

MICHIGAN PLANNER



Michigan Chapter
American Planning Association

MANAGING WATER

from Coast to Coast

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Transitional Spring | A Time of Renewal

Isn't April just about the best month in Michigan? Even with this year's low snowfall and warmer winter temps, there is something particularly... delightful about Michigan Spring.

Here at MAP, we have our early winter training events behind us – Transportation Bonanza (our annual partnership conference with Michigan Department of Transportation), and our March Regional Planning and Zoning Workshops for Officials – and we are gearing up for Spring Institute in May, Summer tours and Planner's Gatherings in Metro Detroit; MAP Reads (we are going STATE WIDE with two new titles this year!) and the fall Annual Planning Michigan Conference September 25 to 27 at the Amway Grand in Grand Rapids. When you combine our busy events schedule with several new initiatives, grant partnership projects, and elevated legislative activity in Lansing, your MAP staff and board are at capacity serving our members, and nothing makes us happier.

And it is also membership renewal season, an annual spring ritual here at the MAP office made easier in 2024 with the launch of a new membership database. Props to Amy Jordan and Rachel Goldstein for managing THIS transition, which also includes a beautiful and refreshed MAP Web page and a new event registration system that makes it easier for all of us.

Membership Renewals

You may already have received your annual membership renewal notice by the time you are reading this, and we are always grateful for your commitment to MAP as your home for the planning and zoning resources and training your officials require to create high quality places. The 2024 – 2025 membership year starts July 1, and we are honored to serve your community for another year. It is easy to update your membership list to include new members, and we are here to help if you have any questions or need assistance. Our team looks forward to serving your team in 2024 – 2025!

New Initiatives!

MAP works hard to deliver fresh ideas and innovative initiatives that meet the needs of our diverse membership.

- **MAP Reads goes statewide!** Established in 2017, MAP Reads started as a Metro Detroit initiative. In 2024, we introduce two new books and a statewide approach that will support municipal or area-wide book groups. Contact Amy Vansen or Andrea Brown if you are interested in starting a book group in your area.
- **Michigan Black Professional Planner's (MBPP) Network.** The objective of this new MAP initiative is to support a space for Black planners to learn, network, and serve. Details on the MAP webpage, and a link to sign up. A kickoff meeting was held March 20, 2024 with some 25 participants.
- **Metro Detroit Planner's** summer events schedule is LIVE, and includes summer events in Palmer Park in Detroit in May, Nine Mile Road Corridor in Oak Park in July, and Birmingham in October.



ON THE COVER: Artwork by Carla Nichiata

Board Members

Mohamed Ayoub (President) (2026)
City of Westland
mayoub@cityofwestland.com

Shari Williams (Vice President) (2026)
Detroit Future City
swilliams@detroitfuturecity.com

**Christina Anderson, AICP
(Secretary | Treasurer) (2023)**
City of Kalamazoo
andersonc@kalamazoo-city.org

**Brad Kaye, AICP, CFM (Past President)
(2023)**
City of Midland, City Manager
bkaye@midland-mi.org

**Jill Bahm, AICP
(Professional Development Officer) (2024)**
Giffels Webster
jbahm@giffelswebster.com

Trudy Galla, AICP (2025)
Fishbeck
tgalla@fishbeck.com

Christopher Germain, AICP (2026)
Lake Superior Community Partnership
christophergermain@gmail.com

Mandy Grewal, PhD (2025)
Pittsfield Township
grewalm@pittsfield-mi.gov

Scott Kree (2025)
Oakland County
krees@oakgov.com

Trey Scott (2026)
Canfield Creative Group
trey.scott@canfieldcreativegroup.com

Ex-Officio Members

Kami Pothukuchi, PhD (Faculty)
Wayne State University
k.pothukuchi@wayne.edu

Kevin Martin (Elected Official)
Van Buren Township
martinkevin34@yahoo.com

Student Board Representatives

Jessica Hobbs
University of Michigan
jehobbs@umich.edu

Andy Larsen
University of Michigan
arlarsen@umich.edu

Staff

Andrea Brown, AICP, Executive Director
abrown@planningmi.org

Leah DuMouchel, AICP
Director of Programs and Communication
ldumouchel@planningmi.org

Rachel Goldstein, Director of Operations
rgoldstein@planningmi.org

Amy Miller Jordan, Deputy Director
ajordan@planningmi.org

Wendy Rampson, AICP
Director of Programs and Outreach
wrampson@planningmi.org

Amy M. Vansen, AICP
Director of Information and Programs
avansen@planningmi.org



Keep Our Waters Fresh by Edward Lee, Port Huron.
Used with permission by Friends of the St. Clair River



MICHIGAN DEPARTMENT OF
ENVIRONMENT, GREAT LAKES, AND ENERGY



Financial assistance for this project was provided by the Michigan Coastal Management Program, Water Resources Division, EGLE, with funding through the National Coastal Zone Management Program.

Every drop of water that falls in Michigan has the potential to make its way into a Great Lake.

The journey of many of these drops is shaped by policies, regulations, mandates, and investments guided by planners and planning officials. Water management, including stormwater, is among our core responsibilities—planners are all managing stormwater from coast to coast. Our site standards direct runoff and infiltration as soon as that drop hits the ground. Our lot coverage and impervious surface regulations strike a balance between conveying and retaining water inside each individual community. Land use controls are the most effective protection of riparian, shoreline, wetland, and groundwater resources that are shared across communities. The 387 Michigan jurisdictions that abut a Great Lake are, together and separately, responsible for managing the nation's longest freshwater coastline.

Collectively, these policies and regulations provide a line of sight from the standards for each individual parcel to the health of the greater watershed—in this case, the entire Great Lakes basin. That is why the Michigan Association of Planning (MAP), with a grant from the Michigan Coastal Management Program (MCMP) at the Department of Environment, Great Lakes and Energy (EGLE), has convened experts throughout the state to develop this resource document.

This issue is designed to help elected and appointed municipal leaders and their professional staff understand the critical role that every community—coastal, lakeside, riverine, and landlocked—plays in both protecting and wisely developing Michigan's water wonderland.

We encourage you to share this information with your constituencies and are happy to provide additional copies upon request. A digital version of this document and links to additional resources may be found on the MAP website, www.planningmi.org.

MAP is a statewide non-profit membership organization devoted to providing Michigan's elected and appointed officials, as well as community planners and other municipal professionals, with information and tools to achieve a desired quality of life through comprehensive community planning. Best planning and zoning practices are included in our bi-monthly Michigan Planner magazine; at workshops and conferences; and in specialized reports. We are the only organization in Michigan devoted solely to planning and zoning. If you are not already a member, we invite you to join us: www.planningmi.org.



Photo by Josh Graciano

The Ins and Outs of Floodplain Management

Flooding is a natural process. Reducing property damage and protecting human safety when flooding occurs are two goals of floodplain management. Communities working toward these goals should be aware of the many policies and regulations in place regarding the protection and management of floodplains.

A floodplain is the land adjacent to a stream, river, enclosed drain, or the Great Lakes that experiences occasional or periodic flooding. These areas are mapped by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) and shown on Flood Insurance Rate Maps (FIRM).

Riverine floodplains consist of a floodway and a flood fringe (see Figure 1). The floodway is the stream or river

channel and the adjacent area necessary to pass the base flood flow without increasing flood depths. The floodway is the most dangerous part of the floodplain. It is associated with moving water. The flood fringe is the portion of the floodplain that is outside the floodway. It is generally associated with standing, rather than flowing, water.

Coastal floodplains are areas at risk of flooding from storm surge and high velocity waves (see Figure 2). Virtually all counties in Michigan that border the Great Lakes have either received or will get new FIRMs from FEMA identifying coastal flood zones (zone V and VE). Communities participating in the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP), described

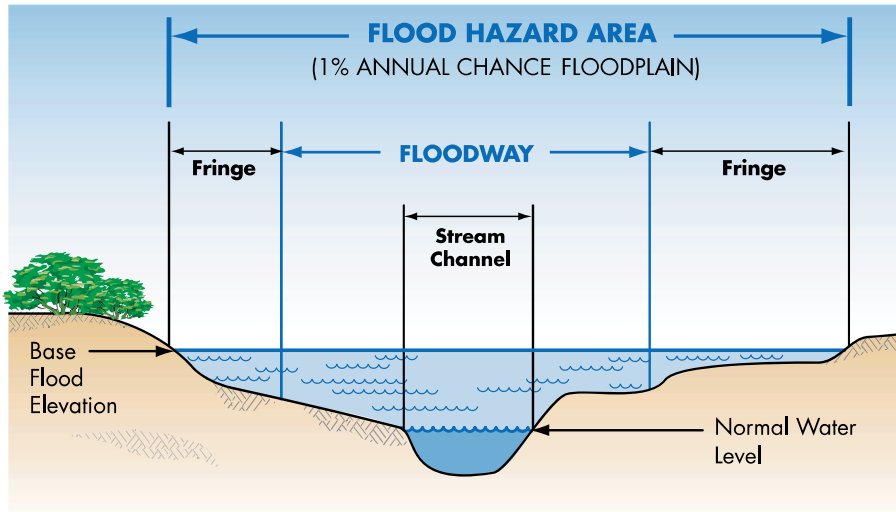
below, must adopt the FEMA maps by ordinance prior to the effective date of the maps. The Michigan Department of Environment, Great Lakes and Energy (EGLE) assists communities with this process.

Many policies and regulations regarding floodplains are based on the 1% annual chance flood (also known as the 100-year flood, or base flood). This size flood has a 1% chance of occurring in a given year. The 1% annual chance flood does not mean that the flood will only happen once every 100 years.

Floodplain Development

Building in the floodplain can have serious consequences. In addition to incurring property damage and associ-

Understanding the Riverine Floodplain



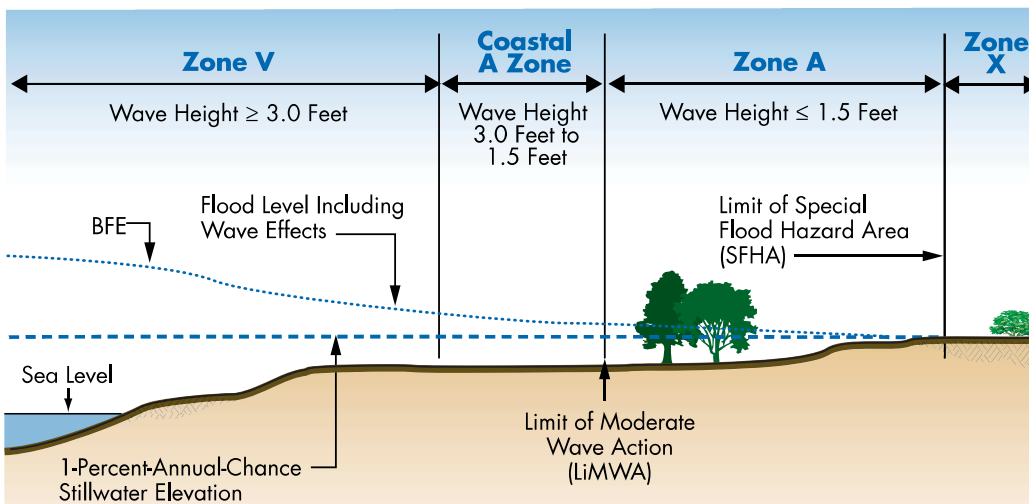
Terms and Definitions

The **Special Flood Hazard Area (SFHA)** is that portion of the floodplain subject to inundation by the base flood (1% annual chance). Riverine SFHAs are shown on FIRMs as Zones A, AE, AH, AO, AR, and A99. Older FIRMs may have Zones A1-A30.

For riverine floodplains with Base Flood Elevations (BFEs) determined by detailed flood studies, the Flood Profile in the Flood Insurance Study shows water surface elevations for different frequency floods

Figure 1, Riverine Floodplains | Source: Floodplain Management in Michigan Quick Guide, EGLE

Understanding the Coastal Floodplain



Terms and Definitions

The **Coastal High Hazard Area (Zone V)** is the Special Flood Hazard Area that extends from offshore to the inland limit of a primary frontal dune along an open coast and any other area subject to high velocity wave action. The area is designated on the FIRM as Zone VE.

The term **Coastal A Zone (CAZ)** refers to a portion of the SFHA landward of a Zone V or landward of an open coast without Zone V. CAZs may be subject to breaking waves between 3 and 1.5 feet high.

Areas subject to Coastal A Zone conditions (wave heights between 3 feet and 1.5 feet) may not be shown on FIRMs. The Michigan Construction Code treats the CAZ area as Zone V and requires development to comply with the Zone V requirements, except backfilled stem walls are allowed.

Figure 2, Coastal Floodplains | Source: Floodplain Management in Michigan Quick Guide, EGLE

ated financial losses when flooding occurs, buildings and other structures in the floodplain displace flood waters, pushing overflow further out into the watershed, affecting land and buildings that would not be at risk otherwise. Deaths and injuries from drowning, being trapped in vulnerable structures, or being struck by flood debris all increase once floodplains are developed.

In Michigan, municipalities must apply the Michigan Building Codes (MBC) for construction within the FEMA 1% annual chance floodplain. The MBC requires the lowest floor of structures to be elevated 1 foot above the base flood elevation. Any work within the floodway portion of the 1% annual chance floodplain requires a model to demonstrate that the work will not cause any increase in flood elevations. Construction within most floodplains may also require a permit from EGLE.

The floodplain regulations for coastal flood zones (Zone V, VE) are contained in the Michigan Residential Code and the Michigan Building Code. In general, buildings in coastal flood zones must have the lowest horizontal structural member elevated 1 foot above the base flood elevation on pilings or columns, with the area below the lowest structural components kept open or contain breakaway walls. Fill is prohibited in coastal flood zones. An engineering analysis must be provided showing that any alterations of sand dunes will not increase the potential for erosion.

The State laws enforced by EGLE are not identical to the Michigan Building Code. Issuance of an EGLE floodplain permit does not necessarily mean the project complies with the MBC. Some areas of state law exceed the minimum standards of the MBC by prohibiting residential structures in the floodway, and requiring no net loss of flood storage capacity, i.e., no fill without compensatory dredging. But other areas of the State laws enforced by EGLE do not meet National Flood Insurance Program standards.

Floodplain Management

There are multiple facets of floodplain management that can reduce property damage and protect human safety from flooding, including hazard mitigation planning, implementing higher development standards, and installing green infrastructure.

A Hazard Mitigation Plan (HMP) identifies hazards such as floodplains and enables municipalities to increase resiliency to flooding risks by developing strategies to reduce impacts. Many times, counties coordinate development of a hazard mitigation plan with the local jurisdictions in the county. However, local jurisdictions may also develop their own. A adopted HMP enables municipalities to maintain eligibility for state and federal hazard funding that can be used to mitigate flooding impacts.

The NFIP is a program that makes federally backed flood insurance available in those states and communities that agree to adopt and enforce floodplain management ordinances to reduce future flood damage. It encourages communities to exceed their minimum requirements and adopt higher standards. In Michigan, the minimum regulations required for participants in the NFIP are legally enforced under the Michigan Building Codes and the optional Appendix G of the MBC. FEMA maintains an up-to-date list of all NFIP communities and flood maps in the state (the upcoming *Michigan Planner E-dition* will include links to these resources).

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On January 4, 2021, the City of Ann Arbor adopted a new Floodplain Management Overlay Zoning District to implement the recommendations of the city's Hazard Mitigation Plan. Here are some examples of the higher standards within that zoning district:

Standards for development in the floodway:

- New buildings of any kind are prohibited in the floodway, but redevelopment of existing structures may be allowed with certain additional requirements, such as no residential uses.
- For redevelopment in the floodway, the developer must submit an engineering study certifying that the development will not raise the base flood elevation (BFE).
- The lowest floor of any redeveloped non-residential structure must be elevated to 1 foot above the 0.2% annual chance (500-year) flood elevation.

Standards for new buildings in flood fringe:

- The lowest floor of any new residential structure must be elevated to 1 foot above the 0.2% annual chance (500-year) flood elevation.
- The lowest floor of any new non-residential structure must be elevated or floodproofed to 1 foot above the 0.2% annual chance (500-year) flood elevation.

Standards for substantially improved buildings:

- All structures that are improved in the floodplain and floodway must meet standards for new buildings if the value of all improvements over the past 10 years exceeds 50% of the market value of the structure. Note: historic structures are exempt from the substantial improvement requirements, provided that the historic character of the structure is maintained.

The City of Ann Arbor participates in the Community Rating System program at Class 6, which results in a 20% discount on all flood insurance policies for the citizens of Ann Arbor. The Floodplain Management Overlay Zoning District and its Hazard Mitigation Plan contribute to Ann Arbor achieving this classification.

From Gray to Green: Stormwater Management for Michigan Communities



Image Source: SEMCOG

The effects of a changing climate impact all the places we love and call home, even Michigan. Communities are experiencing a range of climate risks, from increased precipitation to warmer temperatures. Assessing the needs of current hazards and proactively addressing those to come will be key in mitigating the severity of these environmental shifts. As extreme climatic events continue, access to resources and strategies is essential to improving the state's climate resiliency and helping municipalities strengthen their management systems.

In particular, heavy rain and flood events have proven prevalent throughout the state. Average temperatures are rising and are expected to increase by at least three degrees by 2050. This has led to more storms and excessive rainfall, which has posed significant challenges, such as surface flooding, in many Michigan communities. As the frequency of these water events rises, the recovery time for ecological systems in place to mitigate these issues shortens. In all areas, especially those with aging or inadequate drainage

infrastructure, the impacts can be devastating, causing property loss, water source contamination, displacement, and other harmful outcomes that negatively affect the long-term sustainability and quality of life in communities.

As municipalities continue to improve and maintain resiliency to a changing climate, considering alternative strategies to help manage these impacts is vital. One approach that can address flooding, enhance stormwater management infrastructure, and provide several other benefits is implementing green infrastructure.

Stormwater Management & Infrastructure

Traditionally, municipalities have relied on gray infrastructure – human-engineered mitigation and management systems – to maintain control of stormwater, floods, and other environmental hazards. Gray infrastructure typically refers to systems we cannot or don't always see, like storm drains and sewers. While this type of infrastructure has supported

everyday life and development in communities for years, it has limitations. Over time, gray infrastructure requires costly repairs and sometimes replacement due to aging. Continuous heavy weather events with large amounts of rain can cause an overflow of stormwater runoff and pollutants into waterways. Maintenance and cleanup from these events can become financially burdensome and negatively affect the quality of life in these areas. However, one strategy to address these challenges is integrating green infrastructure techniques with gray infrastructure.

Green infrastructure consists of natural and engineered systems designed to capture or slow storm water runoff. These systems are intended to mimic how stormwater management, runoff treatment, and the reduction of flood impacts occur in the natural environment. Green infrastructure can provide several economic and social benefits to communities, including improved air quality, more opportunities for residents to interact with green spaces, and reduced costs for infrastructure maintenance. Low-impact development methods, such as rain gardens, bioswales, and permeable pavement, can be used to support existing gray infrastructure. In addition, green infrastructure elements can be utilized in placemaking efforts. Using street trees, native plantings, and parking lot landscaping to improve water and air quality can also improve streetscapes and overall community aesthetics.

Strategies & Resources

As flooding, water quality issues, and other negative environmental impacts become more acute, municipalities will need to determine next steps for mitigation. A sustainability commission (or committee) could be assembled and

tasked with identifying areas of focus for improved resiliency measures. The commission should consist of members knowledgeable about environmental sustainability and could also benefit from other related areas of expertise, including sustainable development and climate policy. Through coordination with other local departments, the commission will provide recommendations on what actions can be taken to address the community's climate issues and ensure that those recommendations align with broader local planning and emergency management efforts.

Municipalities interested in deep diving into potential stormwater management efforts may consider implementing green infrastructure into local policies and standards. One way this can be achieved is by conducting an audit of where your community could benefit from green infrastructure methods – a great place to start is with your zoning ordinance. When looking through your ordinance, you will want to take note of all areas where your code mentions water. What does it say about water management? Is permeable pavement permitted? Are green infrastructure methods allowed? Is green infrastructure mentioned at all? Ordinances can allow development standards, such as planned unit developments (PUDs), to preserve potential areas of vulnerability, like wetlands and floodplains, and offer more publicly available green space. Keep community-identified sustainability and resiliency goals or concerns in mind during this process, as they will guide the resulting ordinance updates.

Communities will need access to resources to help address resiliency issues head-on. Several state programs and guides are available for communities that are taking steps to strengthen their resilience and become more sustainable. The Michigan Green Communities (MGC) program is designed to accelerate a community's environmentally sustainable actions to enhance Michigan's livability and economic competitiveness in the 21st-century global green economy. The



MICHIGAN GREEN COMMUNITIES

The Michigan Green Communities program launched the Accelerator Cohort in 2023, a free networking and technical assistance program for Bronze- and Silver-certified MGC communities. This cohort helps municipalities and counties accelerate their progress in embedding environmental sustainability in their operations, practices, and policies and move toward Gold-level MGC Challenge certification.

The Accelerator Cohort has led modules so far on green stormwater infrastructure and comprehensive materials management. The Spring 2024 module will focus on energy efficiency in municipal and county facilities and preparing for the deployment of renewable energy projects. Funding for this technical assistance component of the MGC program comes from the Michigan Economic Development Corporation (MEDC).

Contact Danielle Beard, Michigan Green Communities Coordinator at dbeard@mml.org for more information.

program also allows communities to participate in the MGC Challenge – an annual opportunity for local governments to track their progress across more than 100 action items, with several specifically focusing on climate resilience and adaptation and protecting water resources. The MGC Challenge is open to all communities, from those just beginning to progress on their sustainability efforts to those already well underway.

Participation in the MGC challenge provides access to two technical assistance cohorts – the MGC Accelerator Cohort and the Catalyst Leadership Circle – where communities have had the opportunity to increase their knowledge of green infrastructure, materials management, and other related areas; develop plans and policies to meet sustainability goals; and inform the decision-making process when updating zoning ordinances with support from subject matter experts. Additionally, the MGC Template Sustainability Plan Toolkit can be used to help outline a plan to integrate sustainability considerations into local policies and practices.

Moving Forward with a Plan

Environmental changes will wholly impact all areas of Michigan and can

exacerbate local issues. While municipalities should consider all potential hazards, it is important to monitor water issues, as flooding, changes in water quality, and increased pollution can have detrimental effects on housing and public health. Community engagement and collaboration with local, regional, and state partners can help communities stay informed on climate change harms and implement well-rounded plans for investment in effective sustainable and resiliency measures.

Jada Tillison-Love Porter is a Program Coordinator with the Policy Research Labs at the Michigan Municipal League. The League represents more than 500 full-service cities, villages, and urban townships. It's dedicated to making Michigan's communities better through innovative programs, crucial resources and training, and inspirational events for elected and appointed officials.



Resilient Waterfront Planning

Sustainable Small Harbors Tools and Tactics Guidebook

Michigan has more than 80 public harbors and marinas, administered by state, county, and local governments. The impact on the Michigan economy from Great Lakes boating represents billions of dollars a year. However, public facilities face challenges including fluctuating water levels, aging infrastructure, legacy pollutants, and shifts in the state's economy. These challenges can leave waterfront communities struggling to adjust to an increasingly uncertain future.

In response, Michigan Sea Grant and the Michigan Department of the Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy's Office of the Great Lakes have worked with partners to publish and disseminate their *Sustainable Small Harbors Tools and Tactics Guidebook* (look for a link to the guidebook in the upcoming *Michigan Planner E-dition*) to help waterfront communities in their resiliency planning efforts. The Guidebook covers placemaking, community engagement, resiliency planning, environmental considerations, economic analysis, and value capture. The web-based Guidebook features tools and tactics and case studies to assist community leaders and planners with development of a shared vision and a sustainability strategy for their waterfront, including the harbor.

There were several universal lessons learned during the development of the Guidebook and the associated visioning sessions. First, it is critical to have professionally supported and robust community visioning sessions as part of the harbor / waterfront sustainability planning process. Communities who tried to expedite the planning process without these visioning sessions were not as effective in developing and implementing their sustainability plans. During the planning process, it is important to ensure that all voices are heard when developing a "shared" vision. The Guidebook includes information on



So, what are the characteristics of a sustainable small harbor?

- ✓ Accessible to all
- ✓ Well-connected
- ✓ Economically diverse
- ✓ Welcoming to visitors and residents

Graphic courtesy of Michigan Sea Grant

how to consider diversity, equity, and inclusion in placemaking efforts.

Another key outcome of the community visioning sessions is identification of the unique historical impediments for that community. Those impediments could be physical (aging infrastructure, lack of connectivity, historic industry, etc.), political, chemical (legacy contamination), or emotional, such as an attachment to a land use that is no longer productive. The key is to determine not only what the historical impediments are, but how to devise a plan for removing those impediments.

Another lesson is to make sure all community plans, (the Master Plan, the Parks & Recreation Plan, the Downtown

Development Authority, and Harbor Master Plans) are all in alignment. These plans are typically on a five-year review cycle and, unfortunately, some communities are tempted to update the "date" on the plans for expediency without performing an actual critical review. This can lead to a community with plans that have conflicting future land use scenarios.

The case studies in the Guidebook reinforce that a community needs to empower local champions who can assist with sustainability plan development and implementation. The most successful communities had a defined champion. Local champions might be appointed managers, local business owners, or elected officials.

The one thing all of these champions had in common was a deep connection to the community and a commitment towards its future.

While a dedicated champion is necessary, it's not enough. Champions need the support of a diverse implementation team. It is a significant effort to put together a harbor/waterfront sustainability plan and no one person can shoulder that burden alone. For example, in Rogers City, they established an implementation team referred to as Team Rogers City. Team Rogers City is a group of community members who discuss and coordinate the positive momentum within the city and provide a boost to local events and businesses. The team collectively benchmarked against other communities as well, which has assisted in grant funding efforts.

Finally, it's critical to identify regional partnerships and leverage those relationships. Many of the communities featured in the Guidebook participate in Michigan Economic Development Corporation (MEDC) programs like the Redevelopment Ready Communities (RRC) program and the Michigan Main Streets program. Each community worked with Michigan Sea Grant and MSU Extension as well. These regional partners help provide technical assistance to communities along with training and other resources. The Guidebook includes a list of these regional partnering opportunities.

Donald Carpenter is a civil engineer and community engagement specialist with Drummond Carpenter, PLLC – a company he co-founded in 2016. He is passionate about Michigan's waterways and collaborates with communities and nonprofit organizations across the state to provide healthier and cleaner places to live, work, and play.



Rogers City Marina courtesy of Michigan Sea Grant

Congratulations to the Michigan Chapter's Newest AICP Certified Planners and AICP Candidates!

Roland Amarteifio, AICP Candidate
with Cincar Consulting Group

Gage Belko, AICP with McKenna

Kaileigh Bianchini, AICP
with City of Dearborn

Rowan J Brady, AICP
with City of Grand Rapids

Rachel Bush, AICP with OHM Advisors

Christian D Carroll, AICP

Roger Caruso, AICP
with DiRoCa Consulting

Lori L Castello, AICP with Professional
Code Inspections of Michigan Inc.

Harrison Clark, AICP with USDOT Volpe
National Transportation Systems Center

Jason Derry, AICP Candidate with
Professional Code Inspections of
Michigan, Inc.

Toby Hayes, AICP Candidate
with Williams & Works

Wren Hess, AICP Candidate

Michelle Marin, AICP Candidate with
Carlisle Wortman Associates, Inc.

Megan Mickelson, AICP with Kalamazoo
Area Transportation Study

Erik Perdonik, AICP
with City of Farmington Hills

Fletcher T Reyher, AICP
with Charter Township of Ypsilanti

Lauren J Sayre, AICP with McKenna

**Mrithula Shantha Thirumalai
Anandanpillai, AICP**
with Beckett & Raeder, Inc.

Fern Spence, AICP Candidate
with Garfield Township

Upcoming Tools to Support the Michigan Coastal Management Program’s Pathway to Resilience

Michigan’s coastal communities are on the front lines of facing the “perfect storm” of seasonally fluctuating Great Lakes water levels, coastal erosion, flooding, stormwater, and urban heat, which are all influenced by climate change. Our coastal communities need creative adaptive solutions when addressing the challenges associated with the unpredictability of Great Lakes water levels and the increased storm intensities that result from our changing climate.

The Michigan Coastal Management Program (MCMP) has developed a Pathway to Resilience to establish steps that coastal communities can take to achieve their resilience goals. The steps are to receive technical assistance and training, conduct a vulnerability assessment, update a Master Plan, adopt resilient ordinances, and install nature-based alternatives. The Pathway’s objective is to provide the tools necessary for communities to be equipped to make wise decisions for effective coastal management. This article highlights some upcoming MCMP training and tools currently in development.

The Coastal Leadership Academy: Nature-Based Solutions to Reduce Coastal Risks Module

The MCMP is developing our Coastal Leadership Academy (CLA) to bring together community leaders, planners, and training professionals in a collaborative environment for peer-to-peer learning. It is a goal of the CLA to increase understanding of resiliency principles to incorporate

into wise community planning. The CLA is structured into three separate training programs that complement one another: The Scenario-Based Planning module; Nature-Based Solutions to Reduce Coastal Risks module; and an Adaptation Strategies for Coastal Hazards module.

The Nature-Based Solutions to Reduce Coastal Risks module will be released in 2024. Nature-based solutions are adaptation practices that use natural features or mimic natural processes to address hazards and enhance community resilience. This module of the CLA will prepare attendees to plan and implement natural infrastructure projects to manage the risks presented by coastal flooding and stormwater. A Nature-Based Solutions Guide is currently under development which will be the foundation for the corresponding training module. The guide will explain the benefits that communities can receive from nature-based solutions, walk through the steps of planning a nature-based solution project, and highlight several practices that can be successfully implemented in Michigan’s coastal communities.

The Resilient Communities’ Adaptation Strategies Toolkit

Additionally, the MCMP is developing the Resilient Communities’ Adaptation Strategies Toolkit (Toolkit). The Toolkit will bring together the knowledge and tools needed for communities to protect and manage their coastline. The Toolkit will consist of a Technical Guide and a series

of best management practices (BMP) Factsheets to be hosted on the EGLE WRD’s MCMP webpage anticipated by the end of 2024/early into 2025.

The Technical Guide will highlight natural shoreline functions and coastal processes to increase the understanding of site-specific coastal hazards. This will help inform local decision making specific to Michigan’s dynamic coastline. The Factsheets will feature approximately a dozen feasible alternatives to hardened structures for addressing coastal erosion, coastal flooding, storm water management, and urban heat.

Find future updates on the above training and tools, as well as existing resources on coastal resilience, by visiting the MCMP’s Resilient Coast website, <https://www.michigan.gov/egle/about/organization/water-resources/coastal-management/michigans-resilient-coast>.

Article by Melissa Letosky and Emily Kirkpatrick, Department of Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy, Water Resources Division, MCMP.

The MCMP’s mission is to protect, preserve, restore, enhance, and wisely develop the coastal natural resources and cultural heritage of the longest freshwater coastline in the nation. The MCMP provides technical and financial assistance to partners for creative projects to enhance preparedness and resiliency of coastal communities and their capacity to mitigate the impacts of coastal hazards.

Michigan's Newest FAICPs

Induction to the AICP College of Fellows is the highest honor the American Institute of Certified Planners bestows upon a member.

Fellows of AICP are nominated and selected by their peers to recognize and honor their outstanding contributions as a professional planner. The outcomes of their individual efforts left demonstrably significant and transformational improvements to the field of planning and the communities they served. All Fellows are long-time members of AICP and have achieved excellence in professional practice, teaching and mentoring, research, and community service and leadership.

MAP is thrilled that three of our planning leaders have received this prestigious recognition from the American Planning Association.



RODNEY (ROD) ARROYO, FAICP. As a lifelong learner and enthusiastic advocate for people and places, Rod Arroyo has sought to innovate and advance the way planners approach community planning. His work transformed zoning codes to be user friendly and accessible, and his plans resulted in the creation of better places and boosted economic growth. Rod's innovative educational efforts led to advancement of the profession through graduate coursework, sharing best practices, and offering hands-on learning opportunities.



TRUDY GALLA, FAICP served in the Planning & Community Development department in Leelanau County for 35 years; 26 years as its Director. Her contributions include leading a citizen driven Leelanau General Plan, successfully advocating for state legislation passed to allow a 'flat fee' per household for recycling and waste reduction programs, and cleaning up and redeveloping contaminated sites. She is currently employed as a Senior Brownfield Specialist with Fishbeck.



KURT SCHINDLER, FAICP is from rural Northern Michigan, where he served as Planning Director in Manistee County, then Land Use Educator for MSU Extension. Kurt is known for groundbreaking work in economic development, form-based zoning, placemaking, ground and surface water protection, practitioner training, and co-authoring MSU Extension's Citizen Planner and Zoning Administrator certificate programs. Schindler was president of APA Michigan's predecessor board and was awarded Outstanding Professional Planner and Life Membership.

Rod, Trudy, and Kurt join the ranks of Michigan's 18 other FAICPs. MAP has a webpage with all of our FAICPs. The next Michigan Planner E-dition will provide a link to that page.

Michigan Association of Planning Resilience Summit

May 8, 2024
8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.
East Lansing Marriott

Municipal responses to mitigate the harmful impacts of climate-driven natural hazards are integral to creating safe and resilient communities, and to forging a future for Michigan that is equitable, sustainable, and welcoming. The role of community planners – and their many partners – is an integral element of the myriad possible solutions. From stormwater and flood plain management and nature-based solutions, to planning for infrastructure resilience, multi layered approaches, with a variety of stakeholder partners and professional disciplines - think planners, engineers, engagement experts, elected and appointed leaders, scientists and academics – will be necessary to fully address the challenges we face.

This year's Michigan Association of Planning Spring Institute | Resilience Summit is offered in partnership with EGLE's Coastal Management Program, and will highlight strategic solutions that, when implemented, will position municipal leaders with the tools they need to create truly resilient communities.

Highlights Include:

Oday Salim, JD, Director of the University of Michigan Law School's Environmental Law and Sustainability Clinic and Attorney for the National Wildlife Federation. Mr. Salim will lift up the ways that environmental justice law has already shaped and may continue to shape, Great Lakes environmental protection and restoration. He will define environmental justice law, summarize its history, and go through Great Lakes case studies that illustrate how this legal framework alters decision-making regarding pollution control, natural resources management, and energy regulation.

Ki Baja, CFM, Director of Direct Support & Innovation, Urban Sustainability Directors Network (USDN). USDN staff have worked with partners and members across the country to develop the New and Improved (All) Hazard Mitigation Planning program. Hazard Mitigation Plans are typically “owned” and developed by city and/or county emergency management departments. They do not take into account climate change, equity, social & ecological justice, or sustainability. These plans provide communities with a fantastic opportunity to integrate sustainability, climate and equity initiatives and framing into a federally mandated document.

The Watershed Game. The Watershed Game is an interactive tool that helps individuals understand the connection between land use, water quality, and resilience to community flooding. It's a great educational activity that can be used to build community awareness. Participants learn how a variety of land uses impact water and natural resources, increase their knowledge of best management practices (BMPs), and learn how their choices can prevent adverse impacts (limited to 25 players).

Register at www.planningmi.org

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FEMA's Community Rating System (CRS) is a voluntary incentive program that recognizes and encourages community floodplain management practices that exceed the minimum requirements of the NFIP. Over 1,500 communities participate nationwide. Currently there are 22 CRS communities in Michigan. In CRS communities, flood insurance premium rates are discounted to reflect the reduced flood risk resulting from the community's efforts.

Communities interested in adopting higher floodplain standards than contained in the Michigan Building Codes may accomplish this through their local zoning ordinance (see story on Ann Arbor Floodplain Ordinance). It's important that the ordinance is based upon land use recommendations in the adopted comprehensive plan. In addition, before enacting any higher standards, a community should work with the affected neighborhoods to understand how the changes will impact housing, safety, and community identity to avoid unintended consequences.

Many of the higher standards that apply to riverine floodplains can be applied to coastal floodplains. Other higher standards utilized for coastal floodplains include vegetative buffers, setbacks, and protection of areas subject to coastal erosion.

Flooding is a natural process that is difficult to alter. It is crucial that communities plan, regulate and build in a way that respects this natural process.

Jerry Hancock, CFM, is the Stormwater and Floodplain Programs Coordinator for the City of Ann Arbor. He also serves as the Executive Director of the Michigan Stormwater Floodplain Association.

Matthew Occhipinti, PE, CFM, is the NFIP Coordinator and Floodplain Engineer for the Michigan Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy Department Water Resources Division.

MAP's Scholarship Program Needs You!

The Michigan Association of Planning established its Memorial Scholarship fund several decades ago to assist student members who are pursuing degrees in urban and regional planning at Michigan colleges or universities.

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You can donate by going to www.planningmi.org or by scanning the QR code.

Thank you in advance for your generosity.



Thank you to Sponsors of the MAP Student Conference held February 10 at the University of Michigan





Upcoming Events in Detroit

Palmer Park Walking Tour, May 23 | Oak Park Walking Tour, July 25
Birmingham Walking Tour, October TBD
Details and registration at www.planningmi.org

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Check www.planningmi.org for event details.

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April 13-26, 2024
Minneapolis

Planners Night Out
April 17, 2024
Detroit

Planning Excellence
Award Nominations
Due
May 3, 2024

Spring Institute
May 8, 2024
East Lansing

Planning Leadership
Award Nominations
Due
Student Project Award
Nominations Due
May 10, 2024

Student Memorial
Scholarship
Applications Due
May 17, 2024

Palmer Park Walking
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May 23, 2024
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Oak Park Walking
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July 25, 2024
Oak Park

Black Student
Conference
Scholarship
Applications Due
September 6, 2024

Planning Michigan
2024 Conference
**September 25-27,
2024**
Grand Rapids

National APA
Conference
April 25-28, 2026
Detroit

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