

# Township Profile

## Introduction

The following is a snap shot of Bloomfield Township today. This serves as a starting point for understanding the Township and aptly determining goals and recommendations. Included are discussions of the following:

- Population Characteristics
- Housing Characteristics
- Existing Land Use
- Community Facilities
- Transportation

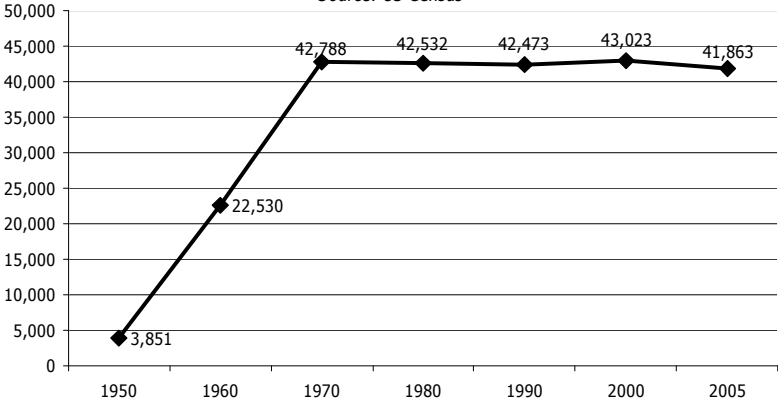
The profile is concluded with a summary of key findings that will provide a basis in understanding trends and influences on the Township’s growth and development pattern.

## Population Characteristics

Evaluation of population characteristics provides a more comprehensive understanding of the people that live in Bloomfield Township. In turn, this information contributes to determining future Township needs.

Characteristics that are important in this process include trends (Figure 1) and projections, ethnicity, age, education, employment, and income. The following discussion profiles and compares the population characteristics of Bloomfield and establishes key findings about its residents.

**Figure 1: Population Trend:  
Bloomfield Township 1950-2005**  
*Source: US Census*



### Population Trends and Projections

Like many Michigan suburbs, Bloomfield Township began as a small community but quickly experienced a population surge between the 1950's and the 1970's. Since that time, the Township has maintained a steady population base largely due to the lack of available land for development and the steady decline of household sizes.

The Township reached its peak population size in 2000 with 43,023 people. The most current population estimate is provided by the Southeast Michigan Council of Government (SEMCOG), which estimates that in 2005 the Township's population was 41,863 people.

In comparison to other communities, Bloomfield Township is most similar to Birmingham which also is reaching build-out and has experienced a decline

between 1990 and 2005 (see Figure 2). Rochester Hills, Troy, and West Bloomfield have all experienced significant growth in the past 15 years.

SEMCOG has prepared population projections to the year 2030. As illustrated in Figure 3, all of the

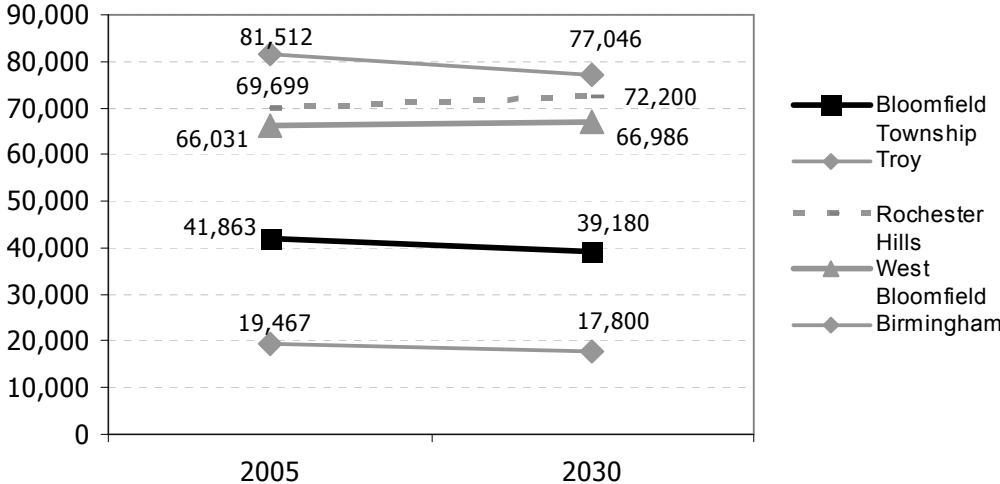
**Figure 2: Population Trends Comparison Communities**

Community	1990	2000	2005	90-05 % Change
Bloomfield Twp	42,473	43,023	41,863	-1%
Birmingham	19,997	19,291	19,467	-3%
Troy	72,884	80,959	81,512	12%
Rochester Hills	61,766	68,825	69,699	13%
West Bloomfield	54,516	64,860	66,031	21%

Source: US Census and SEMCOG

**Figure 3: Population Projections: 2005-2030**

Source: SEMCOG



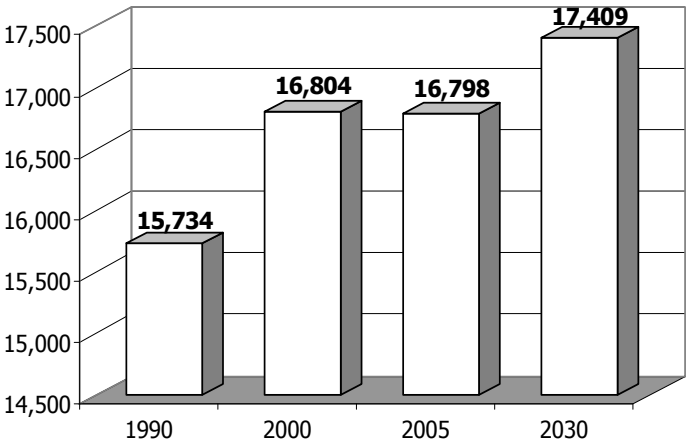
communities are expected to reach build-out and experience slight changes in population over the next 25 years.

### Household Trends and Projections

Consistent with the population growth trend, Bloomfield Township saw an increase in the number of households between 1990 and 2000 and a slight decline between 2000 and 2005. However, as shown in Figure 4, while the

**Figure 4: Household Trend and Projections: Bloomfield Township 1990-2030**

Source: US Census and SEMCOG

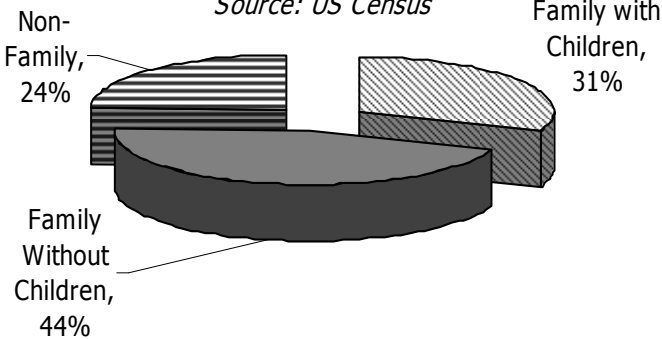


population is projected to decline in the next 25 years, the number of households is projected by SEMCOG to increase almost 4% by 2030.

The logic behind the increasing household numbers and the declining population numbers is the projected decline in average household size from 2.47 persons per household in 2005 to 2.21 in 2030. The decline in household size is a national trend that most communities are experiencing due to the evolution of family types and family sizes in the country.

**Figure 5: Household Type: Bloomfield Township 2000**

Source: US Census



Household types are almost evenly divided between non-family, families with children, and families without children. The largest segment, however, (44%) is 'Families without Children.' Based on the high median age of the population discussed in the next section, the reason for the high percentage of households without children is likely because the children are older and live on their own. SEMCOG estimates that by 2030, 72% of Township households will not have children living at home.

## Age and Ethnicity

The median age in Bloomfield Township is 45 years of age. This is much higher than the County median age of 36.7 years of age. As already noted, it can be assumed from this figure that many residents are empty-nesters that are approaching retirement or are already retired. The maturity of the population is linked to the high housing values and high income levels, detailed later in this

section, implying that the Township attracts residents that are in the later stages of their career and are more financially stable.

**Figure 6: Population By Age  
Bloomfield Township 2000-2030**

	2000	2030
0 to 4 years	5%	5%
5 to 17 years	19%	15%
18 to 34 years	11%	11%
35 to 64 years	47%	37%
65 and more years	18%	31%

Source: US Census and SEMCOG

As detailed in Figure 6, SEMCOG projects this trend to continue over the next 25 years. SEMCOG predicts the percentage of children 17 years and younger will slightly decrease and residents in their family forming years, 18 to 34 years, will remain the same in the Township. The significant change will be in the increase of residents 65 years and older from 18% of the population to 31% of the population.

**Figure 7: Population by Ethnicity  
Bloomfield Township 2000**

Race	2000
White	88%
Asian	6%
Black	4%
Other	1%
Multi-Racial	1%

Source: US Census

The majority (88%) of the Township population in 2000 categorized themselves as 'white' according to the US Census. The next highest category is 'Asian' with 6% of the population.

## Education, Income and Employment

According to 2000 US Census data, residents of Bloomfield Township are generally well-educated. In turn, they are able to obtain skilled, professional

**Figure 8: Educational Attainment**

	Oakland County 2000	Bloomfield Twp 2000
Didn't Graduate High School	11%	4%
High School	22%	10%
Some College, No Degree	22%	16%
Associate Degree	7%	5%
Bachelor's Degree	23%	33%
Graduate or Professional Degree	15%	33%

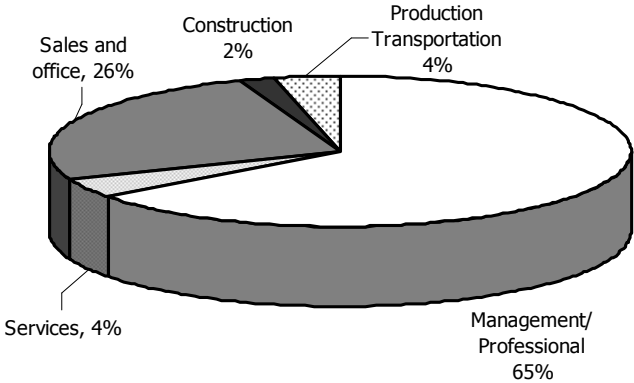
Source: US Census

occupations and high income levels. As described in more detail in the housing section, this successful population base has given them the ability to afford high value homes and report a low unemployment rate.

The majority of Township residents are college educated with 33% attaining a bachelor degree and 33% attaining higher level degrees. A very small segment did not graduate from high school. This is a much higher educational attainment level in comparison to Oakland County as a whole.

In 2000, the Township had an unemployment rate of 3.4% based on population 16 years and older that are in the civilian workforce. The County had an unemployment rate of 3.7%.

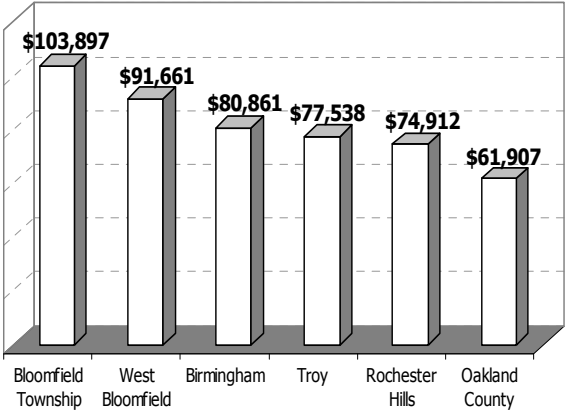
**Figure 9: Occupation: Bloomfield Township 2000**  
 Source: US Census



As noted, the majority (65%) of Township residents reported occupations in the Management and Professional category. The next largest occupation group, with 26% is Sales and Office occupations.

The median household income in Bloomfield Township is \$103,897. In comparison to other communities and the County, this median is much higher. Approximately 20% of the population reported income levels much lower than the County median.

**Figure 10: Median Household Income: 2000**  
 Source: US Census



**Figure 11: Household Income: Bloomfield Township 2000**

	Percent
Less than \$10,000	2.0%
\$10,000 to \$14,999	1.5%
\$15,000 to \$24,999	4.3%
\$25,000 to \$34,999	5.1%
\$35,000 to \$49,999	8.6%
\$50,000 to \$74,999	14.1%
\$75,000 to \$99,999	12.4%
\$100,000 to \$149,999	18.4%
\$150,000 to \$199,999	11.2%
\$200,000 or more	22.4%

Source: US Census

## Housing Characteristics

Bloomfield Township housing stock has been analyzed in order to establish more specific information about residential land uses and the neighborhoods in the Township. It is important that goals and objectives in this plan focus on effective strategies related to these elements. Housing characteristics include total housing units, housing unit growth and changes, housing unit type, owner occupancy and housing value.

### *Housing Trends*

As a generally built-out community, housing unit growth has been at a slow pace in the past 15 years. As evidenced by the age of housing (see Figure 12) and the population growth (see Figure 1), significant housing growth occurred in the

<b>Figure 12: Age of Housing: Bloomfield Township 2000</b>	
	<b>2000</b>
1999 to March 2000	0.8%
1995 to 1998	2.2%
1990 to 1994	5.0%
1980 to 1989	12.4%
1970 to 1979	18.0%
1960 to 1969	29.2%
1940 to 1959	29.4%
1939 to earlier	2.9%

Source: US Census

50's and 60's. The US Census reported 16,558 housing units in 1990, 17,459 housing units in 2000, and SEMCOG estimates there were 17,645 housing units in 2005, representing a 6.5% growth in the last 15 years.

The more common housing development activity in the Township is demolition of existing single family homes and construction of new homes in their place. According to building permit data collected by SEMCOG, there have been approximately 65-75 new homes constructed every year and 35-40 homes demolished every year for the past 10 years. Typically, the new homes are much larger and possess updated conveniences and luxuries not offered by the older

housing stock. New homes include elements such as three to four car garages, homes offices, guest suites; and larger bathrooms, kitchens, and living areas. The trend towards reconstruction is expected to continue.

### *Housing Unit Type and Tenure*

<b>Figure 13: Housing Unit by Type: Bloomfield Township 2000</b>	
	<b>Percent</b>
1-unit, detached	78.5%
1-unit, attached	9.0%
Duplex	0.1%
Multiple Family	12.1%
Other	0.2%

Source: US Census

As detailed in Figure 13, the majority (78.5%) of the housing stock is detached single family homes. Single family homes dominate the Township's landscape in the form of several different neighborhoods, or subdivisions. There are multiple family housing units, primarily located along Telegraph Road, with a small mix of other housing types. These other housing types include attached single family condominiums and duplex, or two-family, units.

Of these 17,459 homes, 4% were reported vacant by the US Census with 87% owner-occupied. Largely due to the collection of multiple family housing, there is a small percent (9%) of the housing units that are renter occupied.

**Housing Value**

As indicated under the income and education discussion, housing values in Bloomfield Township are very high. In comparison to other communities and Oakland County in 2000, Bloomfield Township had the highest median housing value of \$356,800 (Figure 14).

**Figure 14: Median Housing Value: 2000**  
 Source: US Census

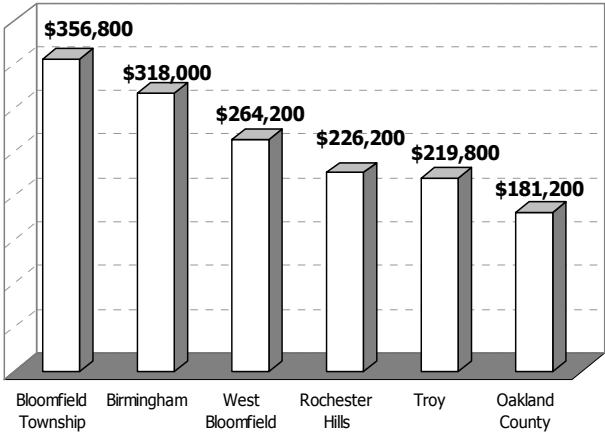


Figure 15 provides a breakdown of housing values by price range. The price range with the most homes was \$300,000 to \$499,999 with 32%. Township homes with values exceeding \$500,000 account for 29% of the housing stock in the community.

**Figure 15: Housing Values: Bloomfield Township 2000**

	Percent
Less than \$50,000	0%
\$50,000 to \$99,999	1%
\$100,000 to \$149,999	2%
\$150,000 to \$199,999	7%
\$200,000 to \$299,999	28%
\$300,000 to \$499,999	32%
\$500,000 to \$999,999	23%
\$1,000,000 or more	6%

Source: US Census

## Existing Land Use

*Land use* is a term that describes how a particular piece of property is being used. Planning for future use is important to understand because it significantly shapes a community’s character and quality. In order to create this vision for the future, it is important to know what exists today because that becomes the framework for the future. This section evaluates the existing land use patterns of the Township and an understanding of regional influences.

In February 2006, the consultant team conducted an inventory of existing uses. This inventory included a review of the Township’s geographic information system mapping and database, aerial photography and a windshield survey of the Township. This inventory is a ‘snap shot’ of the Township’s existing land use pattern and will be used to evaluate key issues and strategies related to future land use and development character. Subsequent changes to land use and new

development that occurs during the master plan update process will be taken into consideration, but may not be reflected on the existing land use map.

Each land use category is described in this section. Refer to the Existing Land Use Map for the location of the various land uses. Figure 16 provides an acreage breakdown of each category.

**Figure 16:  
Existing Land Use Acreage Breakdown**

Existing Land Use Category	Acres	Percent of Total
Single Family Residential	9,393	67.3%
Attached Single Family Residential	341	2.4%
Multiple Family Residential	250	1.8%
Commercial	272	2.0%
Office	138	1.0%
Light Industrial	63	0.5%
Institutional	713	5.1%
Recreation	737	5.3%
Water Feature	1,181	8.5%
Vacant	819	5.9%
<b>Total</b>	<b>13,953</b>	<b>100%</b>

Source: Existing Land Use Map, LSL October 2006

- **Single Family Residential.** Single Family residential is the dominant land use in the community and includes all detached single family homes on individual lots. Bloomfield Township neighborhoods offer a

variety of housing styles, lot sizes, and landscapes. For example, some neighborhoods near Maple Road’s intersection with Covington/Cranbrook Road possess more urban neighborhood design elements including smaller lot sizes, homes prominently positioned at the street front, recessed and detached garages, historic architectural design, tree-lined streets, and sidewalks. Other neighborhoods are situated around the pristine water features in the community with many lakefront properties. While many neighborhoods incorporate many winding roads, cul-de-sacs, large lots, and homes set back among mature woodlands and varying topography.

The popularity of these different neighborhood settings continue to increase and has allowed property values to rise on a regular basis. It is also evident by the reinvestment in these neighborhoods in the form of home renovations and expansions, development of vacant lots, and tearing-down older homes with new homes constructed in their place. These activities are common in



more built-out communities and are important to protect the character of the established neighborhood.

- **Attached Single Family Residential.** This category includes attached single family residential housing units that share only a wall. These have been developed as a result of clustering under single family zoning and provide private open space areas. It is important to offer a separate designation for this use because there are different land use implications in terms of views and traffic. They also contribute to the diversity of housing options for residents and are a popular option for residents seeking high quality housing without the maintenance and commitment of a traditional single family residential lot. This is specifically desirable for empty-nesters, and based on the age projections, there will be a large percentage of this population segment in the Township. Offering this housing option will be of importance so they can modify their housing needs without moving out of the community.
- **Multiple Family Residential.** This category includes residential structures with two or more dwelling units. The multiple family uses within the Township have generally concentrated along Telegraph Road and Woodward Avenue, near commercial centers. This housing category provides a range of rental apartments and condominiums for residents. This diversity in the housing stock will continue to be important to adjust to the changing housing needs of existing residents so they can continue to live in the community. It is also important these properties continue to promote a high quality of life and be located conveniently near business and employment activity nodes.
- **Commercial.** Commercial includes services, retail, and restaurant establishments. These are generally located along Telegraph Road and Woodward Avenue and at major intersections. The majority of the commercial nodes in the Township provide needed goods and services for residents in nearby neighborhoods and for those traveling along main transportation corridors. There is an extensive variety of commercial uses that meet the needs of the residents. The key issues with these areas are improving traffic management and ensuring building and site design reflect the high quality character of the community.
- **Office.** Office uses include medical and dental clinics and professional offices such as law firms and realtors. They range from small scale businesses to major corporate offices and support a modest employment base for the community. Similar to commercial, office uses are located in nodes on Telegraph Road and Woodward Avenue. Office has generally developed as transitional uses to buffer residential neighborhoods from commercial uses and the busy transportation corridors.
- **Light Industrial.** There is a small area of light industrial development along Franklin Road north of Square Lake Road. Although some office space exists in the area, most operations provide light assembly, processing, and

storage. These uses have less noise, air, and vibration impacts than heavier manufacturing but often have heavy truck traffic for shipping and receiving of products. As a small segment of the land use pattern in the Township, it has limited influence on the overall community. There are several adjoining vacant lots that are zoned for research and technology uses therefore future changes, expansions, and new light industrial development will require close monitoring.

- **Institutional.** Institutional uses include schools, churches, and community facilities such as Township offices, fire stations, the police station, and library. These are located throughout the community, closely tied to the neighborhoods and conveniently located for residents. These uses positively contribute to the quality of life for residents and businesses, foster interaction between neighbors, and are important for the future stability of the community.
- **Recreation.** These sites include opportunities for recreation and social activities that are offered by private entities such as country clubs and golf clubs. Similar to Institutional uses, these sites contribute to a healthy, quality lifestyle. However, because they are not under the control of the Township, there is no guarantee they will remain as recreation uses in the future. Currently there are no park and recreation facilities owned by the Township.
- **Water Feature.** This includes all the lakes, streams, and other water features within the Township. These features are nestled into the neighborhoods and are an enormous asset, contributing to the quality and character of these areas.
- **Vacant.** These are sites that have no structures and are not used for any of the above activities. Close analysis of vacant sites is necessary in order to understand the impacts of new development and to shape the future of these parcels.

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## Community Facilities

### *Township Services*

As a Charter Township, Bloomfield Township is governed by a seven member Board of Trustees. The board consists of three elected full time administrators, the Supervisor, Clerk and Treasurer, and four part time trustees. The Township administrators operate and provide the following services to residents and businesses. The location of these facilities is noted on the Community Facilities Map.

- **Clerks Department:** The Clerks Department is responsible for voter registration and elections in the Township. In addition, the Clerks Department is the official keeper of all Township records, including Zoning Ordinances and General Ordinances. Minutes and agendas for the Board of Trustees are prepared by the Clerk's office. The Clerk serves as the Freedom of Information Coordinator and as member and chairperson on the Township Election Commission.
- **Treasurers Department:** The Treasurer's Department is responsible for the collection of real property and personal property taxes and for disbursing Township money. Additionally, the Treasurer manages Township funds temporarily available for investment and formulates Township monetary policies and budgets.
- **Assessing Department:** The Assessor's Office estimates the true cash value, assessed value and taxable value of every parcel of real and personal property within Bloomfield Township. It prepares assessment rolls and evaluates all new construction and improvements to real property.
- **Information Technology (IT) Department:** The IT Department is responsible for all computer and other technology based support needs. They are also responsible for preparing computer mapping and other graphic reports.
- **Community Relations Department:** The Community Relations Department assists on all matters pertaining to communications with the public including press releases and newsletters.
- **Police Department:** The Police Department boasts 70 sworn police officers and 19 civilian personnel and is organized into three 8-hour shifts in order to provide full coverage for the people of Bloomfield Township. The Department includes a Canine Unit, Animal Control Shelter, and oversees the Bloomfield Village Police Department. The police officers respond to emergency calls, accidents, and all other police-related matters within the Township. The police station is located at Township Hall.

- **Fire Department:** Organized in 1930, the Township Fire Department is a full service department composed of 68 uniformed career firefighters and officers as well as two civilian secretaries. The Department participates in public education in fires safety and hazard recognition, fire suppression, professional emergency medical treatment, planning and emergency management, and hazardous materials control and mitigation. There are five fire stations in the Township to ensure adequate response times.
- **Public Works Department:** The Public Works Department handles all matters pertaining to roads, water, and sewers. The Department is divided into two divisions: Road Division and Water Sewer Division.

The Road Division is a well-equipped department providing services with a fleet of vehicles and equipment and a staff of 17 full-time employees plus six part-time seasonal employees. With these resources, the Division maintains 176 miles of Oakland County subdivision roads and 37 miles of unpaved gravel roads within the Township. By a contractual agreement with the Township, the Road Commission for Oakland County (RCOC) retains responsibility for 50 miles of primary roads and state trunk lines within Bloomfield Township.

The Township is provided public sewer and water from the City of Detroit. Those not connected to the system have private on-site and well and septic systems. The Water and Sewer Maintenance Division is responsible for distributing the public water and providing a means to collect public sanitary sewage disposal for transportation to the City of Detroit's wastewater treatment plant. Water meter reading and billing for water and sewer use, fire hydrant maintenance, shut offs, and sewer and water main repair are also part of the operations of Public Works.

- **Planning and Building Department:** The Planning and Building Department consists of three divisions: Planning, Building, and Code Enforcement. The Building Department's primary duties include the review of construction plans and documents, the issuance of building, electrical, mechanical and plumbing permits and the inspection of new and renovated structures for compliance with applicable codes and standards.

The Code and Ordinance Division ensures Township zoning ordinances and other development codes are observed. Working in conjunction with the Planning and Building Department activities, the Code and Ordinance Enforcement staff responds to citizen complaints, conducts inspections and contacts residents and business owners in an effort to obtain compliance.

The Planning Department ensures that the long-range land use planning for the Township follows the defined goals of the community through review of all development activity. It provides professional administrative staff to the Planning Commission, Zoning Board of Appeals and Design Review Board.

Key administrative duties include preparation of agendas, coordination of reviews and public notification.

- **Engineering and Environmental Services Department:** The Engineering and Environmental Services Department provides engineering support for private development and managing Township capital improvement projects. The Environmental Services division is responsible for implementing and managing mandated water quality programs to protect the watershed and managing other projects of related to the environment such as emerald ash borer, hazardous wastes, riparian rights and impacts, and soil erosion control.

The Engineering division provides services relating to the new construction of public water mains, sewers, roadways and safety paths. In addition, it coordinates the engineering plan reviews and inspections of new developments and capital improvement projects in the Township.

- **Greater Bloomfield Senior Association:** Supportive services are available to older citizens of the Township with the fundamental goal of helping elderly residents remain in their homes, because an ill or disabled person's quality of life and quality of care are generally much better in their own home. GBSA offers home delivered meals, liquid nutritional supplements, home chore and safety, telephone reassurance, information and referrals, support groups, medical transportation, health and wellness information and screening, as well as many volunteer opportunities.
- **Library:** The Bloomfield Township Public Library is located at the corner of Telegraph Road and Lone Pine Road and is a source of pride for the Township. The library provides a comprehensive collection of books and resources along with programming and services for all ages. The library is currently undergoing a large improvement project that includes building expansion on all sides, interior upgrades and remodeling, parking improvements, and landscape improvements.
- **Other Services:** The Township also benefits from Community Access programming on Comcast cable channel 15 for residents of Bloomfield Township and Bloomfield Hills. Under a contractual agreement, it provides Municipal Access programming on channel 15 for Birmingham, Beverly Hills, Bingham Farms and Franklin, and Public Access programming on channel 18 for those same four communities. Bloomfield Community Television produces approximately 500 programs a year. Many of the programs are in a series format and produced in the studio by local residents, while others document events taking place in and around the community.

Through the contracted services of Waste Management, residents have a full range of solid waste services, including regular trash collection, yard waste

collection, large item collection, medical sharps collection, curbside recycling, and hazardous waste disposal.

There are no public parks within the Township. Typical park and recreation opportunities are offered by the school districts at the numerous schools within the Township or private entities such as country clubs. Seniors are offered programming, events, and facilities through the Greater Bloomfield Senior Association.

## ***Schools***

There are four school districts in Bloomfield Township: Bloomfield Hills School District, Birmingham School District, Avondale School District, and Pontiac School District. Two of these districts, Avondale and Pontiac, have no facilities within the Township. The majority of the Township is within the Bloomfield Hills School District. A small segment of the northeast corner of the Township on the opposite side of I-75 is located within the Avondale School District and a small segment of the northwest corner along Telegraph Road is within the Pontiac School District. Portions of the Township bordering the City of Birmingham and West Bloomfield are within the Birmingham School District. In addition there are several private schools within the Township. The location of these schools and the school district boundaries are illustrated on the Community Facilities Map. These include:

### **Birmingham School District:**

- Covington Middle School
- Harlan Elementary School
- Meadowlake Elementary School
- West Maple Elementary School

### **Bloomfield Hills School District:**

- Andover High School
- Bloomfield Hills Middle School
- Booth Elementary School
- Bowers School Farm
- Conant Elementary School
- E.L. Johnson Nature Center
- East Hills Middle School
- Eastover Elementary School
- Fox Hills Center
- Hickory Grove Elementary School
- Lahser High School
- The International Academy
- George P. Way Elementary School
- Wing Lake Development Center

**Other Schools**

- Acadia Montessori
- Bloomfield Hills Montessori
- Brother Rice High School
- Detroit Country Day (Maple)
- Detroit Country Day (Village)
- Marian High School
- Sacred Heart School
- St Owens Christian Education Building
- St. Hugo of the Hills Catholic Elementary School
- St Regis Elementary School

**Transportation**

Bloomfield Township transportation routes affect the movement of people, shape the character of the Township, and influence development trends. It is important to consider transportation when planning for the future to ensure these systems can support the goals, such as land use development. Transportation as it applies to Bloomfield Township includes not only the road system, but also safety paths and transit. All modes of transportation are addressed in this section.

***Public Streets***

**National Functional Classification:** National Functional Classification (NFC) is a planning tool which federal, state and local transportation agencies have used since the late 1960's. The Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) developed this system of classifying all streets, roads and highways according to their function. The FHWA publication, **Highway Functional Classification: Concepts, Criteria and Procedures**, provides the basis for much of the following information.

- **Interstate:** Includes freeway and expressway routes that are intended to move traffic to regional, statewide, and out-of-state destinations. A segment of I-75 and the interchange with Square Lake Road is the only route in the Township designated as Interstate.
- **Principal Arterials:** Principal Arterials generally carry long distance, through-travel movements. They also provide access to important traffic generators, such as major airports or regional shopping centers. Telegraph Road, Woodward Avenue, Maple Road, Long Lake Road, and small segments of Square Lake Road and Quarton Road are Principal Arterials in the Township.
- **Minor Arterials:** Are similar in function to Principal Arterials, except they carry trips of shorter distance and to lesser traffic generators. There are many road segments in the Township that are classified as Minor Arterials

including Adams Road, Lahser Road, Franklin Road, Fourteen Mile Road, Quarton Road, Square Lake Road, and a portion of Cranbrook Road, Opdyke Road, Inkster Road and Wattles Road.

- **Collectors:** Collectors tend to provide more access to property than do arterials. Collectors also funnel traffic from residential areas to arterials. There is a collection of road segments in the Township that are classified as Collectors including portions of Squirrel Road, Kensington Road, Hickory Grove Road, Lone Pine Road, Walnut Lake Road, and Inkster Road.
- **Local:** Local roads primarily provide access to property. These are all other roads identified on the map.

**Road Jurisdiction:** As a Township, the majority of roads in Bloomfield Township are under the jurisdiction of the Road Commission for Oakland County. Telegraph Road (US-24) and Woodward (US-10) are under the jurisdiction of the State. As noted in the community facilities section the Township maintains a significant amount of these roads through a contractual agreement with the County. The County maintains the remaining road segments. The lack of jurisdiction over the roadways can create challenges because when significant improvement projects, such as widening and intersection improvements, are needed the Township must rely upon the County and State.

**Natural Beauty Road:** There are two roads that have segments designated as a Natural Beauty Road. These are Wing Lake Road between Maple Road and Quarton Road and Echo Road between Long Lake Road and Lone Pine Road.

The Natural Beauty Road designation is a component of the Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Act, 1994 PA 451, as amended, and is intended to identify and preserve exceptional, natural conditions within county and local road rights-of-way. In order to maintain this designation, these segments of Wing Lake Road and Echo Road must maintain a low speed limit, must meet specific maintenance requirements, and cannot be altered or improved in a manner that would disturb the natural beauty characteristics. Development along these roads must also respect the natural beauty characteristics.

**Traffic Counts:** Traffic counts are also labeled on the Transportation Conditions Map. These are two-way counts taken at a typical time during the year.

### ***Safety Paths***

Safety Paths refers to sidewalks and pathways that are to be used exclusively for walking, biking, rollerblading, and other modes of non-motorized travel. Providing a separate system for non-motorized travel is important to improve



accessibility throughout the community, to promote a healthy lifestyle for its residents, and to help relieve congestion on the roads.

Currently, the Township provides a linked system of safety paths along segments of most major roads including Long Lake Road, Quarton Road, Franklin Road, Maple Road, Lone Pine Road, Adams Road, Square Lake Road, Woodward Avenue, Inkster Road, and Lahser Road. There is also a connected sidewalk system within the neighborhoods near Cranbrook and Maple Road. There are still remaining gaps in the system that the Township plans to gradually connect.

### ***Transit***

Transit (bus) service in Bloomfield Township and Metro Detroit is provided by the Suburban Mobility Authority for Regional Transportation (SMART) Program. This program allows local communities or groups to become partners with SMART and to share operating responsibility based on a community's specific needs. Within the Township there are three regular fixed line haul routes, which operate on a regular schedule. These routes are along Maple Road, Telegraph Road, and Woodward Avenue.

SMART paratransit services are also available in the Township. Also, medical transportation services are available, based on eligibility, to residents of the Township.

It is important to consider transit as a valuable asset to the transportation system because it offers an alternative to the private automobile, thereby reducing congestion on the roads and offering an affordable form of transportation. Transit routes should continue to coincide with existing and planned key destination points in the Township including shopping nodes and community facilities along these routes.