

Chapter 1

INTERGOVERNMENTAL COOPERATION AND REGIONAL CONTEXT

POLICY GUIDELINE:

INTERGOVERNMENTAL COOPERATION

A partnership founded on mutual respect and mutual support in achievement of the common goals of this **Leelanau General Plan** should guide the development and implementation of new relationships between the county and local units of government in the county and between the county and adjoining counties in the region.

The preface includes a description of the history of the efforts which led to the creation of the first **General Plan** in 1994. A key opinion of many citizens and local officials in the county was that the usual historical approaches to planning in the County had not achieved a desirable result.



Timberlee area in Elmwood Township

ISSUES OF GREATER THAN LOCAL CONCERN

Issues of greater than local concern are public interests that are broader than simply local interests. These include (but are not limited to) the following. Some are illustrated on page 1-5 (see Figure 1-1).

- air quality protection.
- watershed management for water quality protection.
- groundwater and well-head protection.
- habitat preservation for sustainable fish and wildlife populations.
- protection of unique and endangered species.
- protection of sensitive environments (wetlands, dunes, floodplains, high risk erosion areas, etc), especially the large contiguous ecosystems like the Solon Swamp, the Crystal River, Sleeping Bear Dunes.
- resource protection necessary to sustain resource-based industries such as agriculture and forestry.
- sustainable economic development to provide jobs for present and future residents.
- loss of open space and scenic views along key corridors.
- harbors
- key holding on lakes which lie in multiple jurisdictions.
- use of public access sites.
- establishment of new public parks and access sites on waterfronts.
- existing public parks (national, state and local).
- safe, efficient and environmentally sound roads and highways connecting our communities.
- public sewer and water services.
- infrastructure serving more than one community, or being extended farther than necessary.
- land use along municipal borders.

- LULU's (locally unwanted land uses that meet a regional need, such as gravel pits, junk yards, landfills, towers, etc.).
- solid and hazardous waste disposal and recycling centers.
- public economic development initiatives.
- affordable housing.
- needs of the handicapped, children, the elderly, and other special populations.
- adequate social services for citizens with temporary or special needs.
- adequate educational opportunities for all citizens.
- a sovereign nation within the county making independent land use decisions.

In many instances, these broader public interests revolve around common environmental features (which do not respect municipal boundaries), infrastructure, and the needs of special populations.

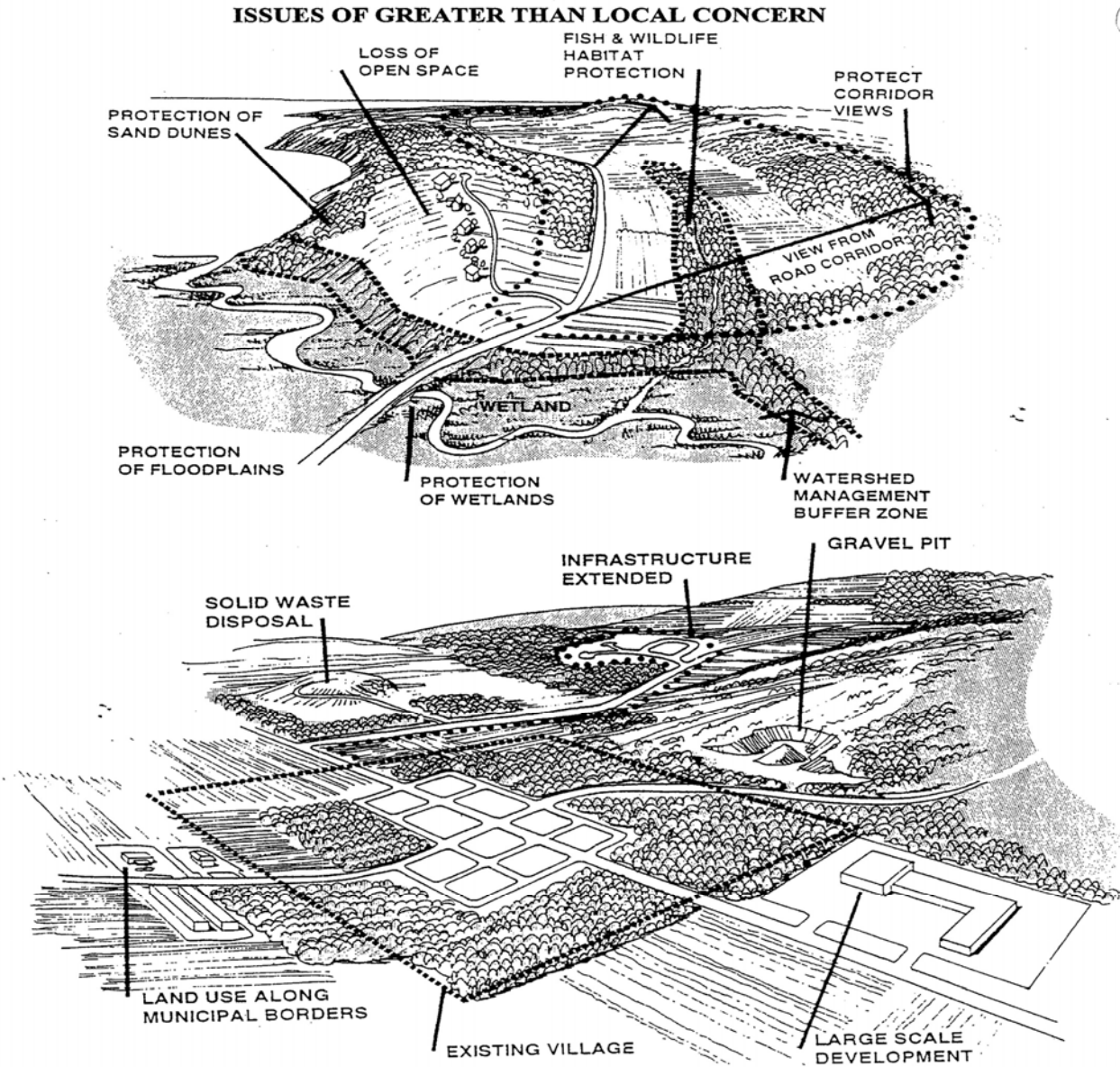
If the mutual goals of this **General Plan** are to be achieved, it will take the coordinated efforts of all units of government working together to achieve them. Strong intergovernmental cooperation founded on mutual respect and mutual support in achievement of the common goals of this **General Plan** is fundamental to a better future for Leelanau County.



Birdseye view of Glen Arbor Village

Future local comprehensive plans in villages and townships in the county will relate to the **General Plan**, but will be more specific with regard to land use. They will also be tied to implementation via local zoning and subdivision regulations and focused on protection of local quality of life. Local plan relationship with the **General Plan** will be the focus of the County Planning Commission's review as required by the Michigan Planning Enabling Act.

Figure 1-1



Illustrations by *Warbach*