

Master Plans

What Is A Master Plan?

A Master Plan is a comprehensive long range plan intended to guide growth and development of a community or region. It includes analysis, recommendations, and proposals for the community's population, economy, housing, transportation, community facilities, recreation and land use. It is based on public input, surveys, planning initiatives, existing development, physical characteristics, and social and economic conditions. A Master Plan is a policy based document, it does not nor can it regulate land use.

Virtually every Michigan local government master plan needs to be updated. Statute requires local governments in Michigan to assess their current master plan every five years in order to decide if the plan needs to be updated. A master plan is prepared by the municipality's planning commission, and is a policy document outlining the community's vision for the future. It should be the basis for, or influence the community's future, environmental protection, economic development, zoning and other regulatory ordinances.

However, as we go through that process we have found a number of new requirements that now have to be in a master plan. That means for most local governments a plan rewrite or plan amendment is needed.

For example, beginning in December 2010, Michigan law now requires master plans to have some level of content about complete streets and discussion concerning public transit. (<http://www.micompletestreets.org/>).

Another example are master plans that do not have a section, or sections, that specifically spell out how the plan relates to that community's zoning ordinance – the “zoning plan” chapter of a master plan. This became a requirement for all master plans in 2008.

Finally, a master plan should include elements of an asset-based strategic economic development plan, and explanation how the local plan dovetails with that community's regional economic strategy. While this one is not required by law, economic development and planning for the global economy are necessary for Michigan's revitalization, and is a new and growing priority for every local government in the state (http://www.landpolicy.msu.edu/modules.php?name=Pages&op=viewlive&sp_id=498). A few communities will have already added these elements to their master plan, but for a vast majority of local governments, it is likely the plan needs to be updated by amendment or preparing a whole new document.

City of Negaunee Master Plan

The City is currently engaged in a process to prepare a Master Plan that will serve as a guide for the community over the next twenty years as it adapts to changes in demographics and economic conditions and seeks to enhance the quality of life for its residents.

The most recent plan for the City was adopted in 1999 and no longer reflects the needs of the community. A new plan, including goals and policies for implementation, will be established. These goals will reflect community input while also considering the City's needs for economic development, new housing, infrastructure, parks and green space, as well as downtown development.

The City is seeking input from the people of Negaunee to ensure that the plan has meaning and truly reflects the community. There will be many opportunities for community members to learn about and/or become involved with the planning process, including a survey, community outreach at public events, meetings with focus groups as well as public meetings. Plan drafts will be posted online for public review negauneemasterplan.org.

The City uses the following avenues of communication:

- A dedicated website for this process negauneemasterplan.org (Do not use www.)
- City's website www.cityofnegaunee.com : website posting minutes of meetings →
- Newspaper posting of public hearing notices (Mining Journal) →
- Newsletter (quarterly mailed with utility bills) →
- Public Access, Negaunee Cable Company Public Access Channel 9 →
- Flyer postings at the City Hall and other City building entrances →
- Announcements during the meetings of the City Council and City's boards and commissions →
- Press releases and communications to media. Press releases are typically distributed to a media list containing local or statewide print and broadcast organizations →
- Mailings →
- Surveys →
- Other methods as deemed appropriate

So please be sure to keep an eye peeled and participate.