

## Summary—The Current State

- Continued growth and development is projected over the next 25 years. Nearly all of this growth is anticipated to occur within the region's townships, posing a serious threat to valuable open space resources.
- Despite significant growth and development over the past couple of decades, the region retains substantial natural resources and farmland. The Huron River, and its associated riparian systems, stands out as our most significant natural feature, with much of the parkland and open space, community facilities and non-motorized routes located along its banks.
- Current approaches have not resulted in the creation of a coordinated system of open space. We believe extensive preservation of a regionally significant system of open space is possible through reform of land use policies and coordination of preservation actions.

### Definition of Open Space

Open space can be viewed as a system of natural areas and corridors, parklands, farmland, and other undeveloped areas that can provide recreational opportunities, support plant and animal habitat, protect sensitive environmental resources and ecological processes, and maintain scenic character and natural beauty.

## Why Conduct Open Space Planning?

The preservation of the region's high-quality open space resources is a very important strategic element in the region's continued success.

## Washtenaw Metro Alliance Partners

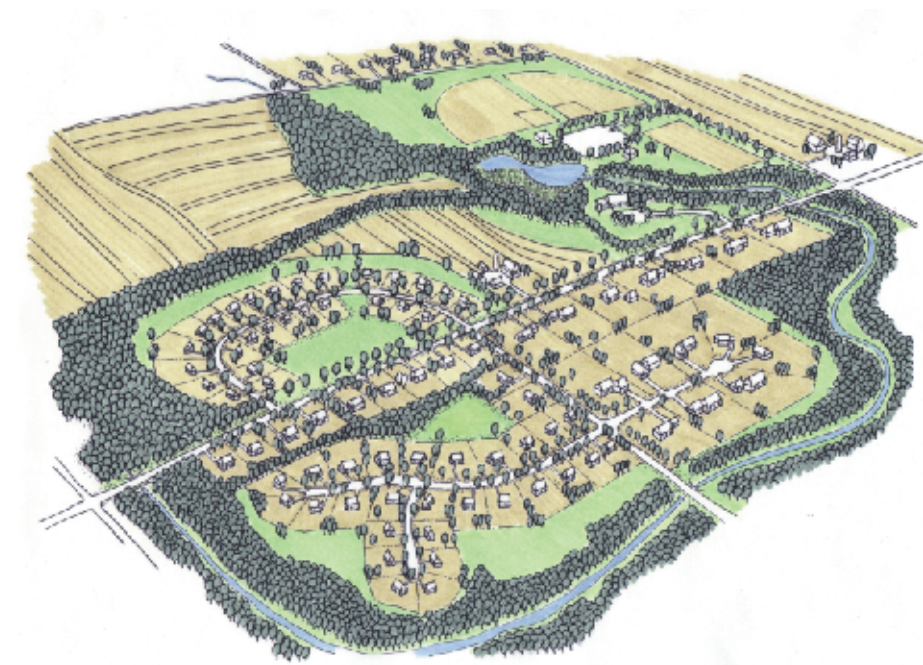
Charter Township of Ann Arbor  
 Charter Township of Pittsfield  
 Charter Township of Superior  
 Charter Township of Ypsilanti  
 City of Ann Arbor  
 City of Ypsilanti  
 Scio Township  
 Washtenaw County

### Special Thanks to:

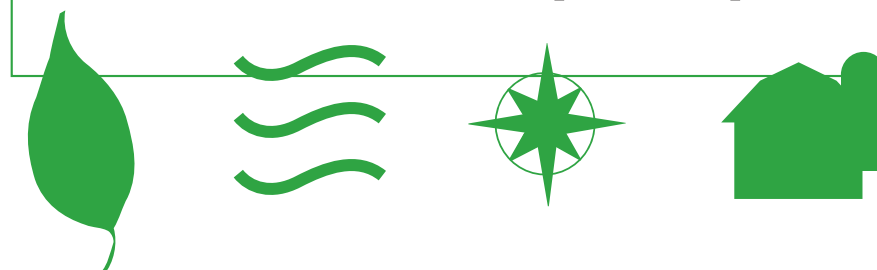
Huron-Clinton Metropolitan Authority  
 Huron River Watershed Council  
 Superior Land Conservancy  
 Washtenaw Area Transportation Study  
 Washtenaw County Drain Commissioner  
 Washtenaw County Parks and Recreation  
 Washtenaw County Road Commission  
 Washtenaw Land Trust

### Purpose of the Washtenaw Metro Alliance

"To protect our quality of life by anticipating issues before they become problems and to enhance our quality of life by identifying opportunities to maintain our sense of place through commitment to leadership and action."  
 Washtenaw Metro Alliance Charter, 10/13/03



## Green Places: Open Spaces



## A Plan For Coordinated Parkland And Open Space



Prepared by:  
 Washtenaw County Planning and Environment  
 and  
 Carlisle/Wortman Associates, Inc.

To view the full plan please visit [wma.ewashtenaw.org](http://wma.ewashtenaw.org)

## The Vision

The vision for Green Places: Open Spaces is to create an interconnected system of open space throughout the region that supports ecological function, biodiversity, water quality, productive farmland, recreational opportunity and scenic character for current and future residents.

## Introduction—The Green Infrastructure Plan

This plan has been prepared under the charter of the Washtenaw Metro Alliance to achieve a number of objectives.

- Promoting the issue of open space preservation to increase awareness and support for the vision.
- Bringing together the wealth of talent and resources found within its various political jurisdictions and non-governmental organizations geared toward open space preservation. This plan seeks to draw them together in a coordinated fashion.
- Drawing connections and creating synergy throughout the region.

