

THE ABC'S OF LOCAL FOOD, PLANNING & ZONING

HOMEGROWN LOCAL FOOD SUMMIT

March 1, 2011

Municipal Government

- Who?
- When?
- How plan?
- How zone?
- How to influence?

Who?

Elected Officials

Mayor/Supervisor

City Council/Township Board

Appointed Officials

Planning Commission

Staff

Community Development Director

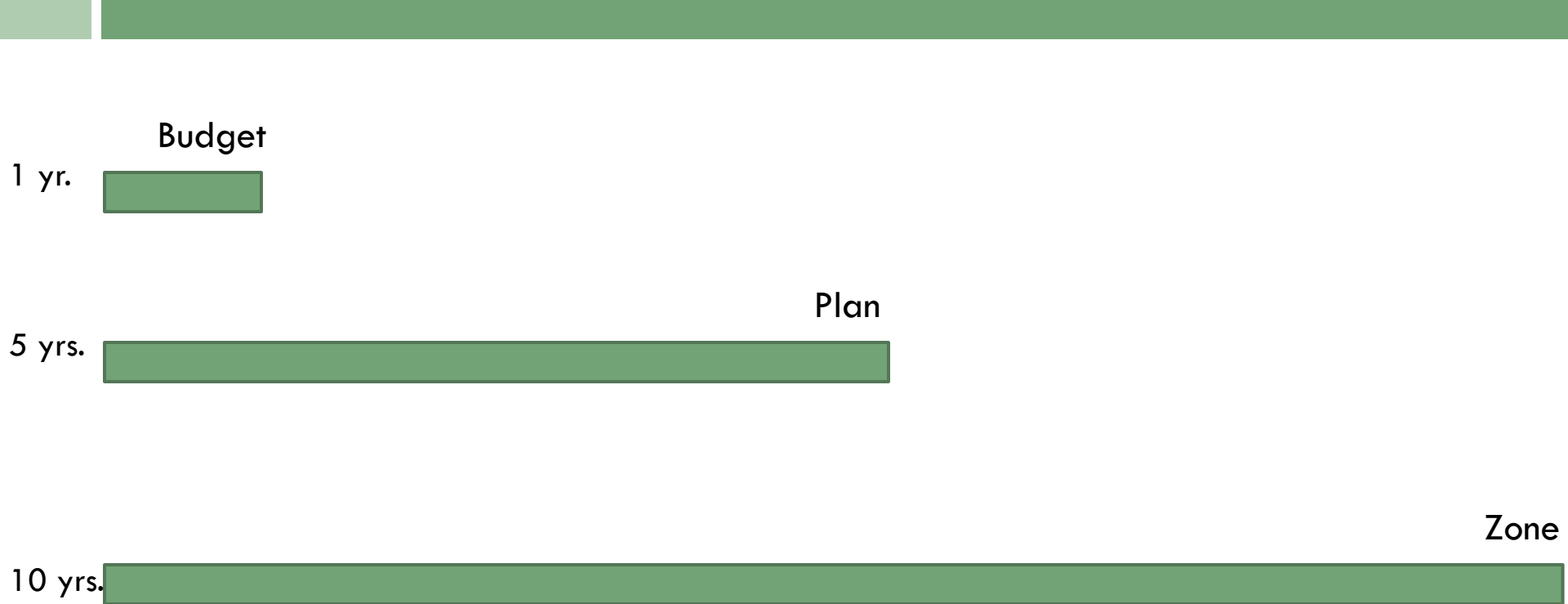
Planner

Planning Consultant

Zoning Official

Building Official

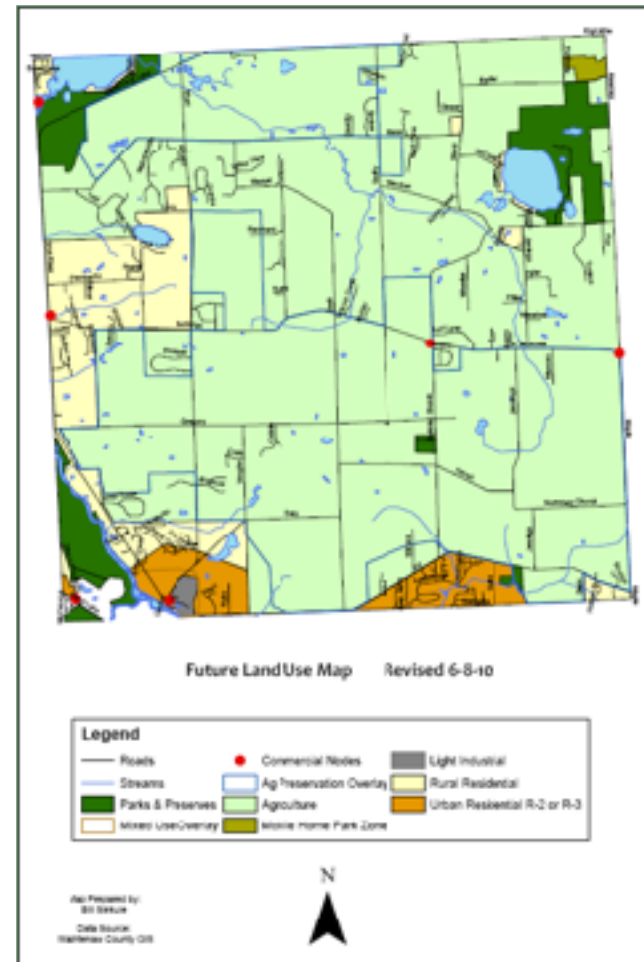
When?



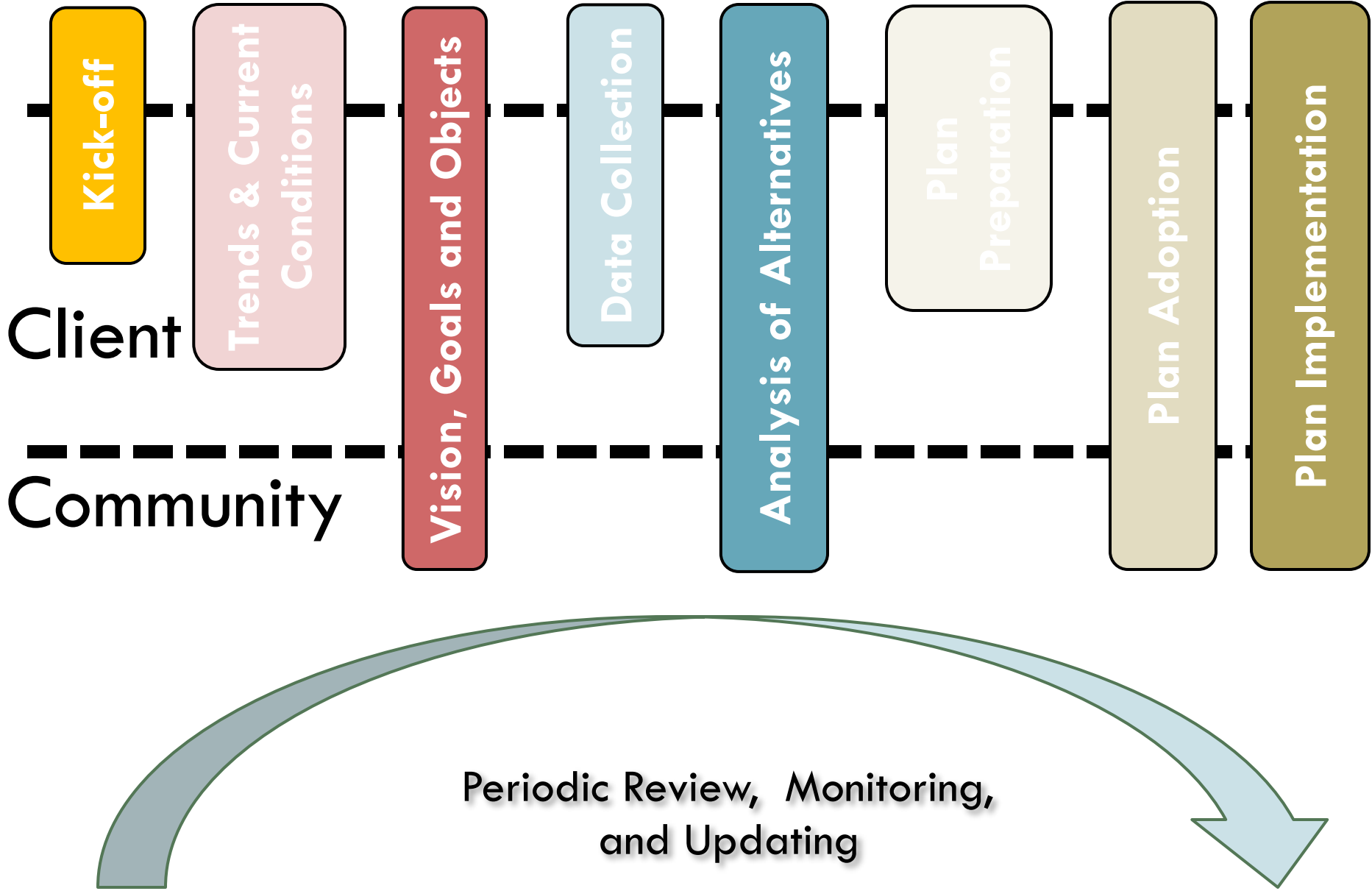
Staff and budget show priorities

What is a master plan?

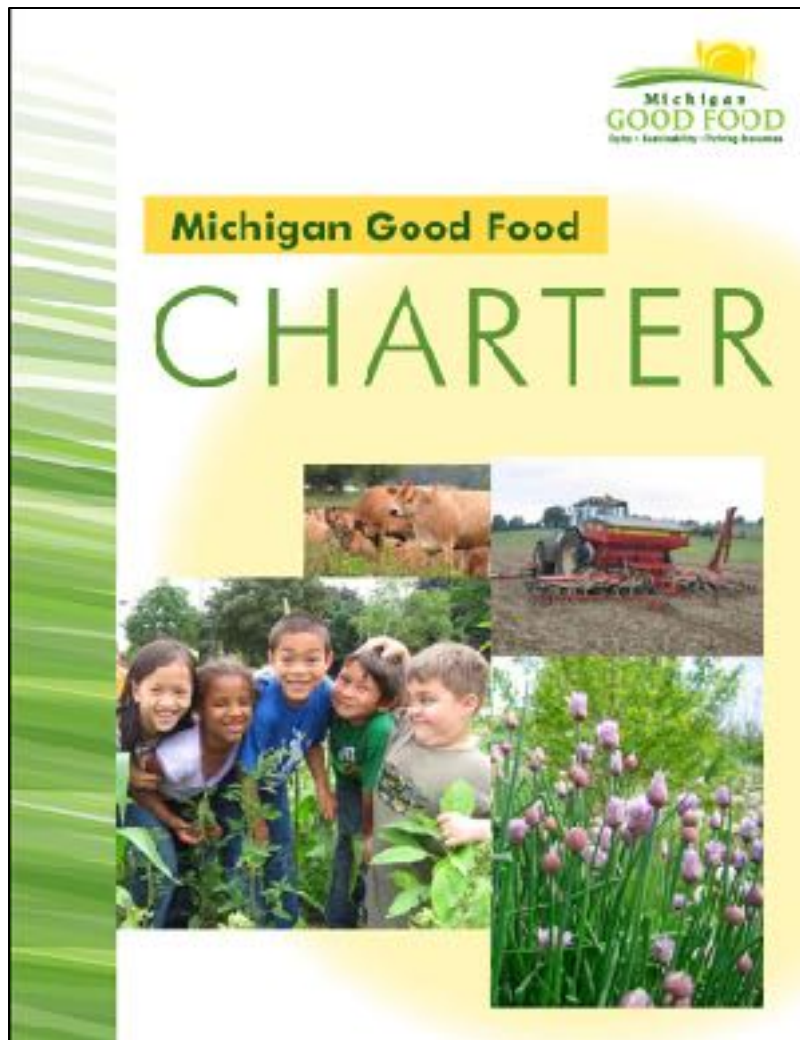
- Guide for development
- Vision, Goals & Objectives
- Implementation



Planner



Planning Resources



APA
American Planning Association
Making Great Communities Happen

Policy Guide on Community and Regional Food Planning

Adopted by the Legislative and Policy Committee, April 13, 2007
Adopted by the Chapter Delegate Assembly, April 14, 2007
Adopted by the Board of Directors, April 15, 2007
Final Policy Guide, May 11, 2007

Introduction

Food is a sustaining and enduring necessity. Yet among the basic essentials for life — air, water, shelter, and food — only food has been absent over the years as a focus of serious professional planning interest. This is a puzzling omission because, as a discipline, planning marks its distinctiveness by being comprehensive in scope and attentive to the temporal dimensions and spatial interconnections among important facets of community life.

Several reasons explain why planners have paid less attention to food issues when compared with long-standing planning topics such as economic development, transportation, the environment, and housing. Among these reasons are:

1. a view that the food system — representing the flow of products from production, through processing, distribution, consumption, and the management of wastes, and associated processes — only indirectly touches on the built environment, a principal focus of planning's interest;
2. a sense that the food system isn't broken, so why fix it; and,
3. a perception that the food system meets neither of two important conditions under which planners act — i.e., dealing with public goods like air and water; and planning for services and facilities in which the private sector is unwilling to invest, such as public transit, sewers, highways, and parks.

Yet, over the last few years, interest in food system issues is clearly on the rise in the planning community. In 2005 at the APA National Planning Conference in San Francisco, a special track of sessions on food planning subjects was held for the first time in APA's history. An unexpectedly high number of 60 planners responded to the call for papers for this track. In 2006, a follow-up track of sessions took place at the San Antonio APA conference. Special journal issues devoted entirely to food planning have included the *Journal of Planning Education and Research* (Summer 2004) and *Progressive Planning* (Winter 2004). Courses on community food planning are being offered for the first time by several graduate planning programs. Another sign of progress was a white paper on food planning prepared in late 2006 and presented to the Delegates Assembly at the 2006 APA conference. Approved subsequently by the APA Legislative and Policy Committee, the white paper became the impetus for preparing this Policy Guide, which provides a vision and suggests ways for planners to become engaged in community and regional food planning.

The following are a few converging factors that explain the heightened awareness among planners that the food system is indeed significant:

- Recognition that food system activities take up a significant amount of urban and regional land

Planning & Food

- Food System included
- Food Transportation
- Local food groups consulted
- Multiple methods of food access

Preserve Farmland



Photo courtesy of MSU
Student Organic Farm

Facilitate Urban Agriculture

- Land inventories
- Designated space
- Granting long-term city leases

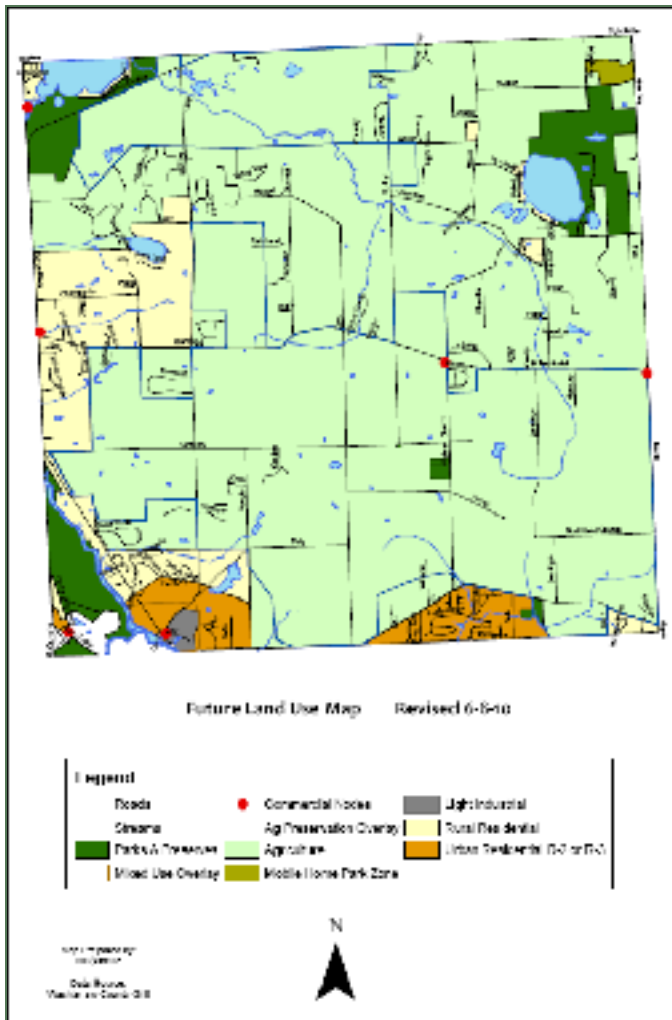


Earthworks Farm Hoop House, Detroit

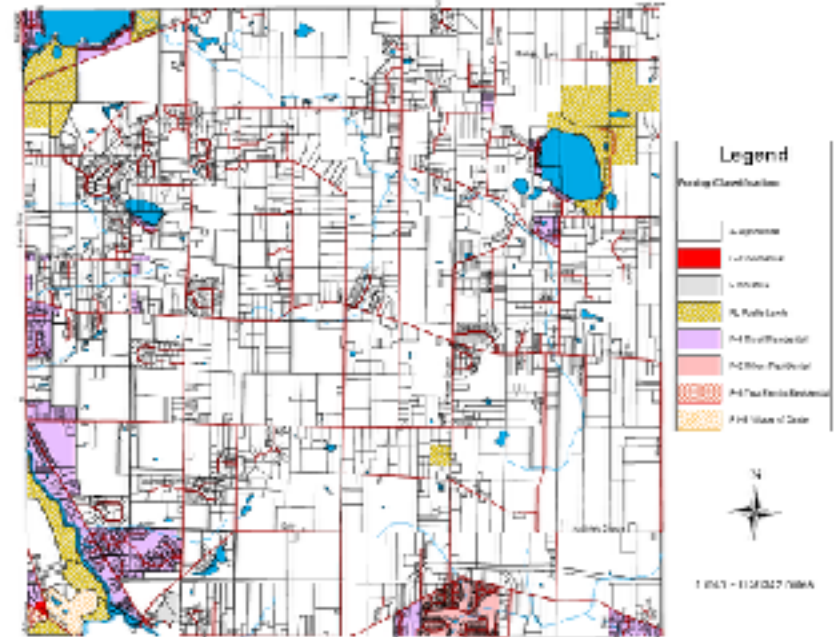
What is zoning?

- Local law regulating land use and the location, bulk and height of buildings
- US Constitution give local police powers relating to health, safety & welfare

Planning & Zoning



Webster Township Zoning Map



Zoning & Local Food

- Where produced?
- Where stored?
- Where processed?
- Where sold?
- Where consumed?
- Where disposed of?

The answers are as old as the zoning ordinance.

Food Business Districts



Detroit's Eastern Market

How influence?

- Know your plan & zoning ordinance!
- Speak up!
- Become involved!
- Share resources!
- Be a team player!

Questions

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