


<p>a) Conservation and Environmental Protection: The Town of Excelsior has diverse natural resources including high quality agricultural land; significant undeveloped land providing habitat for wildlife, for outdoor recreation, and for enjoyment of natural scenic beauty; forests providing an economic benefit that can be sustained for future generations; and quality rivers and streams. This environment should be retained and natural resources conserved.</p>		<p>b) Preserve Farmland and Agricultural Industry: The economic base of the Town of Excelsior is agriculture. Much of the farmland is highly productive and farming practices are environmentally sound. To achieve our vision, we must maintain an economically and environmentally sustainable agriculture industry, both</p>
<p>f) Efficient Government and Public Services Our vision is that the Town of Excelsior government will recognize that it serves the people. Town government, as a member of the community, must play a major role in achieving and maintaining intergovernmental cooperation with surrounding villages, towns, city and county. Government must work to provide essential services appropriate for a rural community – services that minimize costs and maximize benefits.</p>	<p><i>The Town of Excelsior is a rural community with scenic natural beauty, diverse natural resources, a strong agricultural economic base, a high quality of life, access to excellent education at all levels, and a relatively low tax base with satisfactory and necessary government services. We will strive to maintain this essential nature of the Township by considering:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>a) Conservation and environmental protection;</i> <i>b) Preservation of farmland and our agriculture industry;</i> <i>c) Managed/planned growth and thoughtful land use;</i> <i>d) Quality of life;</i> <i>e) Economic opportunity, stability, and security;</i> <i>f) Efficient and effective government and public services.</i> <p><i>Each of these must be in concert with the others to assure the community will thrive and meet the high standards demanded of its citizens.</i></p>	<p>c) Managed / Planned Growth / Thoughtful Land Use: We recognize that the Town of Excelsior faces significant development pressure. Growth in the Township must be well planned, well managed, and be balanced among agriculture, natural resources, development, and quality of life by recognizing a sense of community with a country flavor. A sense of community means a group of people with a cooperative spirit and common values. Our vision is that individual property decisions will minimize negative impacts on others, and that commercial development will retain a country flavor and require only those infrastructure services appropriate to a rural lifestyle.</p>
<p>e) Economic Opportunity, Stability and Security: The residents of the Town of Excelsior are dependent on nearby communities for economic stability, education, and services. To remain economically viable, there must be nearby employment. Agriculture provides a sound economic base for many residents, but additional economic opportunities are required that are appropriate to the rural character of the Township.</p>		<p>d) Quality of Life: The residents of the Town of Excelsior consider the Township to be wholesome, a good place to raise children, uncrowded and family friendly. The Township provides a sense of place and a connection with history for many. In short, this is a community. This sense of community must be retained.</p>