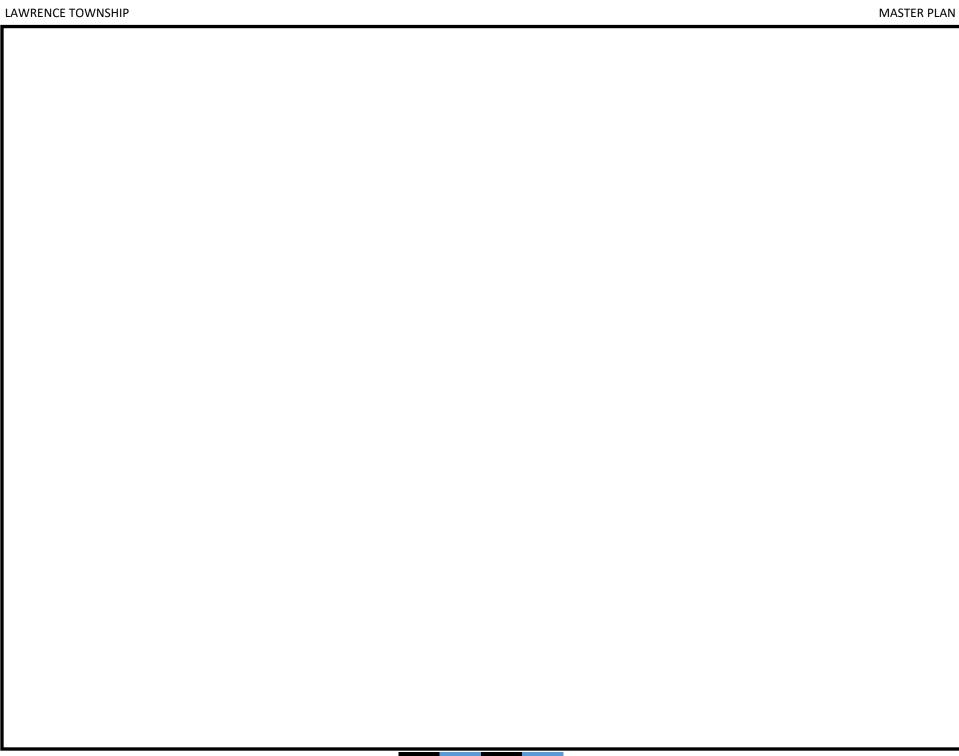


LAWRENCE TOWNSHIP MASTER PLAN Ten-Year Plan

2024-2034







ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

This plan is a result of the collaboration between Township officials, Planning Commission, and the public.

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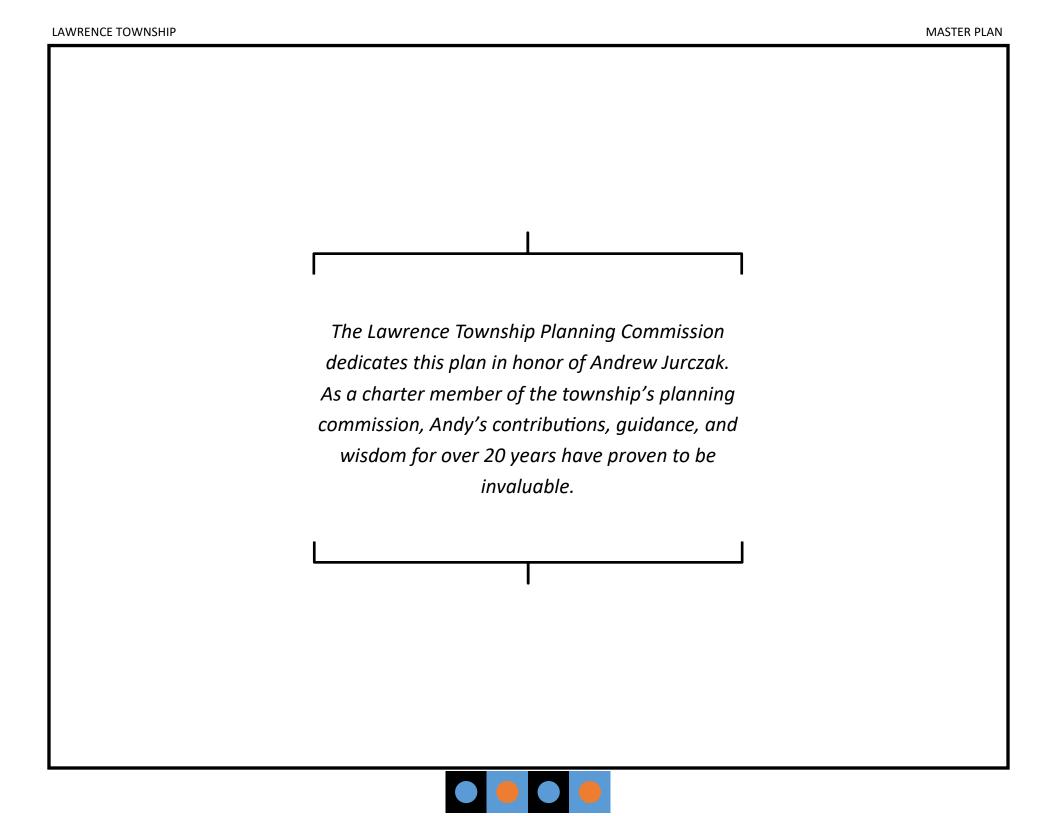


Table of Contents

Chapter 1: Introduction	1
Chapter 2: Goals and Objectives	4
Chapter 3: Future Land Use Plan	7
Chapter 4: Zoning Plan	14
Chapter 5: Physical Character and Environment	16
Chapter 6: Demographic Profile and Emerging Trends	35
Appendix:	53
Adoption Resolution	53
Public Open House Survey	54
Notification List	56
Lawrence Township Census Data	69
Lawrence Village Census Data	90

Disclosure: The Master Plan for Lawrence Township, Van Buren County, Michigan was adopted February 13th, 2025. The Master Plan for Lawrence Township contains three major parts; (1) An inventory of the existing physical environment, (2) Goals, Policies and Objectives which describe a land use planning agenda for the township over a ten year period, and (3) A future land use map which describes the physical vision for a future land use pattern for the community.



CHAPTER 1: INTRODUCTION





Why Plan?

One of the most important steps Lawrence Township can take to anticipate and shape their future is the development of a master plan. The planning process to create a master plan involves the deliberate selection of policy choices to guide land use, growth, and development in the community. The master plan, which provides a vision for the future, is the only official Township document which sets forth these policies for the next 10 years.

The Michigan Planning Enabling Act of 2008 provides the authority for Townships to create master plans that may project 20 years or more into the future but are required to be reviewed every five years. Lawrence Township's last Master Plan was adopted in 2017. The development of this plan will build on this historical vision, while considering the changes which have occurred in the Township.

The general purpose of a master plan is to guide and accomplish, in the planning jurisdiction and its environs, development that satisfies all the following criteria: (a) Is coordinated, adjusted, harmonious, efficient, and economical. (b) Considers the character of the planning jurisdiction and its suitability for particular uses, judged in terms of such factors as trends in land and population development. (c) Will, in accordance with present and future needs, best promote public health, safety, morals, order, convenience, prosperity, and general welfare.

A master plan serves a variety of functions, such as:

Outlining a general statement of the Township's goals and policies.

- 1. Providing a single, comprehensive view of the community's future land use plans.
- Aiding in the decision-making associated with zoning, subdivisions, capital improvements, and other matters related to land use and development.
- 3. Creating the statutory basis upon which zoning decisions are made. The Zoning Enabling Act (P.A. 110 of 2006, as amended) requires that the zoning ordinance be based upon a plan designed to promote the public health, safety, and general welfare. The master plan is the collective vision for the community; the zoning ordinance helps translate that vision into regulation.
- 4. Assisting outside agencies, such as the Van Buren County Road Commission, Michigan Department of Transportation, Southwest Michigan Planning Commission, and others to understand the desires of Lawrence Township and support implementation of this vision.
- 5. Providing an informative tool that gives residents, property owners, developers, and adjacent communities a clear indication of the Township's direction for the future.

Finally, a master plan provides continuity across time, giving successive Planning Commissions and Township Boards a common framework for addressing land use issues. The responsibility to look beyond the day-to-day zoning concerns and provide guidance for the Township's vision can be accomplished through a master plan.

Lawrence Township Overview

Lawrence Township is a general law township governed by an elected board of trustees consisting of a supervisor, treasurer, clerk, and two trustees. It is located in the center of Van Buren County. The surrounding communities include:

Van Buren County:

- ⇒ Arlington Township to the north
- ⇒ Hartford Township to the west
- ⇒ Hamilton Township to the south
- Paw Paw Township to the east

Lawrence Township is located along I-94 between Paw Paw and Hartford Townships. It is experiencing both permanent and seasonal residential growth pressure because of the availability of vacant land, the attractiveness of the rural environment, and the access to the regional transportation system.

The two predominant land uses in Lawrence Township are agricultural and residential. A complete list of land uses categories and associated acreages are listed in the Land Use Section.

The International City/County Management Association's (ICMA) Smart Growth Network indicates that most rural communities can be grouped into five categories, as follows:

- Gateway communities adjacent to high-amenity recreational areas such as national parks, forests, and coastlines.
- Resource-dependent communities often home to a single industry, such as farming or mining, so their fortunes rise and fall with the market value of that resource.

- Edge communities located at the fringe of a metropolitan area and are typically connected to them by a highway.
- Traditional main street communities the traditional small-town village with compact street patterns and often historically significant architecture.
- Second home and retirement communities often overlap with traditional main street and edge communities and generally have amenities for a 65+ population.

Lawrence Township most closely conforms to a resource-dependent community, but multiple lakes in the Township include the second home and retirement community characteristics. As the demographic and economic analysis will show, residents of the Township are primarily employed in four main industries, one of which includes agriculture. So, even though the dominate land use and industry in the Township is agriculture, data shows that the majority of the residents are not economically dependent on agriculturally oriented ventures.

While a rural community, Lawrence Township is generally located within close traveling distance between four major employment centers; approximately 30 minutes from the City of Kalamazoo and the St. Joseph/Benton Harbor metropolitan area within southwest Michigan and just under an hour to Holland, MI and South Bend, IN. From the employment characteristics of the Township residents, many likely find occupations within these communities and gain easy access from Interstate 94 or Red Arrow Highway running east/ west through the heart of the Township; US-31 or M-51 moving south; and, Interstate 96 traveling to the north.



Typically, townships are 36 square miles in size. Lawrence Township, however, is 35.9 square miles of which .9 square miles is water. The Village of Lawrence is in the center and is an important economic focal point for the Township, providing retail establishments, gas stations, restaurants, banking, service-oriented businesses, churches, and government services like a post office. Continued partnership and support of the Village of Lawrence will be key to the Township's future growth.

Lawrence Township contains or is located near significant natural resources. The Paw Paw River meanders through the Township, flowing from east to west and through the Village of Lawrence. The Nature Conservancy has identified the Paw Paw River and certain tributaries as high-quality aquatic systems important for conserving freshwater biodiversity in the Great Lakes Basin. Lawrence Township is also in close proximity to Lake Michigan, a short 25-minute drive to the west. Lawrence Township is a part of the Lake Michigan fruit belt, which is an area where the microclimate and soils makes fruit production optimal.

Overall, the Township's rural setting, natural features, open lands, transportation options, and close proximity to larger employment centers provides opportunities for future growth and development.



CHAPTER 2: GOALS AND OBJECTIVES



The Lawrence Township Master Plan begins with a set of goals and strategies to help reach the intended vision for the Township. This is followed by the Future Land Use Plan which sets the development pattern for the community. Then, the Zoning Plan outlines ordinance actions which can be taken to further this development pattern. Finally, the background information gathered to help craft the overall vision is detailed. Supporting information on the Township's demographics, environment, services, and public outreach is provided.

The fundamental purpose of the Lawrence Township Master Plan is to set a vision for the next 10 years. Through the development of this Plan, the Township is actively involved in guiding and shaping their future. The important planning issues facing the Township are identified through a set of goals and objectives, which are designed to ensure the present and future quality of life and character of the Township. Planning goals are statements that express the long-range aspirations of the Township. Each goal is accompanied by a set of general objectives to help attain the specified goal.

Lawrence Township Vision Statement: A family-friendly community that is committed to maintaining its rural and residential atmosphere, agricultural roots and recreational opportunities working in partnership with the Village of Lawrence

GOAL #1: AGRICULTURAL LAND PRESERVATION

The Master Plan will place emphasis on the preservation of agricultural land through appropriate land use strategies and regulatory controls.

- Take a leadership role in educating residents on the impact of residential development on agricultural land and the benefits of creating a comprehensive agricultural land preservation strategy. Provide information regularly about the benefits of creating a comprehensive preservation strategy and current planning commission activity.
- 2. Identify within the Master Plan the locations of prime and unique farmland and land currently enrolled in the State of Michigan's PA 116 farmland preservation program, which will reduce the rate of loss of existing prime and unique farmland to development.
- Research, discuss and adopt new land use regulations which discourage residential development in the primary agricultural zoning district (Quarter Zoning District, Purchase of Development Rights, Transfer of Development Rights).
- 4. Participate in regional activities which research and recommend feasible tools for reducing the loss of agricultural production acreage (Transfer of Development Rights, Purchase of Development Rights, Sliding Scale Zoning District, Quarter Zoning District, Agricultural Buffer Zones, etc.).

GOAL #2: RURAL ENVIRONMENT

Encourage the preservation of natural resources and open space which are essential parts of a quality rural environment.

- 1. Initiate and support efforts by various public and private organizations (Michigan Farm Bureau, Regional Planning Commission, etc.) to reduce the consumption of land area for residential development.
- 2. Adopt new land use regulations which provide incentives for clustering or grouping new residential development and maximizing open space.
- Provide for the allowance of alternative energy facilities (solar/wind)
 within the Agricultural Conservation future land use district to support
 environmental sustainability and provide supplementary income to property owners.





GOAL #3: Place an emphasis on accommodating low density residential development at a reasonable growth rate through the application of appropriate land use strategies and regulatory controls.

- Encourage the discussion and adoption of feasible policies and regulations which encourage the maintenance and continued development of Lawrence Township as a low density single family detached residential community.
- Through education and research at the township and regional level, encourage current land use regulations which provide incentives for clustering or grouping new residential development and maximizing open space.
- 3. Allow opportunities for family-run major home occupations and unique cultural home-based businesses that offer residents economic opportunities without significantly altering the appearance and quality of life experienced by surrounding residential properties.

<u>GOAL #4</u>: Conserve environmental assets and natural resources by minimizing negative impacts in environmental resources such as groundwater, wetlands, wildlife habitats, wood-lots and the drainage system.

- 1. Promote educational and regulatory efforts to protect regional ground-water resources and surface water quality.
- 2. Consider and adopt Best Management Practices as developed by the State of Michigan where appropriate in the site plan review process to prevent point source pollution.
- 3. Encourage and support efforts by private land owners to adopt wildlife habitat preservation strategies.
- 4. Partner with the Village of Lawrence in waste management, waste reduction and recycling where it appears that a community approach is beneficial.

GOAL #5: Encourage non-residential development within Lawrence Township to develop primarily as an agri-business support to the agricultural preservation strategy. It will also include limited areas of commercial development to provide local services and will recognize existing industrial activity within the township.

- 1. Regulate agri-business development through the Special Land Use provisions of the Lawrence Township Zoning Ordinance.
- 2. Limit the size and location of commercial development areas in the township in order to provide for local services while maintaining the rural atmosphere of the community.
- 3. Recognize existing industrial land uses as conforming uses within Lawrence while limiting additional industrial development somewhat in favor of agribusiness.
- 4. Research and develop strategy and zoning changes for agribusiness as it relates to the cannabis industry.

<u>GOAL #6</u>: Provide minimal yet efficient and effective public services to Lawrence Township residents which support the community's rural quality of life and low-density residential character.

- 1. Continue to provide police protection through the County Sheriff's Department.
- 2. Work cooperatively with the joint Township and Village Recreational District.
- Continue to provide good stewardship of public resources by incorporating township and other public properties into the land use planning process.
- 4. Develop riparian protection ordinances such as setbacks from the Paw Paw River and its watershed. In addition, create flexible development standards for properties along Township lakes.
- Encourage new residential development to actively preserve natural features such as onsite woodlands, wetlands, slopes, etc. through tools such as conservation easements, land trusts, and zoning tools like clustered development options.
- 6. Work with local land trusts, like the Southwest Michigan Land Conservancy, to help secure conservation easements, helping potential donors understand the benefits they might realize from placing lands in trust.

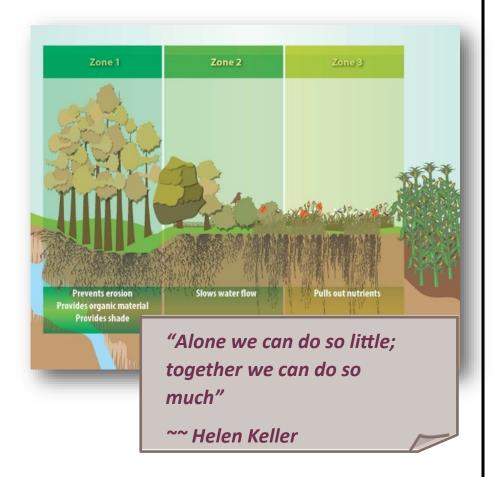






<u>GOAL #7</u>: Foster relationships between Lawrence Township, the Village of Lawrence, Van Buren County, and neighboring communities to support cooperation in local government services.

- 1. Work with neighboring communities to coordinate land use and zoning across municipal boundaries.
- 2. Investigate opportunities for shared governmental services, which may result in budgetary advantages and the possibility for grant assistance through the State of Michigan.
- 3. Continue discussions with the Village of Lawrence related to possible extensions of water and sanitary sewer public systems into the Township in appropriate areas designed for higher-intensity development.



CHAPTER 3: FUTURE LAND USE PLAN





Introduction

The Future Land Use Plan is the vision for the land development pattern in Lawrence Township. This desired future is based on sound planning principles, as well as input from the community and Township leaders. It builds on the historic development patterns of the Township, while preserving the unique environmental features and rural agricultural character of the community. At the same time, the Plan provides for anticipated development within carefully considered areas for growth.

The Future Land Use Map is a long-range planning representation of the Township and does not imply that all the changes should occur in the near term. Development and redevelopment should proceed in a manner that is appropriate to the goals of this Plan and is compatible with adjacent land uses.

The Future Land Use Plan is also a guide to assist Township officials in decisions relating to planning, zoning, land subdivision, and potential public improvements. Zoning decisions should gradually result in greater conformity between the Future Land Use Map and the Zoning Map.

When developing the Future Land Use Plan, the following principles were employed:

- 1. Continue to sustain the overall rural agricultural character of the Township and promote opportunities for agricultural economic growth.
- 2. Protect the natural environment within the Township and allow the type of land use most compatible with those features.
- 3. Encourage the systematic development of residential and nonresidential uses in specific areas and corridors to take advantage of existing and future infrastructure improvements.
- 4. Promote compatibility of existing and future uses between the Township and adjacent municipal boundaries.

The Future Land Use Plan should not be a static document. It will be important for the Township to review and revise the Plan as conditions change within the community over time.

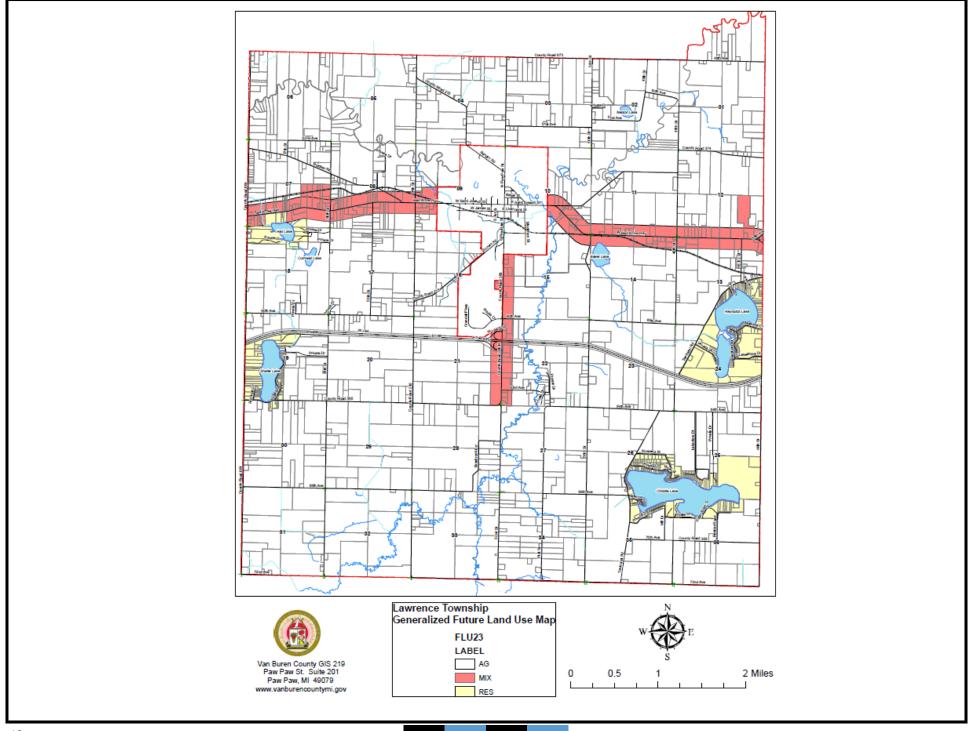
Future Land Use Designations

Three future land use categories have been created to designate the desired land use pattern for the Township. The geographic distribution of the land uses is found on the Future Land Use Map on the following page.

Agricultural Conservation

Agricultural land is the largest land use category in Lawrence Township and represents an important part of the Township's economy and culture. Agricultural uses represent approximately 89.7 percent of land in the Township. There is a concentration of agricultural land use south of I-94 with the exception of areas around the lakes and along the river. Large blocks of agricultural land are also seen in the northeast quarter of the township. Individual parcels sizes are smaller on average in the northeast quarter than south of I-94. There is some agricultural use in the northwest quarter of the township, but blocks are smaller and more separated by residential development.





There is a strong connection in Lawrence Township to agricultural activities, specifically crop production. The Township is located in the Lake Michigan fruit belt, where microclimate and soils make crop and fruit production optimal. As much of the land in the Township is Prime Farmland or Farmland of Local Importance, preserving opportunities for productive agricultural uses is vital to Lawrence's future. Residents continue to recognize this as an important part of the cultural character of the Township.

The Agricultural Conservation future land use category will support the production of farm products including but not limited to vegetables, fruit, livestock, plants and specialty crops (ie: cannabis); agricultural products, like fruit packing; nurseries and greenhouses; farm employee housing, and other similar uses.

In addition, many property owners in rural areas are looking for ways to generate some additional economic value from their property. Agritourism can not only provide economic opportunities to the property owner, it can also be an avenue for local resident employment. Finally, agritourism can educate the public about agriculture and help to preserve agricultural heritage. Agritourism generally falls within the following three categories:

- Direct-market Roadside stands, farm markets, or other direct sales of product to consumers. Including contributions to the Village of Lawrence Farmer's Market
- 2. Education and experience Farm tours and classes, "u-pick" operations, wineries, or other activities that give a hands-on education of farm life.
- 3. Recreation and events Corn mazes, haunted hayrides, horse back riding lessons, or other low-intensity or seasonal marketable uses of the farm.

These uses should be permitted within the Agricultural Conservation future land use district, however done in a careful and measured way. While many

of these uses would have little impact on neighboring properties, some could have issues of compatibility with rural character. Additional scrutiny through zoning requirements will be needed by the Township.



This future land use category may

include low intensity family run businesses and home-based art and cultural activities. For example, service businesses like small lawn care companies,

woodworking shops, and small-scale arts and crafts studios, all located in appropriately rural out-buildings. In addition, uses that provide energy production such as wind or solar farming and small-scale biofuel production would also be appropriate.



Finally, single-family residential uses

are included in the Agricultural Conservation District. The preference is for residential uses to be associated with an agricultural operation, but single-family homes on large parcels of multiple acres are also permitted. If not utilized for some agricultural purpose, these parcels should retain their natural features with minimal disruption of rural character. Farms and farm related activities should occur on parcels no smaller than 20 acres. However, the density for single-family homes not related to agricultural uses should be no greater than 0.2 dwelling units per acre or one home for every five acres.

Farmland Preservation Areas

Farmland designated for future preservation includes those properties currently enrolled in Michigan Public Act (PA)116 as well as those properties in the same general area. Properties enrolled in the PA116 program can be seen on the map on the following page.

PA 116, the Michigan Farmland and Open Space Preservation Act, is a law that works to preserve farmland by offering incentives to farmers who are willing to participate. According to the Michigan Department of Agriculture and Rural Development, the law, which was passed in 1974, allows a farm landowner to enter into an agreement with the state that ensures that the land remain in agricultural use for a minimum of 10 years and up to 90 years. In return, the farm owner may be entitled to income tax benefits and exemption from special assessments on the land.

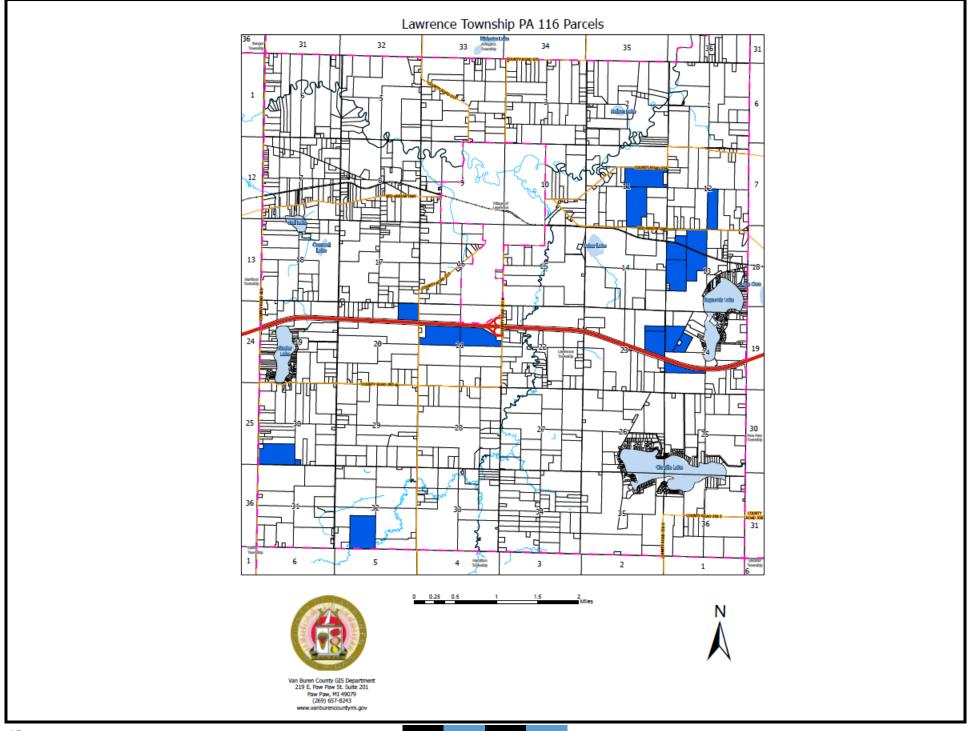


Residential areas are typically comprised of very low-density single-family dwellings on large parcels along primary and local roads or in higher density smaller sized parcels where setback restrictions become necessary to preserve sight lines, safety and property values. It shall also include all land bordering lakes, and unless constrained by streets or other impediments shall include the full dimensions of the parcels.

Regarding location, residential land use appears in several specific places in Lawrence Township. First, subdivision and small tract residential development is clustered around the three largest lakes: Reynolds, Christie, and Shafer. There is also development around Hall Lake. Second, there is a corridor of residential land use along the White Creek in Section 33 and then north along the Red Creek into the Village of Lawrence. Third, the northwest quarter of the township has largely been converted to residential use. These parcels tend to be larger in size than the lakefront lots and are not part of platted subdivision development. The Residential future land use district comprises approximately 5.3 percent of the Township.







Mixed-Use Corridor

Red Arrow Highway, County Road 681 and County Road 365 are the major local transportation corridors in Lawrence Township. The current land use pattern is a mix of residential, commercial, and industrial uses. Continuing this mixed-use development will offer ongoing economic opportunities within the Township, as well as providing for the commercial needs of the community. In addition, there are possibly potential opportunities for water and sanitary sewer infrastructure along this roadway.

In addition, the Mixed-Use Corridor district is located at the Interstate 94 intersection with County Road 365. Some nonresidential uses exist in this area and the advantage of the local highways provides opportunities for commercial uses.

Mixed use areas are designed to take advantage of existing uses without making them nonconforming. The types of development that would be allowed in this district range from office, restaurant, and retail to industrial uses like small warehousing, vehicle repair, and landscape supply yards. The development of nonresidential uses along these corridors should be carefully considered, including appropriate buffer zones, screening, and managing any outdoor uses. Residential developments are likely to occur immediately adjacent to this future land use district and ensuring compatibility will be important as new construction occurs. This district comprises 5 percent of the Township acreage.

As Red Arrow Highway is part of the rural fabric of the Township, agricultural and residential uses would also be permitted as part of this Mixed-Use Corridor future land use. Creating an appropriate zoning district to support the broad variety of uses will be an important part of managing compatibility along this corridor.

MIXED USE CORRIDOR

Uses

Small scale uses such as offices, financial institutions, or specialty destination stores.

Additional commercial uses serving local residents and commuter traffic like restaurants and gas stations.

Low intensity employment centers including research and development life science, corporate centers, light industrial uses with limited impact outside the building, public and quasi-public institutions, and health care facilities.

Site Design

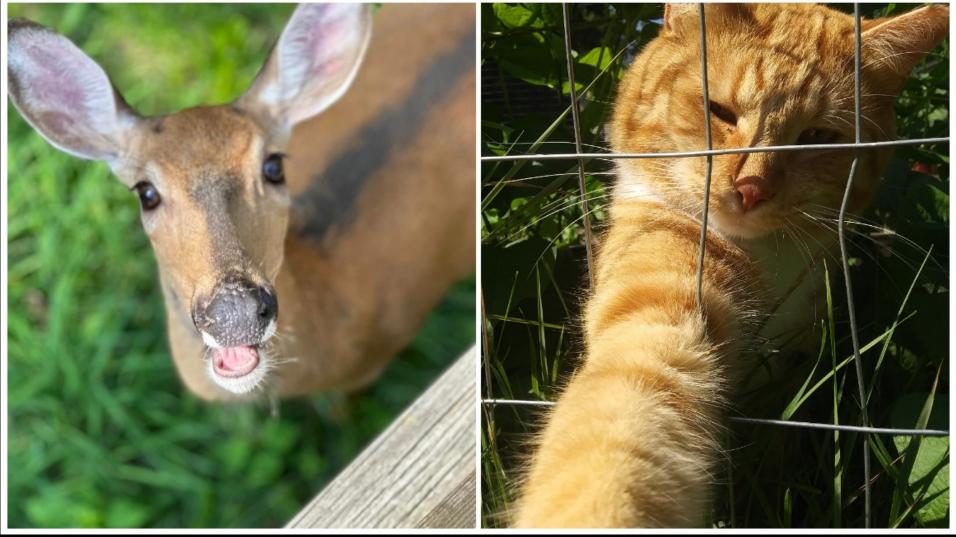
Adequate screening and buffers to protect adjacent residential properties from development impacts.

Provide for shared driveway access, when feasible, to limit curb cuts along Red Arrow Highway, County Road 681, and County Road 365.

Provide appropriate setbacks and landscaping along Red Arrow High-Way, County Road 681 and County Road 365 to enhance these areas.



CHAPTER 4: ZONING PLAN



Zoning is a key regulatory mechanism for achieving the future land use pattern advocated in this plan. The Future Land Use Plan is the long-range vision of how land uses should evolve. It is not the Township's zoning map, which is the current mechanism for regulating development. Therefore, the Future Land Use Map provides a guide for land use decisions and how properties should be zoned over time.

In addition, it should be noted that the Future Land Use Map is generalized. Any zoning amendments in accordance with the plan should be made gradually so that change can be managed. This is particularly true for suggested alterations to existing land uses, especially where established homes and businesses are located. The Future Land Use Map as well as the plan's goals and strategies should be consulted to judge the merits of a rezoning request.

The following table indicates how the future land use categories relate to the zoning districts in the Zoning Ordinance. In certain instances, more than one zoning district may be applicable to a future land use category.

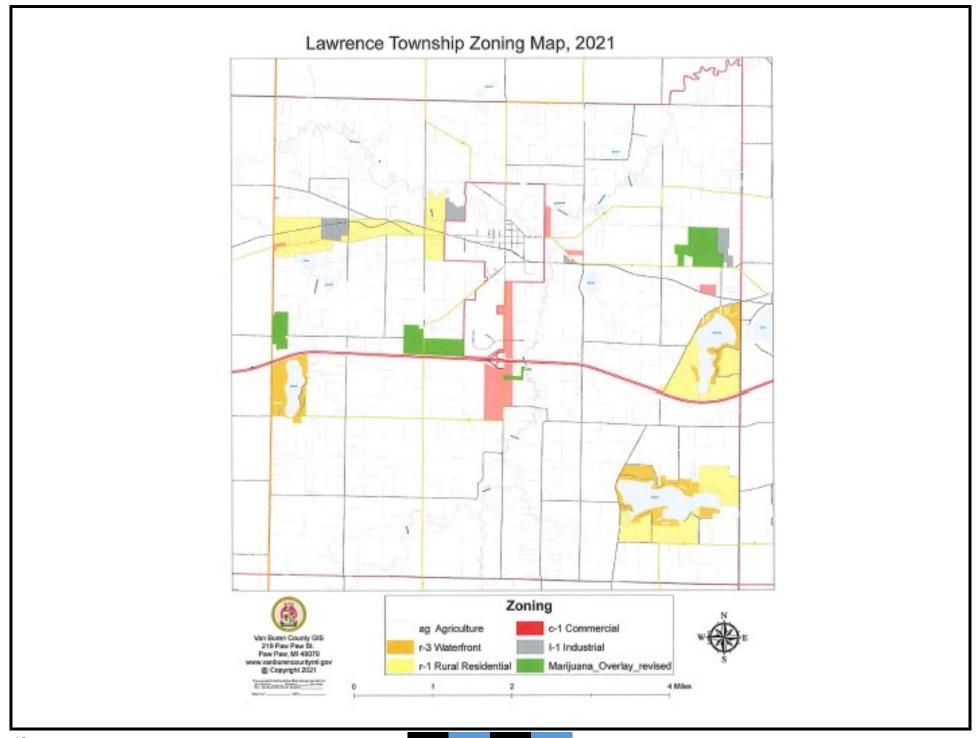
Recommendations have also been made related to new districts or changes to the Zoning Ordinance to help ensure the effectiveness and success of this plan, as follows:

- 1. Consider renaming and/or developing the following residential zoning districts:
 - Overlay districts in District A for cannabis agribusiness
 - Overlay districts in Districts A, R1, R2, R4 and Mixed-Use Corridor for workforce housing
- Develop a new Schedule of Regulations section of the Zoning Ordinance that provides specific parcel/lot sizes for each individual zoning district, as follows:
 - Overlay district for Workforce Housing
 - In addition to parcel/lot size, this section would also provide

- minimum road frontages, minimum building sizes, required setbacks, maximum heights, and regulations related to accessory structures for the district.
- 3. Develop a Riparian Protection Ordinance to provide specific requirements for construction along the Paw Paw River and inland lakes.

Future Land Use	Existing or Recommended Zoning Districts
Agricultural Conservation	District A: Agricultural
Rural Residential	District R1: Residential
Medium Density Residential	District R2: Residential (1 or 2 units)
Waterfront Residential	District R3: Waterfront Residential
Multi-Family Residential	District R4: Residential (1 or more units)
Mixed-Use Corridor	Any zoning district
Government	Any zoning district





CHAPTER 5: PHYSICAL CHARACTER AND ENVIRONMENT



overview of the natural features of the Township, outline existing land uses, and provide information on community facilities and services.

Natural Features

Along with the relevant demographic data, understanding the natural features of the Township is important to future land use planning and goal development. Information related to soils, watersheds, topography, and wetlands will be examined.

Soils and Topography

Lawrence Township is located in the physiographic region called hilly moraines. Hilly moraines are characterized as gently rolling to hilly with a considerable amount of relatively level topography and contain lakes and poorly drained lands. This can be clearly seen in the Township, which is characterized by gentle slopes and flat bottomlands near the Paw Paw River watershed. The highest elevation within the Township is 832 feet and is located east of the intersection of 60th Avenue and County Road 681. Predictably, the lowest elevation location is at 652 feet near the Paw Paw River.

Soils in the Township are generally classified into two types, as follows:

Capac-Riddles-Selfridge – This soil classification is associated with nearly level to hilly lands that are well to somewhat poorly drained. The soil tends to be sandy and loamy. This soil is good for agriculture and ranges from suited to somewhat unsuited for development, including septic systems. Approximately 72 percent of the Township is covered with Capac-Riddles-Selfridge soils.

The information offered within this section of the Master Plan will provide an Coloma-Spinks-Oshtemo – This soil type is also associated with nearly level to hilly lands that are well drained. The soil is also sandy and loamy and is mostly used for agriculture, including specialty crops. Similar to the other major soil type in the Township, development possibilities range from well suited to generally unsuited. Coloma-Spinks-Oshtemo soils encompass approximately 26 percent of the Township.

> The remaining two percent is classified as Gilford soils, which are poorly drained and are best used for woodlands and croplands. This soil is generally unsuited for development.

Those soils that are considered unsuitable for development are typically hydric soils, which are poorly or somewhat poorly drained and are often indicators of wetlands. In particular, septic systems are prone to failure, which can lead to pollution of ground and surface waters.



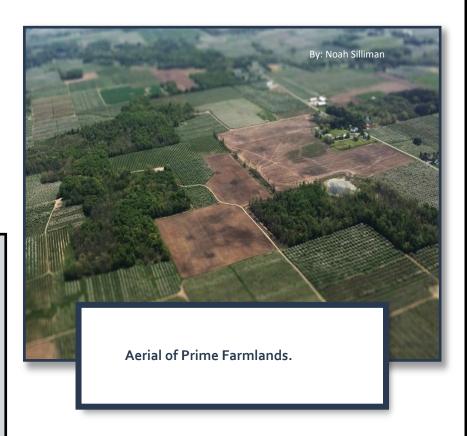
Prime Farmlands

Southwest Michigan, including Lawrence Township, has both the soils and climate favorable to agricultural production. According to Southwest Michigan First, over 200 agricultural commodities are generated on a commercial bases in southwest Michigan, making the state the second most agriculturally diverse in the nation. In addition, southwest Michigan produces almost one-third of Michigan's total agricultural sales.

Lawrence Township considers parcels of 40 acres or greater to be prime farmland for the purpose of preservation.

According to the U.S. Department of Agriculture, prime farmland is described as:

Land that has the best combination of physical and chemical characteristics for producing food, feed, forage, fiber, and oilseed crops and is also available for these uses. It has the soil quality, growing season, and moisture supply needed to produce economically sustained high yields of crops when treated and managed according to acceptable farming methods, including water management. In general, prime farmlands have an adequate and dependable water supply from precipitation or irrigation, a favorable temperature and growing season, acceptable acidity or alkalinity, acceptable salt and sodium content, and few or no rocks. They are permeable to water and air. Prime farmlands are not excessively erodible or saturated with water for a long period of time, and they either do not flood frequently or are protected from flooding.



The micro lake-effect climate found along Lake Michigan is what makes the state one of the major fruit-growers in the nation. In addition, the sandy and fertile soils help fruit bearing trees grow deep roots allowing their production to be successful. Van Buren County is specifically identified as an important area for grapes, apples, peaches, plums, blueberries, and sweet and sour cherries.

This type of farmland is designated by the federal government and is considered important to meet the nation's food and fiber needs. Lawrence Township's prime farmland is located throughout the Township. However, the highest concentration of prime farmland can be found between the east and west boundaries of the Township, south of Interstate 94.

Additional categories of farmlands includes unique, which produces specific high-value food; farmland of statewide importance, which would be designated by the Michigan Department of Agriculture and Rural Development; and farmland of local importance, which are important local agricultural areas but have not been designated as such by the federal or state government.

The following are the classifications of farmland property:

- Prime farmland
- Farmland of local importance
- Not prime farmland
- Prime farmland if drained

For location and area of these farmland classifications, see the map on the following page.

According to American Farmland Trust:

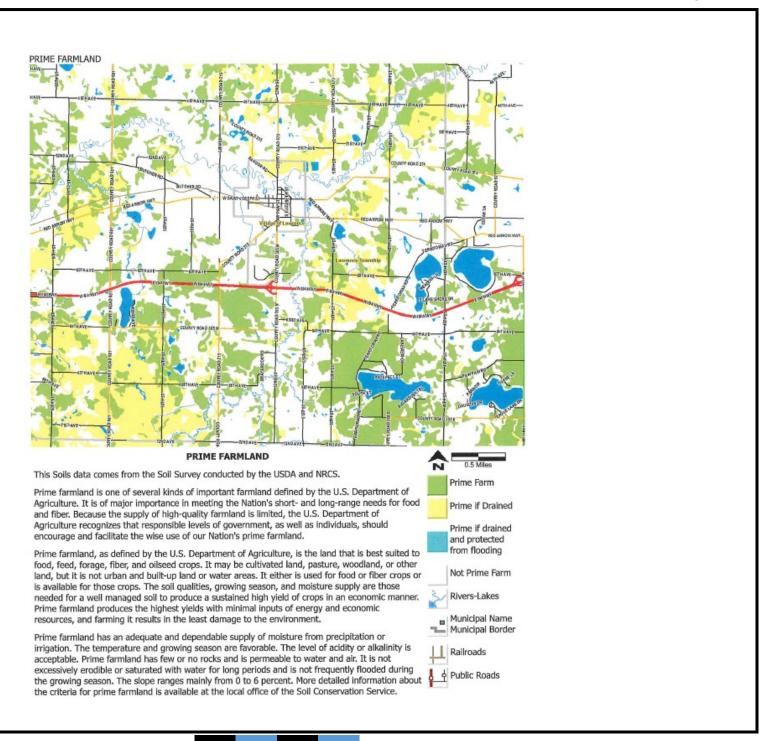
"Fertile soils take thousands of years to develop. Creating them takes a combination of climate, geology, biology and good luck. So far, no one has found a way to manufacture them. Thus, productive agricultural land is a finite and irreplaceable natural resource."

Understanding the importance of prime agricultural lands is essential to future land use planning. Mr. John Piotti, President of American Farmland Trust, spoke at the 2019 Trust in Food Symposium in January of 2019 stating the following:

"Over the last 20 years, we've lost 31 million acres of farmland—that's equivalent to all the farmland in Iowa. That's over 1.5 million acres a year, or three acres every minute."

Agricultural lands support more than a market value product, they also provide important cultural and ecological values. For the local community, they provide open space, scenic views, and community character. Long-range environmental benefits include wildlife habitat, clean air and water, flood control, and groundwater recharge areas. They may also have social heritage importance to local generational families.





Waterways, Watersheds, and Wetlands

According to the Michigan Center for Geographic Information, Lawrence Township has 28.7 miles of river, 151 acres of surface water, and 21,545 acres of watershed. The main waterway which traverses Lawrence Township from east to west is the Paw Paw River. In addition, many of its tributaries and designated drains are found to the north and south of the River.

The Southwest Michigan Planning Commission developed the Paw Paw River Watershed Management Plan in 2008. The Plan is intended as a guide to organizations and local governments working cooperatively to protect and



improve this important natural resource. It is also meant to compliment the management plans developed for the St. Joseph River and Lake Michigan. The Two Rivers Coalition is a non-profit organization that supports the Paw Paw management plan

and could be an important partner

with Lawrence Township in protecting this valuable feature in the community.

The Paw Paw River Watershed includes acreages to the north and south of the river. The term watershed describes an area of land that drains down slope and any drop of water falling within it, will leave in the same river or stream. The Paw Paw River flows westward through Lawrence Township before joining the St. Joseph River and emptying into Lake Michigan near the City of Benton Harbor. According to the U.S. Geological Survey, other significant subwatersheds in Lawrence Township include:

Paw Paw River Subwatersheds

Subwatersheds	Total Acres	Percent in Lawrence Township
Brush Creek	26,242	38.2%
Hog Creek	17,916	39.9%
Headwaters	18,502	20.7%
South Branch	26,625	12.3%

Source: United States Geological Survey

Not surprisingly, some wetlands can also be found along the Paw Paw River watershed and its tributaries. Wetlands are defined as areas that are covered, often intermittently, with shallow water or have soil saturated with moisture, regularly called marshes or swamps. Wetlands can serve a variety of important functions, which provide value to both the natural and built environments, as follows:

- Mitigate flooding by detaining surface runoff.
- Control soil erosion and sedimentation in rivers and lakes.
- Improve water quality which can be degraded by chemicals from fertilizers and pesticides used in agriculture and lawncare, as well as stormwater runoff from roads and developed lands.
- Function as ecosystems for wildlife habitats.
- Provide aesthetic viewsheds and may function as recreational areas.





Lawrence Township County Drains

T3S-R15W

Legend

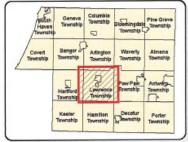
- Lake Level Structure
- >>> County Drain Open Ditch
- County Drain Tile
 - 433 Agreement
- Minor Civil Division
 - Road
 - Natural Watercourse
 - Contour (Ft)
 - Section

0 0.5 1 2 Mile

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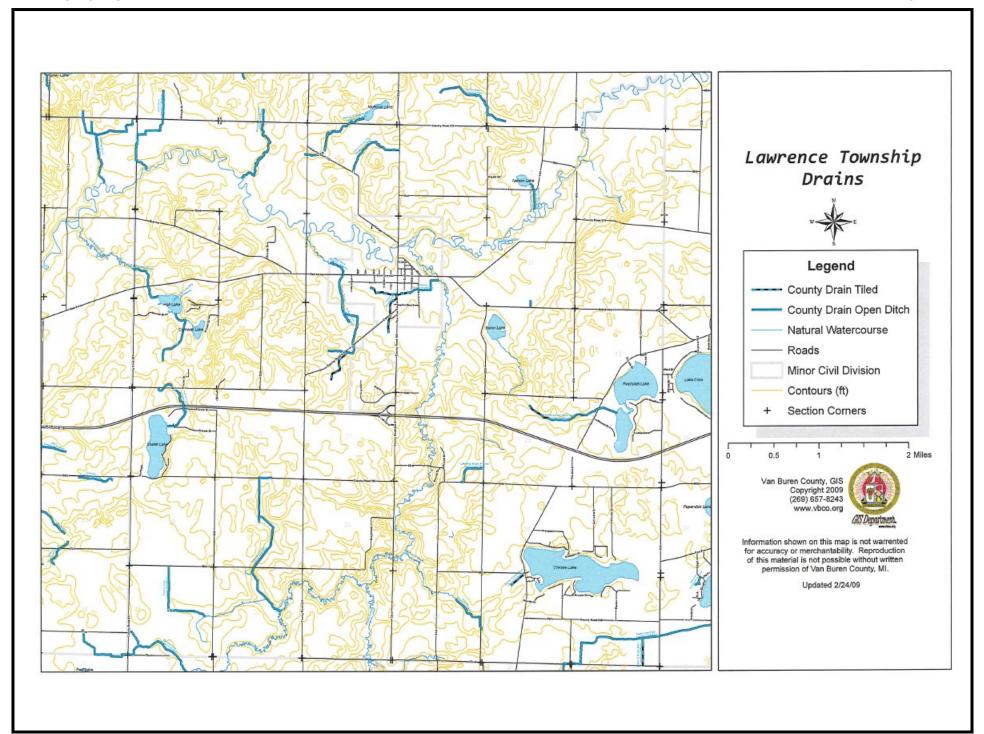


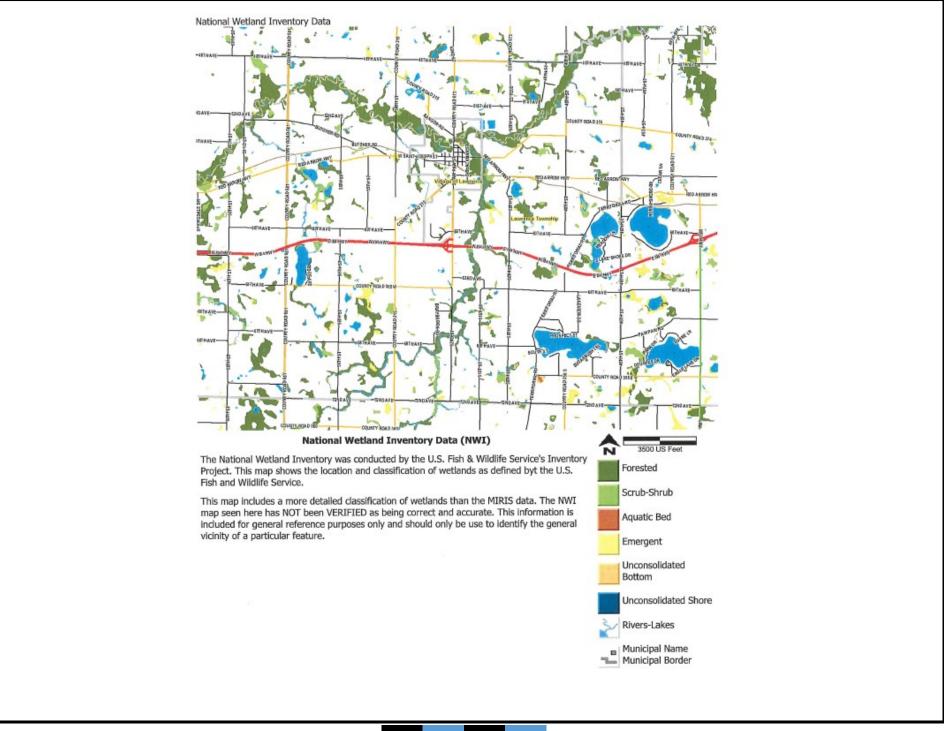




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Updated: 2/27/2020





Wetlands are often the areas that experience flooding during heavy rainfalls. Floodplains are lands that are temporarily inundated by an overflow of water from the river, stream, or lake, generally resulting from a 100-year rainfall event. The elevations surrounding the Paw Paw River range between 633 and 675 feet, with an average through the Township of around 758 feet. Flooding within the wetland areas will likely occur below an elevation of 660 feet.

The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration National Centers for Environmental Information states that Michigan has experienced an increase in the frequency of extreme precipitation events over the past decade. In addition, the eastern shore of Lake Michigan has experienced upward trends in annual snowfall totals. Precipitation is projected to continue to rise, particularly in the spring, potentially increasing the frequency and intensity of flooding. Even with increasing participation, the rise of temperatures (2 degrees since the beginning of the 20th century) will amplify evaporation rates and the rate of soil moisture loss. These two factors will impact the agricultural industry in Michigan by delaying planting in the spring and making droughts in the summer more prevalent.

Current threats to the waterways, watersheds, and wetlands in Lawrence Township are pollutants and invasive species. Conversion of property for development and the runoff from the agricultural industry and developed lands contribute to pollution. Invasive species such as zebra mussels, which can colonize in rivers downstream from lakes, threaten the Paw Paw River. In addition, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service treats the lower Paw Paw River for round gobies and lampreys.

Surface and Groundwater

Groundwater and surface water are fundamentally interconnected. Understandably, surface water is the water that collects on the ground. Groundwater is the surface water that saturates the tiny spaces between soil and rock to eventually infiltrate to underground aquifers. Most groundwater is found in aquifers, which are layers of porous rock that are saturated from above.

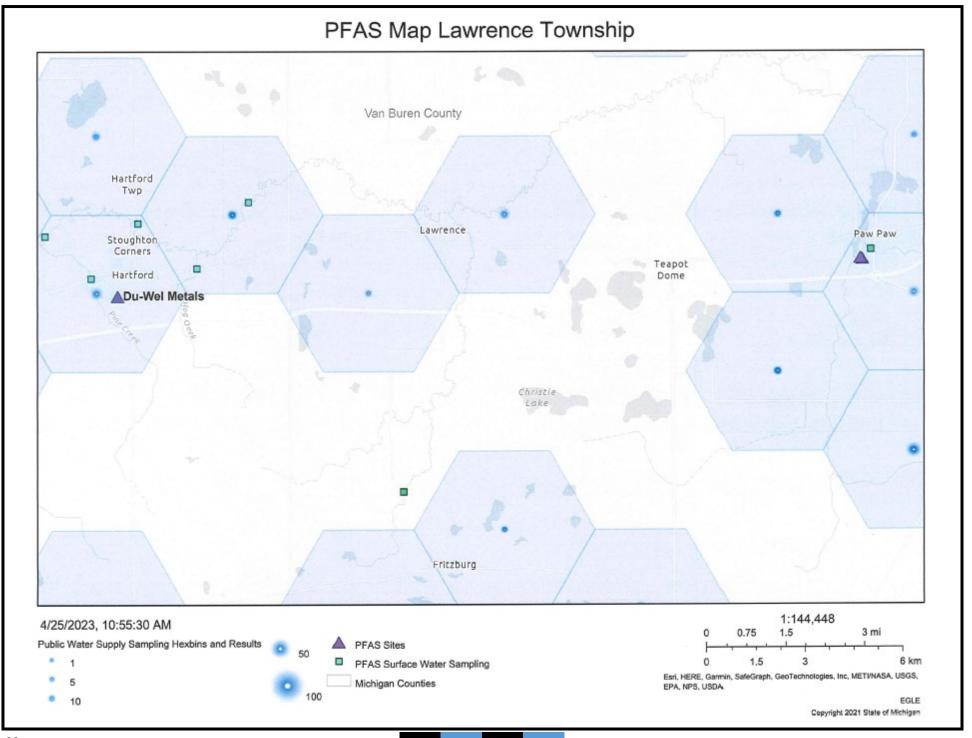
A clean and abundant supply of groundwater is one of the most valuable natural resources in Lawrence Township and throughout Van Buren County. Glacial deposits are the primary source of groundwater and Van Buren County has some of the best aquifers in terms of recharge rate and quantity of water. The U.S. Geological Survey states that the groundwater found from the glacial drift can provide several times the amount of water needed in the County, but large withdrawals may lower the level of lakes or diminish the flow of the Paw Paw River and its tributaries. In addition, permeable soils in the Lawrence Township region allows for relatively high groundwater infiltration.

Similar to the other water features in the Township, groundwater is endangered by pollutants, in particular the PFAS threat. PFAS (per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances) are a grouping of manmade chemicals that have been used in a variety of industries since the 1940's. Both substances are very harmful to the environment and the human body.

The State of Michigan began actively investigating PFAS in 2018, generating some of the best data nationally about contamination of this chemical. During this investigation, one PFAS contaminated site was found in the Village of Lawrence, which impacts Lawrence Township. The Michigan Department of Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy (EGLE) states the following:

"The former Lawrence Inn site, located at County Road 365 N and I-94 operated a restaurant and gas/service station. Operations included buried gas tanks, petroleum products, and auto repair. The building was then demolished and removed as part of the Michigan Superfund Cleanup in the early 1990s. The State of Michigan conducted soil and groundwater investigations and soil corrective actions with the oversight of EGLE."





There are two options to assist with managing PFAS in drinking water. The first is to extend the municipal water system to those who are or may be affected in the Township. This option would require cooperation from the Village of Lawrence who manages the public system. The second option is to utilize household filters which are certified to reduce the amount of PFAS in the water. According to the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services, the Van Buren/Cass District Health Department will provide a system at no cost if PFAS contaminants have been found.

Existing Land Use

An evaluation of the existing land uses within Lawrence Township is critical to the formulation of its future land use plan. The type and location of existing land uses provides the starting point for that vision and any possible impacts to existing uses. It will also assist with the development of a zoning plan to help mitigate these impacts.

Two maps have been developed to convey the land uses in Lawrence Township, the Land Use and the Land Cover Map. The Land Cover Map is intended to show the surface physical characteristics of the land. It is a general overview of the Township, not following parcels lines but instead convey land usage. The following land cover classifications were utilized for Lawrence Township:

- Developed
- Cultivated Crops
- Park and Open Space
- Forest
- Wetlands
- Open Water

For land cover area and location, see Land Cover map on the following page.

As expected, most of the acreage in Lawrence Township is utilized for agricultural purposes. Pockets of developed property are mostly found along major County roads and Red Arrow Highway.

For the Land Use Map, information was gathered from the Van Buren County Department of Land Management, who maintains a database of information for the entire County. According to their dataset, Lawrence Township has the following land uses:

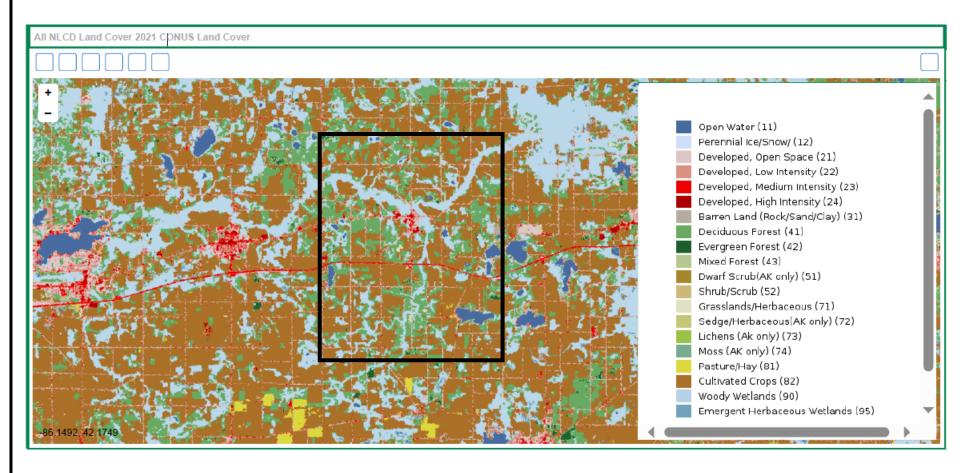
Existing Land Uses

Land Use Designation	Acres*
Agriculture	5,485
Agriculture Vacant	6,153
Residential	9,364
Commercial	545
Industrial	379

Rounded to the nearest one acre for this map does follow parcel boundaries.

Source: Van Buren County

Land Cover Map



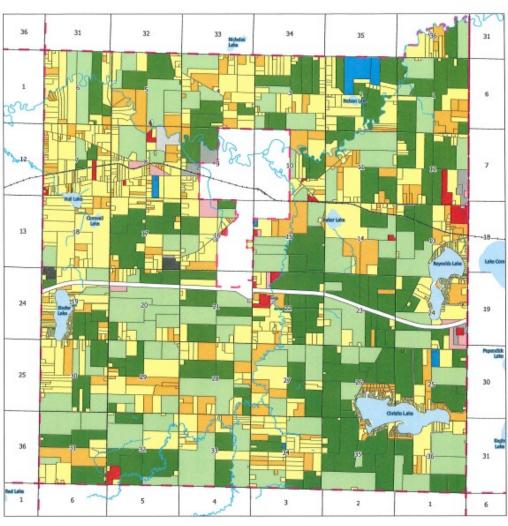
Existing Land Use

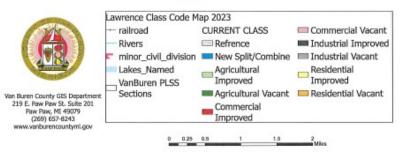
The information provided for the map on the following page does follow parcel boundaries. Improved properties are those that contain a functioning use, while vacant is associated with properties that no longer have an active use. This map provides a clearer picture of the existing land uses on individual parcels. Based on the data provided, agriculturally used parcels equate to 53.1 percent of the Township, while residential uses total 42.7 percent. As expected, commercial and industrial properties are the lowest percentage of land use, at 2.5 percent and 1.7 percent respectively. For locations of land uses, please see the map on the following page.

According to the 2017 Township Master Plan, the percentages of land uses have not changed that significantly in the last 7 years. Agricultural land uses decreased by 1 percent from 54.1 percent of the Township in 2017 to 53.1 percent today. Residential remaining consistent from 42.8 percent in 2017 to 42.7 percent today. The decrease in agricultural use could be attributed to lands converting from an agricultural use to commercial use as this classification increased from .7 percent in 2017 to 2.5 percent today. Existing land use classifications are determined by assessing classification codes.



Existing Land Use







Community Facilities and Services

Transportation

One of the most important transportation facilities that services Lawrence Township is Interstate 94. The route of the Interstate runs east/west through almost the center of the Township and provides opportunities for commercial and industrial trade. In fact, the I-94 route between the cities of Detroit and Chicago is one of the most heavily traveled commercial truck corridors in the Midwest. This is mostly due to the trade relationship between the United States and Canada.

The Township is also served by a vital State highway, which also runs east/ west within the community, essentially paralleling Interstate 94, but farther north in the Township. Prior to the construction of the interstate highway, this was the main transportation route within the Township. Much of the commercial and industrial development within the Township can be found along this highway.

Roads within Lawrence Township are maintained by the Van Buren County Road Commission, excluding Interstate 94, which is managed by the Michigan Department of Transportation (MDOT). Each year, the Road Commission provides an update on the road conditions within their region. For the conditions on federal aid roads, the Road Commission collaborates with both the Southwest Michigan Planning Commission and MDOT. According to the 2023 Pavement Condition Report (PASER), there are 89.4 miles of road in Lawrence Township. Of these 89.4 miles, MDOT is responsible for 13.1 miles and the Road Commission manages 76.3 miles.

Pavement is evaluated using the Pavement Surface Evaluation and Rating system (PASER) developed by the Transportation Asset Management Council. PASER is a system designed to visually assess pavement condition while driving (known as a windshield survey) and assign a value of 1 thru 10 based on the observed defects.

PASER scores are as follows:

Rating 8-10 (good): requires routine maintenance

Rating 5-7 (fair): requires capital preventative maintenance

Rating 1-4 (poor): requires structural improvements or reconstruction

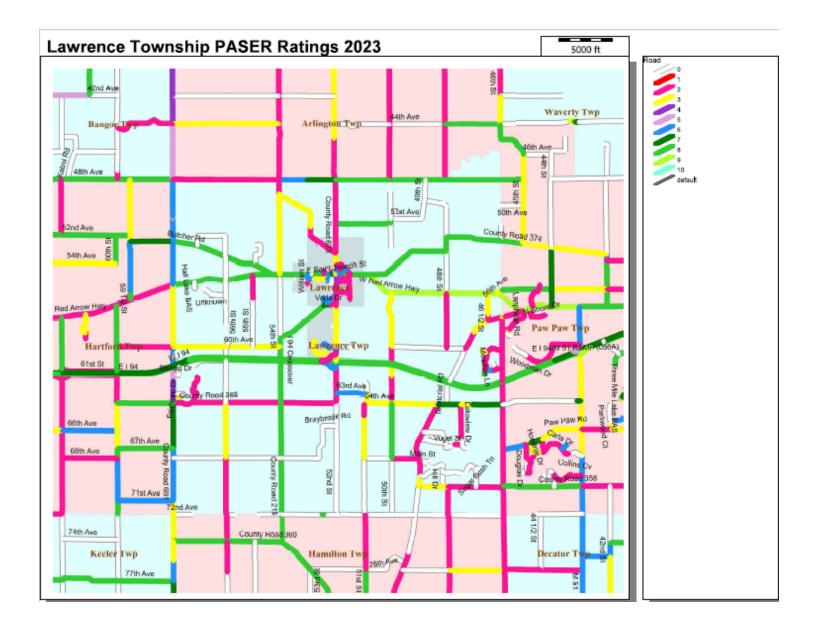
In 2019, Of the roads managed by the Road Commission, 34.7 percent of the miles are in good condition, 20 percent are in fair condition, and 45.2 percent are in poor condition. According to the 2023 PASER report, roads in the Township have greatly improved. 89.9 percent of the roads are in good condition, 6 percent are fair, and only 4.1 percent are in poor condition. According to the 2023 Pavement Condition Report, Lawrence is the 3rd best community for road conditions in Van Buren County.

Other transportation systems within Lawrence Township include rail and trail facilities. West Michigan Rail Company's freight route ran through both the Township and the Village of Lawrence from Holland southwest to Chicago. The West Michigan spur connected with the CSX route in the City of Hartford, and ran due east to the Hartford/Lawrence Township boundary, which is County Road 681. Current plans are to further extend the route through Lawrence Township to the east Township line.

Public Water and Sanitary Sewer

The Village of Lawrence provides water and sanitary sewer services within the Lawrence community. The sanitary sewer treatment facility is located on N Paw Paw Street, within Lawrence Village. A sanitary sewer force main moves from this location south to Red Arrow Highway, just inside of the Village of Lawrence limits. A force main is a pressurized sewer pipe that conveys wastewater in situations where gravity sewers are not possible.





District Facilities

Lawrence Township has had a library since the construction of the Lawrence railroad where there were just a simple set of book shelves installed in the train depot. Since then, the library has been held in the township clerk's home in 1895 and the basement of the newly built Lawrence Town Hall in 1903. In 1947, the Lawrence Township Library joined six Van Buren County libraries to form the Van Buren District Library Consortium.

In 2005, the Lawrence Branch Library was moved from the town hall to its designated new building, and present location on North Paw Paw Street. In addition to physical materials such as books, audio books, and DVDS, the current Lawrence Branch Library also features a specialized children's area, Internet enabled public access computers, a meeting room available for public use, and wireless Internet access, both inside and outside of the facility.

The Lawrence Branch Library conducts many events, classes, and programs throughout the course of the year. Examples of these are: a summer reading series for all ages, story times for children, Yoga classes and a book club for adults, and an annual concert.

Besides the resources available locally at the Lawrence Branch Library, Lawrence Township residents also have access to the assets of the entire Van Buren Library District including: online digital platforms such as downloadable ebooks and audio books from Libby, downloadable and streaming media of all types from hoopla, online tutoring and job search assistance, online foreign language and English as a second language instruction, delivery of materials from other VBDL locations to the Lawrence Branch Library, the ability to use any branch within the Van Buren District Library system, in addition to the use of many neighboring libraries with which Van Buren District Library has reciprocal borrowing agreements, and the ability to request library materials from across Michigan through interlibrary loan.



Township Facilities and Services

Lawrence Township Hall can be found at 411 N Paw Paw St in the Village of Lawrence. Access to local officials can be gained at the Township Hall through posted office hours or at Township Board meetings. Fire service is provided to the Lawrence community through the Lawrence Township Emergency Services. Public safety is handled through the Van Buren County Sherriff Department. One part-time deputy has been assigned to patrol Lawrence Township.

There are four public cemeteries within the Township. Pioneer Cemetery, founded in the early 1800s circa the Revolutionary War, is the oldest cemetery in the Village of Lawrence. It is located 2nd and 3rd Streets off St. Joseph Street (Red Arrow Highway). Unfortunately, there are no longer any lots available at this location. Hill Cemetery, founded in 1870, is located along Red Arrow Highway, west of the Village of Lawrence. The Veteran's Memorial Cemetery is located on the eastern corner of Hill Cemetery and Butcher Road. Prospect Cemetery, also an early cemetery, is located on Territorial Road near Christie Lake. Plots for these three cemeteries are available and can be secured through the Township Clerk's office or the Cemetery Sexton.

The Old Town Hall has stood like a fortress guarding a small community since it was built in 1902. The red bricks and arched windows of the Lawrence Town Hall are a reflection of a bygone era. The Lawrence Town Hall, 122 W. St. Joseph St., is one of three buildings in Lawrence listed in the State of Michigan register of historic sites. Over the years the building was the main venue for plays, recitals, concerts and movies. It was a regular stop in the 1920s and 1930s for touring Vaudeville groups. The Township and Village governments also maintained their offices there along with conducting meetings and hearings. The Village Jail was also located in he hall underneath the stage. The Lawrence Public Library was located in the basement for decades until the Lawrence Branch of the Van Buren District Library was constructed. The offices of Lawrence Township Treasurer, Clerk and Supervisor

moved out of the hall in June of 2010, and the building was sold to the newly formed Lawrence Town Hall Preservation Foundation in December 2010. The mission of the Foundation is to keep the building maintained for the use of the public. Weddings, receptions, parties, meetings and other activities are now held there. The building is even used regularly for cardio drumming and other fitness classes.



School Districts and Higher Education

The Lawrence Public School District covers the majority of Lawrence Township. This school district contains an elementary, middle, and high school all located within the Village of Lawrence. According to mischooldata.org there were 458 students enrolled in the Lawrence Public Schools in 2021 and the district employs approximately 34 full time teachers.

The Lawrence Public School District located in the Village of Lawrence, participates in the Schools of Choice program. This program provides students with additional enrollment opportunities, allowing them to choose a school within their own district or non-resident students to enroll in the district.

The Schools of Choice program provides Lawrence Township children a wider range of opportunities, allowing them to attend school outside of the Lawrence Public School District.

The Van Buren Intermediate School District (VBISD) is located within the Village of Lawrence and provides educational and support services to its varied constituencies in Van Buren County. The VBISD offers multiple programs to the district:

- Special Education (Occupational therapy, speech and language services, consultants for the deaf and visually impaired, social work services and more)
- Van Buren Tech School (Auto technician, construction trades, cosmetology, engineering, finance, law enforcement and more)
- Early Care and Education (GSRP Great Start Readiness Program, Family Links educational home visits, special education)
- Migrant/multilingual Programs
- Instructional Services (Project S.H.I.N.E, future educator resources, mental heath clinicians, VB youth initiative and more)

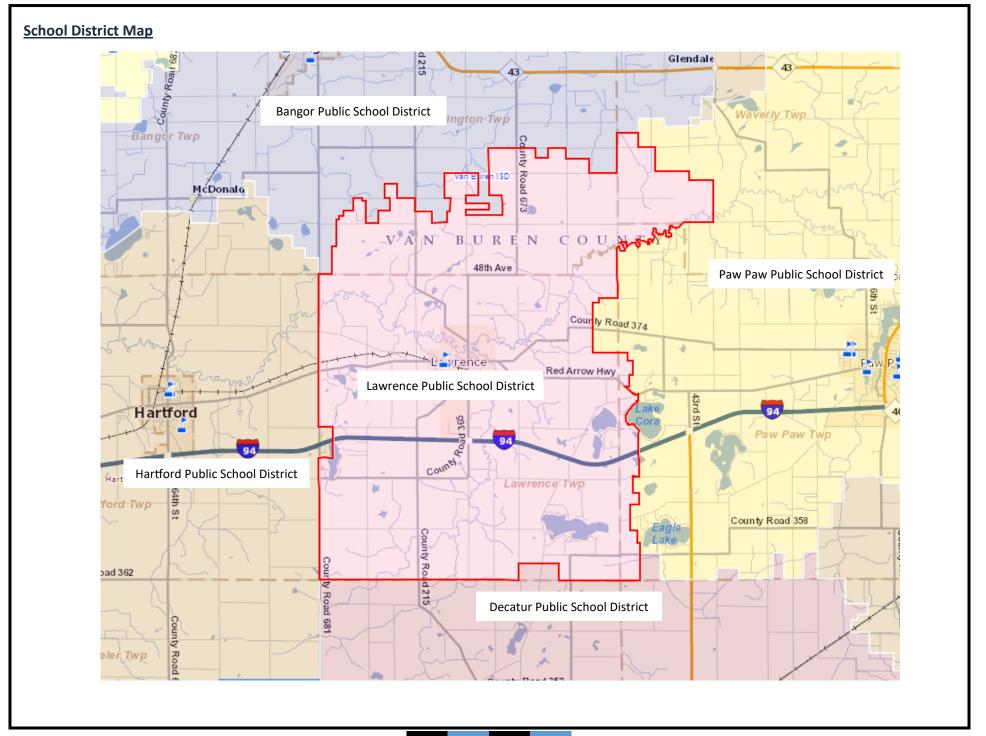
Higher education is in close proximity to Lawrence Township providing many opportunities to local residents. Lake Michigan Community College,

Kalamazoo Valley Community College, and Southwestern Michigan Community College are all within 30 minutes. The following additional universities and colleges can be found within approximately one hour of Lawrence Township:

- Western Michigan University (Kalamazoo, MI)
- Notre Dame University (South Bend, IN)
- Indiana University (South Bend Campus, IN)
- Michigan State University Extension (Paw Paw, MI)
- Sienna Heights University (Benton Harbor, MI)
- Spring Arbor University (Portage, MI)
- Kalamazoo College (Kalamazoo, MI)
- Saint Mary's College (South Bend, IN)
- Holy Cross College (South Bend, IN)
- Bethel College (South Bend, IN)

In addition, there are other community colleges and universities in the Grand Rapids area, which are less than two hours from the Township. The wide variety of colleges and universities near the Township offer myriad opportunities for area high school graduates in determining the direction of their higher education aspirations.





Conclusions/Considerations

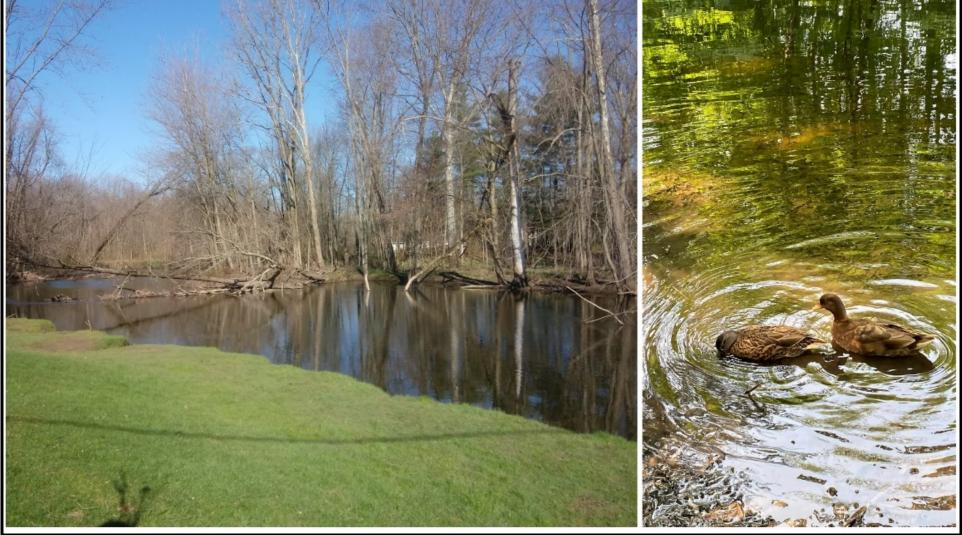
Lawrence Township has many important and promising natural and physical features that are an asset to the community. As the goals for the Township and the future land use plan are developed, the following conclusions/ considerations should be evaluated:

- Prime farmlands are a limited resource, which should be assessed during future land use planning. The micro-climate and soils of Lawrence Township are superior for fruit production and have been designated as an important resource for Michigan. However, the impacts of the stated climate changes in Michigan make expanded economic development opportunities for farmers an important consideration.
- Soil types should also be considered when developing a future land use plan. As much of the Township relies on septic systems, ensuring soils can support development will be critical to groundwater protection.
- The Paw Paw River and watershed is an important natural resource, which should be protected. Future land use planning around this area may want to consider how new development will impact the river, watershed, and floodplain.
- In addition, some deliberation could be given to enhancing the Paw Paw River area as a recreational amenity for the Township that would support the watershed and its habitat.
- Groundwater recharge areas will also be an important natural feature to consider when future land use planning. As most of the Township utilizes well water, ensuring water quality will be key.
- The extension of public water may need to be considered depending on the proliferation of PFAS contamination.

 Additional contributions to road improvements may be asked of the Township due to the percentage of roads that have a PASER rating of poor.



CHAPTER 6: DEMOGRAPHIC PROFILE AND EMERGING TRENDS



MASTER PLAN LAWRENCE TOWNSHIP

This chapter of the Master Plan will inventory past demographic trends, out- Population Change line current conditions, and analyze future projections and their impacts on the Township. Information related to the community's population and emerging issues which may influence the development of goals and future land use will be investigated.

Population Trends

The population within Lawrence Township has remained relatively steady since the 2000 Census. While Van Buren County and the State of Michigan lost a minor amount of population between 2000 and 2010, Lawrence Township increased its population by 3.4 percent. This is significant when considering the Great Recession, which began in 2008 and caused a loss of population in Michigan.

However, the American Community Survey (ACS) completed by the U.S. Census estimates that Lawrence Township lost 2.2 percent of its population between 2010 and 2017. Overall, the Township saw just over one percent increase in population during this 17-year period.

When comparing Lawrence Township to neighboring communities, it falls at about the median value of population gains and losses. Watervliet Township saw the highest population growth over this 17-year period showing a nine percent increase. Population growth can also be seen in the Village of Lawrence at a total of six percent, then Bangor Township at 1.8 percent, and finally Lawrence Township at 1.2 percent. Keeler Township experienced the highest population decline during this 17-year period at 15.3 percent.

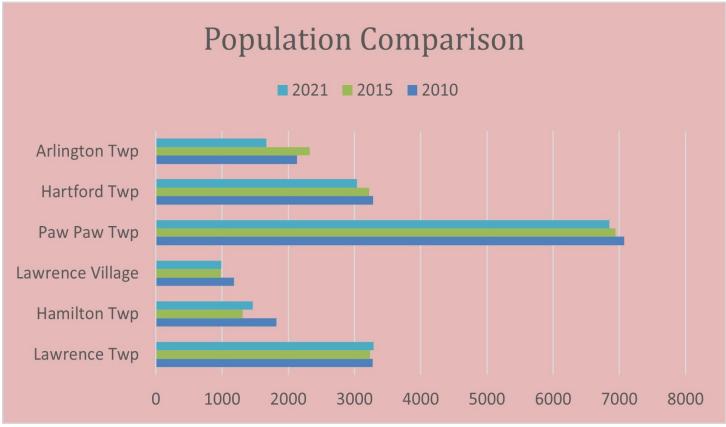
Community	2010	2017	% Change	2021	% Change
Lawrence Twp	3,274	3,200	-2.3%	3,288	2.8%
Van Buren Cty	76,258	75,190	-1.4%	75,550	0.5%
State of MI	9,883,640	9,925,568	0.4%	10,062,512	1.4%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau. (2010), (2017), (2021). TOTAL POPULATION. American Community Survey, ACS 5-Year Estimates Selected Population Detailed Tables, Table B01003.

Population Comparisons

Community	2010	2015	% Change	2021	% Change
Lawrence Twp	3,274	3,232	-1.3%	3,288	1.7%
Hamilton Twp	1,818	1,314	-27.7%	1,466	11.6%
Lawrence Village	1,182	980	-17.1%	990	1.0%
Paw Paw Twp	7,073	6,942	-1.9%	6,851	-1.3%
Hartford Twp	3,278	3,224	-1.6%	3,039	-5.7%
Arlington Twp	2,131	2,325	9.1%	1,667	-28.3%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau. (2010), (2015), (2021). TOTAL POPULATION. American Community Survey, ACS 5-Year Estimates Selected Population Detailed Tables, Table B01003.



U.S. Census Bureau. (2010), (2015), (2021). TOTAL POPULATION. *American Community Survey, ACS 5-Year Estimates Selected Population Detailed Tables, Table B01003*.



Age

The age of Township residents can serve as an indicator of future economic, transportation, housing, and other community needs. The median age for Lawrence Township according to the 2020 American Community Survey was 44.6 years old in 2020. This is slightly older than the median age for Van Buren County (41.1 years) and the State of Michigan (39.8 years).

Throughout the United States, the median age of the population is increasing as the Baby Boomer generation ages. In addition, the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development has indicated that the rural population is older than the American population as a whole and, as younger people leave rural areas to pursue different economic opportunities, it is aging faster. This pattern is also prevalent in Lawrence Township. The 44.6 median age for the Township in 2020 is 5 years greater than the median age reported in 2012, which was 39.6 years old.

The Census has outlined the following groupings to examine age by life cycle and the percentages in Lawrence Township are provided:

- Under 5 (Pre School) 5.3 percent
- 5 to 19 (School Aged) 14 percent
- 20 to 44 (Family-Forming) 31.1 percent
- 45 to 64 (Mature Families) 26.8 percent
- Over 65 (Retirement) 22.8 percent

While Family-Forming and Mature Families have the highest percentages, the table outlines a population that is almost evenly distributed amongst all age groups.

Retirement age is one of the highest percentages of the population, revealing the "greying of America" is playing a role in the Township's population. According to the US Census: In less than two decades, older adults are projected to outnumber children for the first time in U.S. history.

Age of Population

As the population in Law- rence Township ages,	Age Group	Total Persons	Percent of Total
housing options will become a principal concern.	Total population	3,276	100%
Aging in place may be an	Under 5 years	172	5.3%
option, but to allow sen-	5 to 9 years	98	3.0%
iors to remain within their community, other housing	10 to 14 years	146	4.5%
opportunities like attached	15 to 19 years	215	6.6%
units, senior living, and	20 to 24 years	393	12.0%
assisted living facilities	25 to 29 years	196	6.0%
may need to be encouraged.	30 to 34 years	86	2.6%
	35 to 39 years	139	4.2%
	40 to 44 years	206	6.3%
	45 to 49 years	165	5.0%
	50 to 54 years	209	6.4%
	55 to 59 years	319	9.7%
	60 to 64 years	185	5.6%
	65 to 69 years	235	7.2%
	70 to 74 years	154	4.7%
	75 to 79 years	161	4.9%
	80 to 84 years	98	3.0%
	85 years and over	99	3.0%

Source:

U.S. Census Bureau. (2022). Age and Sex. American Community Survey, ACS 5-Year Estimates Subject Tables, Table S0101



Race and Ethnicity

The terms race and ethnicity are often misunderstood and used interchangeably, but their meanings are distinct. Race is usually seen as biological, referring to the physical characteristics of a person. Ethnicity is generally described as a person's cultural identity. For example, a person who considers themselves white by race can also be Latino by ethnicity.

In Lawrence Township, there is a strong population presence who identify as "some other race," which is a growing trend according to the U.S. Census. Many people are either trying to acknowledge their Hispanic or Latino background or do not believe they fit into a single race category. The significant Hispanic or Latino population within Lawrence Township could be impacting this category.

Education

The educational attainment for Lawrence Township mirrors that of Michigan and Van Buren County for high school graduates. For Michigan, 28.1 percent of the population graduated from high school while 34.3 percent have a high school diploma in Van Buren County. In Lawrence Township 31.7% of the population has graduated high school.

However, Lawrence Township is lower than typical when comparing attainment of a Bachelor's degree. The percentage of graduates throughout the state is 18.3 percent, in Van Buren County it is 13.4 percent, and within Lawrence Township it is close to 10.4 percent of the population.

Race

Race Category	Total Number	Percent of Total
Total population	3,276	100%
White alone	2,469	75%
Black or African American alone	200	6%
American Indian and Alaska Native alone	39	1%
Asian alone	0	0%
Native Hawaiian/Other Pacific Islander alone	0	0%
Some other race alone	496	15%
Two or more races	72	2%
Hispanic or Latino	622	19%
Not Hispanic or Latino	2,654	81%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau. "Race." *American Community Survey, ACS 5-Year Estimates Detailed Tables, Table B02001*, 2022

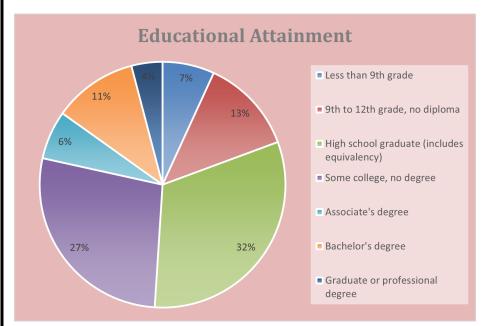


Educational Attainment

Education Category	Total Persons
Population 25 years and over	2,252
Less than 9 th grade	154
9 th to 12 th grade, no diploma	282
High school graduate (includes equivalency)	713
Some college, no degree	618
Associate degree	144
Bachelor's degree	249
Graduate or professional degree	92

Source: U.S. Census Bureau. "Educational Attainment." *American Community Survey, ACS 5-Year Estimates*

Households



Similar to population, the number of households has remained relatively constant in Lawrence Township since the 2017 Census. Between 2017 and 2021, the number is comparatively the same.

There is a demographic trend throughout the United States of the reduction in household size, the Township is seeing the same trend. The United States (2.69 persons), State of Michigan (2.58 persons), and Van Buren County (2.67 persons) all have relatively the same household size of Lawrence Township (2.65 persons).

One possibility for this difference could be an influx of Amish population within Van Buren County, which include settlements in Lawrence Township. According to a January 2019 article in the Herald-Palladium newspaper, the Amish population has gone from virtually zero to an estimated couple hundred families within Van Buren County. In addition, the Young Center for Anabaptist and Pietist Studies at Elizabethtown College indicates that the Michigan Amish population has grown by 16 percent since 2018. One demographic of the Amish population is larger nuclear families that average five or more children.

In addition to the Amish families, Hispanic and Latino households tend to have more children, contributing to household size. Over 18 percent of the residents in the Township identify as Hispanic or Latino and according to the Population Research Institute the average Hispanic family in the United States is 3.12 persons.



The households in Lawrence Township are generally categorized as family units, with the majority being in married-couple families. Nonfamily households, which includes people living alone or sharing a home with unrelated persons, only makes up approximately 24.7 percent of the total households in the Township. This is also typical in rural environments where families living in single-family homes is dominate.

Households

Household Category	Total Persons	Percent of Total
Total Households	1,217	100%
Family households	917	75.30%
Married-couple family	678	55.70%
Male householder, no wife present	87	7.10%
Female householder, no husband present	152	12.50%
Nonfamily households	300	24.70%
Households with population under 18 years	264	21.7%
Households with no population under 18 years	953	78.3%
Households with population 65+	472	38.8%
Households with no population 65+	745	61.2%

Households by Type

	2010	2017	% Change	2021	% Change
Households	1375	1248	-9.2%	1217	-2.5%
Average Household Size	2.33	2.56	9.9%	2.67	4.3%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau. (2010),(2017),(2021). HOUSEHOLDS AND FAMILIES . American Community Survey, ACS 5-Year Estimates Subject Tables, Table \$1101



Economic Indicators

As previously indicated, Lawrence Township fits the ICMA Smart Growth Network's descriptions for a resource-dependent and possibly an edge community. Resource-dependent communities, which generally rely on one source of industry, face a key challenge of diversifying the economy while maintaining their rural character.

The main economic generator for Lawrence Township is agriculture and agricultural support businesses, like fruit and vegetable packing and storage. Outside of farming, there are some retail or service establishments within the Township. Industrial uses can be found just outside the Township, located in the Village of Lawrence. Township residents who are not engaged in the agricultural industry would likely need to leave the Township to seek employment.

The following information will provide an overview of the economic conditions of Lawrence Township residents, including their incomes, labor force characteristics, and types of employment.

<u>Income</u>

The table below provides the median and average household incomes for Lawrence Township.

The median income is the income that falls in the middle of those reported, half of the incomes are lower, and half are higher. The average income is the total incomes divided by the number of incomes reported.

The American Community Survey 5-year Estimates show the median household income for Lawrence Township in 2021 (\$56,776) was less than both the State of Michigan (\$63,202) and Van Buren County (\$61,549).

Per capita income is how much an individual person made within Lawrence Township. This dollar amount (\$26,283) was also less than Michigan (\$34,768) and Van Buren County (\$29,399) based on the 2021 American Community Survey.

Family and Per Capita Income

-					
Income Category	2010	2017	Percent	2021	Percent
Median family income	\$48,068.00	\$64,500.00	34%	\$64,087.00	-1%
Mean family income	\$55,629.00	\$71,767.00	29%	\$69,993.00	-2%
Per Capita Income	\$20,637.00	\$24,429.00	18%	\$26,283.00	8%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau. (2021),(2017), (2010). SELECTED ECONOMIC CHARAC-TERISTICS. American Community Survey, ACS 5-Year Estimates Data Profiles, Table DP03.

Labor Force

According to the 2021 American Community Survey, the unemployment rate in Lawrence Township was 6.3 percent. This rate was higher than unemployment found in Van Buren County at the same time, which was 5.2 percent. The State of Michigan's unemployment rate was slightly lower than Lawrence Township at 6.2 percent in 2021.

According to the Federal Reserve Bank, the unemployment rate in Van Buren County in January of 2019 was 6 percent.

Labor Force

Labor Category	Total Persons	Percent of Total
Population 16 years and over	2,794	100%
In labor force	1,737	62.2%
Civilian labor force	1,737	62.2%
Employed	1,627	58.2%
Unemployed	110	3.9%
Armed Forces	0	0.0%
Not in labor force	1,057	37.8%
Unemployment Rate	(X)	6.3%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau. (2021). SELECTED ECONOMIC CHARACTERISTICS. *American Community Survey, ACS 5-Year Estimates Data Profiles, Table DP03.*



As with most communities, the largest majority of the working residents in Lawrence Township are employed by an industry that provides a private wage or salary, as can be seen in the table below.

Type of Employment

Class of Worker	Percent of Workforce
Private wage and salary workers	80.2%
Government workers	14.5%
Self-employed	5.3%
Unpaid family workers	0.0%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau. (2021). SELECTED ECONOMIC CHARACTERISTICS. *American Community Survey, ACS 5-Year Estimates Data Profiles, Table DP03*

Industry by Type

The table below outlines the industries where Lawrence Township residents work.

As can be seen, the four most prevalent industries are:

- Manufacturing
- Educational services, and health care and social assistance
- Construction
- Retail Trade

These industries are very similar to those most prevalent in the State of Michigan and Van Buren County, except the agriculture category. This industry employs 1.1 percent of the total Michigan population, which is similar to Lawrence Township, but is much lower than the 3.1 percent of Van Buren County residents.

With the high percentage of Township residents employed in the manufacturing industry and low amount of manufacturing workplaces in Lawrence

Township it is nre-

Industry	Total Persons	Percent of Workforce	— sumed that the manu-
Agriculture, forestry, fishing and hunting, and mining	17	1.00%	facturing workforce has
Construction	176	10.80%	changed to a com-
Manufacturing	554	34.10%	muting workforce that
Wholesale trade	27	1.70%	travels to jobs located outside of the township.
Retail trade	156	9.60%	There is a need to utility
Transportation and warehousing, and utilities	49	3.00%	system expansion to
Information	75	4.60%	increase the number of
Finance and insurance, and real estate and rental and leasing	34	2.10%	manufacturing work-
Professional, scientific, and management, and administrative and waste management services	110	6.80%	places in the Township.
Educational services, and health care and social assistance	239	14.70%	Source: U.S. Census Bureau. (2021). SELECTED
Arts, entertainment, and recreation, and accommodation and food services	76	4.70%	ECONOMIC CHARACTER-
Other services, except public administration	69	4.20%	ISTICS. American Com- munity Survey, ACS 5-
Public administration	45	2.80%	Year Estimates Data Pro- — files, Table DP03.

Travel Time to Work

To access the employment industries previously noted, most Lawrence Township residents must travel to work. According to the 2021 American Community Survey, 50.3 percent work within Van Buren County and 47.8 percent work in a different county. A very small percentage, 1.9 percent, work outside of the State of Michigan. This coincides with travel times, as the largest majority of workers can make it to their places of employment within 30 minutes.

Travel Time to Work

Travel Time	Percent of Workforce
Less than 10 minutes	7.40%
10 to 14 minutes	14.30%
15 to 19 minutes	12.40%
20 to 24 minutes	13.00%
25 to 29 minutes	9.40%
30 to 34 minutes	16.90%
35 to 44 minutes	3.10%
45 to 59 minutes	17.30%
60 or more minutes	6.20%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau. (2021). COMMUTING CHARACTERISTICS BY SEX. *American Community Survey, ACS 5-Year Estimates Subject Tables, Table S0801*.

Housing

The following section will provide an overview of the types of housing units found in Lawrence Township, as well as their age and values. The availability and quality of housing will play an important role in land use development and goal setting for the Township if there is a desire for future growth.

Number and Tenure of Units

According to the 2021 American Community Survey, there are 1,490 housing units in Lawrence Township. Of these units, the largest majority are owner occupied, which is expected in a more rural environment that primarily contains single-family residential homes.

Housing Units by Tenure

Occupancy Category	Total Units	Percent of Total
Total housing units	1,490	100%
Occupied housing units	1,217	81.7%
Vacant housing units	273	18.3%
Owner-occupied	963	79.1%
Renter-occupied	254	20.9%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau. (2021). SELECTED HOUSING CHARACTERISTICS. *American Community Survey*, ACS 5-Year Estimates Data Profiles, Table DP04.



Housing Unit Trends

Occupancy Category	2010	2017	% Change	2021	% Change	2022	% Change
Housing units	1,672	1,702	1.80%	1,490	-12.50%	1,460	-2.00%
Owner Occupied	1,069	964	-9.80%	963	-0.10%	968	0.50%
Renter Occupied	306	284	-7.20%	254	-10.60%	282	11.00%
Vacant	297	454	52.90%	273	-39.90%	210	-23.10%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau. (2010),(2017),(2021),(2022). SELECTED HOUSING CHARACTERISTICS. American Community Survey, ACS 5-Year Estimates Data Profiles, Table DP04.

A shortage of both market rate and affordable housing is being experienced throughout Michigan. The Michigan State Housing Development Authority indicates that there will be a deficit of more than 150,000 housing units by 2045. The existing tight housing market has already increased home prices by more than 84 percent between January 2013 and October 2021.

Housing Types

The largest majority of housing in Lawrence Township is single-family homes at almost 80.4 percent. Mobile homes are the second most prevalent housing type, which includes one mobile home park within the Village as well as manufactured single family units located on individual parcels.



Type of Housing Units

Housing Type	Total Number of Units	Percent of Total
Total housing	1,490	1,490
1-unit, detached	1,227	82.30%
1-unit, attached	11	0.70%
2 units	3	0.20%
3 or 4 units	5	0.30%
5 to 9 units	56	3.80%
10 to 19 units	26	1.70%
20 or more units	30	2.00%
Mobile home	132	8.90%
Boat, RV, van, etc.	0	0.00%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau. (2021). SELECTED HOUSING CHARACTERISTICS. *American Community Survey, ACS 5-Year Estimates Data Profiles, Table DP04*.

With the limited public water and sanitary sewer infrastructure within the Township, it is not surprising that single-family homes are the dominate housing type. Typically, single-family homes have acreages attached that can support private septic systems.

However, with the housing shortage in Michigan, the Township may want to consider encouraging additional housing styles. The missing middle housing movement, which highlights the need for diverse housing opportunities, encourages a range of multi-unit or clustered housing. The important component of these styles is that they are compatible in scale to single-family homes and include forms such as duplexes, fourplexes, and bungalow courts. Development of the missing middle unit types is a possible solution to meeting an ever-growing demand from the aging Baby Boomer generation for low-maintenance housing.

Fostering this kind of housing will require continued partnerships with the Village of Lawrence to expand available public sanitary sewer. Or alternative solutions, like small private community sanitary sewer systems, will need to be contemplated for future development.

Housing Age

Year Built	Number of Units	Percent of Total
Total housing units	1,490	1,490
Built 2010 to 2019	13	0.90%
Built 2000 to 2009	214	14.40%
Built 1990 to 1999	205	13.80%
Built 1980 to 1989	93	6.20%
Built 1970 to 1979	162	10.90%
Built 1960 to 1969	188	12.60%
Built 1950 to 1959	162	10.90%
Built 1940 to 1949	113	7.60%
Built 1939 or earlier	340	22.80%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau. (2021). SELECTED HOUSING CHARACTERISTICS. *American Community Survey, ACS 5-Year Estimates Data Profiles, Table DP04*.

The lifespan of a home depends largely on the initial construction and the investment in maintenance over time. However, the aging stock in Lawrence Township suggests, at minimum, a need for continual maintenance to sustain the housing and possibly the need for replacement housing.



Aging housing stock also provides some significant challenges for seniors in rural areas. They often have fewer residential options then their own homes, which due to age and design, are not as easily converted to allow aging in place. In addition, the added cost burden of ongoing single-family home maintenance for seniors on fixed incomes can make the economics of staying in their home very difficult.

As can be seen, the 2021 American Community Survey does not show any new housing units being developed in Lawrence Township since 2020.

Housing Values

The median housing value in Lawrence Township is quite reasonable from a purchasing standpoint when compared to the State of Michigan and Van Buren County. According to financial experts, mortgage costs should not be more than 30 percent of a person's annual income. Based on the 2021 American Community Survey, the median family income in Lawrence Township was \$64,087. This would allow approximately \$19,000 of annual income to go towards mortgage payments. A monthly payment on a \$85,800 house at seven percent interest with twenty percent down is approximately \$579 a month (including taxes and insurance). This equates to approximately \$6,948 a year, which is well within 30 percent of the median household income in the Township. It would appear that the housing values are aligned with the median incomes generated by Lawrence Township residents.

Housing Value

Community	Median Housing Value
Lawrence Township	\$139,100
Van Buren County	\$175,000
Michigan	\$199,100

Source: U.S. Census Bureau. (2021). MEDIAN VALUE (DOLLARS). American Community Survey, ACS 1-Year Estimates Detailed Tables, Table B25077. & U.S. Census Bureau. (2021). MEDIAN VALUE (DOLLARS). American Community Survey, ACS 1-Year Supplemental Estimates, Table K202510. & U.S. Census Bureau. (2021). MEDIAN VALUE (DOLLARS). American Community Survey, ACS 5-Year Estimates Detailed Tables, Table B25077.



Conclusions/Considerations

The emerging trends related to the demographics and economic potential of the Township will be an important consideration when developing goals for the future. Based on the data provided, the following analysis should be assessed:

- Easy commutes to employment centers and the draw of rural living will continue to attract a certain demographic to Lawrence Township. Ensuring housing choices for this population will be important.
- As the "greying of America" continues, demands for housing choices and senior services will increase. Lawrence Township may want to consider additional housing options, including assisted living facilities, to allow seniors to remain in their community.
- A large percentage of the Township's population must leave the Township for employment. Approximately 21 percent of the population can get to work within 10 minutes of their home. Goals that relate to economic development strategies to increase industry within the Township could be important to future population retention.
- In addition, economic development strategies lead to diversification of employment options within the Township.
- With the housing crises being experienced in Michigan, Lawrence Township may wish to position itself to capture a certain segment of this pentup need.
- Affordable housing to attract workforce to area businesses by creating areas to allow higher density residential land uses.
- If a variety of housing styles are examined, managing utility needs will also need to be investigated.
- The reasonable housing values/costs within Lawrence Township could contribute to new development opportunities.





APPENDIX

Lawrence Township Resolution of Adoption

Resolution # 2025-008

RESOLUTION OF THE LAWRENCE TOWNSHIP BOARD OF TRUSTEES

REGARDING APPROVAL OF THE MASTER PLAN

Said resolution is adopted at a REGULAR meeting held on 02/13/2025 at 6:00 P.M. 411 N. Paw Paw St., Lawrence, MI 49064.

WHEREAS, the Lawrence Township Planning Commission has prepared a proposed Master Plan for the future use, development, and preservation of lands within the Township in accordance with procedures set forth in the Michigan Planning Enabling Act, Public Act 33 of 2008, MCL 125.3839; and

WHEREAS, the Planning Commission approved the proposed amended Master Plan in compliance with the provisions of the Michigan Planning Enabling Act; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to Section 43(3) of the Michigan Planning Enabling Act, the Township Board may also approve or reject the Township Master Plan, after approval of the Planning Commission;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Lawrence Township Board of Trustees has approved the Lawrence Township Master Plan attached hereto as Exhibit A.

This resolution offered by board member Tracie Rindfield.

Supported by board member Kimberly Kiley.

Upon a roll call vote, the following voted:

Aye: Donna Spenner, Tracie Rindfield, Kimberly Kiley, Tom Reynolds, Mike Carpp

Nay: None_

The supervisor declared the resolution adopted.

I hereby certify the foregoing constitutes a true and complete copy of a proceeding scheduling the annual meeting of the electors and budget public hearing as indicated above by the Lawrence Township, County of Van Buren, Michigan, Board of Trustees at a regular meeting held on 02/13/2025

Date: 02/13/2025

Tracie Rindfield, Lawrence Township Clerk

Lawrence Township Master Plan Contact List

Utilities/Railroads

Consumers Energy Company

Attention: Patricia Poppe, President & CEO

One Energy Plaza

Jackson, MI 49201-2276

Midwest Energy Cooperative

901 East State Street

P.O. Box 127

Cassopolis, MI 49031

Indiana Michigan Power Company

Attention: Mike O'Brien, Manager of Governmental and Environmental

Affairs

110 West Michigan, Suite 350 Lansing, MI 48933-1603

CSX Railroad

Corporate Headquarters 500 Water Street, 15th Floor Jacksonville, FL 32202

West Michigan Railroad

Attention: Linus Starring

P.O. Box 885

Saugatuck, MI 49453

Regional Planning Commission

Southwest Michigan Planning Commission 376 W. Main Street, Suite 130 Benton Harbor, Michigan 49022-3651



County Contacts

Van Buren County Planning Commission

219 Paw Paw Street, Suite 302

Paw Paw, MI 49079

Van Buren County Road Commission

325 West James Street

P.O. Box 156

Lawrence, MI 49064

Adjacent Municipalities

Village of Lawrence

Planning Commission

157 N. Paw Paw St.

Lawrence, MI 49064

Hartford Township

Planning Commission

61310 CR 687

Hartford, MI 49057

Arlington Township

Planning Commission

48030 C.R. 673

Lawrence, MI 49064

Keeler Township

Planning Commission

64121 Territorial Rd. West

Lawrence, MI 49057

Hamilton Township

Planning Commission

P.O. Box 35

Decatur, MI 49045

Bangor Township

Planning Commission

32550 C.R. 687

Bangor, MI 49013

Paw Paw Township

Planning Commission

114 N. Gremps Street

Paw Paw, MI 49079

Decatur Township

Planning Commission

103 E. Delaware St

Decatur, MI 49045

Waverly Township

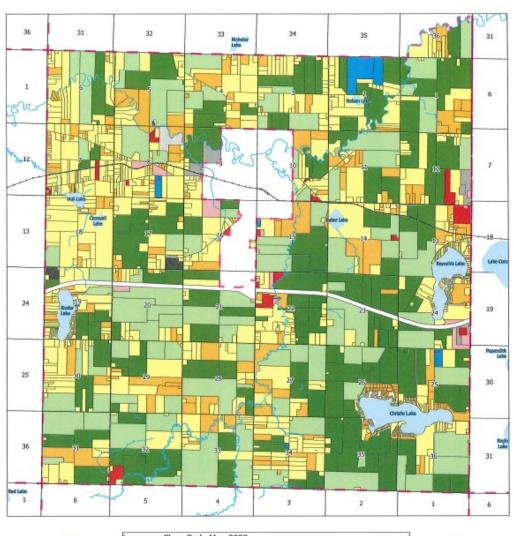
Planning Commission

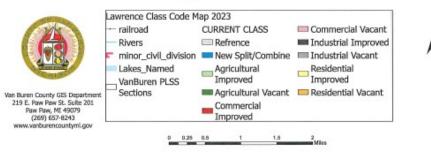
42114 M-43 Highway

Paw Paw, MI 49079

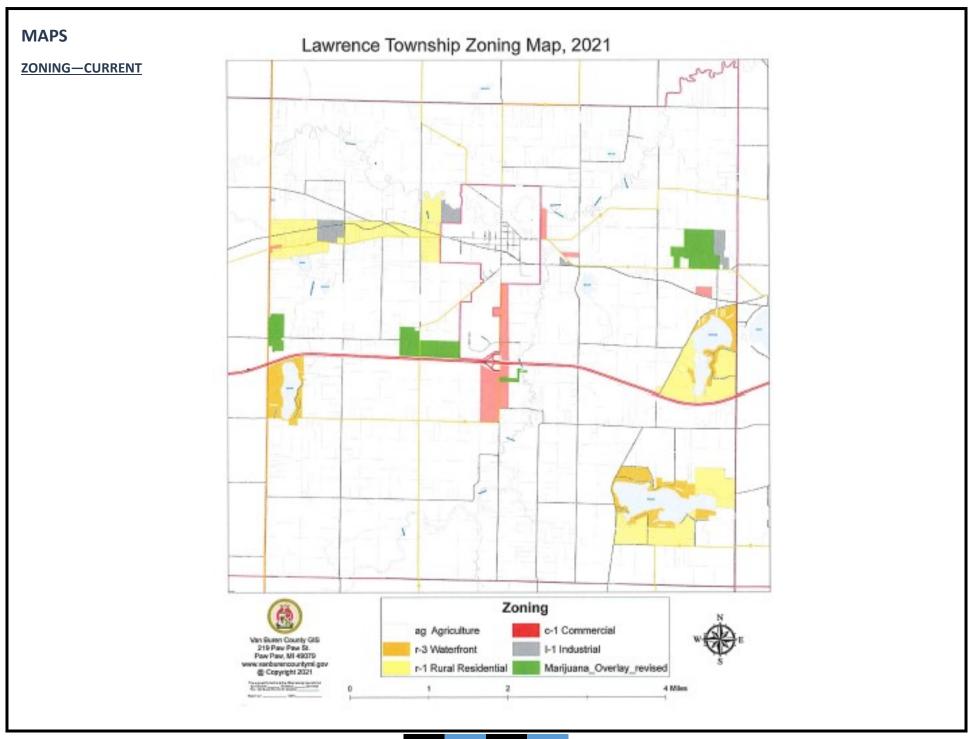
MAPS

LAWRENCE CLASS CODE



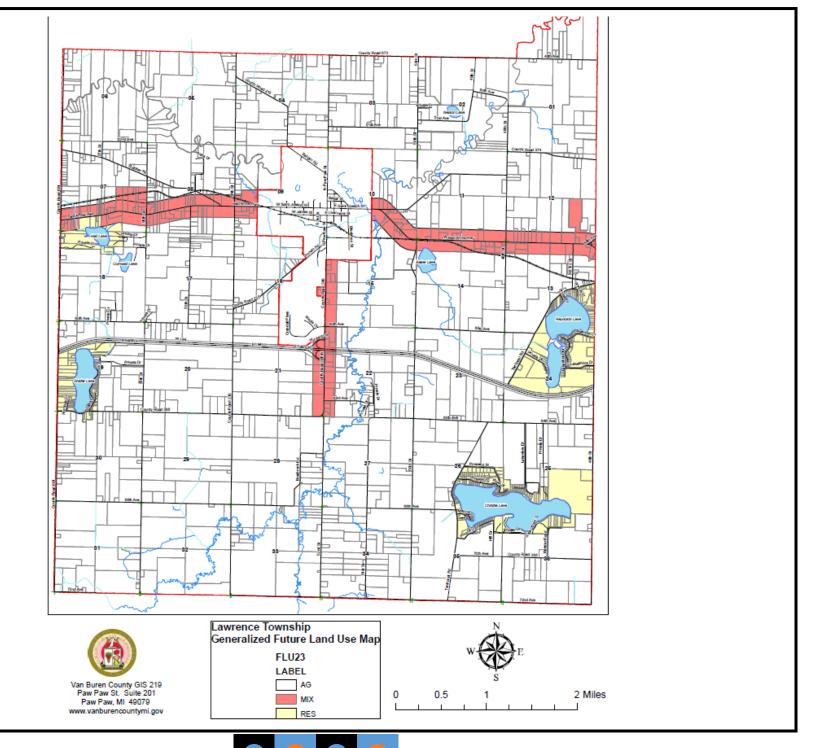






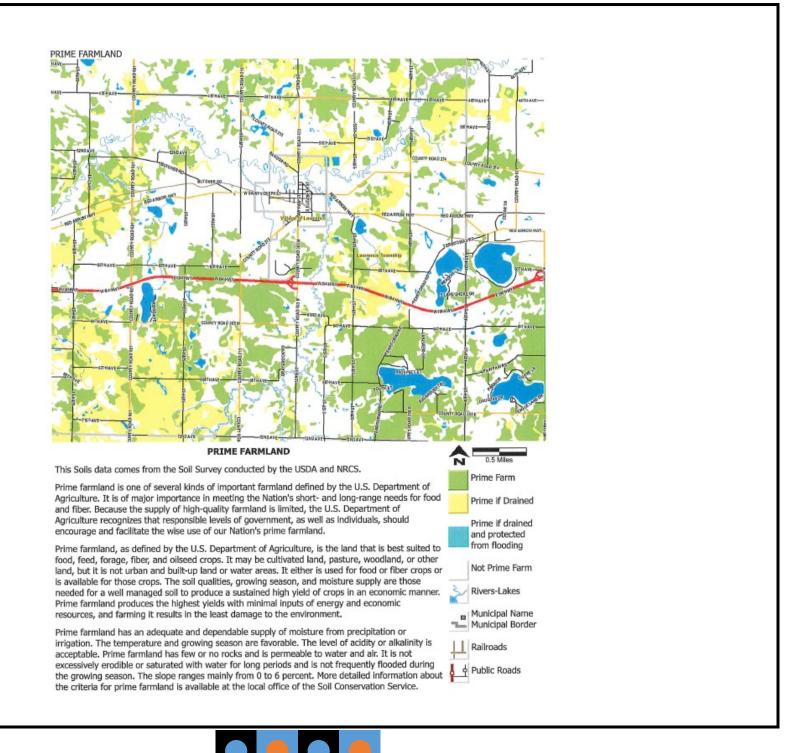
MAPS

ZONING—FUTURE



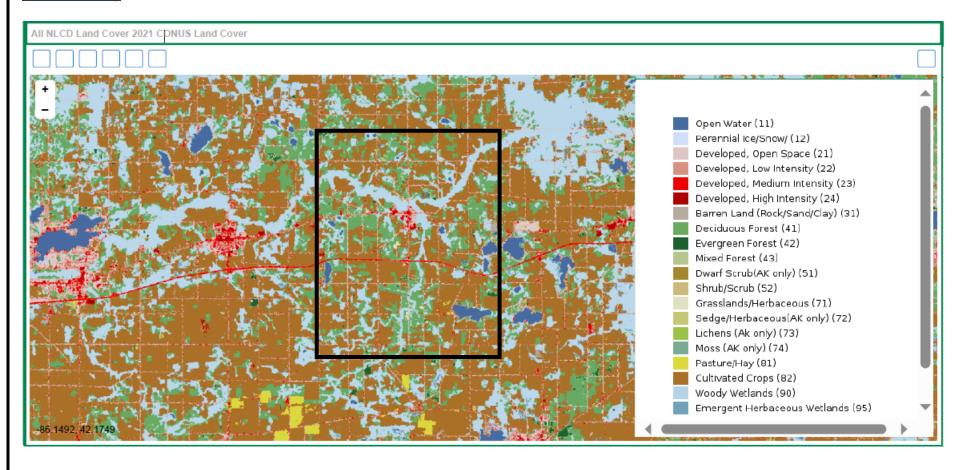
Appendix

FARMLAND

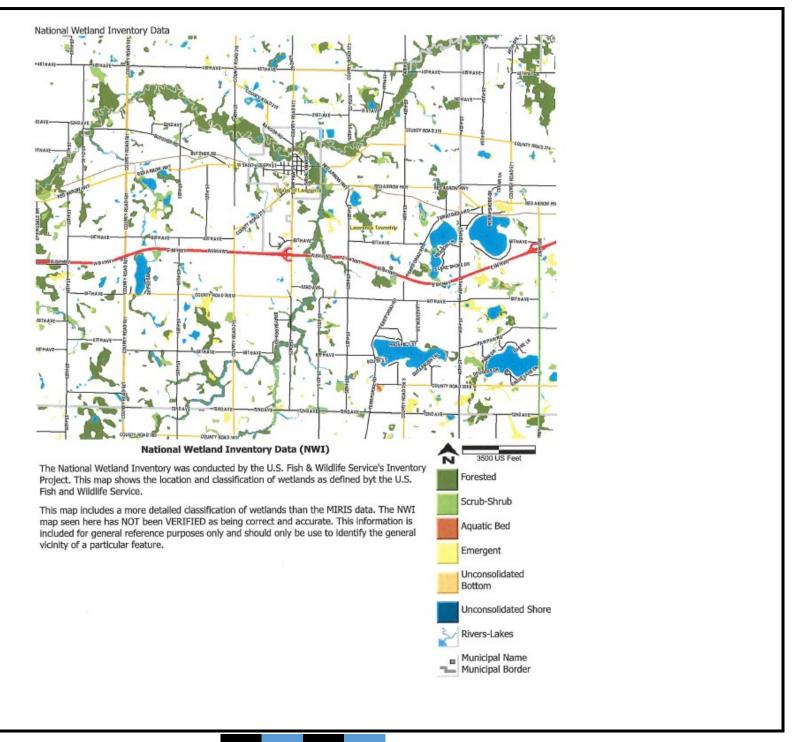


Appendix

Land Cover Map



Appendix WETLANDS

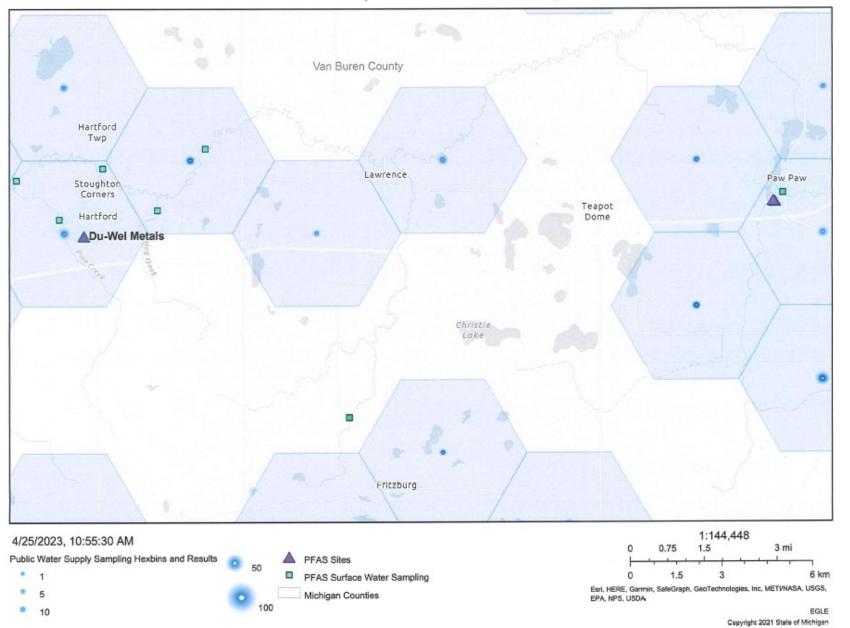


Appendix School District Map Glendale Bangor Public School District ington Twp Bangor Twp McDonalo BUREN COUNTA 48th Ave Paw Paw Public School District Cour ty Road 374 Red Arrow-Hwy Lawrence Public School District Hartford Paw Paw Twp County Hartford Public School District Lawrence Twp ford-Twp County Road 358 County Roa oad 362 **Decatur Public School District** eler Twp

Appendix

PFAS SITES

PFAS Map Lawrence Township



Appendix

LAWRENCE TOWNSHIP COUNTY DRAINS



Lawrence Township County Drains

T3S-R15W

Legend

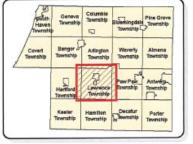
- Lake Level Structure
- >>>> County Drain Open Ditch
 - County Drain Tile
 - 433 Agreement
 - Minor Civil Division
 - Road
 - Natural Watercourse
 - Contour (Ft)
 - Section

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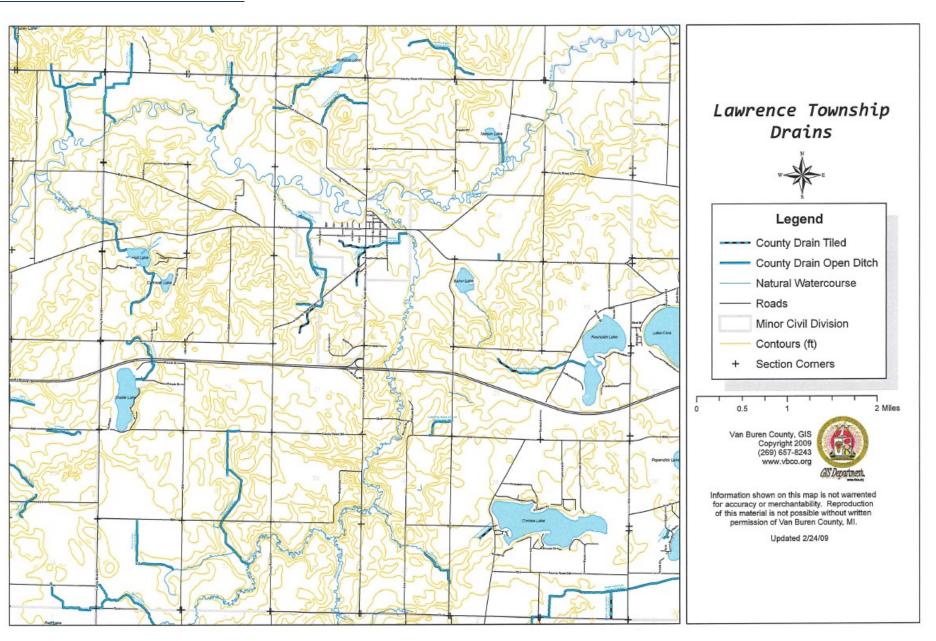


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Updated: 2/27/2020

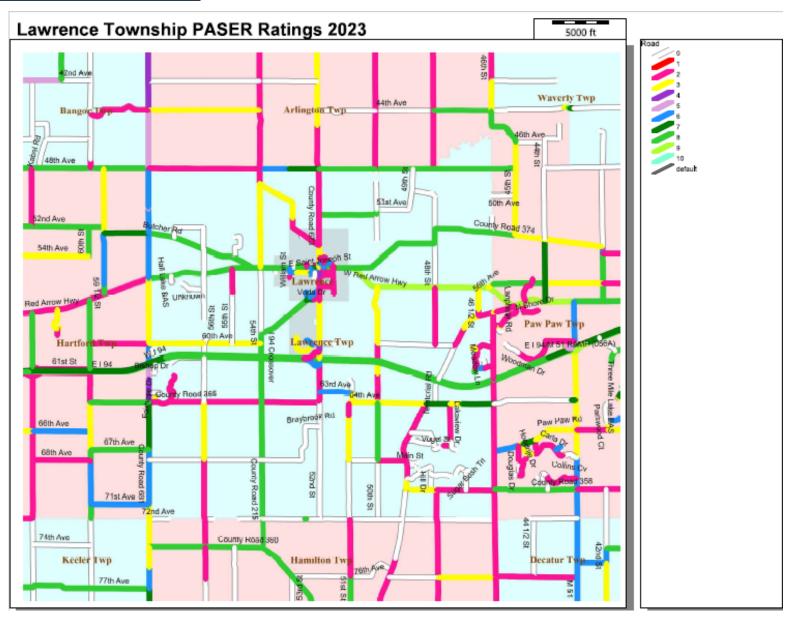
Appendix

LAWRENCE TOWNSHIP COUNTY DRAINS

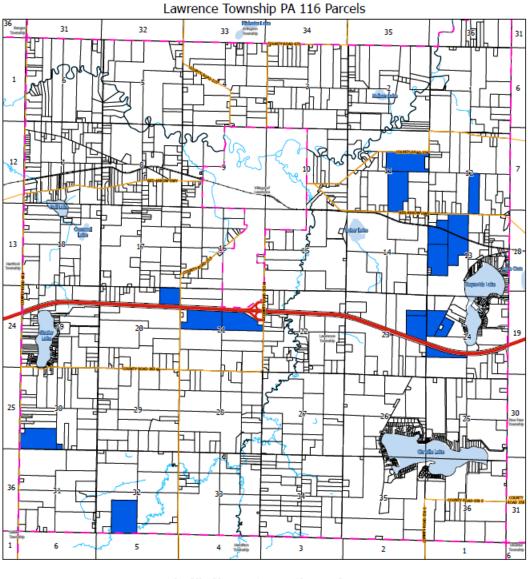


Appendix

LAWRENCE TOWNSHIP PASER ROAD RATINGS



Appendix PA116 PARCELS





Van Buren County GIS Department 219 E. Paw Paw St. Suite 201 Paw Paw, MI 49079 (269) 657-8243 www.vanburencountymi.gov



Lawrence Township, Van Buren County, Michigan—Census Data

Populations and People

Total Population

3,289

P1 | 2020 Decennial Census

Education

Bachelor's Degree or Higher

14.1%

\$1501 | 2021 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates

Housing

Total Housing Units

1,571

H1 | 2020 Decennial Census

Families and Living Arrangements

Total Households

1,217

DP02 | 2021 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates

Income and Poverty

Median Household Income

\$56,776

S1901 | 2021 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates

Employment

Employment Rate

58.2%

DP03 | 2021 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates

Health

Without Health Care Coverage

8.0%

S2701 | 2021 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates

Race and Ethnicity

Hispanic or Latino (of any race)

620

P9 | 2020 Decennial Census

Lawrence township, Van Buren County, Michigan Reference Map



Source: U.S. Census Bureau



Populations and People

Age and Sex

44.7 ± 4.7

Median Age in Lawrence township, Van Buren County, Michigan

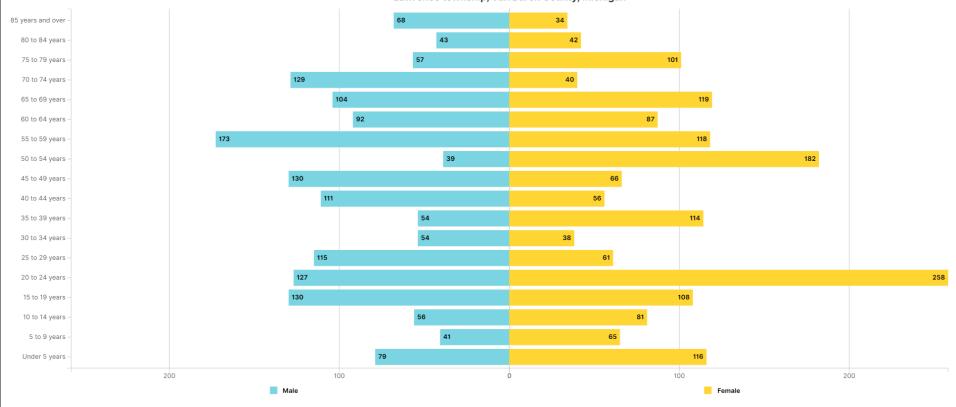
42.1 ± 0.9

Median Age in Van Buren County, Michigan

S0101 | 2021 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates

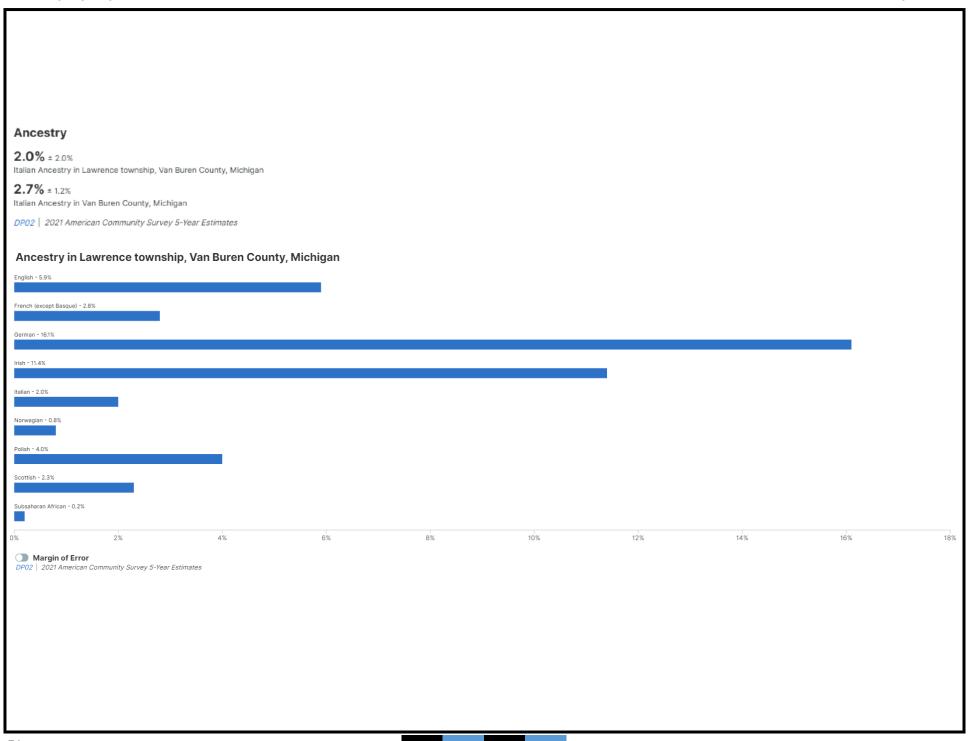
Population Pyramid: Population by Age and Sex in Lawrence township, Van Buren County, Michigan



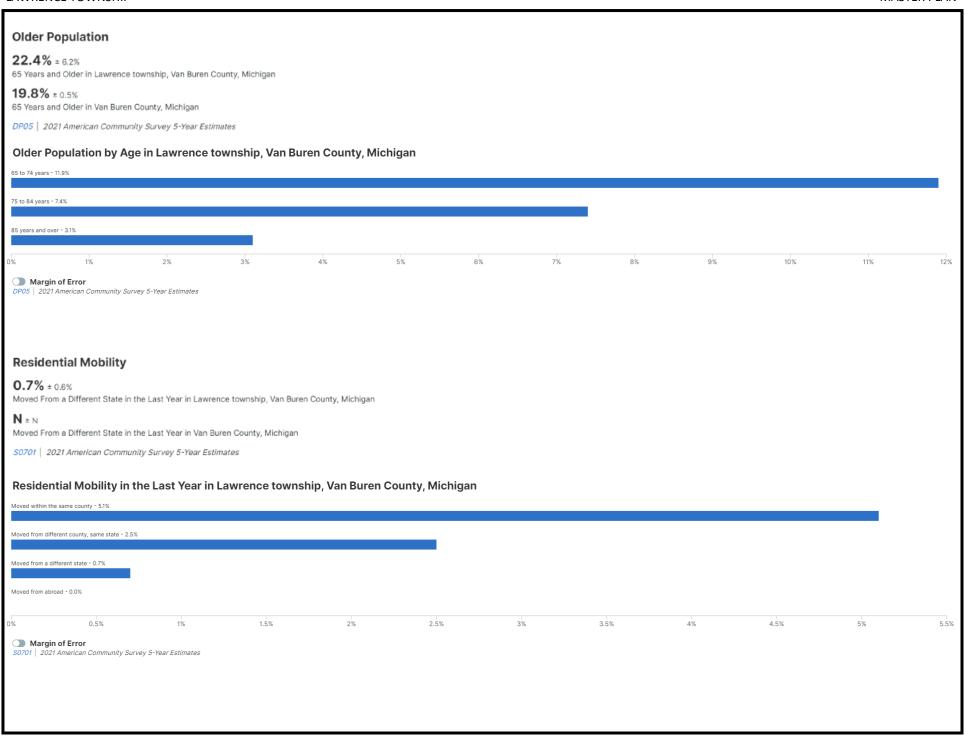


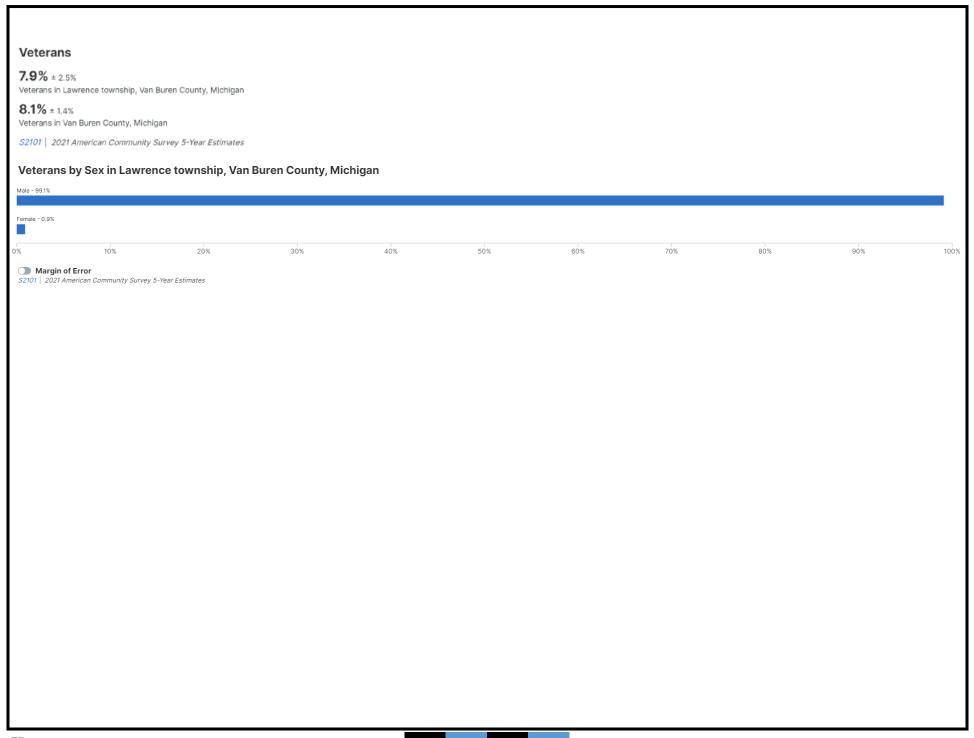


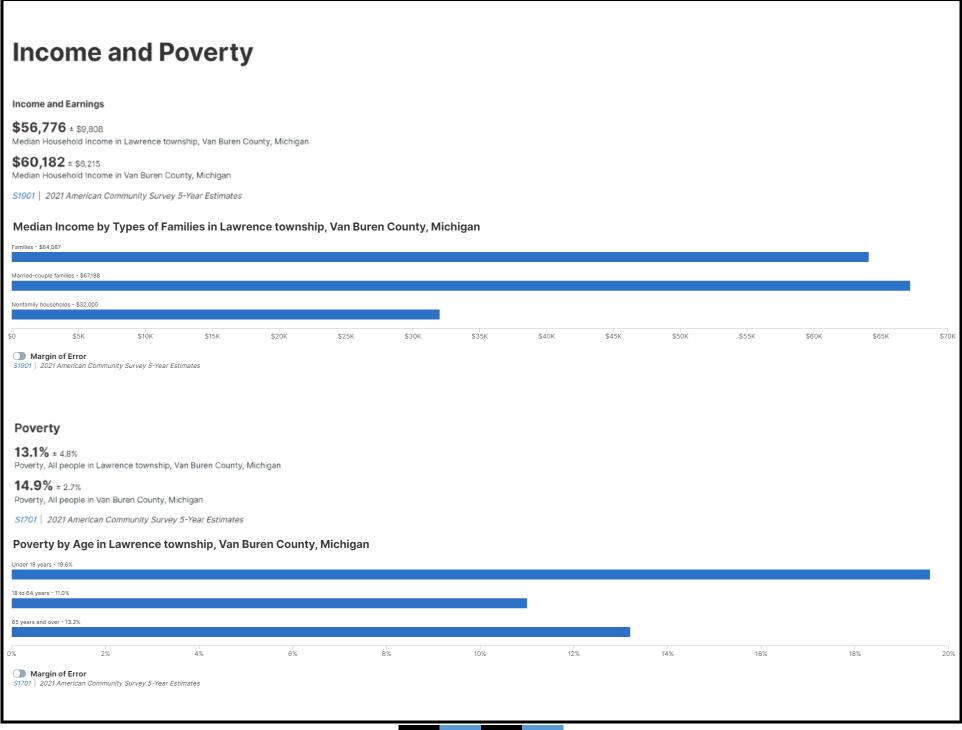
S0101 | 2021 ACS 5-Year Estimates Subject Tables











Education

Educational Attainment

14.1% ± 3.9%

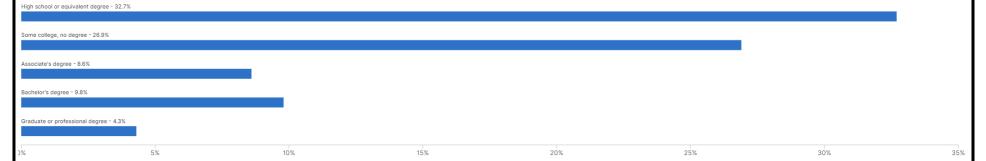
Bachelor's Degree or Higher in Lawrence township, Van Buren County, Michigan

24.3% ± 3.3%

Bachelor's Degree or Higher in Van Buren County, Michigan

S1501 | 2021 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates

Education Attainment (Population 25 Years and Older) in Lawrence township, Van Buren County, Michigan



Margin of Error

S1501 | 2021 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates

School Enrollment

80.9% ± 7.7%

School Enrolled Population Enrolled in Kindergarten to 12th Grade in Lawrence township, Van Buren County, Michigan

72.8% ± 4.1%

School Enrolled Population Enrolled in Kindergarten to 12th Grade in Van Buren County, Michigan

S1401 | 2021 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates



Employment

Class of Worker

14.5% ± 7.0%

Local, state, and federal government workers in Lawrence township, Van Buren County, Michigan

14.0% ± 2.5%

Local, state, and federal government workers in Van Buren County, Michigan

S2406 | 2021 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates

Class of Worker in Lawrence township, Van Buren County, Michigan

Employee of private company workers - 68.1%

Self-employed in own incorporated business workers - 6.3%

Private not-for-profit wage and salary workers - 5.8%

Local, state, and federal government workers - 14.5%

Self-employed in own not incorporated business workers and unpaid family workers - 5.3%

0% 5% 10% 15% 20% 25% 30% 35% 40% 45% 50% 55% 60% 65% 70%

Margin of Error

S2406 | 2021 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates

Commuting

 32.5 ± 5.8

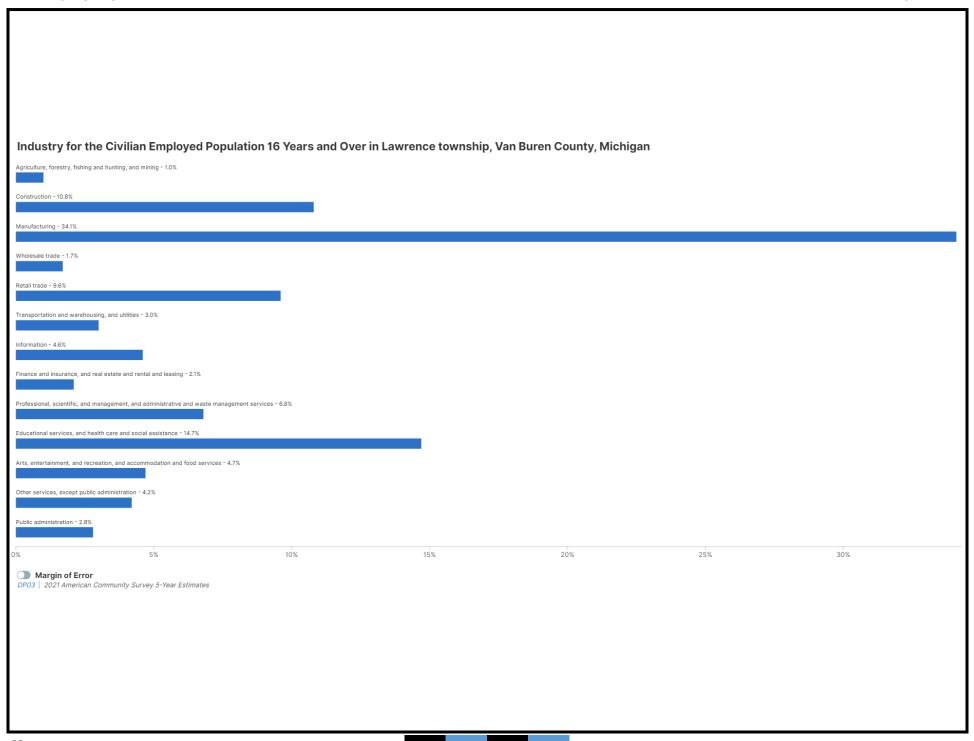
Average travel time to work (in minutes) in Lawrence township, Van Buren County, Michigan

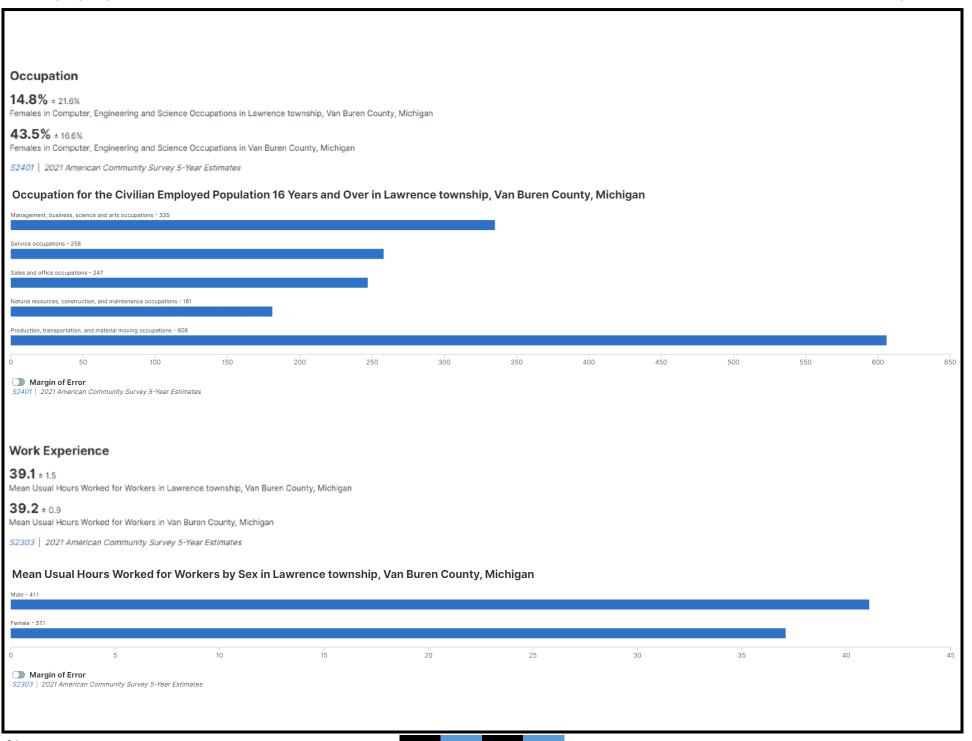
 23.3 ± 1.9

Average travel time to work (in minutes) in Van Buren County, Michigan

S0801 | 2021 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates







Housing

Financial Characteristics

\$654 ± \$275

Median Gross Rent in Lawrence township, Van Buren County, Michigan

\$845 ± \$70

Median Gross Rent in Van Buren County, Michigan

DP04 | 2021 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates

Occupied Units Paying Rent in Lawrence township, Van Buren County, Michigan

Less than \$500 - 40.4%

\$500 to \$999 - 36.5%

\$1,000 to \$1,499 - 23.0%

\$1,500 to \$1,999 - 0.0%

\$2,500 to \$2,499 - 0.0%

\$3,000 or more - 0.0%

Margin of Error

DP04 | 2021 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates

Homeownership Rate

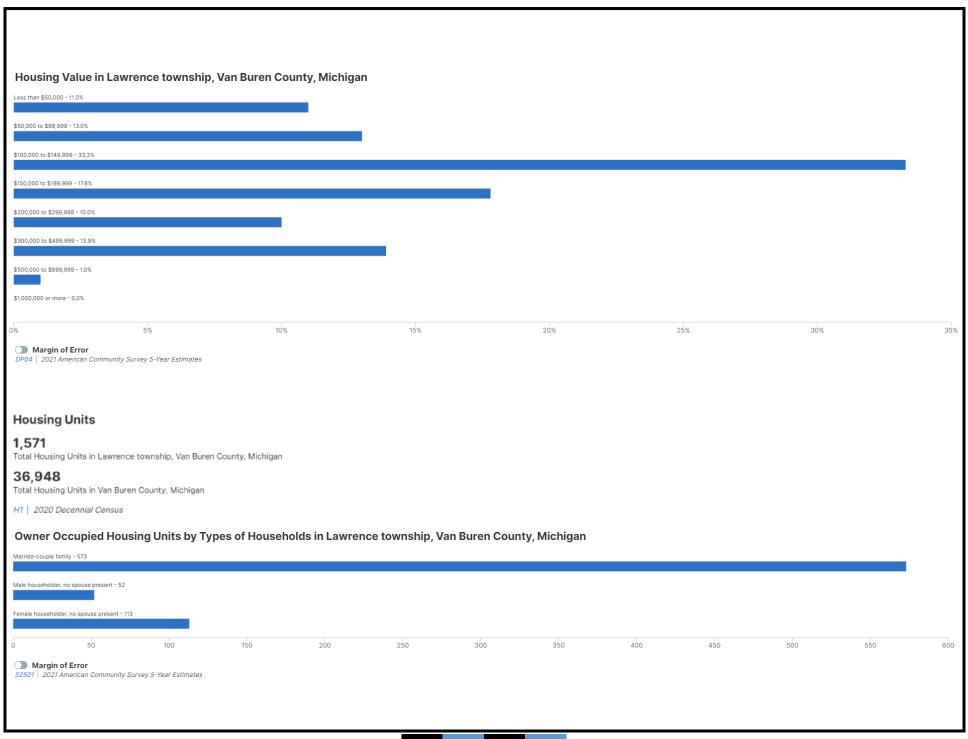
/9.1% ± 6.2%

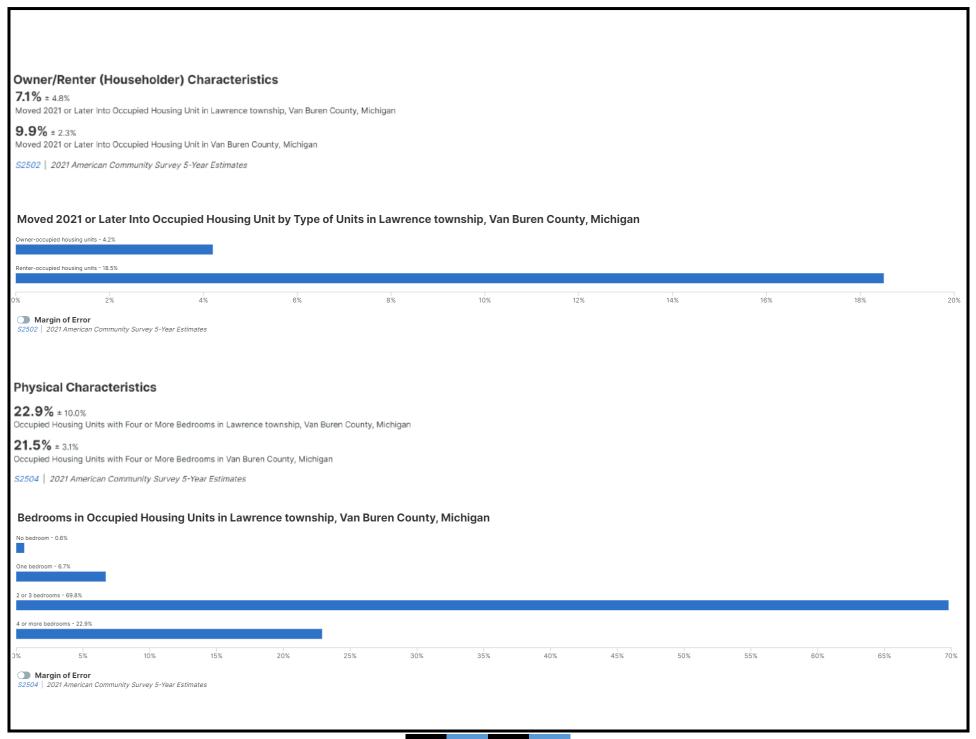
Homeownership Rate in Lawrence township, Van Buren County, Michigan

80.0% ± 3.1%

Homeownership Rate in Van Buren County, Michigan

DP04 | 2021 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates





Health

Disability

12.9% ± 3.5%

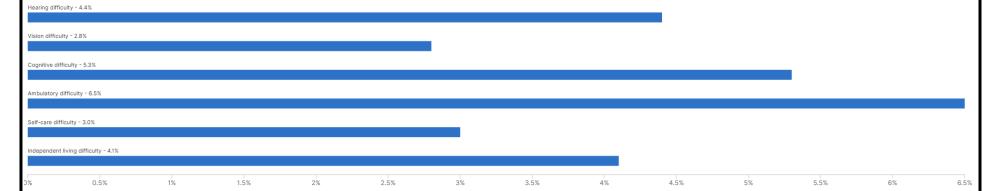
Disabled Population in Lawrence township, Van Buren County, Michigan

11.9% ± 1.7%

Disabled Population in Van Buren County, Michigan

S1810 | 2021 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates

Types of Disabilities in Lawrence township, Van Buren County, Michigan



Margin of Error

S1810 | 2021 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates

Fertility

/40 ± 120

Women 15 to 50 years old in Lawrence township, Van Buren County, Michigan

15,922 ± 536

Women 15 to 50 years old in Van Buren County, Michigan

\$1301 | 2021 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates

Fertility

740 ± 120

Women 15 to 50 years old in Lawrence township, Van Buren County, Michigan

15,922 ± 536

Women 15 to 50 years old in Van Buren County, Michigan

\$1301 | 2021 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates

Women with Births in the Past 12 Months in Lawrence township, Van Buren County, Michigan

15 to 19 years - 0

20 to 34 years - 27

35 to 50 years - 0

0 2 4 6 8 10 12 14 16 18 20 22 24 26 28

Margin of Error

S1301 | 2021 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates

Health Insurance

8.0% ± 4.5%

Without Health Care Coverage in Lawrence township, Van Buren County, Michigan

5.4% ± 1.3%

Without Health Care Coverage in Van Buren County, Michigan

S2701 | 2021 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates

Families and Living Arrangements

Children

18.5% ± 3.8%

Under 18 years old in Lawrence township, Van Buren County, Michigan

22.4% ± 0.3%

Under 18 years old in Van Buren County, Michigan

S0101 | 2021 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates

Children Under 18 by Age Range in Lawrence township, Van Buren County, Michigan

Under 5 years - 5.9%

5 to 14 years - 7.4%

15 to 17 years - 5.1%

Margin of Error

S0101 | 2021 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates

Families and Household Characteristics

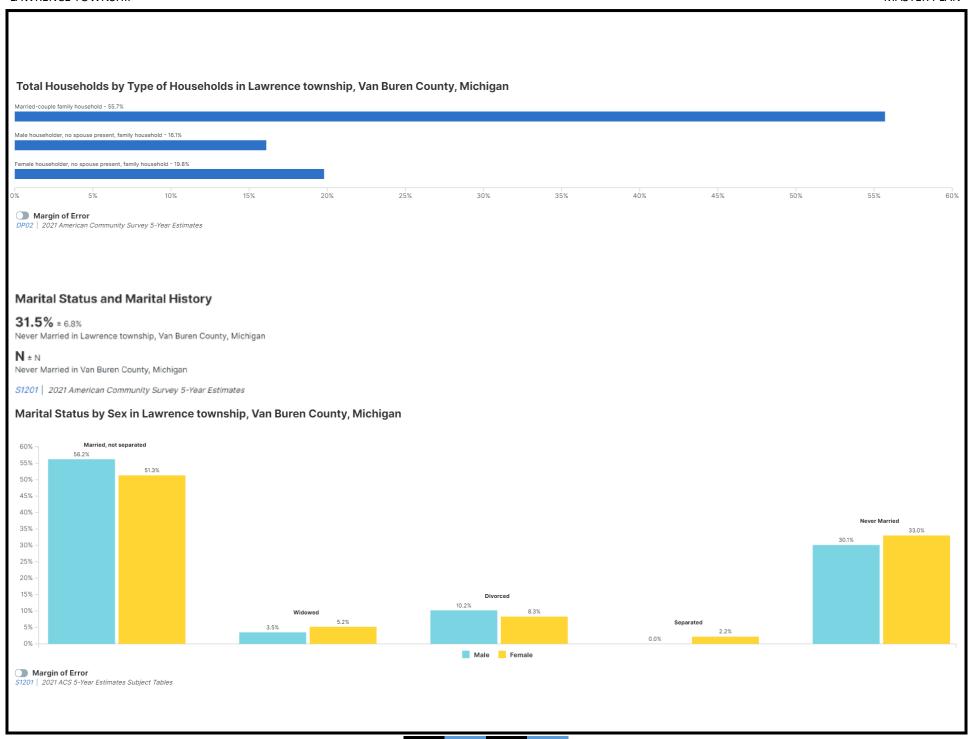
 3.03 ± 0.28

Average Family Size in Lawrence township, Van Buren County, Michigan

2./9 ± 0.15

Average Family Size in Van Buren County, Michigan

DP02 | 2021 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates



Race and Ethnicity

American Indian and Alaska Native

62

American Indian and Alaska Native alone in Lawrence township, Van Buren County, Michigan

819

American Indian and Alaska Native alone in Van Buren County, Michigan

P8 | 2020 Decennial Census

Asian

3

Asian alone in Lawrence township, Van Buren County, Michigan

386

Asian alone in Van Buren County, Michigan

P8 | 2020 Decennial Census

Black or African American

36

Black or African American alone in Lawrence township, Van Buren County, Michigan

2,428

Black or African American alone in Van Buren County, Michigan

P8 | 2020 Decennial Census

Hispanic or Latino

620

Hispanic or Latino (of any race) in Lawrence township, Van Buren County, Michigan

8,966

Hispanic or Latino (of any race) in Van Buren County, Michigan

P9 | 2020 Decennial Census

Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander

1

Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander alone in Lawrence township, Van Buren County, Michigan

40

Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander alone in Van Buren County, Michigan

P8 | 2020 Decennial Census

Not Hispanic or Latino

2.405

White alone, not Hispanic or Latino in Lawrence township, Van Buren County, Michigan

59,400

White alone, not Hispanic or Latino in Van Buren County, Michigan

P9 | 2020 Decennial Census

Some Other Race

238

Some Other Race alone in Lawrence township, Van Buren County, Michigan

4,397

Some Other Race alone in Van Buren County, Michigan

P8 | 2020 Decennial Census

Two or More Races

432

Two or More Races in Lawrence township, Van Buren County, Michigan

6.172

Two or More Races in Van Buren County, Michigan

P8 | 2020 Decennial Census

White

2.517

White alone in Lawrence township, Van Buren County, Michigan

61,345

White alone in Van Buren County, Michigan

P8 | 2020 Decennial Census

Lawrence Village, Van Buren County, Michigan—Census Data

Populations and People

Total Population

964

P1 | 2020 Decennial Census

Income and Poverty

Median Household Income

\$39,844

S1901 | 2021 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates

Education

Bachelor's Degree or Higher

17.0%

S1501 | 2021 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates

Employment

Employment Rate

55.1%

DP03 | 2021 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates

Housing

Total Housing Units

428

H1 | 2020 Decennial Census

Healtr

Without Health Care Coverage

6.9%

S2701 | 2021 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates

Families and Living Arrangements

Total Households

339

DP02 | 2021 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates

Race and Ethnicity

Hispanic or Latino (of any race)

221

P9 | 2020 Decennial Census



Populations and People

Age and Sex

 33.0 ± 7.7

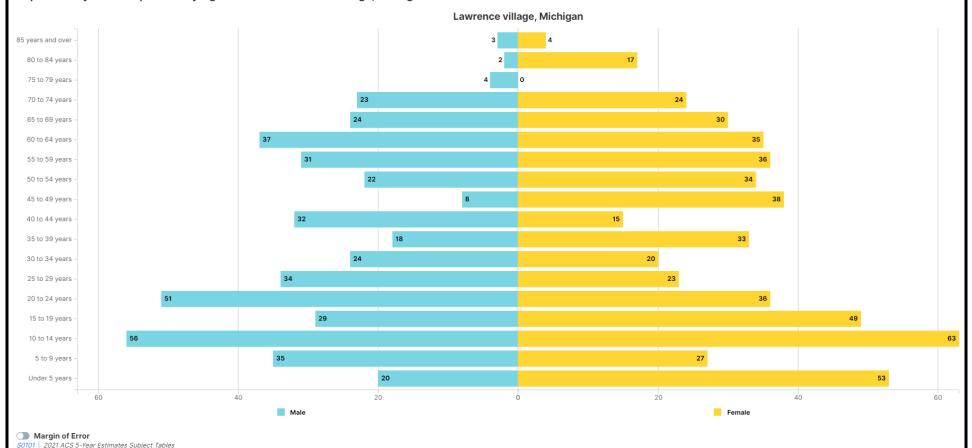
Median Age in Lawrence village, Michigan

40.3 ± 0.1

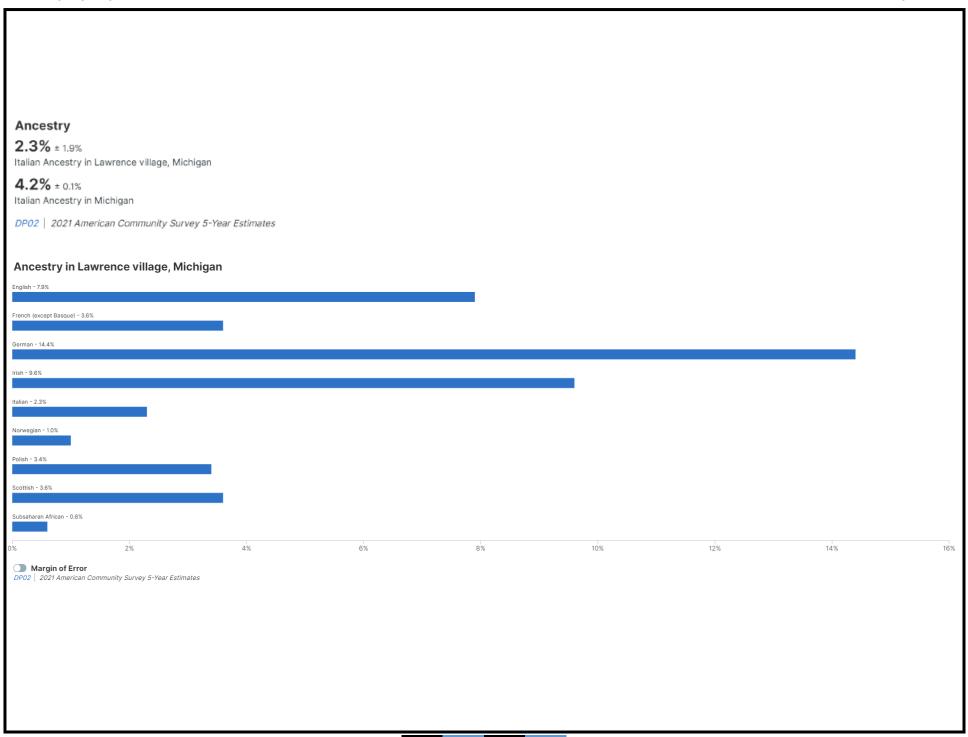
Median Age in Michigan

S0101 | 2021 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates

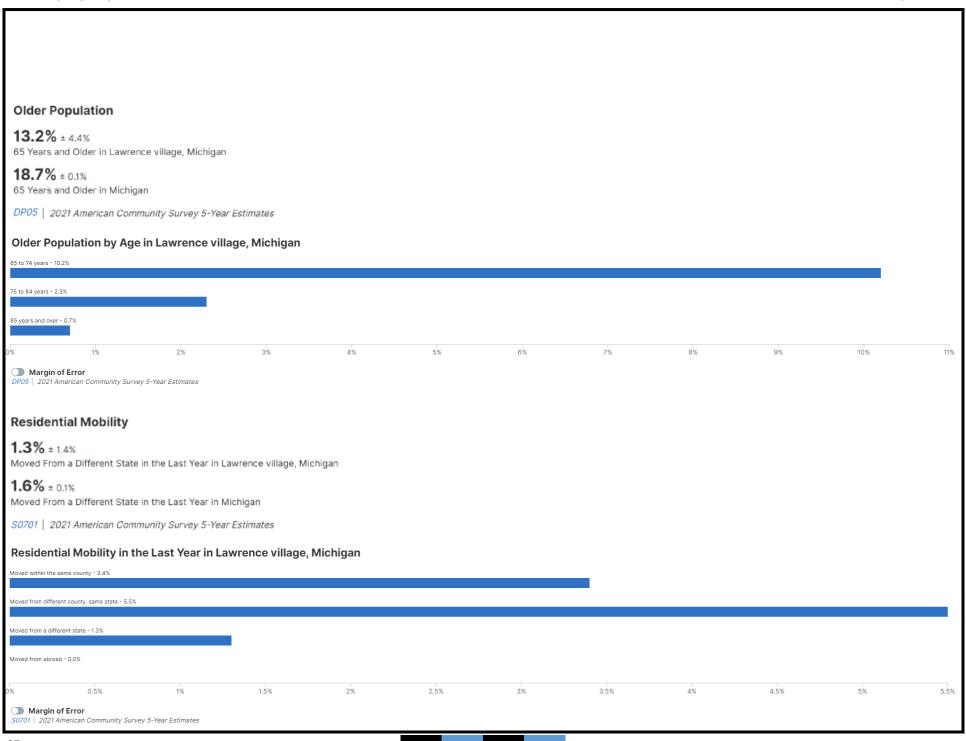
Population Pyramid: Population by Age and Sex in Lawrence village, Michigan

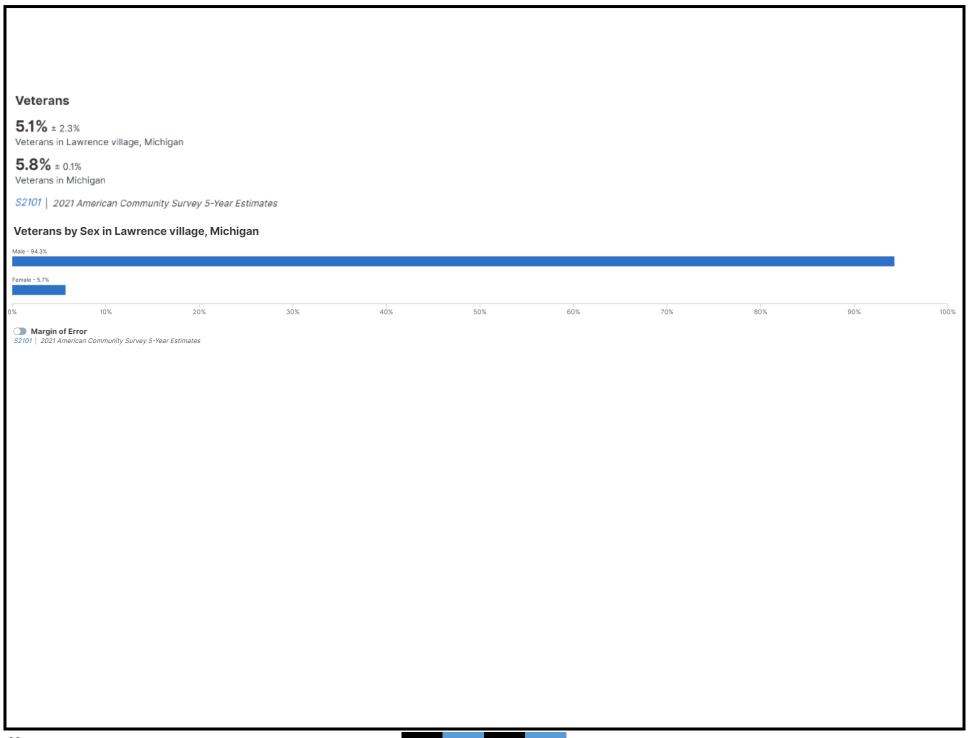












Income and Poverty Income and Earnings \$39,844 ± \$33,931 Median Household Income in Lawrence village, Michigan \$66,986 ± \$675 Median Household Income in Michigan S1901 | 2021 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates Median Income by Types of Families in Lawrence village, Michigan Married-couple families - \$80,893 Nonfamily households - \$18,750 Margin of Error S1901 | 2021 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates **Poverty** 25.2% ± 9.7% Poverty, All people in Lawrence village, Michigan 13.4% ± 0.3% Poverty, All people in Michigan S1701 | 2021 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates Poverty by Age in Lawrence village, Michigan 18 to 64 years - 26.2% 65 years and over - 29.8% 30% Margin of Error \$1701 | 2021 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates

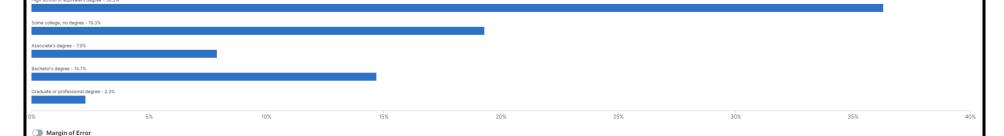
Education

Educational Attainment

 $17.0\% \pm 5.4\%$ Bachelor's Degree or Higher in Lawrence village, Michigan $32.1\% \pm 0.3\%$ Bachelor's Degree or Higher in Michigan

S1501 | 2021 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates

Education Attainment (Population 25 Years and Older) in Lawrence village, Michigan



School Enrollment

S1501 | 2021 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates

84.9% ± 9.0%

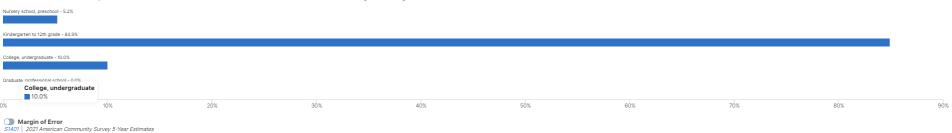
School Enrolled Population Enrolled in Kindergarten to 12th Grade in Lawrence village, Michigan

67.7% ± 0.4%

School Enrolled Population Enrolled in Kindergarten to 12th Grade in Michigan

\$1401 | 2021 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates

School Enrollment (Population 3 Years and Over Enrolled in School) in Lawrence village, Michigan



Employment

Class of Worker

Employee of private company workers - 63.5%

18.8% ± 6.8%

Local, state, and federal government workers in Lawrence village, Michigan

11.4% ± 0.2%

Local, state, and federal government workers in Michigan

\$2406 | 2021 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates

Class of Worker in Lawrence village, Michigan

Self-employed in own incorporated business workers - 5.1%

Private not-for-profit wage and salary workers - 9.4%

Local, state, and federal government workers - 18.8%

Self-employed in own not incorporated business workers and unpaid family workers - 3.3%

0% 5% 10% 15%

Margin of Error \$2406 | 2021 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates

Commuting

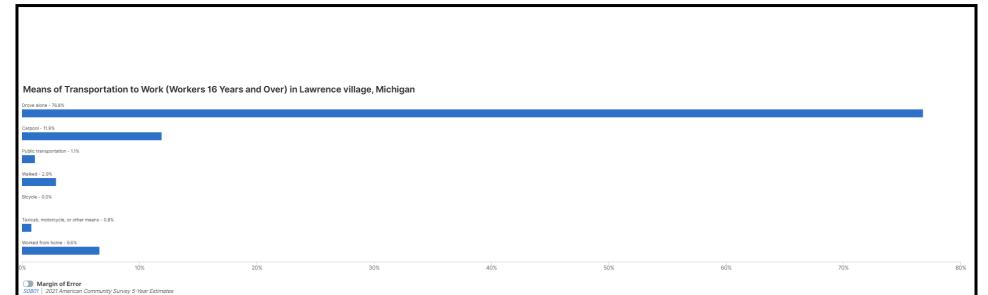
23.0 ± 3.5

Average travel time to work (in minutes) in Lawrence village, Michigan

 24.2 ± 0.3

Average travel time to work (in minutes) in Michigan

S0801 | 2021 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates



Employment and Labor Force Status

55.1% ± 8.4%

Employment Rate in Lawrence village, Michigan

58.7% ± 0.3%

Employment Rate in Michigan

DP03 | 2021 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates

Industry

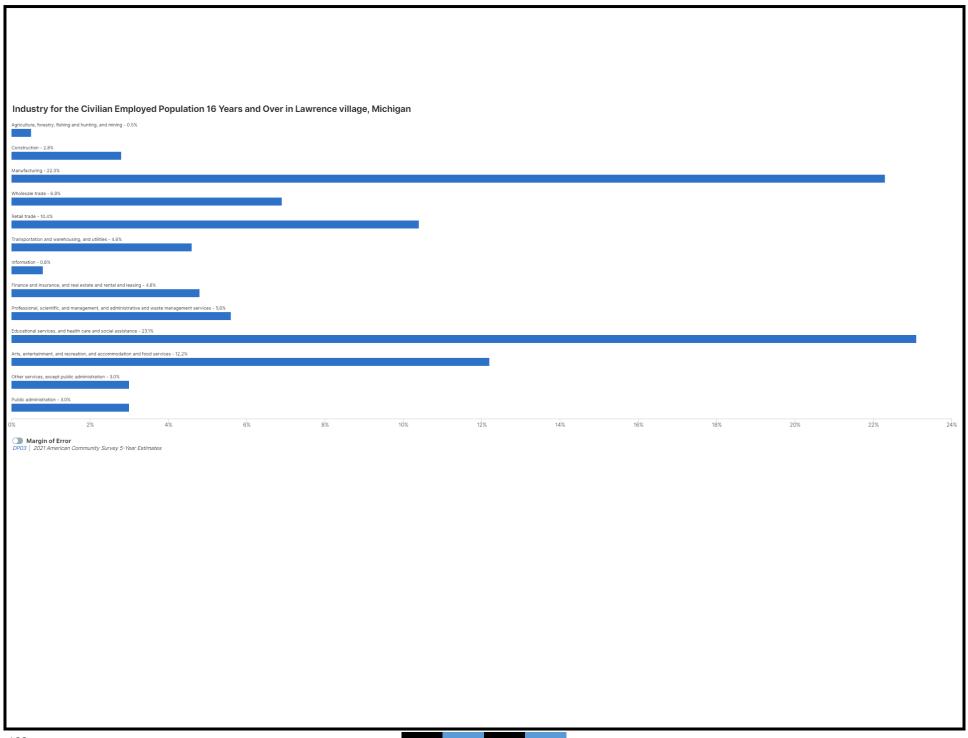
0.5% ± 0.9%

Agriculture, forestry, fishing and hunting, and mining in Lawrence village, Michigan

1.1% ± 0.1%

Agriculture, forestry, fishing and hunting, and mining in Michigan

DP03 | 2021 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates





Housing

Financial Characteristics

\$519 ± \$212

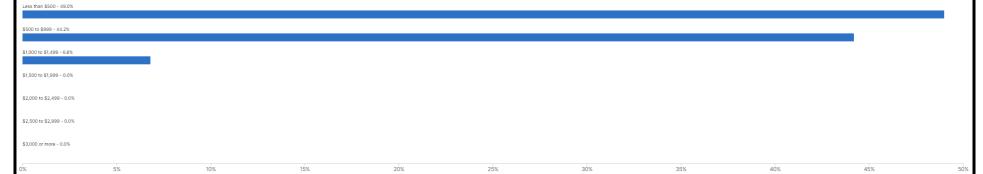
Median Gross Rent in Lawrence village, Michigan

\$1,052 ± \$11

Median Gross Rent in Michigan

DP04 | 2021 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates

Occupied Units Paying Rent in Lawrence village, Michigan



Margin of Error
DP04 | 2021 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates

Homeownership Rate

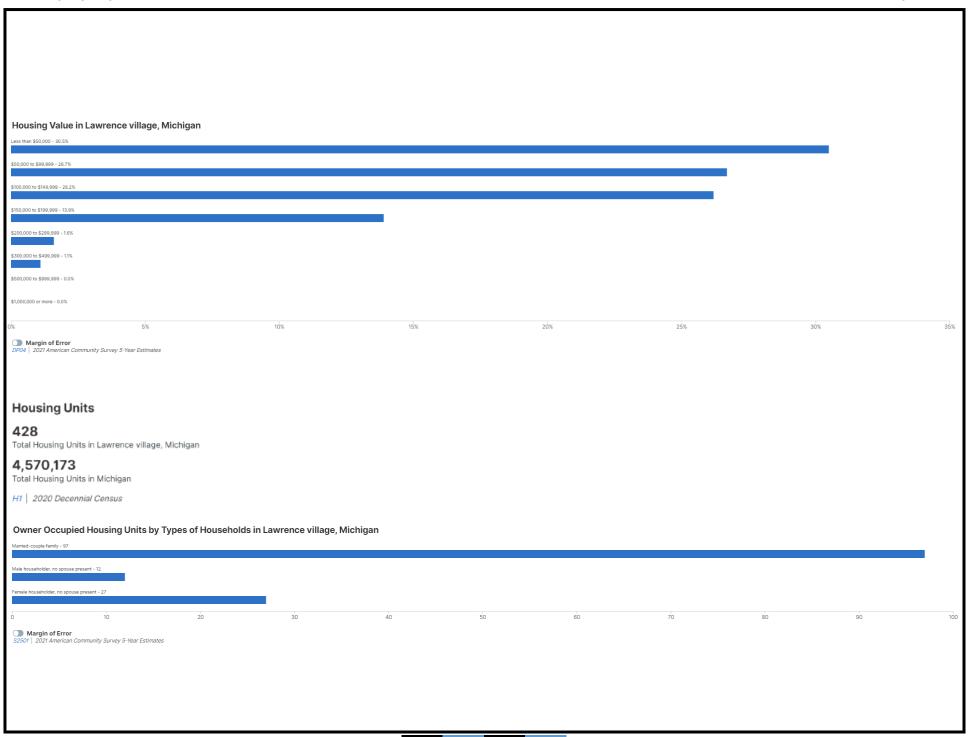
55.2% ± 8.0%

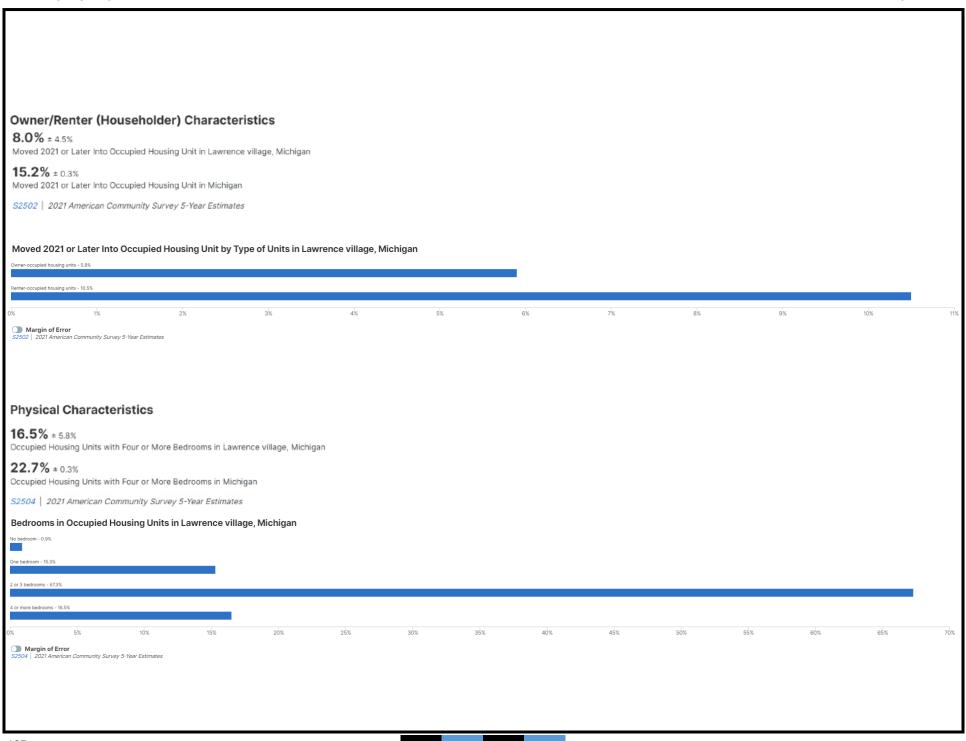
Homeownership Rate in Lawrence village, Michigan

73.2% ± 0.4%

Homeownership Rate in Michigan

DP04 | 2021 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates





8%

10%

12%

Health

Disability

17.3% ± 6.6%

Disabled Population in Lawrence village, Michigan

14.3% ± 0.2%

Disabled Population in Michigan

S1810 | 2021 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates

Types of Disabilities in Lawrence village, Michigan

Hearing difficulty - 3.0%

Vision difficulty - 2.3%

Cognitive difficulty - 8.4%

Ambulatory difficulty - 8.9%

Colf-core difficulty - C I

Independent living difficulty - 11.5%

7% 17%

Margin of Error

\$1810 \ 2021 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates

Fertility

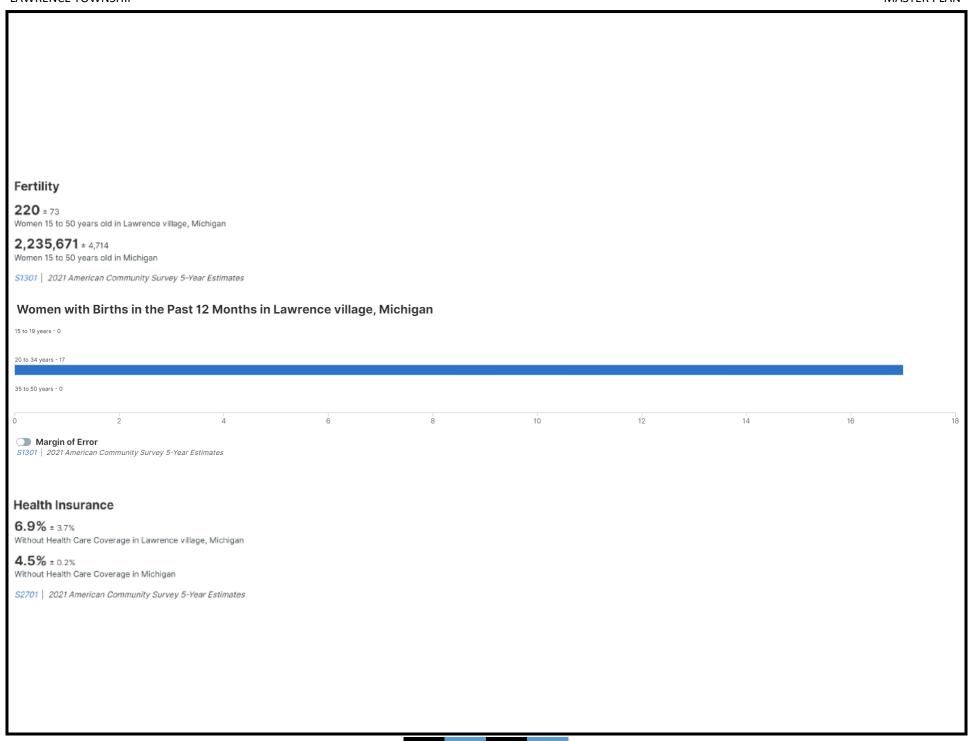
220 ± 73

Women 15 to 50 years old in Lawrence village, Michigan

2,235,671 ± 4,714

Women 15 to 50 years old in Michigan

\$1301 | 2021 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates



Families and Living Arrangements

Children

30.0% ± 7.4%

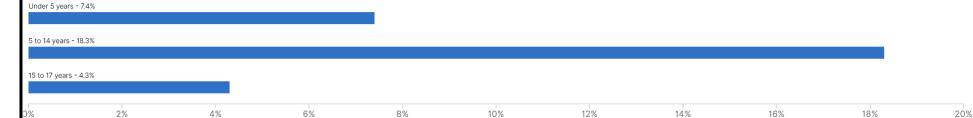
Under 18 years old in Lawrence village, Michigan

21.0% ± 0.1%

Under 18 years old in Michigan

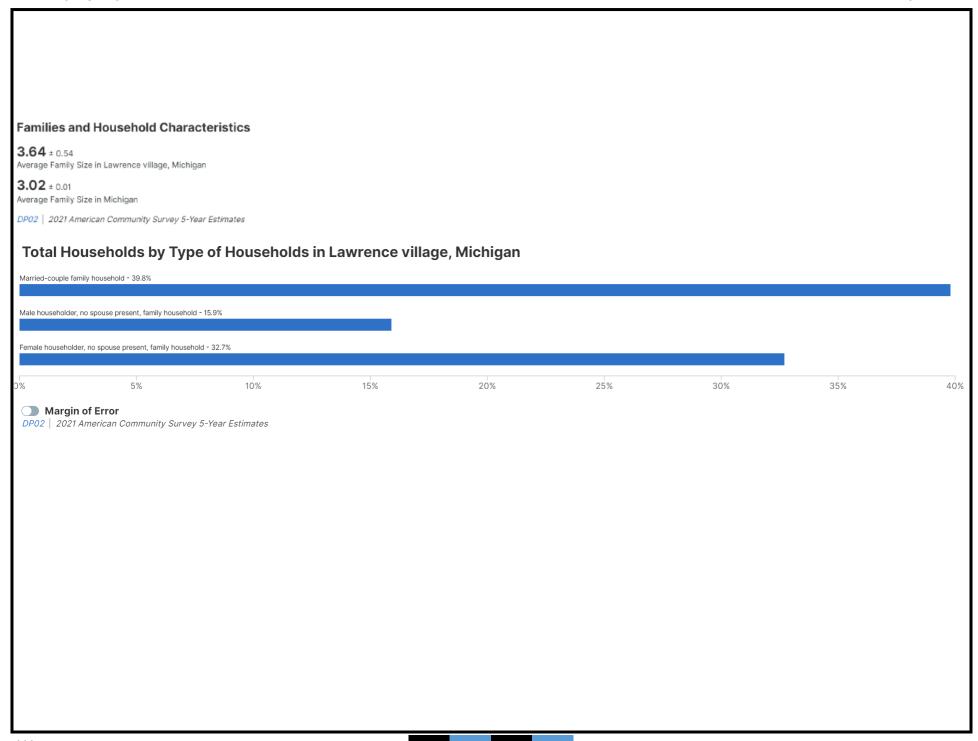
S0101 | 2021 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates

Children Under 18 by Age Range in Lawrence village, Michigan





S0101 | 2021 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates



Marital Status and Marital History

35.6% ± 8.3%

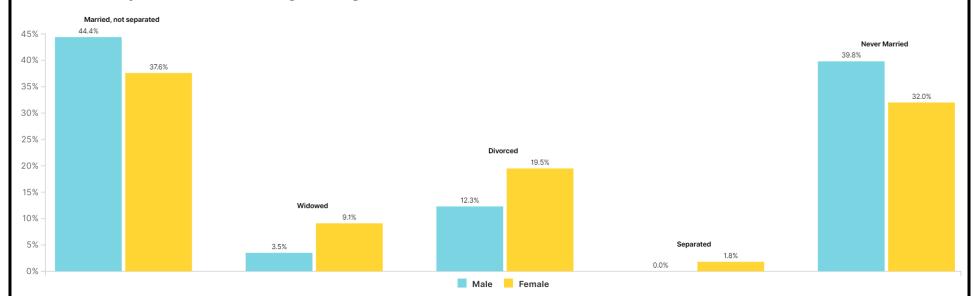
Never Married in Lawrence village, Michigan

34.4% ± 0.3%

Never Married in Michigan

S1201 | 2021 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates

Marital Status by Sex in Lawrence village, Michigan



Margin of Error

\$1201 | 2021 ACS 5-Year Estimates Subject Tables

Race and Ethnicity

American Indian and Alaska Native

11

American Indian and Alaska Native alone in Lawrence village, Michigan

61,261

American Indian and Alaska Native alone in Michigan

P8 | 2020 Decennial Census

Asian

1

Asian alone in Lawrence village, Michigan

334,300

Asian alone in Michigan

P8 | 2020 Decennial Census

Black or African American

6

Black or African American alone in Lawrence village, Michigan

1,376,579

Black or African American alone in Michigan

P8 | 2020 Decennial Census

Hispanic or Latino

221

Hispanic or Latino (of any race) in Lawrence village, Michigan

564,422

Hispanic or Latino (of any race) in Michigan

P9 | 2020 Decennial Census

Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander

0

Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander alone in Lawrence village, Michigan

3.051

Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander alone in Michigan

P8 | 2020 Decennial Census

Not Hispanic or Latino

681

White alone, not Hispanic or Latino in Lawrence village, Michigan

7,295,651

White alone, not Hispanic or Latino in Michigan

P9 | 2020 Decennial Census

Some Other Race

100

Some Other Race alone in Lawrence village, Michigan

221,851

Some Other Race alone in Michigan

P8 | 2020 Decennial Census

Two or More Races

127

Two or More Races in Lawrence village, Michigan

635,315

Two or More Races in Michigan

P8 | 2020 Decennial Census

White

719

White alone in Lawrence village, Michigan

7.444.974

White alone in Michigan

P8 | 2020 Decennial Census