Planning & Public Input Process

This plan traces its origin back to 1986 when local residents in Addison and Oxford Townships and Lapeer County recognized the usefulness of the railroad bed as a recreational opportunity. They also saw the potential of preserving the historical significance and continued use as a transportation corridor, which dates back to 1883. In the early 1990s, the Addison Township Friends of the Polly Ann Trail (ATFPAT) was formed as a nonprofit organization to promote the idea of the trail and gain community support. Promotional events, meetings, and newsletter mailings helped to spread the word about the potential of the trail to the surrounding area residents and businesses.

The local Oakland County Commissioner met with ATFPAT and joined the effort in the early 1990s. From Orion Township, he organized the effort to promote the trail and met with the involved community leaders to explain the plans for the project. He presented the project at municipal meetings to win support together with local residents in 1996 and 1997. Eventually in late 1997, the PATMC was formally organized and began to meet monthly to work on the trail project in compliance with the Open Meetings Act of 1968 PA 261.

The PATMC, with the assistance of Oakland County Planning & Economic Development Services, has drafted a detailed recreation master plan that is an update to the 2004-2009 Master Plan. The updated plan includes input from community officials, local residents, and frequent trail users in order to identify future improvements to the linear park. There were several methods of gaining public input before the Polly Ann Trail Recreation Master Plan was drafted.

- Public Input Meeting in the Village of Leonard held on April 26, 2012 at Rowland Hall
- Public Input Meeting in the Village of Oxford held on May 3, 2012 at Oxford Community Room
- Public Input Meeting in Orion Township held on May 10, 2012 at the Orion Township Offices
- A survey was created to gain input on the master plan and was distributed at each of the municipal offices, posted on the Polly Ann Trail website, and sent to the Friends of the Polly Ann Trail members. Detailed survey results can be found in the Appendix.

Polly Ann Trail

Oakland County, Michigan

▪ Leonard ▪ Addison Twp ▪ Oxford Twp ▪ Village of Oxford ▪ Orion Twp ▪

Please Join Us!
Polly Ann Trail
Master Plan
Public Input meeting

The Polly Ann Trail will be hosting a series of three public input meetings in Leonard, Village of Oxford, and Orion Township to collect public input needed to complete the Polly Ann Trail Recreation Master Plan.

There will be a short presentation on the past, present, and future of the Polly Ann Trail with comment stations set up to collect public input on the map, events, and suggestions for projects & trail improvements. Refreshments will be served. Polly Ann Trail Memberships and merchandise will be available for purchase. Adopt-a-Trail and Event Applications will also be available.

Please come out and support the Polly Ann Trail by providing your comments, questions, and suggestions. All are welcome to attend.

For additional information, please contact us at: 248.969.8660 or manager@pollyanntrailway.org

If you are unable to attend one of the meetings, please take a moment and fill out the online survey at:

www.SurveyMonkey.com/s/PollyAnnTrail

April 26, 2012

Rowland Hall
23 E Elmwood St
Leonard, MI 48367

7:00 p.m.-9:00 p.m.

May 3, 2012

Oxford Community Room
22 W Burdick St
Oxford, MI 48371

7:00 p.m.-9:00 p.m.

May 10, 2012

Orion Twp Offices
2525 Joslyn Rd
Lake Orion, MI 48360

7:00 p.m.-9:00 p.m.

Public Input Meetings

At each of the Public Input Meetings there were stations set up around the room that were designed to get feedback on the following topics:

- **Station #1: Welcome**
  - » Sign in sheets
  - » "Where do you live?" map with push pins
  - » Trail map and area to take notes while visiting each station

- **Station #2: Trail Map & Guide**
  - » Attendees were asked to provide feedback on ways to improve the trail map and users guide that is distributed in the communities and displayed on wayfinding signage along the trail.

- **Station #3: Events**
  - » There are a number of events on the trail that occur throughout the year. Attendees were asked if they participate in current events and ideas for future events/activities.

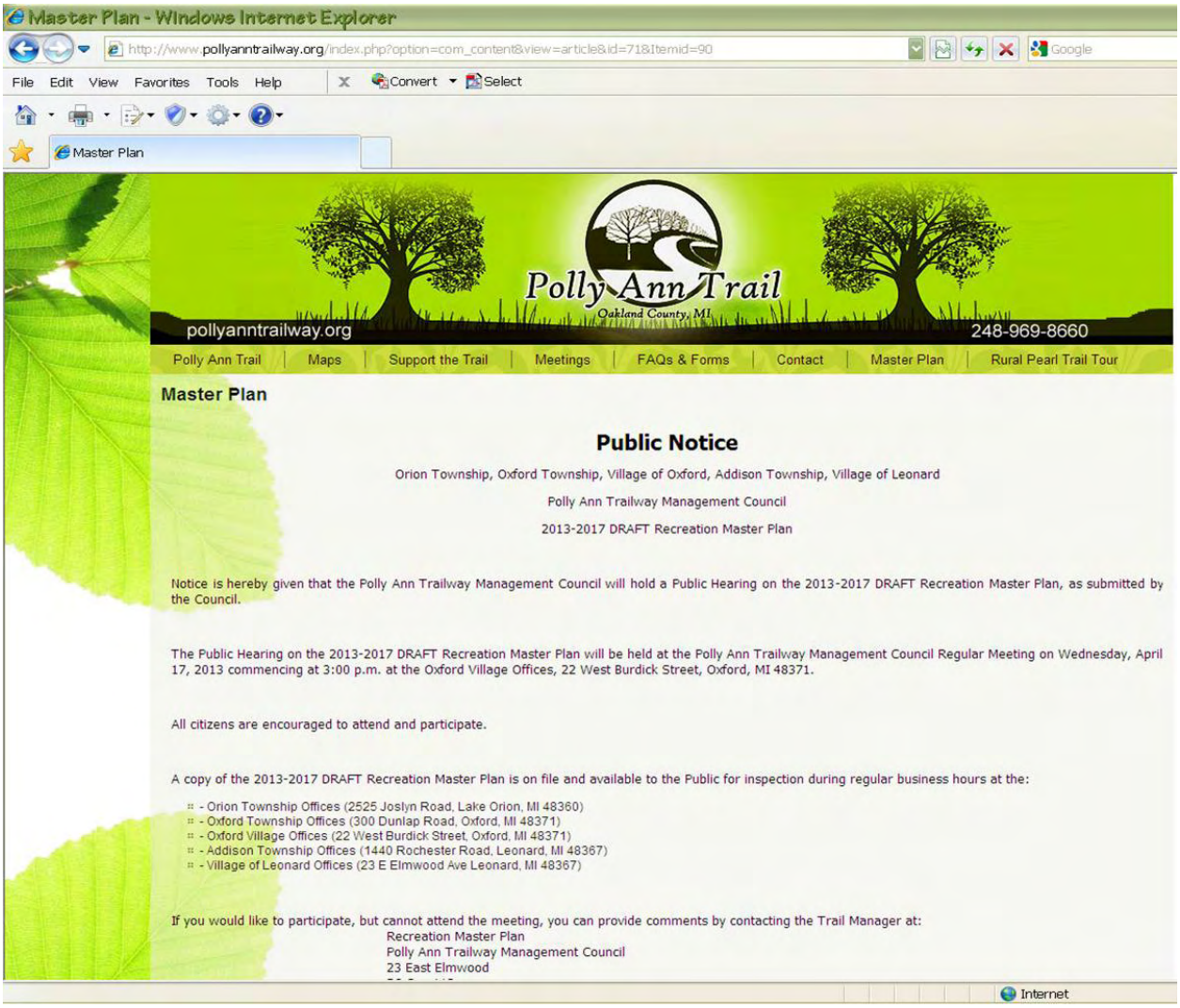
- **Station #4: Projects**
  - » In order to get feedback on necessary improvement projects on the trail, this station was set up with a number of graphics and descriptions of proposed trail enhancements.

- **Station #5: Volunteer Opportunities**
  - » The Polly Ann Trail relies on volunteers to assist with events, promotion, and trail clean up work days. This station provided a form for attendees to sign up for these activities and also highlighted the Adopt-a-Trail program.

- **Station #6: Trail Survey**
  - » Attendees were given a printed copy of the trail survey (see appendix) to fill out or a card with the website to fill out the survey online.

Public Hearing Notice

The Public Review Notice and a copy of the Draft Master Plan were posted at the five municipal offices, and on the home page of the Polly Ann Trail website for one month. The Public Hearing Notice was in the *Oxford Leader Newspaper* on April 10, 2013. A copy of each of the notices, Minutes from the Public Hearing, and the PATMC Master Plan Resolution can be on the following pages.



The Public Review Notice for the Draft Master Plan was posted for a month on the Polly Ann Trail website.

Polly Ann Trail

Oakland County, Michigan

▪ Leonard ▪ Addison Twp ▪ Oxford Twp ▪ Village of Oxford ▪ Orion Twp ▪

Trail Recreation Master Plan Public Input & Review

The Polly Ann Trail would like you to reivew the Draft *2013-2017 Polly Ann Trail Recreation Master Plan*. **The Public Hearing on the 2013-2017 DRAFT Recreation Master Plan will be held at the Polly Ann Trailway Management Council Regular Meeting on Wednesday, April 17, 2013 commencing at 3:00 p.m. at the Oxford Village Offices, 22 West Burdick Street, Oxford, MI 48371.**

All citizens are encouraged to attend and participate.

Available online at: www.PollyAnnTrailway.org

Please provide any comments to the Trail Manager at:
23 East Elmwood
PO Box 112
Leonard, MI 48367
Email: manager@pollyanntrailway.org
Phone: (248) 969-8660

Public Hearing

Oxford Village Offices
22 W Burdick St
Oxford, MI 48371

April 17, 2013 at 3:00 p.m.

The Public Review Notice and a copy of the Draft Master Plan were posted for a month at each of the five municipal offices.

Public Hearing Notice

PUBLIC NOTICE

Orion Township, Village of Oxford, Addison Township, Village of Leonard. Polly Ann Trailway Management Council 2013 -2017 Draft Recreation Master Plan Notice is hereby given that the Polly Ann Trailway Management Council will hold a Public Hearing on the 2013 -2017 Draft Recreation Master Plan, as submitted by the Council. The Public Hearing on the 2013- 2017 Draft Recreation Master Plan will be held at the Polly Ann Trailway Management Council Regular Meeting on Wednesday, April 17, 2013, commencing at 3:00 pm at the Oxford Village Offices, 22 West Burdick Street, Oxford, MI 48371. All citizens are encouraged to attend and participate. A copy of the 2013 -2017 Draft Recreation Master Plan is on file and available to the public for inspection during regular business hours at the Orion Township Offices (2525 Joslyn Rd, Lake Orion, MI 48360), Oxford Township Offices (300 Dunlap Road, Oxford, MI 48371), Oxford Village Offices (22 W Burdick St, Oxford, MI 48371), Addison Township Offices (1440 Rochester Rd, Leonard, MI 48367), Village of Leonard Offices (23 E Elmwood Ave, Leonard, MI 48367). If you would like to participate, but cannot attend the meeting, you can provide comments by contacting the Trail Manager at: Recreation Master Plan Polly Ann Trailway Management Council, 23 East Elmwood, PO Box 112, Leonard, MI 48367. Email: manager@pollyanntrailway. org. Phone 248-969-8660.

L191

The April 17, 2013 Public Hearing Notice was printed in the *Oxford Leader Newspaper* on April 10, 2013.

Resolution of Adoption

WHEREAS, the Polly Ann Trail Management Council is made up of representatives from Orion Township, Oxford Township, Village of Oxford, Addison Township, and the Village of Leonard, and

WHEREAS, the Polly Ann Trail Management Council began the process of developing a trail recreation and natural resource conservation plan in accordance with the most recent guidelines developed by the Michigan Department of Natural Resources and made available to local communities, and

WHEREAS, residents of the Polly Ann Trail Management Council planning area were provided with a well-advertised opportunity during the development of the draft plan to express opinions, ask questions, and discuss all aspects of the recreation and natural resource conservation plan, and

WHEREAS, the public was given a well-advertised opportunity and reasonable accommodations to review the final draft plan for a period of at least one month, and

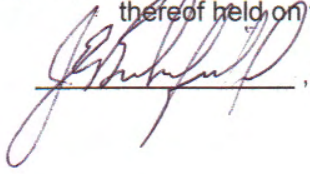
WHEREAS, a final public comment session was held on April 17, 2013 at the Oxford Village Offices to provide an opportunity for all residents of the planning area to express opinions, ask questions, and discuss all aspects of the trail recreation and natural resource conservation plan, and

WHEREAS, the Polly Ann Trail Management Council has developed the plan as a guideline for improving recreation and enhancing natural resource conservation for the Polly Ann Trail-Oakland County Segment and all other residents of the planning area, and

WHEREAS, after the public meeting, the Polly Ann Trail Management Council voted to adopt said trail recreation and natural resource conservation plan.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED the Polly Ann Trail Management Council hereby adopts the 2013-2017 Polly Ann Trail Recreation Master Plan-Oakland County Segment.

6 Yeas: 0 Nays: 4 Absent:
I, Ed Brakefield, Chairman, do hereby certify that the foregoing is a true and original copy of a resolution adopted by the Polly Ann Trail Management Committee, at a Regular/Special Meeting thereof held on the 17 day of April, 2013.



_____, Ed Brakefield, Chairman

Polly Ann Trail Management Council
Regular Meeting Minutes
April 17, 2013 at 3:00 p.m.
Oxford Village Offices, Oxford, MI
22 W. Burdick Street, Oxford, MI 48371

Present: Council Members:

Ed Brakefield, Chairperson	{AT}
Mark Thurber, Treasurer	{OrT}
Donni Steele	{OrT}
Sue Bellairs	{OxT}
Melvin Buck Cryderman, Vice Chair	{OxT}
Doug Noaker	{LV}
Joe Young	{OV}
Bob Godkin, Citizen Rep.	

Absent:

Bruce Pearson	{AT}
Maureen Helmuth	{OV}
Mike McDonald	{LV}
David Bailey	{OV}

Others Present:

Trail Manager Juliane Bagley, Kristen Wiltfang, Susan Bossardet, Joe Young and others.

Call to Order:

Chairperson Ed Brakefield called the meeting to order at 3:01 p.m. Roll was noted.
Pledge of Allegiance and invocation were given.

Approval of Agenda:

An adopt a trail application from Complete Automation was submitted to be added as agenda item 9.D.
Sue Bellairs moved, seconded by Buck Cryderman, to approve the agenda as amended. All ayes, motion carried.

Minutes

Buck Cryderman moved, seconded by Doug Noaker, to approve the March 20, 2013 meeting minutes.
All ayes, motion carried.

Public Comment: none

Treasurer's Report

Bills:

A bill listing including items from December in the amount of $2,869.25 was presented.
Buck Cryderman moved, Mark Thurber seconded, to approve the bills as presented in the amount of $2,869.25. By roll call vote the motion passed unanimously.

Financial Report

Treasurer Mark Thurber presented the March financial report. Sue Bellairs moved, seconded by Melvin Buck Cryderman to receive and file the financial reports. All ayes, motion carried.

Trail Manager's Report

Trail Manager Juliane Bagley presented her written report with updates.
Mark Thurber moved, seconded by Doug Noaker, to receive and file the Trail Manager's report.
By voice vote the motion carried unanimously.

Citizen Representative Report -

Bob Godkin reported on a safety concern of dead trees falling on the trail. Bob Godkin offered to survey the areas with dead trees that may fall on the trail and mark them with a paint spot.
This item is be on the May agenda.

New Business:

Orion Chamber Renewal

Joe Young moved, Doug Noakeer seconded, to approve the Orion Chamber renewal (to be placed on the May bill run). By voice vote the motion passed unanimously.

Rochester's Green Living Festival Participation

Trail Manager Juliane Bagley reported that this event was cancelled.

DDA Request for Bridge Landscaping and sign for the bridge

Sue Bossardet, representing the Oxford DDA Design Committee, presented a proposal for landscaping for the bridge and sign for the bridge. The plantings would be at the base of the bridge next to the sidewalk on both sides with four different plantings including grasses, shrubs and trees. The estimated cost for the plantings was just under $9,000.
A sign reading " Oxford Small Done Right" is being considered as well.

Melvin Buck Cryderman moved, seconded by Doug Noaker, to approve the DDA concept for the bridge landscaping, subject to MDOT approval. All ayes, motion carried.

Adopt a trail application by Complete Automation

An adopt a trail application by Complete Automation was presented at level 3.
Sue Bellairs moved, seconded by Mark Thurber, to approve the adopt a trail application by Complete Automation. All ayes, motion carried.

Old Business

Lone Ranger Celebration Update

Mark Thurber presented an update on the Lone Ranger Celebration.
The Rural Pearl Ride on July 20 includes an equestrian event that could be promoted as well.
The Strawberry Festival needs to be included in the community events listing.

Master Plan Approval

Trail Manager Juliane Bagley reported that no comments for changes were receive.

Ed Brakefield moved, seconded by Mark Thurber, to approve the 2013-17 Master Recreation Plan. By roll call vote the motion passed unanimously.

Board Comments

Buck Cryderman offered to help the Rural Pearl eve...

Adjournment

Sue Bellairs moved, Doug Noaker seconded to adjourn at 4:20 p.m. All aves. motion carried

The next regular meeting is Wednesday, May 15 20, 2013- 3:00 p.m. at Rowland Hall, Leonard, MI.

Minutes initially prepared by K. Joe Young

Approved Date 5/15/2013

Chairperson

Community Descriptions

The Polly Ann Trail meanders through five communities in Northeast Oakland County. The following community descriptions provide historical origins, general characteristics, and other significant features that are unique to the area. The statistical information will be used and analyzed for the Goals and Objectives section of the Master Plan.

Biking along the Polly Ann Trail

Municipality	1970 Census	1980 Census	1990 Census	2000 Census	2010 Census	2020 Forecast
Addison Township	2,431	4,184	4,785	6,107	5,948	6,011
Village of Leonard	378	423	357	332	403	456
Oxford Township	5,953	7,823	9,004	12,485	17,090	18,256
Village of Oxford	2,536	2,746	2,929	3,540	3,436	3,797
Orion Township	14,189	19,566	21,019	30,748	32,421	33,966

Source: U.S. Census Bureau and SEMCOG 2020 Forecast produced in 2012

Addison Township

View of Rochester Rd
circa 1918

Many of the first settlers in Addison Township arrived in the 1830s and they were attracted to the area because of its rural characteristics, as many were farmers. Most of them bought land in the township site unseen and when they arrived they were quite surprised. Most of the land the settlers had purchased was described in land sales as burnt, barren, poor, hilly, and badly timbered. It would prove to be fertile ground for crops and orchards after clearing and cultivating, but nothing could have prepared them for the vigorous time they had in settling their new homes and farms. One of the more enterprising of the early settlers was Addison Chamberlain, for whom the township is named. Chamberlain is also responsible for incorporating Addison into a township in 1837 and the first township meeting was held in his home. In the strictest sense, Addison Township had an agricultural character, but it had some manufacturing interests early on. At the forefront of the township development was Chamberlain, who was described as being fond of challenges. For a number of years, he operated the local sawmill and in 1838, he built one of the first gristmills in the area.[1]

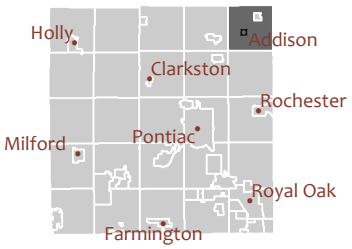
Homes on large lots

Farming, lumbering, and milling were the main occupations until the early 1900s when farming eventually became the primary way of life in the Township. Large scale production in recent decades has given way to hobby farming, gardening specialty crops, livestock production, and horse farms. Today, large lot residential uses predominate the landscape, while agricultural uses remain an important part of the rural character of the community. The small hamlet of Lakeville, located at the southern end of Lakeville Lake, offers scenic vistas, many recreational opportunities, and remains the largest center of activity in the township, after the Village of Leonard.

Historic Milmine Hall

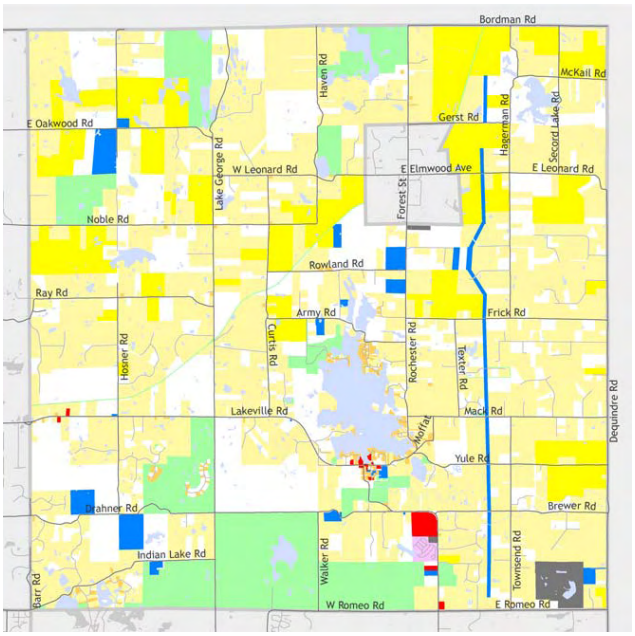
Horse Farm

Beautiful Lake Views



Addison Township	
Size	35.6 mi²
2000 Census Population	6,107
2010 Census Population	5,948
Polly Ann Trail Length	5.37 mi
Trail Acres	32.76 ac

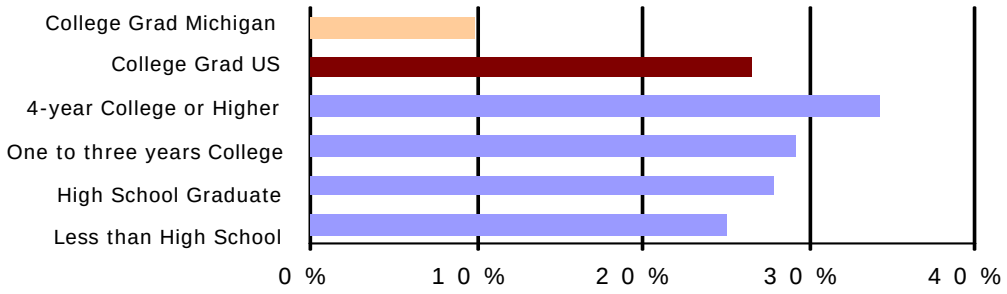
2011 Land Use



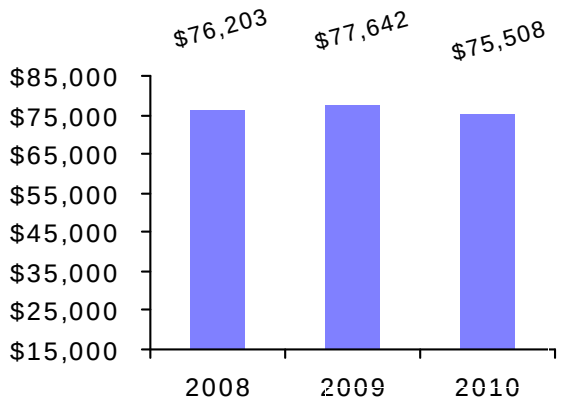
- Agricultural
- Commercial/Office
- Extractive; Industrial
- Mobile Home Park; Multiple Family
- Public/Institutional; Trans/Utility/Comm.
- Transportation Right-of-Way; Vacant
- Recreation/Conservation
- Single Fam up to 8,000 sqft Parcel
- Single Fam Greater than 8,000 sqft Parcel
- Water

The information provided has been compiled from recorded deeds, plats, tax maps, surveys, and other public records. It is not a legally recorded map or survey and is not intended to be used as one. For more detailed land use information, go to http://www.oakgov.com/luz

Educational Attainment of People Over 25 Years of Age

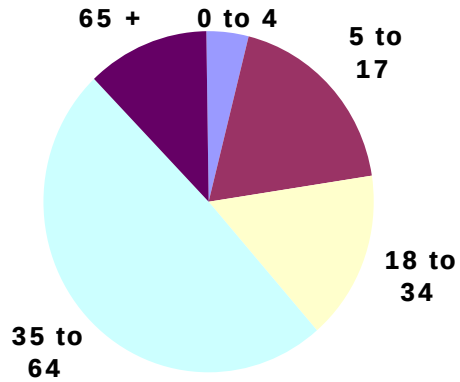


Median Household Income



Source: Claritas

Population by Age



Source: U.S. Census Bureau

Village of Leonard

View of Downtown Leonard circa 1930

The Village of Leonard is a small town tucked into the northeastern corner of Oakland County. It was founded by Leonard Rowland and first incorporated as a village in 1889 and then reincorporated in 1893. The village is centered around Elmwood and Forest Streets and measures slightly less than one square mile. In 1898, Leonard Rowland built a brick Town Hall and donated it to the community and it has served as the location for Village functions ever since. The Pontiac, Oxford, & Northern Railway was constructed in the area between 1880-1882 and made Leonard a flourishing community almost overnight. A saw mill, basket factory, apple dryer, stock yards, grain elevator, lumber sheds, and a large depot were located near the tracks. Local farmers shipped produce, lumber, grain, and livestock on outbound trains. Items ordered from Chicago mail order houses arrived daily by express or freight. A passenger train went north and one went south each morning and each evening. People arrived to work in the businesses and created a ready market for goods and services. [1]

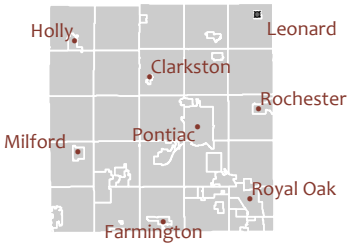
Homes located near Downtown

Today, the Village of Leonard has managed to maintain a rural and residential community character. Many of the buildings associated with the railroad have been torn down, moved, or repurposed. The train depot was moved to the east side of Rochester Rd., just north of the Village, and is used as a residential home. The Village is currently working on acquiring the Grain Elevator adjacent to the Polly Ann Trail with the hopes of renovating it for use as a trailhead, trail offices, and historic/cultural attraction for trial users. The business district of the Village has seen increased traffic due in part to increased use of the trail. The economic stimulus is welcomed and needed for the sustained viability of the community.

Grain Elevator

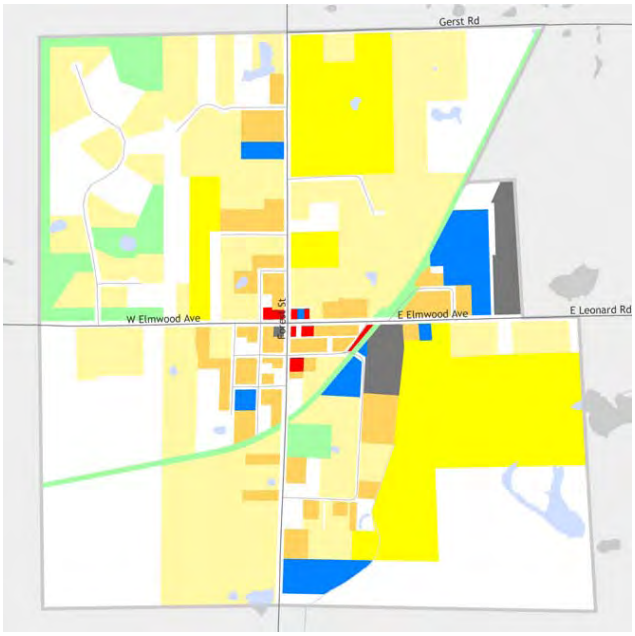
Gateway Sign

Rowland Hall



Village of Leonard	
Size	0.96 mi²
2000 Census Population	332
2010 Census Population	403
Polly Ann Trail Length	1.32 mi
Trail Acres	9.26 ac

2011 Land Use



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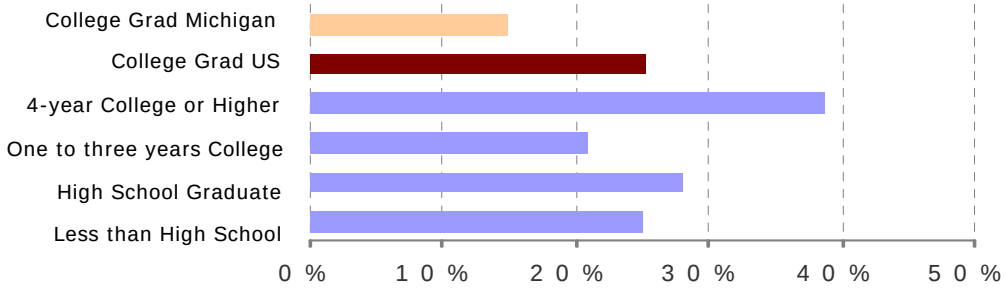
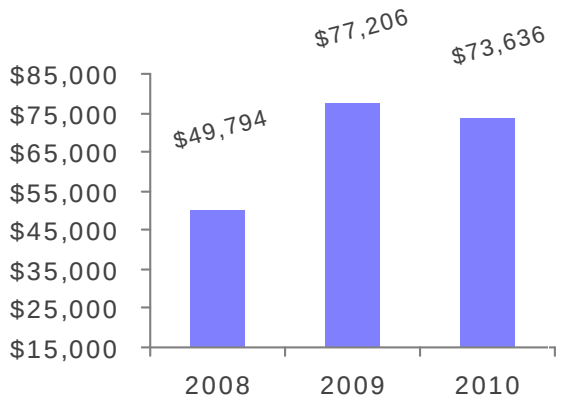
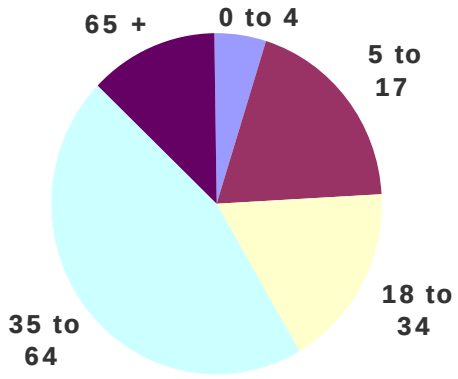


Median Household Income



Source: Claritas

Population by Age



Source: U.S. Census Bureau

Oxford Township

View of Lapeer Road circa 1918

Oxford Township was first settled around 1832, as pioneers moved further north looking for more virgin land. Avery Brown and Elbridge Deming were the first to settle in the township near the site where Metamora Road crosses Lapeer Road. The territorial road from Rochester to Lapeer started in 1832 roughly following the route of Lapeer Road or M-24 through Orion and Oxford Townships. It led the settlers north on a narrow, rough road later to be improved for regular commerce. By 1837, the area's population had grown and Oxford Township was incorporated. Around 1911, gravel mining operations began in the township. Several pits operated at various times and in 1924 five of the largest gravel pits in Michigan were just outside Oxford and gave the area the well known reputation as the "Gravel Capital of the World". At that time, most of the aggregate was used in local road and bridge construction. [1]

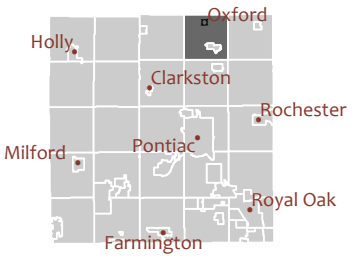
Ward's Sand & Gravel circa 1920

Over the years, Oxford Township has retained its picturesque rural atmosphere and provides residents with the best of two worlds — people can enjoy living in the country, yet still experience the conveniences of a small town with an array of shops and services. Many of the gravel mined areas have been transformed into prestigious residential developments and industrial parks. The automobile's impact on the local railroad caused the demise of much of the commerce that fed nearby centers of business. Because of this, the small hamlets of Oakwood and Thomas, which were located along the railroads in the township, have been transformed into residential and agricultural areas. Many of manufacturers in the township supply the auto industry and join the proliferation of high tech industry spreading across this part of the county.

Natural connections

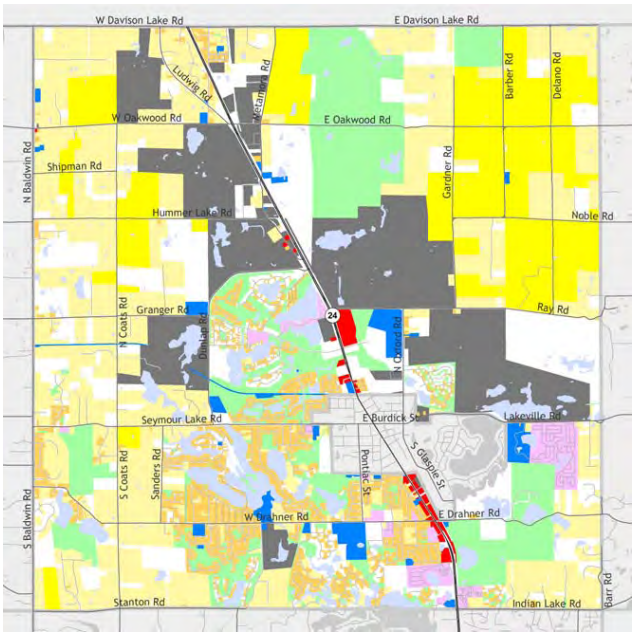
Tree lined streets

New neighborhoods



Oxford Township	
Size	33.9 mi²
2000 Census Population	12,485
2010 Census Population	17,090
Polly Ann Trail Length	4.16 mi
Trail Acres	25.5 ac

2011 Land Use



Agricultural
Commercial/Office
Extractive; Industrial
Mobile Home Park; Multiple Family
Public/Institutional; Trans/Utility/Comm.
Transportation Right-of-Way; Vacant
Recreation/Conservation
Single Fam up to 8,000 sqft Parcel
Single Fam Greater than 8,000 sqft Parcel
Water

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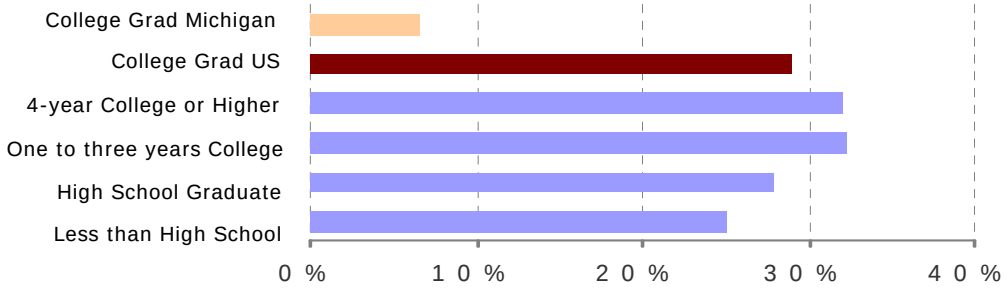
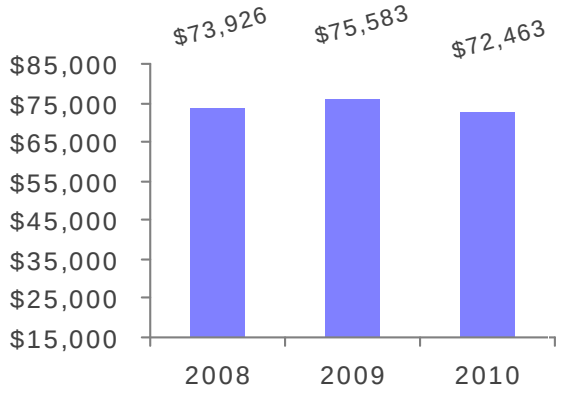
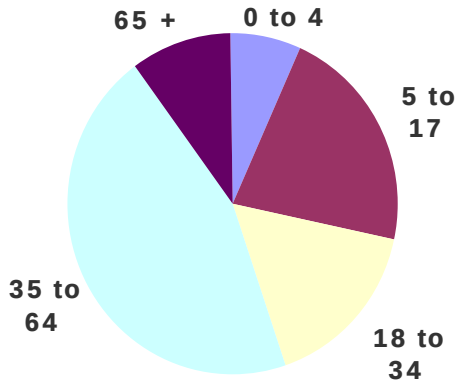


Median Household Income



Source: Claritas

Population by Age



Source: U.S. Census Bureau

Village of Oxford

View of Downtown Oxford early 1900s

The charter to officially incorporate the Village of Oxford was adopted in January 1876. The Village began to thrive with the arrival of rail service and was one of the few towns to be at the confluence of three rail lines — the Flint Division of the Detroit United Railway, the Bay City Division of the Michigan Central Railroad, and the Pontiac, Oxford, & Northern Division of the Grand Trunk System. All of the activity from the railroads caused the town to be a hub of commerce shipping and receiving goods via the tracks. A few of the local industries include the Oxford Valley Mills, Oxford Cooperage, Oxford Carriage Factory, Oxford Agricultural Works, Vinegar Company, Findon Brewery, and Brown Marble Works. The Village also had businesses typical of a railroad town such as a blacksmith shop, grain elevator, lumber yards, machine shops, hotels, electric station, and greenhouses. [1]

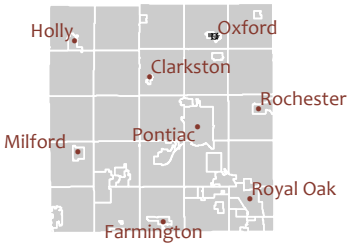
Village of Oxford early 1900s

For over 130 years, Oxford has been developing character; the village maintains a small town look with the addition of modern amenities. Top-notch schools and a new, state of-the-art public library attest to the modern status of this area. Downtown continues to offer an array of unique shops, restaurants, a movie theatre, and other business services. Many village homes have historical character, which contributes to the overall quaint character of this community. Today, all of the rails and tracks have been removed from the Village and it is bisected by Lapeer Road (M-24), which serves as the dominant mode of transportation in the area. M-24 is an important north-south corridor providing direct access to I-69 linking Flint and Port Huron. It is also linked to I-75 with its amazing connections throughout Metro Detroit and the state, once again placing Oxford at an excellent juncture.

Historic Charm

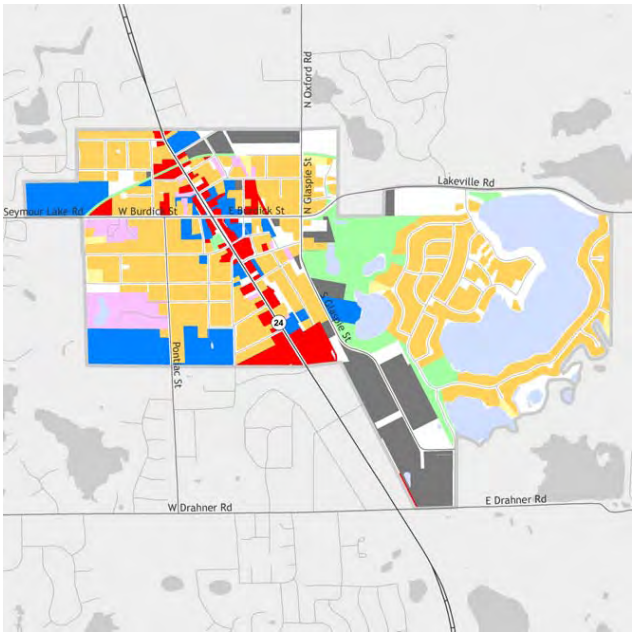
PAT Bridge over M-24

Downtown Oxford



Village of Oxford	
Size	1.47 mi²
2000 Census Population	3,540
2010 Census Population	3,436
Polly Ann Trail Length	0.94 mi
Trail Acres	4.47 ac

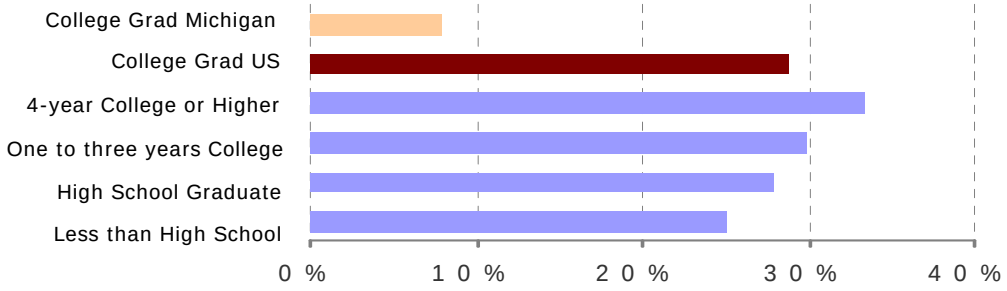
2011 Land Use



- Agricultural
- Commercial/Office
- Extractive; Industrial
- Mobile Home Park; Multiple Family
- Public/Institutional; Trans/Utility/Comm.
- Transportation Right-of-Way; Vacant
- Recreation/Conservation
- Single Fam up to 8,000 sqft Parcel
- Single Fam Greater than 8,000 sqft Parcel
- Water

The information provided has been compiled from recorded deeds, plats, tax maps, surveys, and other public records. It is not a legally recorded map or survey and is not intended to be used as one. For more detailed land use information, go to http://www.oakgov.com/lu

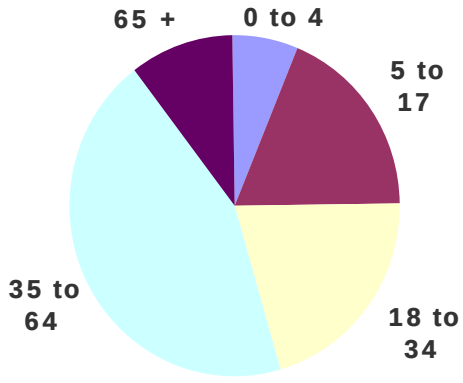
Educational Attainment of People Over 25 Years of Age



Median Household Income

Source: Claritas

Population by Age



Source: U.S. Census Bureau

Orion Township

Boy Scout Camp on Tommy's Lake circa 1923

Historically, Orion Township was settled for agriculture and forestry. The land surface of the Township was originally covered with timber, principally oak. This was quite heavy along the water courses and lighter on the more elevated grounds, often terminating in openings. Quite an area was also covered with pine. After much of the timber was harvested, farms with names like Pleasant View, Meadow Brook, Lone Pine and Sunny Ridge began to dot the landscape. In the late 1800s, the Michigan Central Railroad and the Detroit United Railway put down tracks in the area and with them brought many tourists to the area. The railroads offered an escape from city life out to Orion Township, which became known as a resort community because of the many lakes and natural surroundings. The farmers of Orion Township would load up their wagons with produce and make deliveries to hotels and restaurants in the nearby Village of Lake Orion. Orion Township was officially incorporated in 1835. [1]

Agricultural Heritage

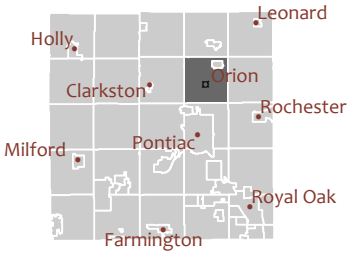
The boom of the automobile industry made Orion a satellite community of Pontiac with Orion providing much of the "bedroom community" housing for the waves of people coming into the area seeking employment. The General Motors Orion Assembly Plant began production in 1983 and continues to manufacture automotive products. The property is directly adjacent to the remaining active portion of the old Pontiac, Oxford, & Northern Railroad. Orion Township has embraced the resort character through the years retaining large open spaces, numerous lakes, and acres of parkland. It's official motto remains "Where living is a vacation".

[1]Adapted from *Oakland County Book of History*. Hagman, Arthur A. 1970.
Adapted from *History of Oakland County, Michigan*. Seeley, Thaddeus D. 1912.

Natural Beauty Road

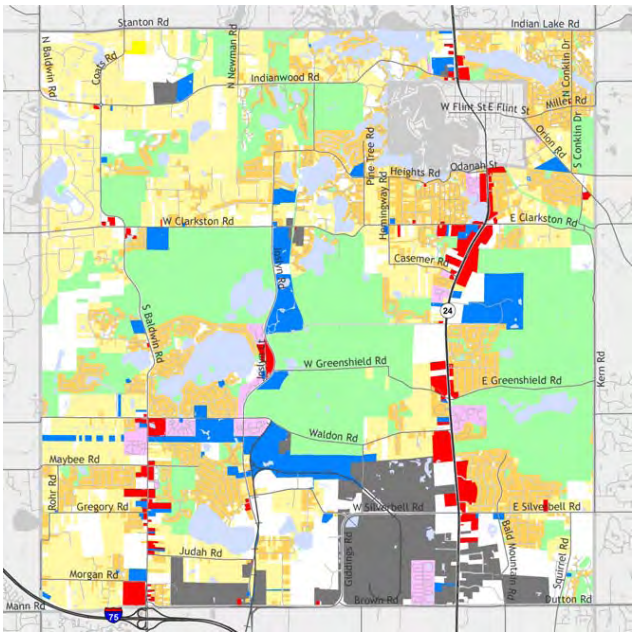
Woodland Creatures

Historic Railroad Bridge



Orion Township	
Size	34.6 mi²
2000 Census Population	30,748
2010 Census Population	32,421
Polly Ann Trail Length	3.94 mi
Trail Acres	33.41 ac

2011 Land Use



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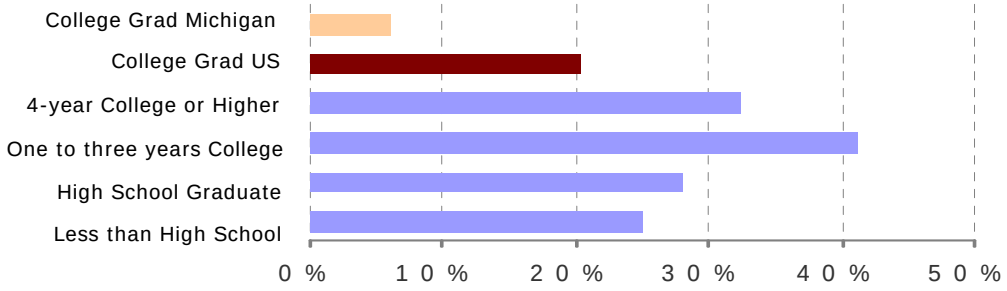
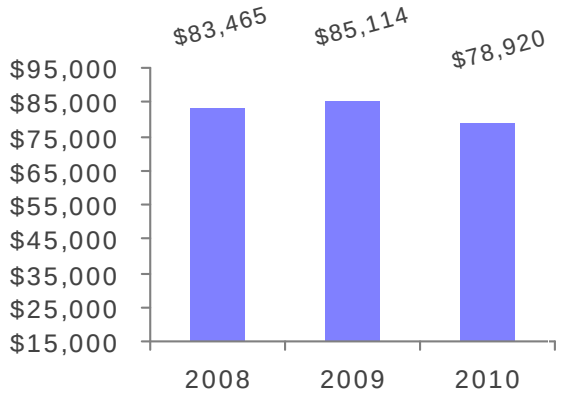
Educational Attainment of People Over 25 Years of Age

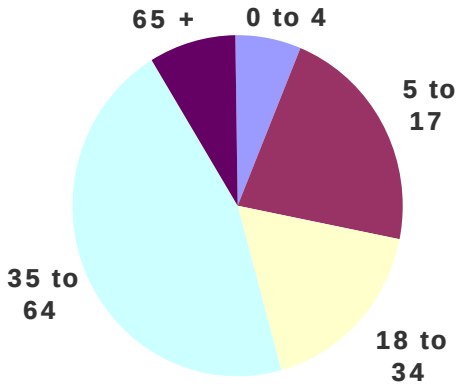


Median Household Income



Source: Claritas

Population by Age



Source: U.S. Census Bureau