

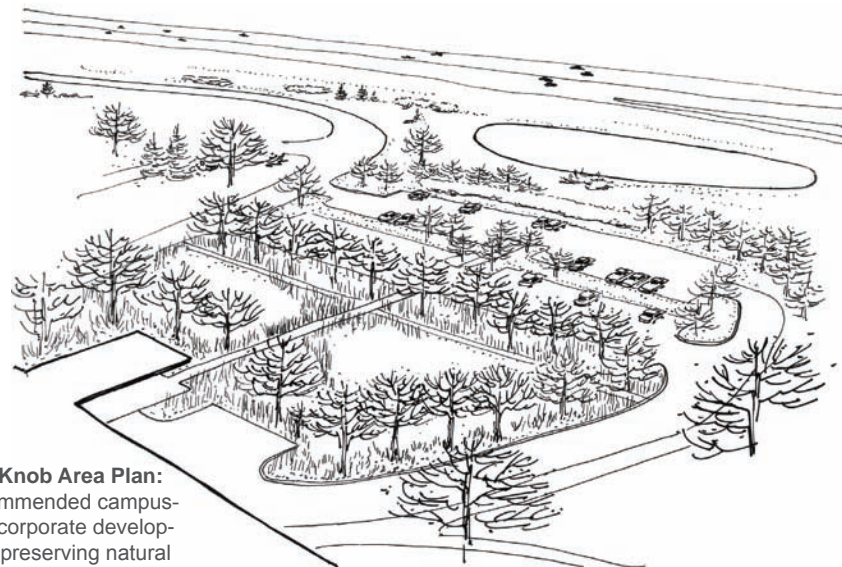


VISION 2020: 1998 HONORS AWARD
MICHIGAN SOCIETY OF PLANNING OFFICIALS
Independence Township

The original Independence Township Vision 2020 Master Plan won an Honors Award from the Michigan Society of Planning Officials (forerunner of the Michigan Association of Planning). This distinction was credited to the wide-variety of viewpoints sought during the plan development, and the “exceptionally well-focused plan that resulted.” The original goals and objectives were so well conceived that after 10 years, the foundation and core ideas illustrated by the plan still remain.

Vision 2020 consists of three major study elements: Background Studies, Strategic Plan, and Master Plan. While published under separate cover, each study element provides a building block for the next study element, making the documents consistent with one another. The Background Studies establishes a baseline of conditions in the Township. The Strategic Plan was the result of a strategic process that identified goals for specific community issues, and then formulated strategies to meet these goals. This plan is more short-term in nature (10 years) than a traditional Master Plan. The final step in the process is the overall Master Plan. This document represents the long-range view of the Township and focuses on more traditional planning elements, such as future land use and community facilities. It also incorporates the goals and strategies found in the Strategic Plan, and includes detailed area plans that highlight priority issues within the Township, and ways to address them.

The Township reviewed the plans in 2008, and made a few revisions. A significant addition to the revised Master Plan is a new section that discusses opportunities for change in transportation planning. This section outlines several ways that the Township can influence the function and character of its roads, even though the roads are designed, built, and maintained by the County Road Commission and MDOT. Another significant addition is including Oakland County’s Green Infrastructure initiative in the plan, building on the Township’s efforts to identify and conserve open space and green corridors. A section describing the Township’s Capital Improvement Plan has also been added, as well as a Zoning Plan, as now required by state statute.



Pine Knob Area Plan:
Recommended campus-style corporate development preserving natural features