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Welcome

Grand Valley Metropolitan Council (GVMC) is an alliance of governmental units in the Grand Rapids, Michigan metropolitan area that are appointed to plan for the growth and development, improve the quality of the communities life, and coordinate governmental services.



Latest Developments

- **Notice of Public Hearing.** The Grand Valley Metropolitan Council will hold a public hearing on the FY 2005-2006 Budget on September 1, 2005 at 8:30 a.m. at the Kent County Administration Building, Room 310, 300 Monroe Avenue NW, Grand Rapids, MI. copy of this budget is available for public inspection at 40 Pearl Street NW, Suite 410, Grand Rapids, Michigan from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Monday through Friday.
- **2005 Metropolitan Development Blueprint Award Recipients:** A wide variety of ne projects were nominated this year, each exhibiting alignment with many of the origina MDB Principles. Of those, three were chosen as being especially good examples. more.
- **More than 200 municipal officials, planners and citizens attended GVMC's 12th annual Growing Communities Conference at Frederick Meijer Gardens on June 9.** This year's theme - Place in Mi examined the characteristics that make our communities great places to live, work and play and demonstrated the steps we can take to build truly great communities. more...
- **Walkable Neighborhood Developments will Sell! :** 3000 dwelling units a year can b absorbed in the Metro area, if set in a traditional urban neighborhood or as part of a tr center. A just released report by nationally reconized housing market analyst Zimmerman/Volk Associates provides detailed support for this assessment. more ...



Grand Valley Metropolitan Council


GVMC

Allegan, Barry, Ionia, Kent, Montcalm

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Our Vision

A Council of Governments dedicated to enhancing the quality of life of the people of our metropolitan area through collaboration among regional partners.

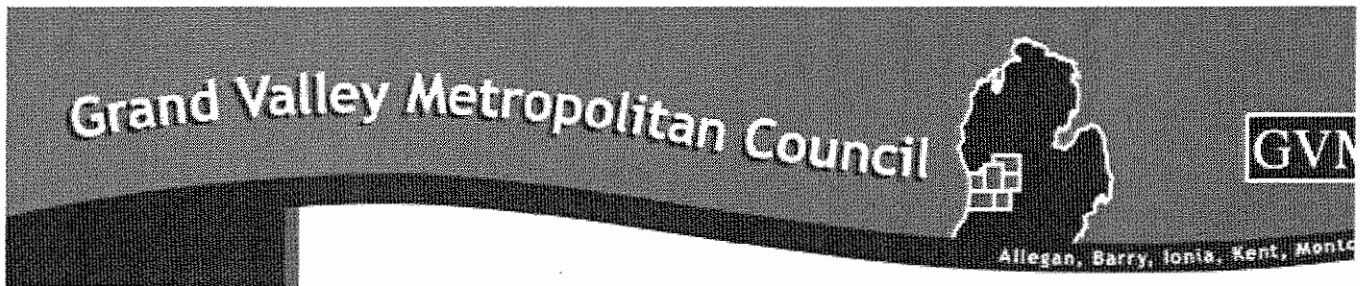
Our Mission

The mission of the Grand Valley Metropolitan Council is to advance the current and future well-being of our metropolitan area by bringing together public and private sectors to cooperatively advocate, plan for, and coordinate the provision of services and investments which have environmental, economic and social impact.

In pursuit of this mission, it is understood that the well-being of the metropolitan community relies on good government and springs from a shared vision that encompasses many elements, including, but not limited to, the following:

- Preparing now for the challenges of the future
- Planning for orderly growth and development
- Minimizing urban sprawl
- Preserving and enhancing the natural, social, and physical environments
- Promoting economic vitality and employment opportunities
- Equitably sharing responsibility for community needs
- Recognizing the strengths and benefits of diversity
- Promoting quality lifelong educational opportunities
- Promoting quality cultural and recreational institutions and facilities
- Developing a sensible and environmentally sound transportation system to serve all population groups
- Vigilantly preserving the health and safety of the general public
- Effectively utilizing and enhancing existing infrastructure
- Eliminating unnecessary duplication of services
- Effectively advocating for financial equity and other assistance with the State and Federal governments

- Conserving and enhancing healthy neighborhoods, business districts and employment centers
- Promoting a high quality of life now and for future generations



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Membership

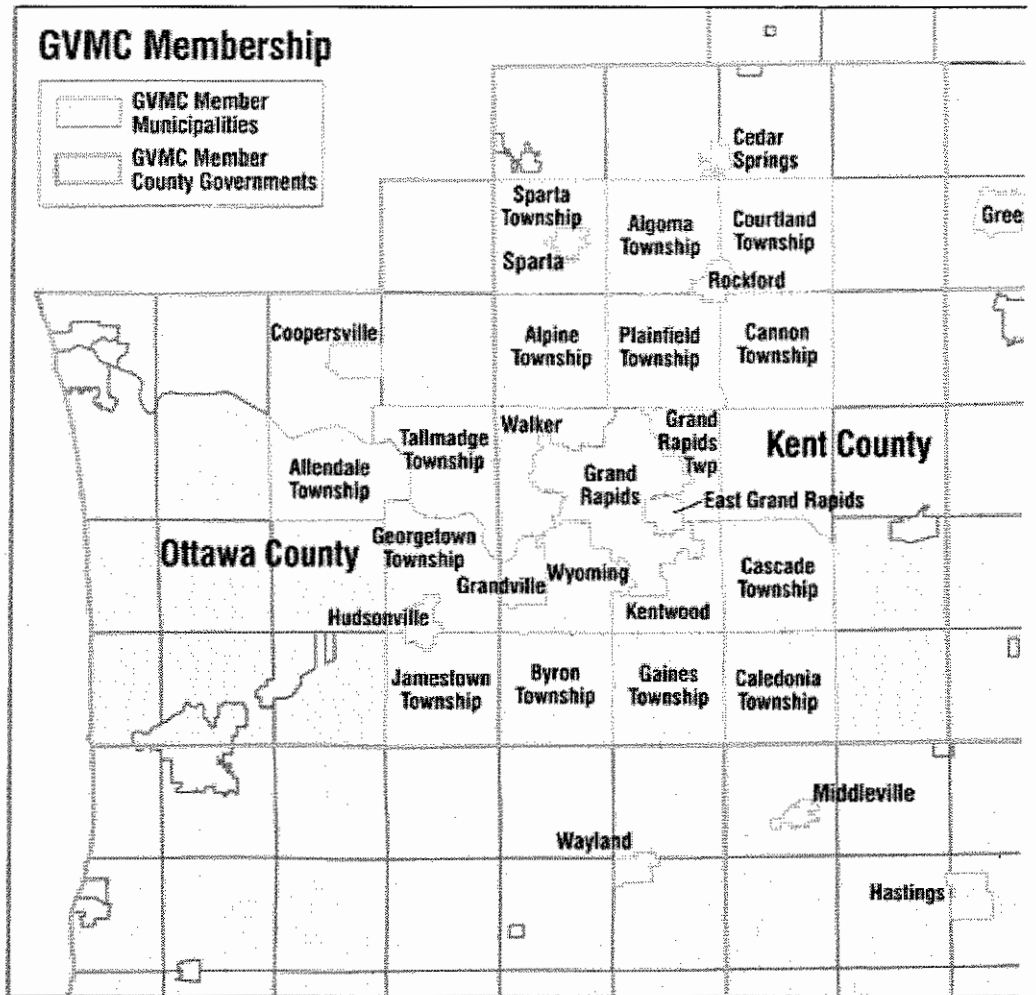
GVMC Members | Membership Benefits

GVMC Members

- Algoma Township
- Allendale Township
- Alpine Township
- Byron Township
- Caledonia Township
- Cannon Township
- Cascade Township
- Cedar Springs
- Coopersville
- Courtland Township
- East Grand Rapids
- Gaines Township
- Georgetown Township
- Grand Rapids
- Grand Rapids Township
- Grandville
- Greenville
- Hastings
- Hudsonville
- Ionia
- Jamestown Township
- Kent County
- Ken
- Mid
- Ott
- Plai
- Roc
- Spa
- Spa
- Tall
- Wal
- Way
- Wyc

Click on a community on the membership map below to visit its official website.





Download or view a copy of the GVMC Membership map in PDF

Membership Benefits

Save Money

- Consolidation of studies to avoid duplication; continually seeing through consolidation; i.e., storm water, REGIS
- Consultant study cooperation (NE Beltline, storm water, transit,
- GVMC assistance for grants and other financial help
- Free planning advice and technical assistance; resource for information

Be Inside the Decision Making Loop

- Part of Big Picture and Vote on Policies that Actually Affect You
- Make Use of GVMC Expertise: Be at the Table and Make a Difference
 - Water and Sewer Planning
 - Transportation Planning
 - Regional Land Use Planning
 - City-Township Cooperation Committee (annexation/detachment)
- Receive Legislative Updates and Advocate:
 - Combine with 32 other units in promoting/commenting on legislation
 - Amplify voice in Lansing with 13 representatives and 8 senators
 - Establish legislative priorities
- Participate in Growth Management Discussions; Help Integrate Findings into Regional Plan

Grand Valley Metropolitan Council


GVMC

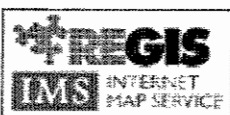
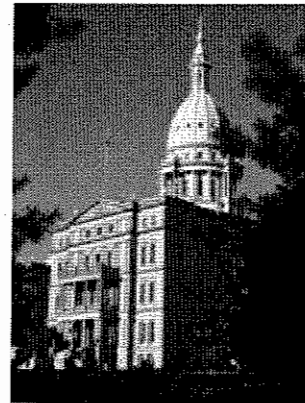
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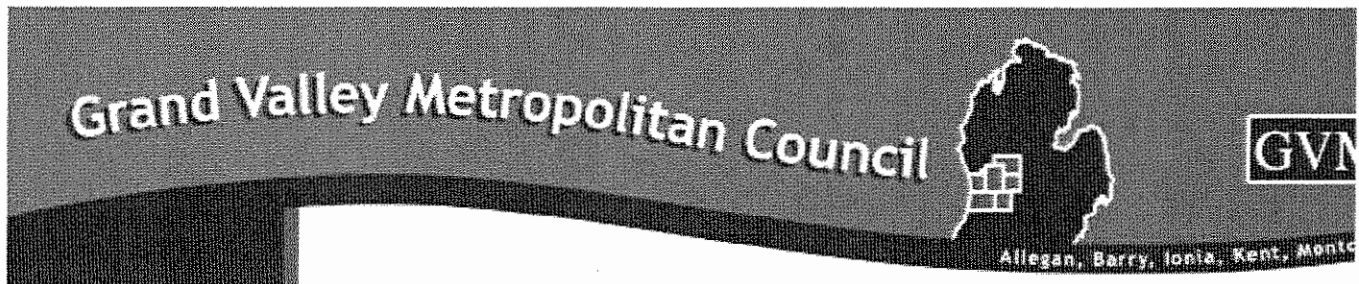
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Legislative

The Grand Valley Metropolitan Council reviews, monitors, and proposes legislation that supports its members' interests. GVMC regularly invites federal and state elected officials to discuss recent or pending legislation. Representatives from the Michigan Municipal League and Michigan Townships Association often attend meetings to provide legislative counsel and legislative updates. GVMC coordinates its legislative activities with:

- County Road Association of Michigan
- Grand Rapids Area Chamber of Commerce
- Michigan Association of Counties
- Michigan Environmental Council
- Michigan Municipal League
- Michigan Townships Association





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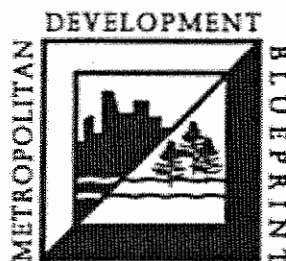
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Metropolitan Development Blueprint



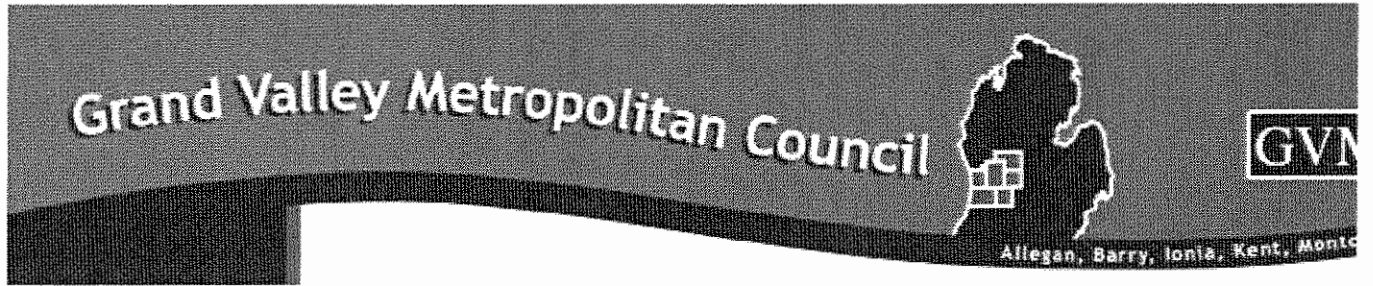
"Blueprint" is the name given to our metro-wide planning process which seeks two major outcomes. First, it is an effort to accomplish 4 major visions from a visioning process completed in early 1990. The primary visions are:

- To provide more livable compact communities within our metro region
- To frame our communities with open spaces, farmlands and greenways
- To provide sufficient regional business and employment centers and
- To connect communities and centers with efficient multi-modal transportation.

The Blueprint name has also been applied to GVMC's ongoing efforts to create a regional planning process which coordinates local growth and land use policies with regional management of metro-wide infrastructure and services such as streets, sewer, water, transit, stormwater, schools, etc.

A Blueprint Committee has been established to oversee the development and use of the Blueprint II Framework for Regional Development.





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Blueprint Committee

The Blueprint Committee is the overall planning and program evaluation body of Grand Valley Metro Council. It consists of a variety of members from both public and private sector and its main duties are:

- o Regional Plan integration (land use, transportation, utilities, etc.)
- o Promotion of "Blueprint Principles"
- o Overseeing the subregional planning process
- o Convening other ad hoc committees that may be necessary for the regional planning effort.

The Blueprint Committee meets on an as needed basis. Check calendar for meeting dates.

Minutes:

FY-2003/2004

- | | |
|------------|-------------|
| • October | • April |
| • November | • May |
| • December | • June |
| • January | • July |
| • February | • August |
| • March | • September |

Members:

- | | |
|------------------|--|
| • Glen Barkan | Aquinas College |
| • Nyal Deems | Varnum, Riddering, Schmidt, & Howlett, LLP |
| • Eric DeLong | City of Grand Rapids |
| • Tom Fehsenfeld | Crystal Flash |
| • Doyle Hayes | Pyper Products Corp |
| • Jack Horton | Kent County Commissioner |
| • Ron Lemmon | |
| • Mick McGraw | Eastbrook Homes, Inc. |
| • Tom McWhertor | Calvin College |
| • Cy Moore | Treasurer of Council |

- Marcia Rapp
- Bonnie Shupe
- Sharon Steffens

Grand Rapids Community Foundation
Cannon Township
Alpine Township