshtemo Township. Oshtemo Township has come to represent a higher quality of life I would like to see maintained.

A Township assessor that actually does physical assessments as opposed to drive by pictures. An assessor that fairly assesses properties. Less Township board control.

1. leaf pickup

More natural preservation -- no more subsidized housing and/or apartment complexes!!!! Update old building policies so no more duplexes are built!!!!

I would like to see more done for recycling waste-currently private companies are doing it but I doubt everyone can afford that.

I'd like less large heavy truck traffic, i.e., gravel pit trucks in particular

I would not like to see big trucks use H Ave. w

Oshtemo seems to make small business almost impossible but lets in mega stores. There should never have been residential between West Main - Kalamazoo on 9th Street when all the businesses were already approved.

Forcing residents who do not use bike path (example) is foolish. Overwhelming majority do not do those things. If you have money for such projects make sure the majority of residents that live there want it or approve. DO NOT cram a minority issue down the throat of majority.

No

You are going to have to deal with windmill poles (like the one on WMU research park) that would be OK and also photovoltaic panels, plan for where hydrogen gas stations can be and encourage all bid commercial businesses to put plugs in all lighting poles for plug in hybrids

We very much enjoy living here, and hope it continues to be a great place to raise our young family. Please don't overdevelop. Let the commercial developing stay in K-zoo, which is close and convenient, yet separate.

Community activities at library, etc.

Must stop the gravel pit Co. from backing over 10th St. This is a primary road. Better maintenance of drainage areas and potential problems. Thinking through all the problems before issuing building permits.

Keep fighting the gravel pit!!!

Own police force that really knows our citizens. Infrastructure in the Township of high quality and accessible to all. Good transportation system for people.

No burning leaves! Lead pollution, lower sewer and water and have garbage included in quarterly water and sewer bill. Cut down government.

Thank you for the opportunity to express my views. I would like to see the Township's encourage environmentally friendly development and redevelopment with clear, progressive regulations for solar and wind generators and incentives for green development, recycling and preservation of open, natural spaces.

Not sure unless I knew much more about the town, including attending town meetings

We are in danger of becoming overdeveloped -- too many apartments, strip malls, and houses. We could lose the rural, uncrowded, low traffic character of our township without controlling growth. There are already too many apartments in Kalamazoo, with low occupancy rates. Please stop apartment sprawl. Also strip mall sprawl.

Keep up the good work

Planning is critical. You statement "Growth Happens". Let's decide how is a must.

Throw out the two party system. We should be non-partisan at the local level. Township officials should only be concerned with what Oshtemo's residents wish in their community and not be driven by philosophy and police form Lansing or Washington

Don't trust politicians or government, believe nothing that we hear and only 1/2 of what we see. Sorry but they have brought this on themselves. Oh yah, get rid of NAFTA, get our jobs back instead of giving them away! This would make me and my offspring happy and no new taxes - smaller government.

We think you do a great job and continue to support your efforts.

Planned, residential single-family development

Have loved living in Oshtemo the past 15 years and are not considering moving any time in the near future.

I would like to see more native Michigan wildflowers in parks and town centers-such as was planted in front of Prairie Ridge school near the roadside before the bulldozers moved in to build. I would like more bike trails/paths especially to North-South destinations that would bisect with the East West trails/paths we now have.

None

I am concerned that the feuding between neighboring townships prevents difficult and rational decisions being made for the communities at large.

Eliminate reputation of township inspectors of being difficult, unrealistic, and causing builders to increase their bids on construction in -Oshtemo.

Trustee term limit to 8 years.

Bike ways are a good idea.

We think the family friendliness of the Township should remain a priority over any industrial/business development.

Updated library services, more activities, parks for children, more bike paths/walking paths.

Stop the gravel company. Thanks for your efforts.

KL Ave. from Drake to Copperbeach apts. needs speed limit reduction to 35 mph. Also there needs to be another emergency siren. Many people can not hear the test siren the first Saturday of the month. Which means we definitely couldn't hear it during an emergency.

Better sheriff access and enforcement of seasonal load restrictions on 9th Street (north of Haue).

Would like to see more stand alone condos for over 55 years people with basements (tornado alley). Please, no more apartments. Would like to see increased security near apartments. Clean-up criminal activity in these areas.

No more Gravel pits!!!! near us

We enjoy our proximity to K-zoo, I just don't want to see any multi-family residential areas established.

Get rid of the trucking ordinance

Township is becoming too congested, hopefully, I won't be living here in 20 years. I won't want to live in a city or suburb! And the people who do should move to Kalamazoo or Portage.

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The whole gravel pit issue has been a concern and an eye opener to the areas development. We are very pleased and encouraged by the Township's response. Please keep this momentum as we plan and grow in a responsible way.

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Maintain a degree of humanity in regulations and not get backed into rigid inflexibility that irritates all. Take progressive risks where rewards might far outweigh such risks. Keep communication with residents open. Listen to neighborhoods and seek viable compromises/solutions that benefit all. Thank you.

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All renters required to have renters insurance as a term of the lease. That a website be formed and that all township officials report any contact or attempt of contact by developers. That any new housing developments will be required to have water and sewer and buried utilities at their cost.

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Limit truck traffic near Kal-Haven trail, provide leaf yard waste options at curbside. Promote local walks/runs community events.

---

Enforces curfew for children 16 and younger that walk the streets and damage private property after dark. I'm tired of seeing young black men walking through my front yard at night!

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Upgrade of rural power lines put underground to eliminate many power outages

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No!

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Keep fighting to protect the township residents from unwanted truck traffic, through residential areas. I really appreciate my township more than ever since they aren't afraid of "deep pockets" when you know you're in the right.

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Why can't my neighbor across the street send their kid to the new school on 9th St? We live 500 yds from the school. I find that bothersome.

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If more commercial or industrial needs to be developed; then leave lots of green space around it - so as you drive through Township no one knows it is there unless you drive into the parking lot.

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Thank you for the newsletters. I appreciate them.

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Small government with income from small businesses is good for family friendly

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You already have 5 lanes on M-43 west to 2nd St. much of it has water/sewer, allow this land to be open to commercial development rather than focusing on 9th St. KL, or other areas that will call for infrastructure work.

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It's pretty good like it is!

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Keep the lines of communication open like this input survey

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See 6th St. and Stadium Dr. dumpsite at NE Corner. It is a disgrace!!

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Over regulations and requirements to financially support water or sewer extensions by way of charging property owners. This should be an option NOT a requirement

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Tread carefully, conserve our water resources, protect our lands

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Appreciate website and information sharing. Thanks for opportunity to participate.

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Reduce expenditures and costs in the Fire Department and increase the contract with the Sheriff's department. I do not feel we need to duplicate police services with our own department and we should push to have the fire department cooperate/merge with other area fire departments to keep cost down

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Don't be afraid to go bigger

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Sidewalks from H to West Main; get residents to the nice new paths; bike bridge over 131

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I love the area where the landfill is... over the 30+ years I've lived here I've seen and felt all its ups and downs. I really fear that someday down the road, someone will get greedy and choose to forget what lies below the surface and sees only \$signs when they look at the land. I have two dreams about the landfill. One is that it is carefully tended to become a nature reserve that allows hiking, picnics (great sledding in winter!) and perhaps even buying land to link it with the library / Township property on M-43. I also see the potential for technology there. Why not encourage development of Wind Turbines with KVCC. It's a perfect place to combine learning and positive environment changes... right on top of one the states worst EPA dumpsite (in its prime). Kind of an ironic turnabout. It could be a place that serves to remind us how to help change the negative environmental effects into a positive place that could be enjoyed and learned from by future generations. If we have no dreams, no visions for tomorrow... it will leave us a past with no heart or soul. Thanks for listening.

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More time for the light on 10th St. (turning E. on M-43) left turn light on M-43 at 10th St.

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Try to preserve the semi-rural suburb feel that attracted us.

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The challenge will be to build the tax base east of 9th St., while preserving the natural spaces to the west. Let the taxes come from service oriented small business that provide for the needs of greater Kalamazoo, while keeping this area a great place to live.

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I would like Oshtemo to limit spending to stay within the current budget. (Live within means) Township should allow open season deer on your property.

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I am concerned with the peace and quiet of our community and how it affects the residential areas. Like the gravel pit in Alamo that is affecting Oshtemo

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CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF OSHTEMO  
MASTER PLAN 2011  
SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS

Genesee Prairie Sub-Area Focus Group Results



OSHTMO CHARTER TOWNSHIP MASTER PLAN UPDATE  
**Genesee Prairie Sub-Area Plan – Design Workshop**

**Focus Group #1 – Western Michigan University**

Positive Qualities

- Ownership – CFO is a holding of the University so no land acquisition is necessary
- CFO is practically contiguous to the existing BTR Park
- Proximity to existing University programming – Engineering school at BTR Park
- Convenient access to highways, school, city

Challenges

- Cost of infrastructure development; SmartZone can be used to defray
- Topographical challenges
- Harsh or rugged terrain; tunnels underground in some areas
- Ensuring that any development has no negative impact on Asylum Lake
  - Asylum Lake already challenged
  - Development could have a positive impact

Principles

- Environmental stewardship and sustainability
- Job creation & retention
- Support the core mission of the University: research and instruction
  - Development must be willing to partner with University
- Adding to tax base of the Township
  - Not interested in remaining a completely tax exempt property
- Partnering with Township on development of the property
  - Zoning, marketing, etc.

OSHTMO CHARTER TOWNSHIP MASTER PLAN UPDATE  
**Genesee Prairie Sub-Area Plan – Design Workshop**

**Focus Group #2 – Residents / Neighbors**

Positive Qualities

- Open space
- Farmland
- Nature
- Away from development
- Access to shopping (Portage and Kalamazoo) and highways
- Mostly residential and agriculture; really no commercial
- Rose Arbor neighborhood
- Low density residential
- Good farming; prime soils
- Utilities available for extension
- Western Michigan and Miller Auditorium
- Schools in vicinity and flexibility
- Kalamazoo Promise availability

Challenges

- No bike paths
- Traffic – both speed and amount – on 11<sup>th</sup> St.
- Truck Route on N Ave. and 11<sup>th</sup> St. impacting property values and quality of life
- Speed enforcement
- Traffic lights needed at N/11<sup>th</sup> and Parkview/11<sup>th</sup> intersections
- Upgrade Harding's
- Cable TV competition needed
- Power line / Gas line on west end
- Perimeter growth and influence on area
- Maintaining low density
- Property values
- Road kill and debris on roads; keeping roads clean

Principles

- Preserve AG uses
- Clean, small scale offices
- Recreation uses
- Low density residential – like 11<sup>th</sup> Street, not 12 Street
- Bike paths and trails important – on street ok but detached is better
- Bury utility lines



OSHTMO CHARTER TOWNSHIP MASTER PLAN UPDATE  
**Genesee Prairie Sub-Area Plan – Design Workshop**

**Focus Group #3 – Natural Resources & Transportation**

Positive Qualities

- Open area
- Open space
- Opportunities for sidewalks and pathways / trails
- “Blank slate”
- Linkages can be created, specifically between BTR and KVCC
- Trails and paths desires off-road
- Prime farmland

Challenges

- The existing speed and volume on 11<sup>th</sup> St.
- Signals needed at 11<sup>th</sup>/N Ave. and 11<sup>th</sup>/Parkview.
- Existing traffic along 11<sup>th</sup> St.
- Intersection at Stadium & 9<sup>th</sup> St. is not working well and may need bypass through this area.
- Regional development trends shows growth in this direction and to the southwest
- Area is not transportation friendly with few east-west connections.
- There is not much long-term viability for agriculture.
- Success of the BTR Park
- Sensitivity of surrounding environments and habitat areas
- Land north of CFO but still south of Stadium Drive and west of Drake Road under slightly different ownership – its owned by WMU Foundation.

Principles

- Best Management Practices – stormwater
- Walkability
- Transportation: pedestrians, bikes, vehicles, mass transit
- Maximize links: BTR to KVCC big link
- Kal-Haven Trail (access to)
- Bike lanes provided on Parkview Bridge
- Inter-connected road network
- Utilize “fruitbelt” (AT&T) corridor for trail corridor / connections
- Pay attention to heritage / history of site
- Restore prairie in pieces if not entire area
- Maintain food production
- Utilize complete streets design process to provide for safe pedestrian and multi-modal connections
- Keep traffic internal and minimize conflicts or points of access
- Keep Colony Farms Orchard undeveloped

OSHTMO CHARTER TOWNSHIP MASTER PLAN UPDATE  
**Genesee Prairie Sub-Area Plan — Design Workshop**

**Focus Group #4 – Government Officials**

Principles

- Transportation
  - Road improvements
  - Trails / paths
  - Connections
  - “Complete streets”
  - Regional trends
- Environmental
  - Neutral / positive impact on surrounding areas, particularly Asylum Lake
  - Respecting heritage of area, the prairie
  - Conservation / cluster development techniques
  - Groundwater management
- Economic
  - Maintaining tax base
  - Not impacting property values
  - Having University as anchor

CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF OSHTEMO  
MASTER PLAN 2011  
SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS

West main Street Sub-Area Focus Group Results



OSHTMO CHARTER TOWNSHIP MASTER PLAN UPDATE  
**West Main Street Sub-Area Plan – Design Workshop**

**Focus Group #1 – Property Owners**

Positive Qualities

- Roads / utilities
- Close to Fire Station
- Major national retail anchors
- High visibility
- Large parcels
- Close to highway / access to areas
- High traffic count – 32,000 vpd
- Bike paths
- Surrounded by residents
- Wild life
- “Best Location” for everything

Challenges

- Current Zoning Ordinance
  - PUD standards – 20 acres
  - Connectivity requirements
  - Overlay district standards
- Topography
- Rezoning process – standards and review
- Township reputation – not development friendly
- Citizen opposition to development
  - Prefer the “status quo”
- Old Plan for area
- Small businesses
- Cost of infrastructure expansion and the lack of cooperation amongst adjacent property owners
- Heavy traffic – no place for residential development
- Access and turning on a 5 lane road
- Adjacent residential neighborhoods and impact on process

Principles

- Job creation
- Increase tax base
- Position Township and sub-area for “next” development cycle
  - Flexibility to be prepared for whatever development type comes next
- Remove blight
- Commercial / office on 9<sup>th</sup> / Main & KL
- Promotion & public relations
- Senior housing buffer zone
- Flexible access management standards

OSHTMO CHARTER TOWNSHIP MASTER PLAN UPDATE  
**West Main Street Sub-Area Plan – Design Workshop**

**Focus Group #2 – Transportation / Utilities**

- 50 mph speed limit
- 28,500 ADT
- 1% commercial traffic
- Last year, M43 was improved with bike paths
  - One area where paths were not installed due to limited yard area
- 131 creates barrier for bike path
- MDOT accommodates non-motorized paths and pathway plans when doing design work of interchanges and projects
- 234 crashes in last 9 years
  - 38% were rear end straight – function of signals
  - Others are driveway related
- Access management implementation would be very desirable
  - MDOT follows a community's access management plan
    - Not necessarily going to allow every parcel an access point if contrary to community's access management plan
    - Will allow temporary driveway if shared access not feasible yet
  - The fewer the intersections the better
- Generally, not in favor of a signalized intersection in middle of corridor, and certainly not more than one
  - Could be point of negotiation with MODT to reduce driveways other than signalized intersection
- A median could be used in front of driveways to eliminate potential for left turns and left turn crash problems
- Future travel demand model would be required to see if a signal is warranted
- MDOT has approached METRO in past about turnout lanes, and METRO said no
  - Too hard to get in and out of traffic
- Corridor operates at a level B currently, which is good
- Gull Road is an example of poor commercial access
  - North side has decent access management
  - South side has poor access management
- Provide one connection to road and limit everything else
- KCRC requires interconnections and connections to adjacent parcels
- Potential for a new primary road south between Main Street and KL Ave – 9½ St.
  - Who pays for it though?
- Sanitary sewer service is also an issue, particularly on south side of the road
- Transit Oriented Development (TOD) inspired by Peter Calthorpe would be good idea
- Incorporate the woods and buffers

OSHTMO CHARTER TOWNSHIP MASTER PLAN UPDATE  
**West Main Street Sub-Area Plan – Design Workshop**

**Focus Group #3 – Residents / Neighbors**

Positive Qualities

- Limited driveways
- Close to 131 – access
- Natural areas – wooded
- Close to 9<sup>th</sup> St. access to I-94
- Walkable neighborhoods – including dogs
- Close to shopping and restaurants
- Sewer / water and utilities
- Kalamazoo promise
- Well defined neighborhood – area has good edges
- Close to colleges / university & culture of the city

Challenges

- Speed on West Main St.
- Too much commercial development
- Pedestrian / bike access blocked by 131 to east
- Turning left from 10<sup>th</sup> / Lodge onto Main St.
- Stormwater Mgmt – heavy clay layer
- Volume of traffic heavy
- On and off ramps to US-131 cause backups over the overpass
- Uncertainty of what can / will occur
- Look at future of 9<sup>th</sup> St corridor
- Isolation of high intensity land uses (high density residential)

Principles

- Transitions
- Respect for existing uses
- Maintain & enhance quality of life
- Preserve open space and natural features
- Provide parks & useable open space in neighborhoods
- Provide senior housing and amenities
- Traffic calming – including starting west of 9<sup>th</sup> St.
- Providing a transparent process
  - Collaboration and real participation
- Promote “good” development
- Bike trails – encourage uses that are trail oriented
- Limit fast food / auto oriented uses
- Family friendly – green / natural development

OSHTMO CHARTER TOWNSHIP MASTER PLAN UPDATE  
**West Main Street Sub-Area Plan – Design Workshop**

**Focus Group #4 – Government Officials**

Principles

- Green space along road
- Access management / service roads
- Low key / low impact uses
  - Office
  - Small commercial
    - Good / sensible hours
    - Do not require lots of parking
    - Example would be bookstore
  - Neighborhood businesses
- Township needs to direct what happens and not have limbo
- Development in PUD rather than single-user sites
  - PUD ordinance not that bad
- Low impact along the corridor
- Be good neighbors and respectful to existing uses
- DO NOT BECOME WESTNEDGE
- Size and scale of development at 8<sup>th</sup> / Stadium is acceptable
  - Includes residential
- Woodbridge may be ok model
- Road connections should prevent or limit commercial / residential crossing
- Landscape buffer to screen / shield uses along corridor
  - Maintain rural character



CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF OSHTEMO  
MASTER PLAN 2011  
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Other Correspondence

CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF OSHTEMO  
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Thank you