

# History of Planning and Other Efforts in The Town of Dunn to Protect Farmland and Open Space

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- **1953 (April 7th)** - The Town adopted village powers that allowed it to have a Master Land Use Plan.
- **1972-75** - Citizens Planning Committee reviewed land division requests and promoted the creation of an official Planning Commission to do a Land Use Plan.
- **1977** -
  - April - Annual meeting authorized the formation of the Plan Commission.
  - June - Town passed ordinance establishing a 430 day moratorium on the subdivision and division of land.
- **1977-78** - The Plan Commission prepared resource maps, and goals and policies.
- **1978** - July - Town adopted Exclusive Ag zoning
- **1979** -
  - June - Open Space Preservation Handbook was completed.
  - August 28 & 29 - election on advisory referendum for adoption of the Land Use Plan 2:1 (426 to 244)
  - September - adoption of Land Use Plan by town.
  - October - adoption of Dunn Land Use Plan by county.
- **1981** - Amendment of LUP to clarify the intent of 1:35 acre formula, that the land divisions allowed runs with the land irrespective of ownership.
- **1985** - Amendment of LUP to establish policies on commercial development and prohibit new multi-family zoning.
- **1987** - Amendment of LUP to allow duplex and condominium zoning at the same ratio of acreage as single family zoning.
- **1993** - A volunteer Ad Hoc Committee made up of local residents and members of the Plan Commission was formed to explore further options for protecting open space and farmland in Dunn. Rather than imposing additional land restrictions and regulations on landowners, the Committee decided that the best alternative would be to purchase “development rights” to land from willing landowners. Not only is this method more fair to landowners, it is also a means of permanently protecting land in the town despite future political changes in town leadership.
- **1994** - Cost of Services Study completed for Town of Dunn.
- **1995** -
  - January - Town of Dunn received the Renew America Award for Growth Management and Regional Planning for our Land Use Plan.
  - May - Public forum was held on the concept of Purchase of Development Rights with panel of experts, including Gordon Hayward of Town of Peninsula, Michigan.

- **1995-96** - Dunn Land Use Plan was chosen to be included in the Environmental Success Index, a national publication of success stories.
- **1996** -
  - May - Town-wide survey on PDR mailed to residents, with a 19% response. Indicated there was support to proceed with the referendum to tax for purchase of development rights.
  - September 10th Advisory referendum vote - Town residents approved a property tax increase to fund a PDR program in the Town of Dunn. The tax increase will raise the mill rate by \$.50, which would increase the tax on a \$100,000 home by \$50. This tax increase will raise roughly \$160,000 a year for the town's PDR program. At a time when tax increases are politically unpopular, such a vote demonstrates the broad-based support among Dunn residents for rural preservation in general and the PDR program in particular.
  - December - Town Board passed a resolution to establish the Rural Preservation Trust Fund.
- **1997** -
  - January - Town Board adopted an ordinance to create the Land Trust Commission and establish the Town of Dunn Rural Preservation Program.
  - April - The Land Trust Commission completed the first transaction to permanently preserve the Sinaiko farm, 174 acres of farmland in the Town of Dunn.
  - September - The Town is awarded \$100,000 grant from USDA - Natural Resource Conservation Service, Farmland Preservation Program for the PDR Program.
- **1998** -
  - September - The Town is awarded \$515,000 grant from USDA - Natural Resource Conservation Service, Farmland Preservation Program for the PDR Program.
  - September 22 - Town amends Land Use Plan. [Summary of 1998 Land Use Plan Changes](#)
- **1999** - The Town protects 455.2 acres of farmland (4 farms) through its PDR program. For details of these transactions see the [PDR Accomplishments Page](#).
- **2000** -
  - April - Town receives second Renew America Award. [Photos and award information](#).
  - April - Town approves \$2.4 million bonding initiative for PDR program. For more info see the [PDR Accomplishments Page](#).
  - Town protects 365 acres of farmland (3 farms) through its PDR program. For details of these transactions see the [PDR Accomplishments Page](#).
- **2001** -

- July - Town receives 3rd USDA - Natural Resource Resource Conservation Service, Farmland Preservation Program Grant for the PDR Program for \$177,000.
- August - September - Town protects 725 acres of land (3 farms) through its PDR Program. For details of these transactions see the [PDR Accomplishments Page](#).
- 2002 -
  - [DOT "South Beltline Reliever Highway" Proposal. Removed \(for now\) from DOT plans. Map of proposed project.](#)
- 2005 -
  - [Town of Dunn and Village of McFarland sign Boundary Agreement.](#)
- 2007 -
  - [National Bio and Agro Defense Facility Proposal Defeated.](#)