

Washtenaw Metro Alliance

<http://wma.ewashtenaw.org>

City of Ann Arbor
Ann Arbor Township
Scio Township
Ypsilanti Township

City of Ypsilanti
Pittsfield Township
Superior Township
Washtenaw County

**A RESOLUTION TO ADOPT AND IMPLEMENT THE GREEN PLACES:
OPEN SPACES "PLAN FOR COORDINATED PARKLAND AND OPEN
SPACE" AND SPECIFIC ACTION ITEMS**

Washtenaw Metro Alliance

April 5, 2007

WHEREAS, elected officials of the cities of Ann Arbor and Ypsilanti, the townships of Ann Arbor, Pittsfield, Superior, Scio and Ypsilanti, and Washtenaw County have come together to form the Washtenaw Metro Alliance (WMA), by resolution support of its charter; and

WHEREAS, the purpose of the WMA is to protect the region's 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; and

WHEREAS, a coordinated approach to open space preservation was identified by the WMA membership as a priority quality of life issue and opportunity for the region; and

WHEREAS, a draft Green Places: Open Spaces "A Plan for Coordinated Parkland and Open Space" was developed with extensive input from the public, open space partners and local government boards and committees, and WMA members; and

WHEREAS the Plan's vision 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; and

WHEREAS the plan outlines specific actions needed to increase awareness and support for open space preservation and coordinating open space activities to maximize the region's quality of life.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Washtenaw Metro Alliance, for the reasons enumerated above, and in accordance with its stated purpose, wishes to formally endorse the Green Places: Open Spaces "A Plan for Coordinated Parkland and Open Space" and commits to move toward implementing the plan by: presenting the plan to their local commissions and boards for consideration of adopting the plan into local master plans;

continuing to refine the plan by coordinating with open space and transportation partners in identifying highest acquisition priorities and improving pedestrian, bicycle and transit access to the region's open space; coordinating land use and development best practices; and monitoring progress toward meeting the plans vision.

Jeff Irwin, Co-Chair, Washtenaw Metro Alliance
Chair, Washtenaw County Board of Commissioners

John Hieftje, Co-Chair, Washtenaw Metro Alliance
Mayor, City of Ann Arbor

Attachment: Description of Action Items

**April 5, 2007 WMA Resolution Attachment
Green Places: Open Spaces
Action Items**

Getting the Word Out About Open Space: Provide information to residents, businesses and community groups about the plan. Let everyone know we care about our quality of life and get their comments on how we can have the best open space system possible.

Endorsing the Plan: Washtenaw Metro Alliance Members present the plan to their local Commissions and Boards. Local governments adopt the plan and incorporate the open space strategy into their master plans.

Strengthening the Partnerships: The high level of coordination among the existing partners that exists today increases as the partners help implement the plan. Regular meetings and cooperative structures will facilitate establishing a clearinghouse, identifying highest priority open space areas for acquisition.

Implementing the Plan: Clearing house for preservation information and assistance: open space partners coordinate activities and act as a one-stop shop for preservation information and local, state and federal program assistance.

Leveraging Open Space Funds/Resources: Local governments and partners coordinate their funding resources to leverage state and federal programs. Partners work together to maintain or initiate local millages and explore new funding and grant opportunities.

Identifying Highest Priority Areas for Acquisition: Regional open space partners meet to identify important areas for preservation based on individual program goals, ability to connect open space in the region and to county-wide open space systems, public use and access and other important considerations.

Improving Pedestrian, Bicycle and Transit Access to the Region's Open Space: Develop a detailed access plan, identify funding and build access connections within the region and to larger open space systems such as the Border to Border Trail.

Coordinated Land Use and Development Approach: Regional governments adopt best practices and model ordinances to promote open space plan implementation such as open space development, access easements and transfer of development rights.

Monitoring Progress and Sharing Success: WMA will report on the progress made and additional actions needed to realize the vision and meet the open space goals for the region on an annual basis.