

Current Plan Goals	Keywords	Community Sentiment	Consultant Notes	Responsible Parties
<p><i>Vision Statement: The Village of Empire provides and preserves a quality of life for a diverse group of residents and businesses that reflects the Village's unique natural environment and small village atmosphere, while reflecting past history and our small village values, and to create a Village that is economically, environmentally, and culturally sustainable.</i></p>				
<p>General consensus is that this is a true vision for today, but with a more open-ended definition of "diversity"</p>				
<p><b>Land Use &amp; Development</b></p>				
<p><b>Preserve and enhance unique community character and sense of place</b></p>				
<p>Preserve the friendly, quiet and safe atmosphere found within the community</p>	<p>atmosphere</p>	<p>High</p>	<p>Vision</p>	<p>General / Citizens</p>
<p>Promote Empire as a walkable community</p>	<p>walkable</p>	<p>High</p>	<p>Mobility</p>	<p>Chamber/Tourism Entity</p>
<p>Explore modifications and amendment of the Village of Empire Commercial Residential (CR)</p>				
<p>Zoning District to separate, refine and enhance development standards within the Village commercial core</p>	<p>quality commercial development</p>	<p>High</p>	<p>Land Use</p>	<p>VC/PC</p>
<p>A safe, pedestrian-oriented approach within the Village core and the safe pedestrian and vehicle-based transportation within the M-22 commercial corridor</p>	<p>walkable</p>	<p>High</p>	<p>Mobility</p>	<p>VC/PC, MDOT, Leelanau County</p>
<p>Preserve the beauty of the natural environment and the vitality of the dune areas</p>	<p>natural environment</p>	<p>High</p>	<p>Natural Resources</p>	<p>General / Citizens</p>
<p>Protect water quality –both groundwater and surface water.</p>	<p>water quality</p>	<p>Medium</p>	<p>Natural Resources</p>	<p>General / Citizens</p>
<p>Continue and expand community planting program</p>	<p>community connections</p>	<p>Low</p>	<p>Economic Development</p>	<p>General / Citizens</p>
<p>Promote the preservation and protection of historic sites, buildings and features in the Village</p>	<p>historic preservation</p>	<p>High</p>	<p>Economic Development</p>	<p>VC/PC, Chamber Entity, General / Citizens</p>
<p>Encourage local community historic preservation and interpretations programs</p>	<p>historic preservation</p>	<p>High</p>	<p>Economic Development</p>	<p>VC/PC</p>
<p>Consider zoning changes to include design standards in line with the Village's historic character and development patterns.</p>	<p>historic preservation</p>	<p>Low</p>	<p>Land Use</p>	<p>VC/PC</p>
<p>Sensitive environmental resources including wetlands and water quality should be protected, preserved and enhanced.</p>	<p>water quality</p>	<p>High</p>	<p>Natural Resources</p>	<p>General / Citizens</p>
<p>Consider options and MEDC Redevelopment Ready Communities best practices to make zoning more user-friendly and efficient.</p>	<p>development best practices</p>	<p>High</p>	<p>Economic Development</p>	<p>VC/PC</p>
<p>Continue to review and update the zoning ordinance as necessary.</p>	<p>zoning</p>	<p>High</p>	<p>Land Use</p>	<p>VC/PC</p>
<p>Continue to support testing and possible remediation of South Bar Lake and participate with the Leelanau County Clean Water Group.</p>	<p>water quality</p>	<p>High</p>	<p>Natural Resources</p>	<p>VC/PC, Leelanau County</p>

**Housing**

**Provide for a range of housing types, sizes, and densities to ensure housing options for all incomes, ages, household sizes, and abilities conducive to the Village’s small town character**

Preserve the scale and character of existing established neighborhoods	density / intensity	Medium	Land Use	VC/PC
Explore possible partnerships with employers in the area for housing affordable to the local workforce	affordable housing	Medium	Economic Development	VC/PC, Chamber Entity
Encourage Empire Township to explore multifamily housing implementation options	partner agencies	Low/None	Land Use	VC/PC, Chamber Entity
Maintain and enhance the mix of housing to meet the varied economic needs of the community	housing mix	Medium	Land Use	VC/PC, Chamber Entity
Explore zoning changes to allow additional or diverse housing types throughout the Village	zoning	Medium	Land Use	VC/PC
Explore zoning options for assisted living facilities	zoning	Low/None	Land Use	VC/PC
Explore federal, state and local financial incentives for encouraging quality long-term rental opportunities for all income levels.	incentives	Medium	Economic Development	VC/PC
Explore and evaluate seasonal rentals in the Village	seasonal rentals	Low/None	Land Use	VC/PC

**Public Infrastructure**

**Maintain, improve, and expand the Village facilities including infrastructure consistent with the community needs.**

Continue to review and update the Village adopted Capital Improvement Plan	maintain infrastructure	Medium	Mobility	VC/PC, Village Staff, Consultants
Continue to examine the feasibility of implementing Village-wide infrastructure to address growth and encourage economic development including, but not limited to, waste water options, electrical, water, natural gas, communications systems (including wi-fi), roads, sidewalks, public washrooms and greenspaces.	public utility expansion	High	Economic Development	VC/PC, Village Staff, Consultants
Promote continued cooperation between the Village and the Township on possible cost-savings initiatives	partner agencies	Low/None	Economic Development	VC/PC
Explore the feasibility of burying utility lines village-wide	public utility expansion	Low/None	Economic Development	VC/PC, Village Staff, Consultants
Explore the feasibility of implementing Village wide “green” technology (solar, wind, LED, etc).	public utility expansion	Low/None	Economic Development	VC/PC, Village Staff, Consultants
Explore and pursue opportunities to implement recommendations of the Village Transportation Plan.	maintain infrastructure	High	Mobility	VC/PC, Village Staff, MDOT, Leelanau County
Consider the development of a Village Tree Maintenance Plan	maintain infrastructure	Low/None	Natural Resources	VC/PC, Village Staff
Establish physical space to support community center activities and groups like the Empire Area Community Center	public facilities	Low/None	Economic Development	General / Citizens

**Intergovernmental Cooperation**

**Work with surrounding communities; other local, state and federal agencies; and the Grand Traverse Band of Ottawa and Chippewa Indians to engage in sound cooperation where appropriate.**

Explore forming a formal partnership with the National Park on issues such as workforce housing, transportation of visitors, enhancing accessibility, encouraging economic development, etc.	partner agencies	Low/None	Economic Development	VC/PC, Partner Agencies, Chamber Entity
Coordinate with other units of government as appropriate to address specific multi- jurisdictional issues as they arise, such as issues related to land use planning, recreation, public services, or transportation, including nonmotorized pathways and connections.	partner agencies	Low/None	Economic Development	VC/PC, Partner Agencies, Chamber Entity

**Economic Development**

**Promote Empire as an economically viable community which supports recreation, tourism, and small businesses.**

Encourage the addition of grocery/convenience stores, entertainment/restaurant options and/or other basic commercial services.	commercial options	High	Economic Development	
Continue to promote the Village as a tourist/recreation destination essential to the existing and future economy.	tourist destination	Medium	Economic Development	Chamber/Tourism Entity
Explore the possibility of establishing formal partnerships with the National Park Service and surrounding communities to address seasonal influx by identifying potential availability of services, such as housing and transportation, for the seasonal workforce.	partner agencies	Low/None	Economic Development	VC, Chamber Entity
Consider zoning changes to promote consistent design for M-22 development that is consistent with Village character, and to preserve and enhance existing character along Front Street.	zoning	Low/None	Land Use	VC/PZ
Encourage compatible commercial design standards.	quality commercial development	Low/None	Land Use	VC/PZ
Coordinate and communicate with various State agencies for grant opportunities specific to the Village’s needs, including the Michigan Economic Development Corporation’s (MEDC) Redevelopment Ready Communities (RRC) program.	incentives	Low/None	Economic Development	VC/PZ, Village Staff
Pursue participation in the MEDC Redevelopment Ready Communities program to gain access to its experience and knowledge base, best practices, and financial assistance through grants and other funding opportunities in support of Village projects, goals, and vital assets.	partner agencies	Medium	Economic Development	VC/PZ, Village Staff

**Community Character & Attractions**

**Maintain our unique community character for enjoyment by residents and visitors alike.**

Continue to strive for high-quality maintenance of the beaches and parks as they are one of the most visited destinations in the Village.	maintain infrastructure	High	Natural Resources	VC/PZ, Village Staff, General / Citizens
Market the Village as a “destination” by highlighting proximity and accessibility to the natural environment, including the National Park.	tourist destination	High	Economic Development	Chamber/Tourism Entity
Ensure the availability of ample green space measured against possible new development.	zoning	High	Land Use	VC/PZ
Consider design guidelines, zoning regulations, and other policies that ensure growth or development is consistent with Village values and character.	zoning	High	Land Use	VC/PZ
Continue to host and encourage events promoting the Village’s values and character.	tourist destination	High	Economic Development	Chamber/Tourism Entity