

Master Plan Introduction

The municipal Master Plan, adopted by the Planning Board, sets forth the Township's land use policies and is the principal document that addresses the manner in which development, redevelopment, conservation and/or preservation should occur within a municipality. It is intended to guide the decisions made by public officials and those of private interests involving the use of land. Through its various elements, the Master Plan sets forth a vision for the community in the coming years.

The Master Plan forms the legal foundation for zoning and New Jersey specifically ties the planning of a community as embodied in the Master Plan to the zoning ordinance and zoning map adopted by the Township Committee. Under New Jersey's Municipal Land Use Law N.J.S.A. 40:55D-1 et seq., (hereinafter "MLUL") a zoning ordinance must be substantially consistent with the land use plan.

Under the Municipal Land Use Law, the Planning Board must conduct a general reexamination of its Master Plan and development regulations at least every ten years. The Township adopted a Master Plan Re-Examination Report in 2023, which followed the relevant statutory requirements. The following Master Plan builds upon the 2023 Re-Examination Report and previous planning documents and offers comprehensive assessment of potential new or amended Township policies. The 2024 Master Plan will include the following elements:

1. Goals and Objectives
2. Land Use Plan
3. Circulation Plan
4. Conservation Plan
5. Economic Development Plan
6. Green Buildings & Sustainability Plan

There will be public input sessions in early summer, as well as a survey. The Township encourages all residents and businesses owners to participate in the process and provide their input on how Lawrence Township can be a great place to live and work.