



GVMC Creates Single Source Regional Planning and Land Use Maps

Today, GVMC unveiled the first ever Single Source Planning and Land Use Maps. GVMC undertook the effort with assistance of several city and township planners.

The new maps will provide useful resources for:

- ◆ GVMC programs & members
- ◆ Regional Prosperity Efforts
- ◆ Economic Development Partners
- ◆ Transportation Improvement Program
- ◆ Regional Environmental Efforts
- ◆ Michigan Department of Transportation
- ◆ Businesses interested in a single source to learn more about land use and zoning in our region.
- ◆ The general public interested in how our region is planned for future development

The project involved taking almost 300 different land use categories and merging into 10 with standardized descriptions and color coding. The new maps give a big picture view of our area.

“Our biggest challenge was the need to in some way synthesize the two or three hundred separately described zoning and planning districts that exist county wide. In the end, the ten categories that were selected represent only the “predominant intent and purpose” of each unit’s future land use arrangement and zoning scheme. With that approach, we have a map that is

going to be very useful from a quick glance perspective and for regional analysis. Nonetheless, each of the ten categories has been described with significant caveats and it is important the user understand that the maps are not official or legally accurate and that they should continue to rely on the local units for specific parcel by parcel information.”

Mark Sisson, Gaines Township Planning and Zoning Administrator

“The mapping effort for our Single Source Project was the largest to take place since the inception of GVMC’s REGIS and original data conversion in the early 2000s. It was a welcomed and rewarding challenge to manage the data conversion. Data was submitted by multiple jurisdictions in multiple formats but the team here at GVMC managed the project successfully with a great ending product. We look forward to seeing our partners put this important data to use in our region.”

Jason Moore, GIS Manager

Team Members who worked on this collaborative project included:

- Mark Sisson, Gaines Township
- Dale Fitz, City of Grand Rapids
- Joe Pung, City of Kentwood
- Terry Schweitzer, City of Kentwood
- Pete Elam, Plainfield Township
- Sue Becker, Alpine Township
- Tim Cochran, City of Wyoming
- Laurel Joseph, GVMC – Transportation
- Mike Zonyk, GVMC - Transportation
- Wendy Ogilvie, GVMC - Environmental
- Jason Moore, GVMC - REGIS
- Greg Carlino-GVMC-Regis
- Jessa Calla-GVMC-REGIS

We appreciate everyone that worked on this effort and the communities that participated. This project was identified by the business and economic developed community as a much needed resource for our region.

