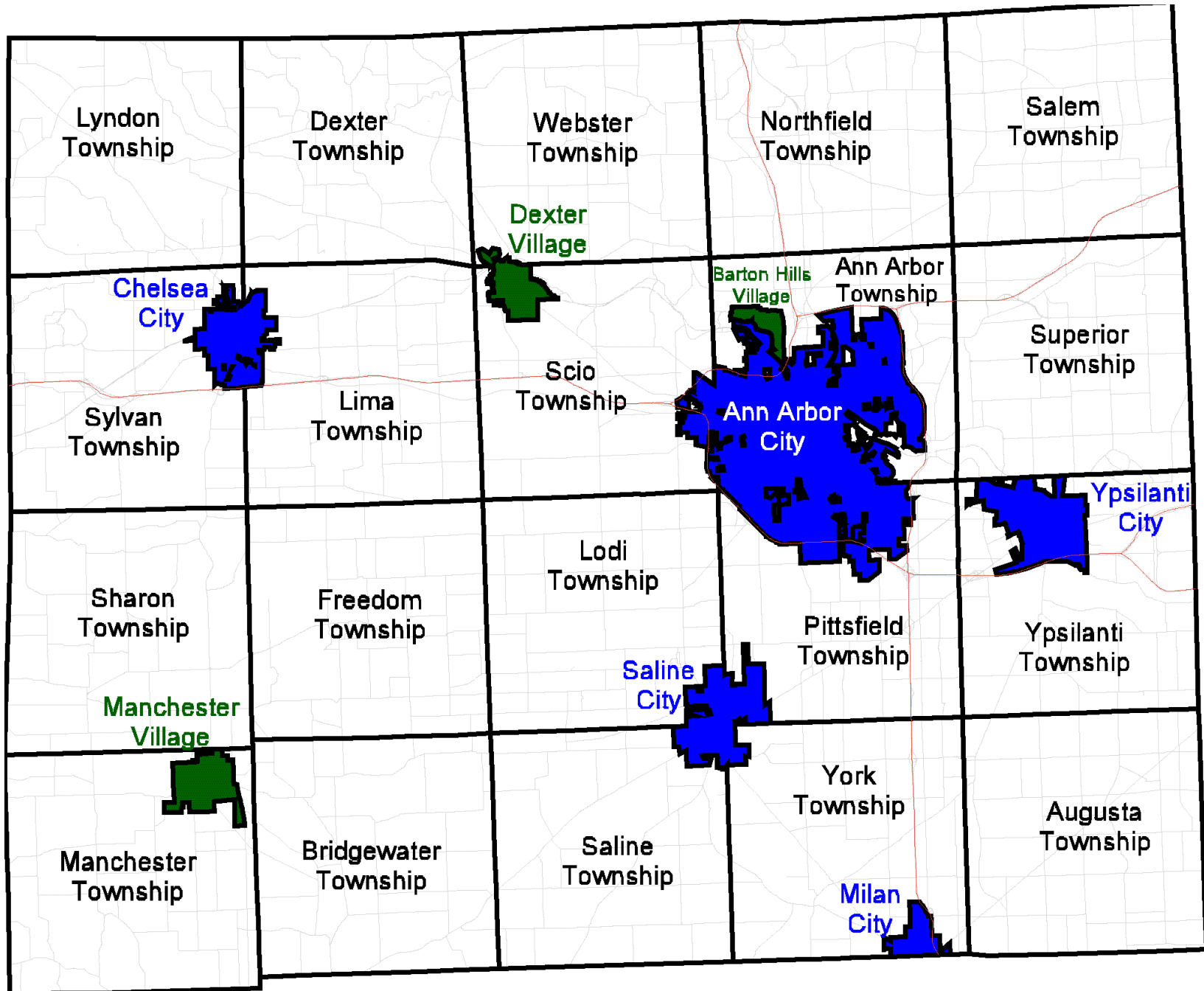


# Chapter 13

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## Intergovernmental Cooperation

# Washtenaw County



## 13.1 Purpose

Washtenaw County has 28 local units of government, 19 school districts, several utility providers and numerous County agencies. The ability to coordinate the decisions and actions of these actors, particularly as it relates to land use and development, is the most important and challenging aspect of implementing this comprehensive plan. Aligning our decisions and programs and coordinating our resources is the only way to maintain our sense of place and provide a sustainable future.

## 13.2 Resident Comments

The fourth most frequent comment received in the public participation process involved intergovernmental coordination:

- Residents identified the need to increase regional cooperation on land use and development decisions. With insufficient coordination on land use planning and services, regional planning was identified as an approach to encourage dialogue across and between communities, especially when municipalities have conflicting interests.
- Residents expressed the need for each municipality to retain their independence while collaborating with the entire county. Residents indicated that there needs to be more interaction with local government and the county for planning to be effective and that local governments, the county, and the state have to work together to address important land use issues.
- There is a need to coordinate services such as schools, water, sewer, public safety, transportation, parks, and transit. These should be considered at the regional level with residents expressing the need for townships to consolidate shared services. Issues associated with the provision of services include the costs of services and who is responsible for the expense of the services.
- Including other actors in the process of implementing the plan is important, especially the need to improve relations between the universities and business community, soliciting the help of community organizations and involving residents in implementing the plan.
- It was identified that the County can play a role in facilitating workshops for township and village officials in community planning and access management, assisting rural areas with future planning to protect open space and improve social services for these areas, and providing assistance to local governments on how to craft legally defensible plans and zoning ordinances.

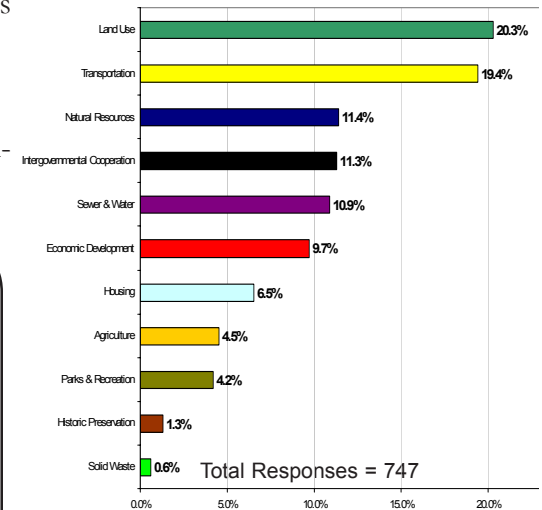


Figure 13-1: Regional Workshop Comments by Topic

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It is not surprising that the plan recommends 188 actions that require intergovernmental and intersectoral cooperation. This section of the plan reiterates the importance of working together to achieve our goals focusing on three important areas:

- Promoting more formal regional planning and service delivery initiatives;
- Coordinating resources through public/private partnerships; and
- A heightened role of the County in facilitating planning and service delivery.

### 13.3 Promoting Formal Regional Initiatives

Local governments have a long history of cooperation in providing services to residents. Examples of this include contracting among governments for regional building services agencies, fire, sewer and water facilities, recycling authorities and district libraries. Urban cooperation agreements (425 Agreements) have been used to facilitate economic development and tax base sharing. In addition to these inter-local arrangements, local governments have joined in the Urban County and HOME programs to receive federal funding for lower income residents and have participated with AATA in providing transit services.

Over the past two years, numerous regional planning efforts have been initiated. Informal relationships among local governments have resulted in the development of regional plans for the Manchester, Chelsea, Milan and Saline regions. Recent regional efforts include the Dexter Area Team, currently meeting regularly to discuss issues and the Washtenaw Metro Alliance, a more formal regional group of governments who have adopted a “compact” to work together.

These planning efforts have been successful in providing a forum for regular communication and discussion of regional issues and opportunities and have resulted in some tangible results such as identifying regional locations for manufactured housing, beginning work on future road right-of-ways with the Washtenaw County Road Commission, development of natural features maps for protection of natural features and common future land use nomenclature.

While successful in opening lines of communication and beginning work towards regional goals, these efforts are limited in the degree to which they will promote regional planning:

- The regional land use plans are largely a compilation of each local government’s adopted land use plans. As a result, the regional plans do not address important regional issues such as a coordinated, regional approach to providing water and sewer services and alternative transportation routes to relieve traffic congestion through villages.

#### **Chelsea Area Planning Team - CAPT**

City of Chelsea  
Lyndon Township  
Dexter Township  
Sylvan Township  
Lima Township

#### **Dexter Area Regional Team - DART**

Village of Dexter  
Dexter Township  
Webster Township  
Lima Township  
Scio Township

#### **Milan Organization for Regional Excellence - MORE**

City of Milan  
York Township  
Augusta Township  
Milan Township, Monroe County  
London Township, Monroe County  
Milan Area Chamber of Commerce  
Milan Area Schools

#### **Saline Sustainability Circle - SSC**

City of Saline  
Lodi Township  
Pittsfield Township  
Saline Township  
York Township  
Saline Area Chamber of Commerce  
Saline Area Schools

#### **Southwest Washtenaw Council of Governments - SWWCOG**

Village of Manchester  
Manchester Township  
Sharon Township  
Freedom Township  
Bridgewater Township

#### **Washtenaw Metro Alliance - WMA**

City of Ann Arbor  
City of Ypsilanti  
Ann Arbor Township  
Pittsfield Township  
Scio Township  
Superior Township  
Ypsilanti Township

**Table 13-1: Washtenaw County Regional Groups**

- There are no requirements for each local government to make land use decisions consistent with the regional plans. Some local governments have adopted the regional plan as “guidelines for agriculture, open space preservation, development patterns, etc.”, while other regional participants have decided not to take any action to recognize the regional effort.

These regional efforts represent a significant positive change toward regional planning and providing regional services. This plan suggests building on this momentum and taking regionalism to the next level through more formal regional arrangements.

<u>Element</u>	<u>Regional Cooperation Recommendation</u>
Landscapes	1.8 - Small City and Village Infrastructure Planning 2.3 - Activity Center Infrastructure 3.1 - Manufactured Housing Communities 3.3 - Urban Service Districts 4.1 - Regional Open Space Plans
Agriculture	2.1 - Farmland Preservation Funding
Natural Resources	2.5 - Natural Resource Area Connections 2.6 - Regional Open Space Plans 3.2 - Regional Approach to Reduce Emissions
Economic Development	3.4 - Regional Efforts to Attract Business
Parks & Recreation	2.1 - Countywide Greenway Network 2.2 - Huron River Border-to-Border Trail 2.3 - Greenway & Trail Plan
Historic Preservation	1.4 - Historic District Collaboration 3.1 - Local Master Plan Updates
Transportation	2.2 - Signal Coordination 3.1 - Alternative Transportation Routes 8.1 - Regional Transit Consortium 8.2 - Transit Consortium for Senior Population 9.5 - County-wide Trail System
Sewer & Water Services	1.3 - Regional Systems
Solid Waste	1.3 - Reevaluate Local Collection Services 2.2 - Regional Solid Waste Management

Table 13-2: Recommendations for Regional Cooperation



Regional workshop held in Fall 2003 to gather input from county residents

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## 13.4 Coordinating Resources through Public/Private Partnerships

As part of developing the background information for each plan element, an identification of the current actors involved in planning and providing services was performed. This research shows that a major strength of the County is the number of organizations involved in delivering services and programs to our residents. In addition to local governments and County agencies, there are hundreds of educational, not-for-profit and private organizations that are involved in delivering services and implementing various land use and natural resource programs. While the benefits of having so many organizations are obvious, there is an opportunity to have greater impact toward realizing our goals by aligning and coordinating the resources of these actors.

<u>Element</u>	<u>Partnership Recommendation</u>
<b>Agriculture</b>	1.1 - New Market Opportunities
<b>Economic Development</b>	1.2 - University and College Connections 2.2 - Target Industry Curricula 4.1 - Supporting Network
<b>Housing</b>	2.1 - Annual Housing Unit Targets 2.2 - Low Income Housing Tax Credits 2.4 - Density Incentives 3.1 - Section 8 Voucher Partnership 3.2 - Public Housing and Tenant Assistance 3.4 - Eviction Prevention Strategy 4.2 - Disabled Renter Agreements 4.3 - Foreclosure Strategies 5.1 - Housing Targets and Outcomes
<b>Parks &amp; Recreation</b>	2.1 - Countywide Greenway Network
<b>Historic Preservation</b>	2.4 - Rural Roads Guidelines 2.8 - Freedom Trail Network
<b>Transportation</b>	1.4 - Interchange Activity Centers 2.3 - New Development Traffic Studies 2.4 - Interconnected System of Access Points 4.2 - Density Limitations on Rural Roads 9.1 - Non-Motorized Transportation Plan
<b>Sewer &amp; Water Services</b>	2.1 - Reduce Pollutant Loading

**Table 13-3: Recommendations for Coordinating Resources Through Public/Private Partnerships**

**13.5 A Heightened Role for the County in Facilitating Planning and Service Delivery**

Many of the goals and recommendations in this plan require the County’s assistance in facilitating planning efforts or require a county-wide approach to implementation. While the County has no direct land use or development authority, there is a significant role the County can play in facilitating planning at the local and regional levels and implementing plan goals and objectives.

<u>Element</u>	<u>County Assistance Recommendation</u>	<u>Element</u>	<u>County Assistance Recommendation</u>
Landscapes	1.1 - Urban Infill Development Character and Design	Natural Resources	1.13 - Agricultural Conservation Programs
	1.2 - Urban Infill Incentives		2.1 - Model Ordinances
	1.5 - Suburban Infill Design		2.2 - Natural Features Overlays
	1.6 - Suburban Strip Centers		2.3 - Mitigation Bank
	1.7 - Small City & Village Residential Infill		2.4 - Natural Features Inventory
	1.8 - Small City & Village Infrastructure Planning		3.1 - Funds for Non-Motorized Transportation
	1.10 - Small City & Village Infill Design		4.3 - Best Management Practices Toolkit
	2.2 - Activity Center Locations		4.4 - Annual Water Quality Report
	2.5 - Activity Center Model Ordinances		
	3.1 - Manufactured Housing Communities		
Agriculture	3.2 - State Legislation	Economic Development	1.1 - Strategic Plans for Target Industries
	3.4 - Hamlet Plans		1.3 - Economic Organization Alignment
	3.6 - Lakeside Residential Design Standards		2.1 - Target Industry Workforce Programs
	4.1 - Regional Open Space Plans		2.4 - Job Opportunities for Older Residents
	1.2 - New Market Zoning		3.1 - Infill Development Sites for Target Industries
	2.2 - PDR and Farmland Preservation		3.2 - Brownfield and DDA Funds for Infill
	3.1 - Model Agricultural Ordinances		3.3 - Manufacturing Building Re-use
	3.2 - Agricultural Enabling Legislation		4.2 - Agriculture Industry Strategy
			4.3 - Education and Marketing
			4.4 - “Jump Start” the Agricultural Economy
Natural Resources	1.2 - Watershed Funding	Housing	5.1 - Ecotourism and Heritage Tourism
	1.3 - Treatment Facility and Industrial Pollution Sources		1.1 - Housing Grants
	1.4 - Urban Stormwater Systems		1.2 - Homeowner Rehabilitation
	1.5 - Illicit Discharges		1.3 - Housing Redevelopment
	1.8 - Model Ordinances		2.5 - Infill Development in Villages
	1.9 - Model Stormwater Regulations		3.5 - Not-for-Profit Capacity
	1.11 - Soil Erosion Programs		4.1 - Special Population Needs
	1.12 - Drain System Maintenance		4.5 - Tax Reverted Properties
			4.6 - Homeless Plan
			4.7 - Transitional Housing

**Table 13-4: Recommendations for County Assistance in Facilitation and/or Implementation**

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<u>Element</u>	<u>County Assistance Recommendation</u>	<u>Element</u>	<u>County Assistance Recommendation</u>
Housing	4.8 - Supportive Housing 4.9 - Identify Mainstream Resources 5.2 - Increase Grant Funding	Transportation	8.4 - Transit Frequency for Disabled and Low-Income 8.5 - Airport Shuttle Service 8.6 - Congestion Relief through Rail 9.2 - Infrastructure for Bicycle Travel 9.3 - Development Regulation for Sidewalks 9.4 - Pedestrian and Bicycle Infrastructure
Parks & Recreation	1.1 - Additional Parkland for Residents 1.2 - Park Development 1.3 - Development Standards for Parks 2.3 - Greenway & Trail Plan 3.1 - Park & Recreation Land Acquisition 3.2 - Natural Areas Preservation Program	Sewer & Water Services	1.1 - Infill Development Capacity 1.2 - Activity Center Capacity 1.4 - Urban Service District Capacity 1.5 - Community Systems Operations 1.6 - Public Facilities Ordinances 1.7 - County Financing Support 2.3 - Groundwater Protection 2.4 - Well Regulation
Historic Preservation	1.1 - Create Historic District Commissions 1.2 - Local Historic District Compliance 1.3 - Local Historic District Ordinance Review 1.4 - Historic District Collaboration 1.5 - Innovative Preservation Strategies 2.1 - Centennial Farm Nominations 2.2 - Information for Land Use Decisions 2.4 - Rural Roads Guidelines 2.5 - One-Room Schoolhouses 2.6 - Underground Railroad Registration 2.7 - Michigan Freedom Trail Register 3.1 - Local Master Plan Updates 3.2 - Historic Resource Education	Solid Waste	1.1 - Landfill Capacity Plan 1.2 - Legislation for Out-of-State Waste 1.3 - Reevaluate Local Collection Services 2.1 - Waste Diversion 2.3 - Recycling Drop-Off Facilities 2.4 - Funding for County Drop-Off Center 2.5 - Waste Recovery Programs 2.6 - Waste Knot Program 2.7 - Home Toxics Reduction Program 2.8 - Household Response Procedure 2.9 - Rural Community Clean-Up Days 2.10 - Policies to Ban Unlawful Waste Activities 2.11 - Commercial and Multi-family Recycling 2.12 - Yard Waste 2.13 - Educate County on Solid Waste Benefits 2.14 - Solid Waste System Data 2.15 - Solid Waste Online Technical Assistance
Transportation	1.3 - State and Federal Funding for Expansion 2.5 - Development Density to Support Transit 3.2 - Priority Improvements 3.3 - Access Management in Rural Areas 3.4 - Proper Planning of Expanded Corridors 4.1 - Gravel Road Capacity 4.2 - Density Limitations on Rural Roads 5.1 - Context Sensitive Design for Rural Bridges 5.2 - Funds for Rural Character Preservation 6.1 - Public Interconnected Roadway Network 7.1 - Designation of Natural Beauty Roads 7.2 - Residential Design Standards 8.3 - Transit Services Funding		

Table 13-4 (continued): Recommendations for County Assistance in Facilitation and/or Implementation