

CHAPTER 1 – INTRODUCTION

Purpose and Planning Process

The purpose of the Krakow Township Master Plan is to provide guidelines for future development within the community, while protecting the natural resources and rural township character. The Michigan Planning Enabling Act, P.A. 33 of 2008, states a Township may adopt, amend, and implement a master plan. The Michigan Planning Enabling Act states: *The general purpose of a master plan is to guide and accomplish, in the planning jurisdiction and its environs, development that satisfies all of the following criteria:*

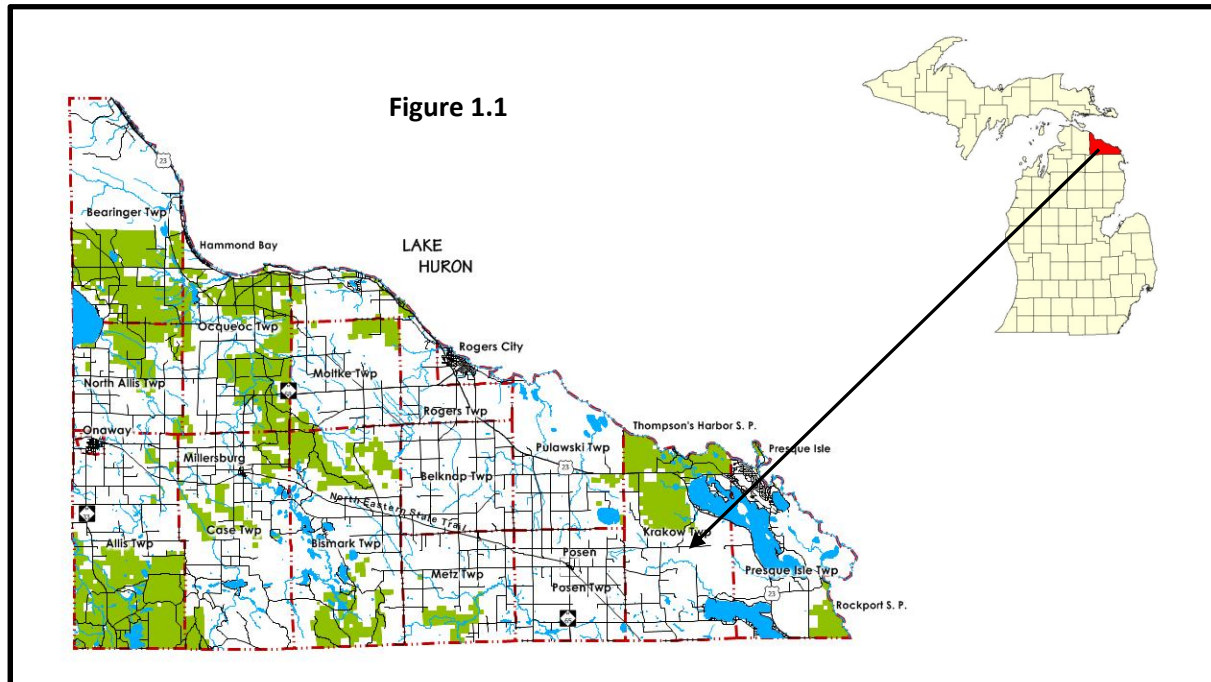
- A. *Is coordinated, adjusted, harmonious, efficient, and economical.*
- B. *Considers the character of the planning jurisdiction and its suitability for particular uses, judged in terms of such factors as trends in land and population development.*
- C. *Will, in accordance with present and future needs, best promote public health, safety, morals, order, convenience, prosperity, and general welfare.*
- D. *Includes, among other things, promotion of or adequate provision for 1 or more of the following:*
 - 1. *A system of transportation to lessen congestion on streets.*
 - 2. *Safety from fire and other dangers.*
 - 3. *Light and air.*
 - 4. *Healthful and convenient distribution of population.*
 - 5. *Good civic design and arrangement and wise and efficient expenditure of public funds.*
 - 6. *Public utilities such as sewage disposal and water supply and other public improvements.*
 - 7. *Recreation.*
 - 8. *The use of resources in accordance with their character and adaptability.*

This plan presents background information on social and economic data, natural resources, existing community services and facilities, and existing land uses. The background information is used to identify important characteristics, changes and trends in Krakow Township. A community survey and special community workshop were used to gather input from residents and landowners. Based on information gathered at this workshop and the background data, the Township Planning Commission developed goals and objectives. These goals and objectives, along with a series of maps including soils, ownership, existing land use, and zoning, provide the basis for the Future Land Use Map. The future land use map recommends locations for various types of future development within the Township.

The Master Plan was developed by the Krakow Township Planning Commission with the assistance from the Northeast Michigan Council of Governments (NEMCOG). Funding for the plan development was partially provided by the Lake Huron Watershed Community Collaboration program, funded by a grant the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative, US Environmental Protection Agency. This plan looks at a twenty year planning horizon, with required revisits every five years or sooner if needed. A series of planning workshops were held over the two-year period. All workshops were open meetings with public welcomed and encouraged to comment on the plan.

Location and Regional Setting

Krakow Township is located in the eastern portion of Presque Isle County, in the northeastern region of Michigan's Lower Peninsula. The Township is eleven miles by six miles and includes two government survey townships for a total of 60 square miles. Water resources are integral to the township's quality of life given its northern boundary is Lake Huron and portions of Grand Lake and Long Lake are located in the township. Residential development is clustered around the two inland lakes with a high percentage being seasonal dwellings. The prevalent land cover is lowland and upland forests, while farmland. US-23 traverses the northern part of Krakow Township and is used by residents to access services in Rogers City and Alpena.



The Status of Planning and Zoning in Krakow Township

Township Board established a Planning and Zoning Commission under the Township Planning Act 168 of 1959 on October 12, 1976. The Township adopted its first land zoning ordinance in 1970. A major update occurred in 1998 and the Township recently completed its latest update on January 11, 2011. In 1978, Krakow Township adopted a Master Plan.

Krakow Township has recognized the importance and need for developing an updated Master Plan in compliance the Michigan Planning Enabling Act, P.A. 33 of 2008. Two key issues are to provide a legal foundation for the Township Zoning Ordinance and to manage development within the Township. By documenting existing conditions such as environment, socio-economic, community services, transportation, recreation, and land use within a master plan, the Township will be able to formulate appropriate land use goals and policies to guide development and serve as the basis for enforceable zoning. The master plan will in turn be used as a basis for re-examining the Township's zoning districts and land use development controls.

Krakow Township

Figure 1-2

Krakow Township 2014 Master Plan

