



The 2009 Springfield Township Master Plan updates the previous 2002 plan, which focused on balancing intense development pressure with preservation of the Township's unique cultural and natural characteristics. While focus on environmental preservation has not changed in the most recent Master Plan, the new plan concentrates on evaluating the decline in development activity, and how this may impact the future growth of the community.

Springfield Township has a history of using research, studies and reports as part of an active attempt to address issues of concern in the community. The 2009 Springfield Township Master Plan update follows this pattern. Building on the previous document, the new plan uses data from the Upper Clinton Watershed Management Plan, the Dixie Highway Corridor Study, the Green Infrastructure Visioning Plan, and other studies to guide their goal-setting and action priorities.

Data from another study, called the Shiawassee and Huron Headwaters Resource Preservation Project, was the basis for a unique chapter of the Master Plan called a Natural Area Plan. Because of its strong commitment to preserving the Township's environmental resources, the Natural Area Plan is used as a tool to describe the Township's special ecological assets, and the community's philosophy and approach to conserving its natural character. Action items are also provided to guide future decision making.

Another unique component is a commercial market analysis conducted specifically for the Master Plan. This analysis estimates future commercial land demand, and answers questions on how to move forward in support of local businesses. The Master Plan has also prepared the community to respond to the Complete Streets requirements. The 2009 plan includes an expanded Pathway Plan, which identifies the priority non-motorized transportation routes, and the infrastructure improvements needed to connect the Township to other communities and regional trails.

