

The Montcalm Land Use Coalition has also supported additional activities.

- MSU-Extension Citizen Planner Program
- Montcalm County Planning Commission Ordinance
- Montcalm County Planning Commission and Land Use General Plan Development
- Farm Bureau Land Use Resolution
- MSU Land Policy Grant for Local Build-out Analysis

For more information about the Montcalm Land Use Coalition please contact:

MICHIGAN STATE  
UNIVERSITY  
EXTENSION

MSU Montcalm Extension  
211 W. Main Street  
P.O. Box 308  
Stanton, MI 48888

989 831-7500  
or  
616 225-7500

E-mail: [msue59@msu.edu](mailto:msue59@msu.edu)

Web Site:  
[www.msue.msu.edu/montcalm](http://www.msue.msu.edu/montcalm)



The following local agencies have supported the efforts of the Montcalm Land Use Coalition.

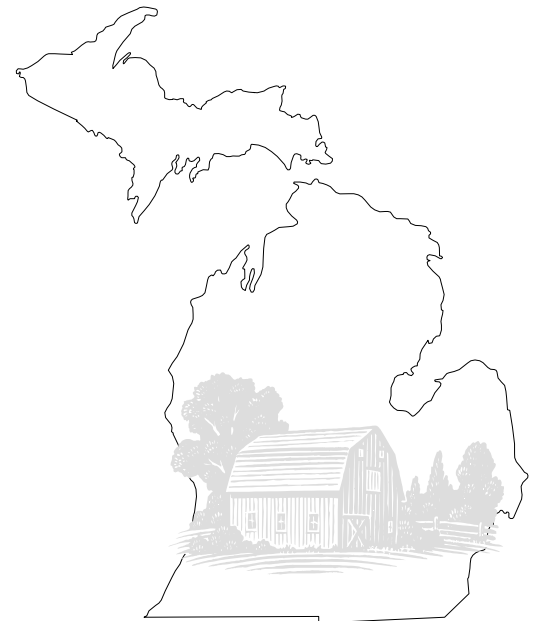
- Montcalm County Board of Commissioners
- Montcalm County Planning Commission
- Montcalm County Farm Bureau
- MSU Montcalm Extension
- Montcalm County Conservation District
- Montcalm Alliance

Out county support for the Montcalm Land Use Coalition from:

- Chippewa Watershed Land Conservancy
- Muskegon Conservation District
- MSU Clinton Extension
- MSU Wexford Extension
- MSU Charlevoix Extension
- West Michigan Strategic Alliance
- Michigan Farmland and Community Alliance
- MSU Oceana Extension
- MSU School of Landscape Architecture/Center for Remote Sensing
- MSU Land Policy Program

# Montcalm

## LAND USE COALITION



Working to preserve Montcalm County's  
quality of life, through land use  
awareness, education and planning.

## *History and Background*

The Montcalm Land Use Coalition was formed in the summer of 2001, when several community leaders and members of the general public saw a need for an intentional discussion on the topic of land use issues.

At one of the initial meetings, several concepts were discussed that have guided the Coalition activities.

These include:

- ◆ “Masters of Our Own Destiny”  
The idea that Montcalm County residents should take the lead in planning future land use decisions in the county.
- ◆ Land use implementation choices should be supported by informed stakeholders which implies:
  - Shared Knowledge
  - Shared Decision-making
  - Shared Plan Development



## *Vision*

A group with diverse backgrounds and interests, who are working together to address land use issues through gathering and sharing information and developing strategies for land use that enhance the quality of life and retain the rural character of the county, while protecting and enhancing agriculture land, natural resources and open space, as well as providing for quality housing and commercial development.

## *Goals*

1. Stimulate interest and raise awareness of all citizens concerning land use issues and programs to deal with these issues.
2. Protect farmland to help maintain a strong agricultural community with productive soils, scenic landscapes and open space areas.
3. Insure that future development respects and protects those elements that contribute to Montcalm County's rural character and quality of life.
4. Preserve Montcalm County's natural resources, which include agricultural lands, forestlands, lakes, streams and groundwater.
5. Control urban sprawl by promoting smart growth, which develops lower quality agricultural lands for housing, promotes desirable higher density residential areas and preserves open space.
6. Insure future development that is going to occur will be smart development, which will enhance both our urban, as well as rural areas.
7. Develop and fund purchase of development rights and transfer of development rights programs.

## *Accomplishments*

- \* Nine monthly meetings per year with educational speakers on topics:
  - Purchase of Development Rights
  - Land Use Legacy
  - Modern Planning Procedure
  - Better Design for Development in Michigan
  - West Michigan Strategic Alliance
  - Michigan Land Use Leadership Report
  - Value Added Agriculture
  - Build Out Analysis Up-dated Land Use Maps for Selected Montcalm County Townships
  - Land Conservancies
  - Function of Equalization Department
  - Remonumentation
- \* Development and Distribution of a Land Use Attitudes survey and four meetings to distribute results.
- \* Visual Preference Survey Community Meeting
- \* Land Use Summit Community Meeting
- \* Destiny 2020