## Contents

Preface ......................................................... ii
Guidebook Purpose ......................................... 1
How to Use This Guidebook ................................. 2
Regional Landscape Character ............................... 3
Trends in Development ........................................ 6
Projected Land Use Changes in Michigan ................. 7
Water Quantity and Quality .................................... 8
Visual Corridors .................................................. 10
What Makes A Community Pedestrian Friendly? ........ 11
Guidelines for Development ................................... 13
A Vision for the Future .......................................... 15
Community Planning Process ............................... 16

**DESIGN GUIDELINES** .................................... 18

**NATURAL RESOURCE PROTECTION**
- Open Space Protection ...................................... 22
- Lakeshore or Riverbank Landscape ....................... 24
- Shoreline Building Placement ............................. 26
- Wetlands and Natural Drainageways ..................... 28
- Stormwater Runoff & Water Quality .................... 30

**LANDSCAPE CHARACTER**
- Preservation of Landscape Character: Residential .... 32
- Preservation of Landscape Character: Commercial .... 34
- Ridge Development & View Maintenance ............... 36
- Residential Development and Land Division ........... 38

**BUILDING APPEARANCE AND STREETSCAPE**
- Historic Preservation and Compatible Building Design .... 40
- Franchise Architecture ..................................... 42

**Parking Lot Design**
- Enhancing Visual Appearance ............................. 44
- Enhancing Pedestrian Accessibility ..................... 46

**Signs**
- Sign Characteristics ....................................... 48

**Lighting and Utility Poles**
- Night Lighting and Buried Utility Lines ................. 50
- Camouflaging Cell Towers .................................. 52

**Landscape Design**
- Residential: Aesthetic Enhancement ..................... 54
- Commercial: Buffering, Screening, Building Location and Aesthetics .............................................. 56

**APPENDIX A: Glossary of Terms** ..................... 58

**APPENDIX B: Visual Education Curricula for Youth** ........ 62

**APPENDIX C: Resources for Community Planning**
- Reference Books, Videos, and Websites ................ 64