INTRODUCTION

The Town of May has identified the preservation of its rural character and agricultural heritage as the most important growth management issue. The Comprehensive Plan shall reflect this overriding goal and provide direction consistent with its intent.

MISSION STATEMENT

This Comprehensive Plan is designed to reflect the overall community goals of keeping the Town of May permanently rural, adhere to non-commercial development, with the exception of the Withrow Ballroom and Event Center and its accessory use of Bergmann’s Greenhouse and Garden Center, maintain current density standards at one home per ten acres in the rural residential zone, promote larger lots over 20 acres in size, preserve open space through land management, and to protect its water and natural resources, all while keeping taxes low, conservatively managing Township expenditures, and providing a system of Township roads and government services, at a rural level.

This Comprehensive Plan is designed to perpetuate the concept of the Town of May as a permanently rural environment consistent with the policies of the Metropolitan Council. The goal of the plan is to preserve and enhance this concept through a development policy that adheres to this rural character. Although economic ties of residents remain linked to the larger metropolitan area, the Town’s goal is to maintain stringent development policies that protect the Town’s rural character.

Due to the Town’s proximity to the metropolitan area, it has experienced increased growth pressures. The pace of new development will be dictated by the health of the economy in the next 20 years. By adhering to the principles of this Comprehensive Plan, the Town of May is capable of designing regulations for development in a way that will preserve its rural character, sustain its natural resources, and protect the land for future generations.

Due to the absence of an industrial or retail tax base, and a very small commercial zone, the Town has been, and will continue to be, fiscally conservative so as to keep taxes low for its agricultural, rural residential, and seasonal residential properties.

Goals and policies are official statements established by the community which provide direction in regards to land use management. Goals are general statements that reflect the community’s values. Policies are more specific, official positions of the Town that will serve to guide planning decisions and implementation strategies. Goals and policies precede each plan element of this document.
COMMUNITY GOALS

The Comprehensive Plan of the Town of May has been prepared to accurately reflect the values and needs of the community, including the desire of most residents to preserve a rural community that supports agricultural endeavors. In addition, non-farm rural lifestyles that retain extensive areas of open space and undeveloped land are encouraged as a way of preserving this rural character.

The goals and community issues are broad in scope and encompass ongoing changes in the economic, cultural, and social environment. Goals and policies directly related to the specific issues are presented in other portions of the plan (i.e., land use, transportation, etc.).

The following are general community goals most representative of the values that are important to residents of the Town of May as a whole.

- Protect the Township’s natural environment
- Retain the rural character of the Township
- Preserve and promote agricultural endeavors
- Operate the Town in a fiscally responsible manner, keeping taxes low while providing services at a rural level.
- By following the goals above, preserve the quality of life in the Township.

Should these community goals be threatened, the Town of May will consider the merits of incorporation.