

## **Elk Rapids Township Planning and Zoning Thoughts on Quality of Life**

ELK RAPIDS TOWNSHIP IS A ZONED COMMUNITY. BEFORE YOU START A PROJECT ON YOUR PROPERTY OR PROVIDE A SERVICE TO A PROPERTY OWNER IN ELK RAPIDS TOWNSHIP, CONSULT WITH THE TOWNSHIP (231.264.9333) TO MAKE SURE THE ACTIVITY OR PROJECT WILL NOT CAUSE A VIOLATION OF ONE OF THE RULES ADOPTED BY ELK RAPIDS TOWNSHIP TO PROTECT THE QUALITY OF LIFE.

THE LAND AND RESOURCES HAVE BEEN HERE FOR A LONG TIME AND OUR VISIT IN THIS COMMUNITY IS ONLY TEMPORARY, WE NEED TO PROTECT THE NATURAL RESOURCES DURING OUR TENURE IN THE COMMUNITY AND MAINTAIN THE QUALITY OF LIFE FOR FUTURE GENERATIONS.

The Township is blessed with an abundance of natural resources including: Quality lakes, superior agricultural land, and strategic natural woodlands and wetlands. These combined resources result in a quality community shared by many residents who make frequent decisions that affect the quality of life in the Township. Such decisions include: recycling, trash disposal, building construction, tree removal, lawn fertilizer, and many others.

Township rules and regulations are geared to help protect the quality of life in the community while respecting individual property rights. For example, there are many techniques a Township can adopt to protect trees. The Township has selected a minimal regulation regarding tree cutting within 25 feet of a shoreline. With Township approval, a property owner is allowed to achieve a clear view of the water while the tree canopy and root system capture rainfall and prevent erosion resulting in clean lake water and a natural shoreline enjoyed by all. Other examples include building separation standards, setback distance from a road, and separation of a business from a residential area.