

What is PICTURE HILLSDALE?

The Hillsdale County Planning Commission is in the process of reviewing the County's Master Plan and has engaged the expertise and technical support of Michigan State University Extension and the Land Policy Institute in the revision of its county master plan. The Picture Michigan Tomorrow framework of using economic, ecological and social issues to understand the impact on land use and developing future land use forecasts will be the main thrust of this initiative. The process will build explicit impact assessments of land use change scenarios and incorporate traffic modeling, land development, municipal spending and school impacts for various economic, demographic and development scenarios. The program will develop key knowledge for decision makers relating to critical infrastructure, talent retention, building a sense of place and planning for the prosperity of Hillsdale County.

The main benefits of this initiative are to:

- Assess the desires of the Hillsdale County community,
- Identify, inventory and understand the key infrastructure issues that will enable Hillsdale County to attain prosperity and sustainability.
- Build community consensus around asset based strategic planning
- Help articulate an asset based growth strategy for Hillsdale County.

The general objectives of this project are to:

- Develop and deploy a strategic community development survey online to allow the residents of Hillsdale to voice their vision for the county.
- Produce a Hillsdale County Asset atlas to help decision-makers and residents visualize and understand the counties critical assets.
- Hold scenario planning workshops for professionals and the community to help build a community vision of itself for the coming 3 decades.
- Summarize results in reports to the Hillsdale County Planning Commission, and the Hillsdale County Board of Commissioners.