



## CITY OF NILES

### WHAT IS MASTER PLANNING?

Under the Michigan Planning Enabling Act (Act 33 of 2008), all communities must have a Master Plan and provide annual updates to their governing body- in Niles, that is the City Council- on the status of the work performed under the Master Plan. The plan itself is a document, sometimes hundreds of pages long that shows a community as it is and recommends how it should exist in the future. It often contains diagrams, aerial photos, maps, reports and statistical information that support the planner's vision.

The City of Niles, Michigan's Master Plan will address the following:

- **Transportation & Street Design:** How do we get to where we need and want to be?
- **Public Services and Facilities:** Are they meeting our needs? Are we missing important services?
- **Parks & Recreation:** What are the demands for parks and other recreational resources?
- **Natural Resources:** Are we protecting important environmental resources?
- **Historic & Cultural Resources:** What structures and areas represent our history and why are these important to local sense of community and place? Can Niles be a destination?
- **Neighborhoods & Housing:** What types of housing do residents need? Are our neighborhoods safe? What amenities do our neighborhoods offer? Is anything missing?
- **Economic Development:** How do we grow the City's tax base?
- **Land Use & Zoning:** Where do we build and what should it look like?

### WHY IS PUBLIC INPUT SO IMPORTANT?

Public support of a master plan, no matter how comprehensive or visionary, is crucial to its overall success. Public input is an important part of the update process. Residents, businesses, and property owners will have multiple opportunities to discuss issues and give feedback. Events, such as a workshop or open house, allow attendees to comment on important challenges the City is facing now and consider how it will manage in the future. It is also important to talk about what makes Niles a special place to live and what needs to be done to ensure those characteristics are protected.

What else can I do?

Please take these online surveys to provide more detailed input:

Master Plan Survey: <http://goo.gl/forms/KWfAOgaAOuC6x3Wp1>

Consolidated Plan Survey: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/V226RX6>