

# CITY OF FLINT



**1995 COMPREHENSIVE PLAN  
OF POLICIES FOR DEVELOPMENT  
FOR THE  
CITY OF FLINT, MICHIGAN**

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MAYOR**

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## **INTRODUCTION**

Cities are as diversified as the people who live and work in them. Each offers certain amenities, opportunities and conditions which create environments in which necessary activities occur in a predictable manner. But as people change, cities change. Some mellowing, providing more urban amenities and viable environments, others showing strong signs of decay. All must compete with each other and with suburban living.

Like many cities of comparable size, Flint exhibits the full range of metropolitan living experiences. It provides unique cultural and educational experiences, new and mature neighborhoods and income levels which, during periods of prosperity, far exceed the national average. Unfortunately, it also displays many problems created by growth, age and economic changes. There is urban blight in parts of the city and there is crime and a deteriorating infrastructure. As with any city dominated by one major industry, periods of high unemployment take their toll on the city's viability. However, there are positive signs for Flint's future. The economy is stabilizing, diversification of our economic base has begun and the economic development structure is being reorganized.

### **Why a Master Plan?**

Local government agencies deal daily with some aspect of the city's social, economic, and physical infrastructure, such as site plan reviews, maintenance and repair schedule for streets, zoning, environmental activities, social issues, and transportation.

Decision makers must have a long-term, comprehensive guide to help them make the complex decisions. Short-term studies, based on "hot" issues, cannot replace a general reference for major policy decisions.

The intent of this Master Plan is to establish the basic parameters for the social, economic and physical development of the city of Flint. The plan presents the basic framework, not specific areas of control. It allows for flexibility and change as well as the input of all sources to make decisions and to take specific actions.

In developing goals and objectives, the following definitions are used:

Goals - The ultimate general long-term results to be achieved by public action.

Objectives - The specific, immediate actions or steps needed to achieve the goal.

While the Master Plan is intended to function as a general guide for development, more specific plans exist that detail the physical development of Flint, which will be incorporated in the overall Master Land Use Plan in 1990. They include:

- Central Park Urban Renewal Plan
- Central Business District Urban Renewal Plan
- Interchange Urban Renewal Plan
- Grand Traverse South Urban Renewal Plan
- Lewis-Longway Urban Renewal Plan
- St. John Urban Renewal Plan
- Oak Park Urban Renewal Plan
- Martin-Jefferson Urban Renewal Plan
- Doyle Urban Renewal Plan
- Historic District Plans
- Zoning Map and related ordinance

All city bodies directly involved in promoting the public health, safety and welfare, such as groups involved in budgeting, zoning changes or public improvement planning, should use the Master Plan and the other plans as a guide for these actions to insure that our community achieves goals set forth in this Master Plan.

The State Enabling Act 285 of 1931 gives the cities authority to establish a planning commission and adopt a master plan for the physical development of the municipality. The plan serves as a guide to accomplish coordinated, adjusted and harmonious development in accord with present and future needs.

The City Charter, effective in 1975, further emphasized the need for a master plan updated annually. The plan is to serve as a set of guidelines to assist the mayor and others in evaluating and implementing specific proposals for the development of the city and promoting the public health, safety and welfare of its residents.

The general Master Plan was developed by the Planning Commission and Department of Community Development staff and adopted by the Flint City Council.

The Plan represents a basic change from prior plans because it began in 1976 with "grass roots" participation. From the inception of the plan, citizens were involved through a series of public workshops. The city was subdivided into 12 districts to ensure that the needs of all Flint residents would be considered in developing the plan. During these workshops, the residents identified problems and causes associated with their specific districts. Problems were prioritized and goals and objectives were developed, as well as potential remedies for these problems. This information was the basic framework for developing the Master Plan.

## **COMMUNITY CHARACTERISTICS**

The City of Flint is a constantly changing community; planning for the community should take into consideration the changes and characteristics to meet the needs. The following pages include basic characteristics of Flint included in the 1980 and 1990 census data. As new data become available, these characteristics will be updated.



## COMMUNITY CHARACTERISTICS

### City of Flint

N/A = Not available

Source:

1990 Census  
\*1990 MESC Average

	<u>1980</u>	<u>1990</u>
<u>POPULATION</u>	159,611	140,761
- less than 5 years old	9.1%	9.5%
- 5 to 17	22.8%	20.8%
- 18 to 34	31.3%	29%
- 35 to 54	18.4%	22.1%
- 55 to 64	8.4%	7.8%
- 65 and older	10.0%	10.7%
- Median age (years)	26.7%	29.7%
- White	55.2%	49.6%
- Black	41.1%	47.9%
- Spanish origin	2.5%	2.9%
- Other minorities	1.2%	1.2%
<u>HOUSEHOLDS</u>	57,613	53,894
- Homeowners	66.7%	58%
- Households with children	42.8%	40.7%
- Female household heads	37.4%	44.9%
- Female households with children	16.3%	20.9%
- Household heads 65 years or older	18.7%	10%
- 1-person households	26.0%	29.3%
- 2-to-4 person households	59.7%	59.5%
- 5-or more person households	14.3%	11.2%
- Average household size (people)	2.74	2.56
- Median household income	\$17,181	N/A

## COMMUNITY CHARACTERISTICS (Continued)

### City of Flint

	<u>1980</u>	<u>1990</u>
<u>HOUSING UNITS</u>	60,941	58,724
- Occupied	57,613	53,894
- Vacant	3,328	4,830
- Vacancy rate	5.5%	8.2%
- 1-unit structures	47,573	43,709
- 2-to-9 unit structures	8,553	8,773
- 10-or more unit structures	3,240	3,846
- Mobile homes	1,575	2,396
- Average housing value	\$29,417	
- Median housing value		33,900
<u>EMPLOYMENT</u>		
- Labor force	66,261	59,675*
- Unemployed	18.2%	13.2%*
- Employed	81.8%	86.8%*
<u>MAJOR EMPLOYERS</u>		
- Manufacturing	42.3%	
- Retail	15.3%	
- Service industry	12.5%	
- Health	10.2%	
- Education	8.7%	
- Public administration	3.0%	
- Construction	2.4%	
- Transportation	2.0%	
- Wholesale trade	1.9%	
- Communications and public utilities	1.6%	
- Other	.1%	

The Master Plan is separated into 13 elements that deal with these major components of our community. Each element contains background to explain where we are and how we got there. The goals and objectives of each element indicate where we should be going and how to get there.

The elements of the Master Plan are:

1. Residential
2. Economic Development
3. Open Space/Leisure
4. Public or Community Facilities
5. Environmental
6. Transportation
7. Historic Preservation
8. Infra-Structure
9. Public Safety
10. Human Services
11. Citizen Participation
12. Arts and Culture
13. Work-Force Enhancement/Education Element

## RESIDENTIAL ELEMENT

### RESPONSIBLE DEPARTMENTS:

Department of Community and Economic Development  
Department of Public Works

### INTRODUCTION

The housing and residential policies adopted by City Council March 8, 1982 are official statements of intent that will result in a commitment of human and financial resources by the city of Flint to carry out those policies. The policy plan for the residential element is a broad guide for decisions. The goals represent the policies and decisions the City wishes to accomplish.

### BACKGROUND

#### Housing Market

Flint contains the majority of older, housing in the Genesee County market area, and a larger concentration of low-income households. This combination results in the continuation of Flint's housing problems, especially problems associated with households unable to afford market rents or buy and maintain a standard housing unit.

#### Housing Characteristics

Based on the 1990 census data, there are 60,000 housing units in the city of Flint; 75 percent are single-family homes with 67 percent owner-occupied or being purchased by the occupant. Of the dwelling units, 5 percent are publicly subsidized. About 43 percent of Flint's housing was built before World War II, with construction tapering off to a near standstill in the 1970s. Housing maintenance, with some exceptions on the edge of the city, has been declining in recent years. Median assessed valuations for housing units in Flint are lower than those for the state of Michigan.

## **Equal Opportunity in Housing**

While the city of Flint has an Open Occupancy Ordinance, there is residential segregation because of economic conditions and attitudes.

## **Housing Needs**

Housing problems caused by substandard structures, overcrowding, and dwellings too expensive for low-income households need to be eliminated. Further, for low-income households, housing problems are concentrated on those with female heads. Black households also make up a greater proportion of those who need safe and decent housing than their numbers among the general population would dictate.

Substandard housing and high cost are the most frequent problems and are more frequent among renters than owners. Overcrowding is a much less serious problem, in terms of numbers, but occurs more frequently among owners than renters. About 25 percent of Flint households have one or more housing problems.

## **Future Housing Needs**

If household characteristics continue to change as they did during the 1970s and 1980s, the proportion of minority households will increase, household size will decline, female-headed households will become dominant, elderly households will increase and low-income households will increase. There is a demonstrated need for affordable housing to serve low-and moderate-income residents. This may be either new or rehabilitated housing. There is also a need for new up-scale housing to attract new residents and expand the tax base.

## **GOALS AND OBJECTIVES**

### **Goal I**

It is the goal of the city to preserve and improve the stock of decent and safe housing in the city of Flint.

## **Objectives**

1. Expand support of housing rehabilitation programs as the primary means of addressing and improving the city's housing.
2. Encourage the formation of citizen action groups to increase individual involvement, to include homeowners, landlords and tenants in the resolution of neighborhood problems.
3. Protect the integrity of residential neighborhoods from non-residential development by judicious enforcement of zoning ordinances, by providing increased buffering between residential and other uses and by encouraging private investment in other, more appropriate areas of the city.
4. Encourage home ownership and decrease the number of absentee owners in low-density neighborhoods.
5. Establish a program whereby city code enforcement officials are made available to assist first-time home buyers in examining homes and also advertise the availability of such a program.

## **Goal II**

It is the goal of the city to promote energy efficiency and the use of alternative energy sources in residential areas.

## **Objectives**

1. Provide requirements for energy efficient construction for all new housing, including appropriate use-standards for site development.
2. Promote the use of solar energy wherever possible in city codes when there is a financial advantage for residents.
3. Encourage energy conservation in residential structures by providing assistance or incentive programs to homeowners.

4. Develop a city energy ordinance to require basic energy saving features on all residential structures where appropriate.

### **Goal III**

Assess and meet the housing needs and solve the problems of the residents and to budget the city's resources based on need.

#### **Objectives**

1. Establish an annually updated housing data base so that housing-related policy and program decisions can be based on the most accurate information available.
2. Establish a procedure for budgeting city resources on the basis of need. All residential areas of the city should be provided with adequate general services on a proportional basis.
3. Assess current housing stock in relation to housing needs; such assessment to include economic factors such as income, credit needs and the need for subsidies.

### **Goal IV**

It is the goal of the city to provide for and promote an increased resident population by encouraging the private development of new housing stock, consistent with accepted neighborhood standards. Whenever possible, emphasis will be placed on increasing the number of housing units that are in shortest supply in the community.

#### **Objectives**

1. Promote the construction of medium-and high-density apartment complexes in suitable locations.
2. Limit conversions of larger single-family structures in accordance with neighborhood standards, parking requirements and strict enforcement of building codes.

3. Encourage the construction of private housing to ensure a supply for all segments of the housing market, especially those segments who lack housing.

#### **Goal V**

It is the policy of the city to participate in federal or state government programs providing construction or subsidy of housing for the elderly, handicapped, homeless and low-to-moderate-income families to the full extent that a need for such housing is documented, and limited only by the availability of resources.

#### **Objective**

Seek to create new and innovative housing subsidy programs which provide assistance to low-and-moderate-income, elderly, handicapped and homeless households, to the extent of defined need.

#### **Goal VI**

It is the goal of the city to promote equality in housing opportunities to all residents, regardless of race, color, religion, creed, national origin or ancestry, and to ensure against discriminatory practices through strict enforcement of city ordinances and appropriate laws. The city will take no action or permit action to be taken by others, which conflicts with this policy, or in any way interferes with a citizen's right to safe, sound and decent housing of their choice.

#### **Objectives**

1. Identify and determine the extent of discriminatory practices and how they impact on available housing, affordable housing and sub-standard housing.
2. Continue efforts to promote free access to housing opportunity through fair housing programs and ordinance enforcement.



3. Promote private efforts to eliminate discriminatory attitudes and practices.

## **Goal VII**

It is the goal of the city to require multi-unit residential structures to be inspected every two years and all residential structures to be inspected regularly, and prompt response to all complaints with regard to all code violations.

### **Objectives**

1. Establish and fund a city-wide residential code enforcement schedule through which every dwelling unit is inspected for code violations every five to seven years.
2. Provide for the identification and removal of housing units that cannot be effectively rehabilitated which represent a blighting influence on surrounding property.
3. Encourage private groups and individuals to maintain and improve housing through education and the matching of private and public dollars.
4. Prohibit by ordinance the destruction of any structure with official historic designation, as defined in the Historic Preservation Element.
5. Collaborate with State Legislators to design and adopt legislation to address housing abandonment and decay.
6. Establish and fund innovative residential inspection and code enforcement procedures that target decaying areas.

## **Goal VIII**

Encourage construction and renovation of housing units that are large enough and inexpensive enough to ensure that families living in or desiring to live in the City of Flint can be housed at prices which they can and are willing to pay.

## **Objectives**

1. Develop plans to build new housing based on market studies which determine the characteristics of the city's housing needs and demand.
2. Encourage the construction of housing produced by the private sector which will satisfy the need for units identified by housing market studies.
3. Prohibit publicly funded construction in any neighborhood in which there is a state of advanced decline unless an adopted plan for arresting decline in that neighborhood is being implemented and the new construction is determined to be a positive influence.
4. Work with the Flint Housing Commission to develop a housing plan for low-income, elderly and handicapped households by providing information on the preferences of households in the market and the characteristics of units in the existing housing supply.

## **ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT ELEMENT**

### **RESPONSIBLE DEPARTMENT**

Department of Community and Economic Development

### **INTRODUCTION**

The Mission of economic development is to make Flint a great city by building an economic development infrastructure that provides a platform for accelerating Flint as an urban center of manufacturing, entrepreneurial development, and life quality excellence and by enhancing the individual businesses that will use this infrastructure. An economic development infrastructure consists of four elements:

1. Strong, research-oriented university with a reputation for science, engineering, and fostering research relationships between faculty and business;
2. Equity, venture capital and seed investment capital for financing the early high-risk stages of start-up companies and business expansions;
3. Physical and cultural climate conducive to the life-style and service needs of risk-taking entrepreneurs; and
4. Planned business environments which include planned commercial districts and planned, amenity-intensive office parks, industrial and, especially, technology parks that provide resident industries a superior work environment and the ability to take advantage of university and knowledge resources.

Simply stated, cities or regions with highly developed entrepreneurial infrastructures appear to be the only major growth areas in today's recession economic climate. The City of Flint's economic development program is based on a five-point strategy to accomplish the City's economic development mission and strategic intent. The five elements of the strategy are:

- (1) Build the internal and external organizational structure(s) to effectively develop, manage and control accomplishment of the Program Mission;
- (2) Acquire the capital for financing high-risk equity investment in high risk/high growth startups and business expansions and for investing in the economic development infrastructure;
- (3) Develop the physical and economic development infrastructures required to support Flint's 21st century growth, life quality and global competitive advantage;
- (4) Focus and enhance the university and knowledge resources which empower Flint to compete in the global 21st century economic environment; and
- (5) Enhance Flint's life quality, entrepreneurial and business climate.

These elements, taken as a whole, seek to address both commercial and industrial development activities and underlying systemic problems. Program goals seek to implement the total five-point strategy.

## **GOALS AND OBJECTIVES**

### **Goal I**

Improve internal and project management and governance structures through organizational development and internal management.

### **Objectives**

1. Revise City of Flint Comprehensive Master Plan and economic development strategy.
2. Develop and equip a war room which should include a project planning, control, and database center.
3. Implement an effective internal project management and governance structure for major programs and projects.

4. Obtain and deploy staff development and training resources commensurate with the requirements necessary to implement the economic development strategy and master plan.
5. Review local governmental procedures and requirements periodically and make them more efficient.
6. Establish a central contact point for industrial development inquiries.

## **Goal II**

Develop the external strategic alliances and relationships required to effectively and efficiently implement the economic development strategy.

### **Objectives**

1. Establish appropriate relationships with GEAR (Genesee Economic Area Revitalization) and network all existing small business assistance services with GEAR to implement the City's economic development strategy.
2. Utilize Flint Community Development Corporation and the Metropolitan Chamber of Commerce as reference centers for minority business development.

## **Goal III**

Find, form, and make available new sources of infrastructure development and business risk capital.

### **Objectives**

1. Create a pool of high risk equity capital for minority high growth/high risk startups and business expansions.
2. Find new sources of capital to finance development of the physical and economic development infrastructure required to make Flint more world competitive.

3. Finance demonstration projects which demonstrate new, reproducible approaches and national models which concurrently provide insight on how to revitalize a declining urban area and produce tangible economic development results.
4. Encourage local lending institutions to form alliances that finance business and industrial expansion.

#### **Goal IV**

Transform the Oak Business Center into a quality business development incubation facility and acquire increased technology capabilities.

#### **Objectives**

1. Maintain acceptable occupancy and competitive amenity levels.

#### **Goal V**

Develop planned, world-class, amenity-intensive industrial and technology parks to attract new industries and house expanding existing industries.

#### **Objectives**

1. Define districts which can support the development of planned, world-class, amenity-intensive industrial and technology parks.
2. Implement demonstration projects which demonstrate new, reproducible approaches for development of these parks that may include design standards and financial incentives.
3. Research national models that provide insight on how to revitalize a declining urban area, produce tangible economic development results and project the highest standards of architectural excellence consistent with market and financial feasibility.

4. Utilize GEAR to direct marketing efforts towards targeted industries.

## **Goal VI**

Develop planned commercial business districts to attract new office and retail development and house expanding existing office and retail businesses.

### **Objectives**

1. Define target commercial districts and implement commercial demonstration projects which demonstrate new, reproducible approaches to revitalizing a declining urban area.

## **Goal VII**

Revitalize downtown Flint to attract new businesses and customers to meet the daily goods and service needs of business persons, downtown workers, and students.

### **Objectives**

1. Support all efforts to preserve the remaining buildings which are structurally sound and economically viable.
2. Encourage the revitalization of vacant commercial buildings and the consolidation of mutually supportive commercial uses.
3. Plan public improvements, which will enhance the streetscape including street lighting, plantings, benches and signs.
4. Explore all opportunities for assistance from Federal and State programs, colleges and universities, private foundations and other municipalities.
5. Improve the variety of uses in downtown by increased multi-use development and housing opportunities.

6. Advocate mixed use of buildings where appropriate.
7. Highlight and emphasize the strengths and unique elements of the downtown.

### **Goal VIII**

Enhance and focus university resources on accelerating their role in economic development, technology transfer, and producing the work force of the future.

#### **Objectives**

1. Form strategic alliances and joint ventures with appropriate universities and knowledge resource sources as required to implement economic development strategy.
2. Develop demonstration projects which demonstrate new, reproducible approaches and national models which concurrently provide insight on how to revitalize a declining urban area and produce tangible economic development results.
3. Encourage the development of applied business technology programs.

### **Goal VIII**

Develop a world-class center for applied industrial information, simultaneous engineering, and new product development.

#### **Objectives**

1. Develop a plan and establish feasibility for the establishment of a world-class center for applied industrial information, simultaneous engineering, and new product development.



2. Develop demonstration projects which demonstrate new, reproducible approaches and national models which concurrently provide insight on how to revitalize a declining urban area and produce tangible economic development results.

## **Goal X**

Create market demand for city of Flint residential, commercial, and industrial development.

### **Objectives**

1. Identify unmet commercial, industrial and service market demand and feasibility, which support the expansion of existing businesses and the development of new commercial, industrial and service businesses.
2. Encourage GEAR to develop a marketing plan and update a list of business new technology, high-growth and foreign investment opportunities.
3. Identify major local competitive advantage areas (economic magnets).
4. Determine the needs of minority firms and targeted industries.

## **Goal XI**

Create a business climate which supports increased innovation, entrepreneurship, business expansion, and General Motors investment in Flint.

### **Objectives**

1. Support the rapid development of Bishop Airport as a means for promoting the economic development of our community.
2. Encourage continued Great Lakes Technology Centre development.

3. Help minority businesses to enter the local GM supplier market.
4. Identify and promote local products which can be marketed outside the area.
5. Continue efforts to retain industrial facilities by offering financial development incentives that stimulate job creation and retention.
6. Develop a better understanding of the automobile industry's needs and anticipate changes.
7. Maintain ongoing communication with local GM officials during the planning and development process.
8. Assist small businesses identify possible financing options.
9. Develop a partnership between the city and existing retail businesses focusing on the needs of retailers to promote and expand their operations and serve the needs of Flint residents.
10. Improve the city's capacity to provide basic services which promote redevelopment such as public safety, public works and other essential quality-of-life components.
11. Increase law enforcement capabilities to ensure a safe environment in which commercial redevelopment can occur.
12. Improve infrastructure capacity to compete with other areas of potential development.
13. Clear land where development can be promoted.
14. Improve the quality of life in the residential neighborhoods that border commercial strips or development sites.

15. Promote free and adequate commercial parking.
16. Establish a single location to provide services to small business.
17. Develop new small-and medium-sized minority firms in targeted new high technology non-auto-related and auto-related industries.

## **Goal XII**

Work to eliminate blight, middle-class flight, and disinvestment in downtown and low and moderate income areas by promoting commercial, industrial, residential, and neighborhood development which project the highest standards of architectural excellence consistent with market and financial feasibility.

### **Objectives**

1. Implement the University Park Program.

## **Goal XIII**

Encourage the development of designated industrial land and the reuse of existing industrial buildings.

### **Objectives**

1. Maintain an inventory of vacant industrial property.
2. Periodically evaluate the need for industrial sites.
3. Implement with GEAR a marketing program to sell industrial sites.

## **OPEN SPACE/LEISURE ELEMENT**

### **RESPONSIBLE CITY DEPARTMENT:**

Department of Parks and Recreation

### **INTRODUCTION**

A set of comprehensive policies will be devised to promote the physical and program development of the Department of Parks and Recreation. The design of these policies will include extensive research and evaluation of current park facilities and planning for future improvements and development. Planning and programming will be done to compliment, not duplicate, the delivery of recreation services for city and county residents.

### **BACKGROUND**

Since 1960, the Flint Department of Parks and Recreation has been influenced by a decline in the population and higher energy costs. During 1979 and 1980, recreation activities and facilities suffered severe setbacks. Current conditions dictate a need for specific policies that incorporate goals and objectives for redevelopment and improvement of park facilities.

### **GOALS AND OBJECTIVES**

#### **Goal I**

To provide for the development and improvement of park land and facilities to meet the recreational and environmental needs of Flint residents.

#### **Objectives**

1. Provide necessary capital improvements of park lands, golf courses and other facilities.
2. Evaluate and improve, as necessary, park-school sites.
3. Seek grants from federal and state agencies.

4. Obtain private foundation funding.
5. Encourage private recreational developments on public park land only when such development fulfills identified needs of the city and the city's residents.
6. Find ways to use our natural waterways for leisure activities.

## **Goal II**

To evaluate and provide a variety of recreation services that are cost-effective, community oriented and compatible with recreation facilities in the area.

### **Objectives**

1. Conduct user surveys of the need for recreational facilities and community centers.
2. Work with the Board of Education to plan recreation programs.
3. Continue cooperation with various groups and the Genesee County Parks Department.
4. Operate community centers for the benefit of all citizens, with an initial focus on senior citizens and youth as such needs are ultimately identified and required.
5. Continue the Adopt-A-Park Program in association with neighborhood groups.

## **Goal III**

To provide qualified staff and necessary resources to maintain and operate a comprehensive and safe park and recreation system.

## **Objectives**

1. Provide the public information about fees and charges policies, general park map and general services and the way the public can support parks with tax-deductible contributions.
2. Improve the staff with in-service training, conferences, speaking engagements, educational programs and supervision and safety courses.
3. Investigate, identify and implement alternative financing and budgeting methods to develop and maintain recreational facilities.

## **Goal IV**

To conduct continued review, analysis and implementation of community needs for park land through the acquisition, disposal and, or, leasing of dedicated park land.

## **Goal V**

To reduce the overall operating cost and general liability of the city by providing the most cost-efficient maintenance programs for all city parks and facilities.

## **Objectives**

1. Prevent vandalism by providing increased security through such additional lighting and fencing programs and park patrols as needed.
2. Increase energy conservation with an energy resources management program.
3. Implement park inspection program.
4. Implement such cost-effective maintenance programs or techniques as needed without sacrificing the quality of the city's recreational programs or facilities.

5. **Contract for services when feasible.**
6. **Use neighborhood crime watch groups for park patrols.**
7. **Parks and Recreation Department to use all available resources to help prevent crime in order to avoid the parks being vacated.**

## **COMMUNITY FACILITIES ELEMENT**

### **RESPONSIBLE CITY DEPARTMENTS:**

Department of Community and Economic Development  
Department of Parks and Recreation

### **INTRODUCTION**

The term "community facilities" includes facilities owned by the public, such as schools, and those operated by private corporations, such as hospitals, health clinics and day care centers. City government should help determine the needs, priorities and standards for public service facilities because of its concern for the availability of services to residents.

### **BACKGROUND**

The 1960 Master Plan was based upon projections of a rapidly growing population. But since Flint's population has declined since 1970, planning efforts must be devoted to predicting the character and location of facilities in relationship to the greater Flint area.

### **GOALS AND OBJECTIVES**

#### **Goal I**

The city will cooperate with health care providers to develop a service delivery system that will serve the needs of the uninsured, under-insured and unemployed especially those without adequate health insurance.

#### **Objectives**

1. Study and attempt to identify the need and feasibility of establishing satellite health-care centers at locations away from major facilities.
2. Develop a program to advise people involved in city programs, such as relocation, about sources of health care.



3. Review the recommendations made for current and projected public needs.
4. Review existing zoning to consider changes in the zoning code that will improve the provisions for hospitals and related land uses including, laboratory and professional offices.
5. Study the demand for long-term care facilities and the need to provide for long-term care facilities.

## **Goal II**

Support the development of affordable child-care services especially services for low-income households.

### **Objectives**

1. Develop incentives for small business or home-based child-care services that meet the state guidelines to provide fees based on parents' ability to pay.
2. Facilitate the establishment in child-care scholarship programs to provide affordable and quality child-care for families of limited means.

## **Goal III**

Actively support programs that provide child-development-emphasized day-care services.

### **Objectives**

1. Cooperate with school officials to establish affordable child care at public school sites using experienced child care professionals.
2. Support state legislation, when it doesn't infringe on local control, for early childhood services by providing space and technical assistance.

3. Fund and establish recreational services for young children at public facilities such as schools.
4. Support child-care programs that provide opportunities for cultural education for children, regardless of family income.
5. Work to develop child-care services integrating children from different cultural, social and economic backgrounds.

#### **Goal IV**

Develop local regulations governing child-care services to provide greater latitude in the location of family (home) day-care services.

#### **Objectives**

1. Review the zoning ordinance and other city codes to determine how family day-care services can be provided at the neighborhood level.
2. Review local regulations governing child care services and those set by the state of Michigan.
3. Study the feasibility of regulating all child day-care facilities for compliance with applicable codes and other standards.

#### **Goal V**

Expand the availability of child-care services to enhance job development and economic growth.

#### **Objectives**

1. Develop the coordination between the public and private sectors to provide employee-sponsored child-care programs, either by on-site child care services or vendor payments to established child-care programs.
2. Determine the feasibility of providing child-care services at housing community centers.

## **Goal VI**

**The city will strive to create an educational partnership that includes representatives from local government, business community, labor and education.**

### **Objectives**

1. **Identify the needs of the K-12 education system.**
2. **Support programs that ensure that students acquire the skills necessary to succeed in the job market.**
3. **Support programs that provide special attention to high-risk youth to reduce dropout rates; and focus educational skills on the needs of the business community so that Flint's youth offer an attractive resource to potential employers, which results in a competent and stable work force.**

## **ENVIRONMENTAL ELEMENT**

### **RESPONSIBLE CITY DEPARTMENT:**

Department of Public Works

### **INTRODUCTION**

The policies of this plan address the environmental needs of the city and provide a basis for decisions consistent with federal, state and local laws. Decisions for development, conservation and waste treatment are regulated through the Federal Environmental Protection Agency and the Michigan Department of Natural Resources. Areas of specific concern addressed here are water quality, air quality, soil management, water course management, noise, lead paint hazard, solid wastes, energy and the environmental review system.

### **BACKGROUND**

Concerns for human health and long-term survival have led to environmental studies, the development of standards and the application of controls by government. As a recipient of federal funds, the city is obliged to comply with federal clean air, water pollution control, noise abatement and flood insurance requirements. Many of these requirements have occurred in the last 20 years as more has been learned about the environment and man's effect on it.

### **GOALS AND OBJECTIVES**

#### **Goal I**

Monitor water quality to ensure it meets the level for safe and palatable standards for contact by citizens.

#### **Objectives**

1. Support programs to educate the public about the need for recycling of motor oil and all other household materials and proper disposal of toxic industrial, commercial and household materials.

2. Monitor commercial and industrial facilities to ensure proper disposal of toxic solid and liquid wastes.
3. Develop and implement a city program for a complete separation of storm and sanitary sewer drains.

## **Goal II**

Decrease airborne pollutants, especially suspended dirt and dust particles.

### **Objective**

Reactivate the city's pollution control office and its programs using local ordinances to identify and control effluents using existing ordinances. The office would identify all applicable laws and guidelines, form new local controls, regularly publish local conditions and enforce applicable laws.

## **Goal III**

Better manage land uses at the boundaries of waterways and in areas with soil problems.

### **Objectives**

1. Consider establishing critical zones along water courses to protect sensitive natural areas.
2. Identify flood plain management needs to protect developed areas and restrictions on proposed construction.
3. Develop a city-wide map identifying areas where soil conditions limit construction.
4. Enforce soil erosion and sedimentation ordinance.
5. Complete an environmental study on all lakes in the city for water quality and soil.

## **Goal IV**

Control excessive noise.

### **Objectives**

1. Obtain city-wide noise data.
2. Adopt a noise control and abatement ordinance consistent with state and federal standards.
3. Ensure new residential construction and substantial rehabilitation projects incorporate noise abatement materials when required.

## **Goal V**

Protect public health by eliminating lead paint poisoning as an environmental intoxication in city housing built prior to 1950s.

### **Objectives**

1. Assess the lead hazard in housing units.
2. Develop a program to eliminate lead poisoning including education, screening of at-risk population, ordinance enactment and ordinance enforcement.

## **Goal VI**

Find long-term solutions to solid waste disposal to solve the problems of decreasing availability and increasing hazards of landfills.

### **Objectives**

1. Outline the general problem of solid waste and present alternatives to landfill for disposal.
2. Obtain more sanitary landfill sites or commitments for the future use of current sites.

3. Continue to study the resource recovery technology to reduce landfills solid waste and recover marketable materials and energy.
4. Implement a resource recovery system.

#### **Goal VII**

Determine whether energy needs will be met and what alternatives are available.

#### **Objectives**

1. Assess current and future energy supplies available from public utilities.
2. Study alternative energy sources and their feasibility.
3. Develop local standards for energy conservation.

#### **Goal VIII**

Develop an environmental review and assessment system to relate development to the environment.

#### **Objective**

Provide a process consistent with the requirements of all levels of government that will rationally relate site development to the ability of the natural or built environment to support such a development.

# **HISTORIC PRESERVATION ELEMENT**

## **RESPONSIBLE CITY DEPARTMENT:**

Department of Community & Economic Development

### **INTRODUCTION**

Historic preservation is the protection, rehabilitation, restoration and reconstruction of districts, sites, buildings, structures and objects significant in American history, architecture, archeology or culture. Formal efforts made to preserve Flint's history include adoption of an ordinance recognizing historic districts and authorizing appointment of a Historic District Commission in 1979.

The preservation of Flint's history, culture, architecture and artifacts is an important part of community development. Preserving or adapting old buildings for reuse is often more economical than constructing new buildings. Adopting a program which recognizes and accents the usefulness and value of Flint's significant historical buildings, districts, sites, structures and objects is critical to historic preservation in the city of Flint.

### **BACKGROUND**

The Flint Historical Preservation Study Committee was formed in 1975 in response to State Enabling Act 169. The committee recommended specific areas and sites for historical district designation and an ordinance which was adopted.

The purpose of the ordinance was to:

1. Safeguard the heritage of the local resources and improve property values;
2. Foster civic beauty, strengthen the local economy and promote the use of historic district for education, pleasure and welfare of the citizens.

A historic district is a geographical area designated by the city for the protection. The district benefits the community, neighborhood and individuals by encouraging restoration of the property while allowing



interior alterations, providing a physical link to our past, fostering community pride and neighborhood improvement, promoting reuse and repair, improving property values and providing personal satisfaction to property owners. Plans for exterior modifications to designated sites or buildings are reviewed by the Flint Historic District Commission for conformity to the historic district ordinance.

## **GOALS AND OBJECTIVES**

### **Goal**

Protection of Flint's historic resources.

### **Objectives**

1. Identify significant districts, sites, buildings, structures and objects in Flint history, architecture, archeology or culture.
2. Do historic surveys, write grants, research Flint history.
3. Provide support for Historic District Commission.
4. Develop monitoring processes to assure compliance with the historic district ordinances.
5. Cooperate with the Michigan History Division to enhance and advance preservation efforts in Flint.
6. Encourage rehabilitation of historic buildings by providing financial incentives.
7. Assist the FHDC's efforts to educate the community about the benefits of historic preservation.

## **TRANSPORTATION ELEMENT**

### **RESPONSIBLE DEPARTMENTS:**

Department of Public Works  
Department of Community & Economic Development  
Bishop International Airport

### **INTRODUCTION**

Despite the loss of population in the city and a leveling-off of population county wide, trip-making has increased since 1960. A significant number of city and out-county traffic corridors are experiencing capacity and safety problems which are projected to continue through the end of the century. This transportation element is a tool to help solve some of these problems and provide recommendations for future comprehensive, continuing and cooperative transportation planning that will meet the needs of future generations.

### **BACKGROUND**

The transportation planning process must be sensitive to social, economic and environmental conditions and be based on both the needs of the users and the system's effects on land use.

### **GOALS AND OBJECTIVES**

Develop a multi-modal transportation system that complements land uses and increases the mobility of area residents while balancing the need for accessibility with the need for a liveable city environment.

#### **Goal I**

Provide a safe and efficient transportation system.

#### **Objectives**

1. Reduce accident rate and traffic congestion.
2. Minimize energy costs and travel time.

3. Reduce conflicts between different transportation modes.
4. Improve synchronization of the city-wide traffic system.
5. Reduce costs for transportation improvements by better planning and use of the latest materials and techniques.

## **Goal II**

Assure that environmental and aesthetic factors are considered in the design and routing of transportation improvements to preserve and to stabilize neighborhoods and other land developments.

### **Objectives**

1. Minimize air pollution caused by emissions.
2. Include the costs of sufficient landscaping into street project budgets.
3. Minimize the impact of traffic on adjacent land uses.
4. Improve buffering of parking lots by adopting stronger buffering ordinance.
5. Reduce the impact of major street traffic on local streets.
6. Provide accessibility between major traffic generators.
7. Maintain effective communications with agencies and individuals to ensure adequate public participation in transportation improvement projects.

## **Goal III**

Improve maintenance of the street system by using current materials and methods.

## **Objectives**

1. Continue annual city-wide revenue system to set priorities. Develop a program that will prioritize street resurfacing by greatest need on a periodic basis.
2. Seek and develop new funding sources for street resurfacing, curb and gutter replacement to bring all streets to an acceptable condition.
3. Work with local and state agencies to evaluate Federal Aid to Urban Systems Streets (FAUS) project evaluation system to place optimum weight on street maintenance projects to compete with street improvements county-wide.
4. Continue the biannual monitoring of the bridge evaluation program using up-to-date methodology per Federal and State guidelines.

## **Goal IV**

Encourage the use of mass transit such as bus services, car pooling and van pooling.

## **Objectives**

1. Encourage the improvement of the Mass Transportation Authority (MTA) bus services.
2. Encourage increased opportunities for movement for the economically and physically disadvantaged.

## **Goal V**

Assist in the improvement of railroad facilities to maintain a competitive position for rail services and reduce conflicts with other modes of travel.

## **Objectives**

1. Reduce the number of railroad crossings at grade on major traffic arteries. Program construction of separations to eliminate traffic hazards when feasible.
2. Improve surfaces and signals at railroad crossings. Rubberized surfaces providing an average 10-year life should be used and constructed to time this replacement with grade separation projects.
3. Maintain communication with CSX Transportation, Grand Trunk Western Railroad and AMTRAK to identify problems and opportunities on a continuing basis.

## **Goal VI**

Help Bishop Airport Authority meet its demands to move passengers and cargo.

## **Objectives**

1. Support the implementation of the Bishop Airport Master Plan.
2. Assist the Airport Authority to get funds to upgrade the airport facility.

## **Goal VII**

Encourage non-motorized movement in residential areas.

## **Objectives**

1. Increase the use of bicycles through improvements such as exclusive lanes, designated routes and storage areas.
2. Increase barrier-free design for pedestrians by building sidewalk ramps.
3. Minimize conflicts between motorized vehicles, pedestrians and bicycles.

## **INFRA-STRUCTURE ELEMENT**

### **RESPONSIBLE DEPARTMENT:**

Department of Public Works

### **INTRODUCTION**

Public infra-structures are the physical structures and facilities developed by the city to house government functions and provide services to achieve the social and economic objectives of the city. Examples of infra-structure components are the municipal center and garages, Waste Water Treatment Plant, Water Division Buildings and Treatment Plant, pumping stations, water transmission and storage system, storm drain and retention system, sanitary sewer system, public streets and sidewalks.

Generally, the city delivers services to maintain the existing public infra-structure and to provide replacements, repairs or additions for the growing and changing needs of the community. Neglecting proper maintenance, operation, replacement or expansion creates serious problems of unreliable systems and liability which negatively affects on the community quality of life.

### **GOALS AND OBJECTIVES**

#### **Goal I**

The goal is to provide a public infra-structure which ensures a clean, safe and healthy environment for the citizens of Flint. To accomplish this goal, it is necessary to periodically evaluate the quality of services and the condition of the public infra-structure. The available money must be used effectively to meet the need.

#### **Objectives**

1. Establish a formal periodic evaluation process to measure:
  - (a) the level at which the purposes of the service are being met;
  - (b) the degree to which the service affects the community;

- (c) the adequacy of the service compared to the community's needs, desires and willingness to pay;
  - (d) the speed and courtesy of response; and
  - (e) citizen perception of the quality of the services.
2. Establish a formal and systematic process of inspections and evaluations of all components of the city's infra-structure to insure compliance with nationally accepted standards and good practices.
  3. Establish a formal periodic process of evaluation, construction, reconstruction and replacement in those areas showing the greatest need.
  4. Adopt and annually update a '5-Year Plan' of evaluation, maintenance and replacement for all components of the infra-structure element.

## **PUBLIC SAFETY ELEMENT**

### **RESPONSIBLE DEPARTMENTS:**

Police Department  
Fire Department

### **INTRODUCTION**

Police protection, fire protection and emergency medical services are three public safety services necessary for the survival of the city of Flint's businesses, industries and residents.

#### **Background**

The city of Flint Public Safety Department serves a population of 141,620 living in an estimated 58,000 dwellings within 33 square miles. Because five major General Motors manufacturing complexes, three colleges and three medical centers are located within the boundaries of the city, it is estimated that the daytime population served actually exceeds 200,000 individuals.

The mission of the Police Department is to maintain the peace, order and safety of the community by protecting the life and property of its citizens, their freedom of mobility and their right to enjoy the community without intimidation, fear or harassment.

The mission of the Fire Department is to promote fire prevention, to minimize loss of life and property when a fire starts, to confine a fire to the place of origin, to extinguish the fire and to provide effective emergency medical services to all residents of Flint.

#### **GOALS AND OBJECTIVES**

##### **Goal I**

Reduce response time for all emergency calls.



## **Objective**

1. Hire personnel to man additional patrol cruisers.
2. Consider providing mini-police stations in neighborhoods where the need is greatest.

## **Goal II**

Increase the number of minority members in the public safety departments.

## **Objective**

Develop, implement and enforce an affirmative action plan which results in the public safety departments reflecting the make-up of the city's population.

## **Goal III**

Reduce the incidence of crime and fire within the city's boundaries by increasing the cooperation of citizens.

## **Objectives**

1. Develop and implement new crime and fire prevention education programs targeting the very young (pre-schoolers) and the aged (senior citizens) who are usually victims of crime and fire.
2. Promote and support citizen participation programs such as neighborhood crime watches.
3. Improve police-citizen relations by scheduling regular community neighborhood meetings to enlist cooperation from citizens, particularly during crime investigations and create a mutual trust between citizens and police and fire officers.

4. Improve crime investigation by updating and replacing old equipment with high-tech state-of-the-art equipment to assist investigators gathering needed information; and continue alternative funding sources for the purchase of such equipment.
5. Study the current manpower and scheduling of personnel to ensure that maximum personnel are available to respond to emergencies during the peak hours of service calls.
6. Utilize amateur radio operators when necessary.

#### **Goal IV**

Modernize and/or automate the City of Flint Police and Fire Departments.

#### **Objectives**

1. Increase the availability of mainframe and peripheral computers so that it will better enable the departments to use their personnel more effectively.
2. Maintain levels of clerical support staff so as to maximize effectiveness of uniformed personnel.
3. Maintain effective intra-departmental communication.

#### **Goal V**

Provide a maximum level of public safety protection for less cost per capita.

#### **Goal VI**

Develop and maintain a community-wide emergency preparedness plan to cover natural and manmade disasters.

## **Objectives**

- 1. Establish the position of emergency preparedness coordinator.**
- 2. Provide training for government and community leaders with the help of the State Police and the Federal Emergency Management Agency.**
- 3. Conduct an annual mock disaster drill.**
- 4. Work with local industry to develop an inventory of hazardous materials and appropriate disposal plans.**

## HUMAN SERVICES ELEMENT

### RESPONSIBLE DEPARTMENTS:

Human Relations Commission  
Mayor's Office on Aging and Handicapped  
Mayor's Office on Neighborhoods

### INTRODUCTION

Government and community services are determined by the needs of the public. Human services provided by the city are as diversified as are the various city departments and community service agencies.

City government, whether it be the Mayor's Office on Neighborhoods, Mayor's Office on Aging and Handicapped, the Human Relations Commission or other appropriate city departments, is not limited to providing standard public information and services, but changes its programs and goals to respond to the city's changing human service needs (i.e.: as the Flint area population grows older, additional services will be necessary to meet the needs of the frail elderly).

Since citizens expect municipal offices to assist in emergency situation city officials need to be able to respond in a variety of appropriate ways, including advocacy, information and referral, counseling, providing direct services and taking a leadership role in planning services.

Developing and providing human services is not limited to city government, but includes a wide range of community service agencies, churches, schools and service organizations. It is the role of city government to cooperate with all such groups. Government officials must be responsive to both individual and group needs and lend as much support as is appropriate.

Human Services are specific programmatic activities designed to promote the social welfare of the individual and community.

Social or human services include housing, employment, income, health, mental health, education, leisure and recreation. Often human services are described in terms of client groups such as youth services, services to the aged and handicapped, minorities. Also, services that apply to many subject areas and client groups may be included such as legal services, transportation, emergency services, supportive services and information and referral services.

## BACKGROUND

The Mayor's Office on Aging and Handicapped, the Human Relations Commission and Mayor's Office on Neighborhoods have formal programs to ensure that residents are involved in setting priorities for the services they provide. Citizen input, along with the mission statement of each office, serve as guidelines for the planning process. The mission statements are:

**Mayor's Office on Aging and Handicapped:** To administer and develop programs and city services that will maintain independent lifestyles and a desirable quality of life for aged and handicapped city residents; to advise and sensitize officials in other city departments and the community as a whole to the needs of these special interest groups and by providing professional expertise to assist other departments in reaching this goal.

**Human Relations Commission:** To cooperate with others to eliminate discrimination and the results of past discrimination, to recommend ways and means of initiating and improving city government designed to eliminate discrimination or to remove the effect of past discrimination, and to develop programs for coordination of community efforts to address problems involving tensions in the community.

**Mayor's Office on Neighborhoods:** To improve neighborhoods by strengthening and increasing neighborhood organizations through inter-organizational networking, leadership training, project resource assistance and project coordination.

Human services have become an important means to create and maintain economic viability while at the same time maintaining humane and healthy conditions within city boundaries for citizens.

The amenities of a community, the attractions of its cultural life, the quality of its schools, the sufficiency of its medical system and its capacity to handle the consequences of illness and breakdown are all factors influencing the decision made by skilled labor, by executive management and by capital investors as they contemplate coming to, or remaining in, the greater Flint area.

## **GOALS AND OBJECTIVES**

### **Goal I**

Strengthen the city's relationship with educational institutions within the city.

#### **Objectives**

1. More fully utilize data and statistical information on social problems collected by the University of Michigan.
2. Have Human Relations Commissioners work jointly with educators on problems such as youth violence, race relations and the impact of school dropouts on the community.
3. Work with Mott Community College and the University of Michigan - Flint to provide technical assistance, scholarships and more active recruiting of poor and minority students in the technical fields of study.

### **Goal II**

Assess the availability of community private sector and volunteer organizational resources to strengthen working relationships on ventures of mutual concerns.

#### **Objectives**

1. Use private sector social service agencies and other voluntary organizations as a resource for expertise in areas of fundraising and managing social programs.

2. As the city identifies social needs in the community, private sector and voluntary agencies should be asked to fill service gaps.

### **Goal III**

Develop an annual policy report on human service programs and needs for use in the city's planning and budget process.

#### **Objective**

Information will be systematically collected and presented by the Human Relations Commission to city officials to measure effects of existing social programs and for implementing new programs to meet community needs.

### **Goal IV**

Through the Mayor's Office on Aging & Handicapped, assure that all city programs and services are accessible to all citizens.

#### **Objectives**

1. Maintain a visible and active role in advocating for accessibility for handicapped citizens (i.e., employment, recreational programs, building access).
2. Identify and provide leadership to other community service agencies and advocacy groups working on behalf of citizens in need.
3. Provide ongoing communication systems which enhance citizen participation by special needs groups.

### **Goal V**

Through the Mayor's Office on Neighborhoods provide citizen organizations with tools necessary to improve their neighborhoods.

## **Objectives**

1. **Building a network of neighborhood organizations through the revitalizing of the Flint Neighborhood Coalition and church-based organizations with ties to United Way's Human Services.**
2. **Increase neighborhood organizations' operational and development capacity through leadership training with the assistance of the Flint Executive Service Corps, Project on Urban and Regional Affairs (PURA) and the Neighborhood Leadership Training Alliance.**
3. **Provide financial assistance to neighborhood organizations through Federal, State, and Local sources, foundations, corporations and banks.**
4. **Coordinate neighborhood improvement projects such as clean-ups, beautification, security lighting and crime watches using the Michigan Neighborhood Corps, Michigan Youth Corps, UAW-GM Jobs Bank, community service workers, neighborhood groups and local government.**



## **CITIZEN PARTICIPATION ELEMENT**

### **RESPONSIBLE DEPARTMENT:**

Department of Community & Economic Development

### **INTRODUCTION**

The future of democracy depends upon citizens' ability to regain control of their own destiny through civic involvement. In a creative group situation the potential of a citizen can be developed to find the strength to rise above the role of a passive observer. The Citizen Participation Element is a conscious effort to secure the greatest involvement by its citizens, organizations, agencies and institutions.

Pursuant to City Code, Article VI, Section 2-26.1-4, the City-Wide Advisory Committee shall act in an advisory capacity to the City of Flint for all Community and Economic Development programs.

City departments shall, in a timely manner, submit all capital improvement and economic development programs and projects to the City-Wide Advisory Committee for review and citizen comment, in addition to any public hearing required pursuant to said program(s) or project(s).

The Department of Community Development shall provide whatever technical assistance is required to the City-Wide Advisory Committee in the performance of its duties.

### **BACKGROUND**

The City-Wide Advisory Committee was established September 1974. On August 15, 1978, the original committee was dissolved and the Mayor's City-Wide Advisory Committee was established by resolution of the Flint City Council.

The committee was composed of nine mayoral appointees; one representative from each of the city's nine wards, appointed by the councilperson of each ward; two representatives from each of the city's 12 planning districts; and three representatives from each of the city's neighborhood strategy areas.

On May 14, 1984, the Flint City Council approved Article VI, City-Wide Advisory Committee, Section 2-26.1-4, of the City of Flint Code, establishing the City-Wide Advisory Committee as an official multi-member body to act in an advisory capacity for all Community and Economic Development programs. The current City-Wide Advisory Committee is appointed by the Mayor, subject to the approval of a majority vote of the City Council.

The City-Wide Advisory Committee consists of forty-five (45) members. There shall be five (5) members for each of the nine (9) wards of the city serving on the CWAC. Each member of the CWAC shall be appointed by the Mayor with the approval of the City Council and shall be a resident and registered elector of the ward from which appointed.

## **GOALS AND OBJECTIVES**

### **Goal I**

Promote maximum citizen input into city policy-making.

### **Objectives**

1. Provide widespread and timely public notices using all media forms to encourage city-wide citizen participation.
2. Promote opportunities for individual citizens, coalitions and organizations to meet together to discuss community issues to build consensus and develop strategies for community-wide improvement.
3. Seek input from volunteers from the private, professional and business environments as advisors, when appropriate, in order to bring expertise to various city departments and functions.
4. Use volunteers from city neighborhood groups as advisors, when appropriate, to bring grass roots perspectives to various city departments and functions.
5. Acknowledge and recognize the contributions of citizen volunteers.

6. Improve the city's budgeting procedures by facilitating city-wide input from individual citizens and neighborhood groups on an on-going basis.

## **Goal II**

To encourage maximum citizen participation by the City-Wide Advisory Committee in making and carrying out all community development plans and to do all other things necessary to ensure that Flint citizens are effectively involved in the development of their community.

### **Objectives**

1. Establish regularly scheduled monthly meetings to conduct the business of the City-Wide Advisory Committee and provide an opportunity for expressing the opinions of the membership and public.
2. Provide the opportunity for all city departments to present programs and projects for review and advisory approval.
3. Establish a procedure to receive and review applications for funding of programs and projects from the annual Community Development Block Grant allocations.
4. Conduct periodic tours of current and proposed project sites so that members of the committee can obtain a better understanding of its goals and objectives.
5. Provide Mayor, Planning Commission and City Council with an annual report.
6. Provide written recommendations on all programs and projects which are presented to the City-Wide Advisory Committee.

## **Goal III**

Provide on-going training for persons appointed to multi-member bodies, which relates to the specific mission, responsibilities and duties of that body.

## **ARTS AND CULTURE ELEMENT**

### **RESPONSIBLE DEPARTMENT:**

Department of Community and Economic Development

### **INTRODUCTION**

The "arts" include many disciplines - visual art, architecture, music, theatre, dance, and literature. One of mankind's most basic instincts is to enhance his environment with music, color, movement, and drama. These are the elements which contribute to "quality of life", without which our days become routine and drab. There are currently more than 60 art organizations operating in Genesee County which seek to provide opportunities for local citizens to both enjoy and participate in the arts.

The arts are integral to the well being of the community. Every human being in our community must be given opportunities to realize the importance of the arts.

### **GOALS AND OBJECTIVES**

#### **Goal I**

For the city to become a catalyst and facilitator for the arts.

#### **Objectives**

1. Designation of an "Arts Liaison Officer" within the city government.
2. Creation of Community Arts Committee, drawn from leaders in various artistic disciplines, which will formulate a Cultural Plan for the city.
3. Policy statement by the city which calls for inclusion of an arts component in all future planning.
4. Develop a Cultural Resources Package.

**Goal II**

**Use of existing cultural resources in economic development  
of the City of Flint.**

# **WORK-FORCE ENHANCEMENT/EDUCATION ELEMENT**

## **RESPONSIBLE DEPARTMENT:**

Department of Community and Economic Development

## **INTRODUCTION**

The City has a recent history of having many high wage manufacturing jobs in local automobile and automotive parts plants, which required little, if any, specialized skills or knowledge. The last decade has been disastrous for low and unskilled labor as the plants have made strides to modernize and streamline operations in order to become competitive in the world economy. The time is past when a young man or young woman could graduate from high school and expect to find employment in a high paying, unskilled manufacturing job in the automobile plants. The present and future workplace requires more specialized skills and higher education of employees. Work-force enhancement/education is essential for the City's present and future development. Strategic Priority #1 of the "Strategic Economic Development Plan for Flint/Genesee County" of Genesee Economic Area Revitalization (G.E.A.R.) addresses work-force enhancement and is generally adopted as suggested goals and objectives.

## **GOALS AND OBJECTIVES**

### **Goal I**

Develop a competitive, world-class workforce.

### **Objectives**

1. Actively participate in programs to increase educational capacity and achievement of the Flint Community School District.
2. Support career-oriented curricula at the middle-school level.
3. Support an application-oriented career path program for all high school students that will involve them directly in workplace experience.

4. Support basic learning skill standards for all pre-college or pre-career prep students.
5. Support the establishment of the nation's first local "Work-Force Enhancement Program" to help all Flint/Genesee County "veteran" workers--those with substantial work experience-- to purchase job placement and career assessment services, as well as job training and education for career advancement.
6. Support the creation of School-to-Work transition programs for "hard-to-employ" high school graduates.

## **Goal II**

Encourage the development of local human resources so that unemployed and under employed workers can get the jobs created by new industrial activity.

### **Objectives**

1. Identify the manpower needs of the targeted industries.
2. Identify the current work force available and evaluate its skills.
3. Encourage the development of programs that train the unemployed and under employed workers to satisfy the manpower requirements of targeted industries.
4. Develop and implement incentive programs to encourage targeted industries to hire employees from the manpower pool.
5. Evaluate and recognize job training and retraining programs to produce a work force which will be in demand in the future.

