

From The Ground up!



Civic Activity
Book



By the
Berrien County
Historical Association





Welcome to the _____ of:

Where We Are

You get the chance of a lifetime - to create your own community! But there are a lot of decisions to make. Not sure where to start? Use this workbook to help you make the best decisions for your future residents! Start by choosing a physical location to settle!

Lake or Riverside



Establishing a town on a lake or river lets your community access clean water (cutting costs!) and can increase tax values, letting you fund a variety of services and opportunities for residents!

Waterside towns do have serious ecological issues and often leave communities hemmed in, stunting growth.

Rural/ Countryside



The country side gives you plenty of room to grow and can be attractive those want to farm, raise livestock, or build large houses, not only providing tax dollars, but access to fresh food.

Rural areas have to build more to meet needs not readily accessible and often cannot sustain large populations.

Mountains or Hills



Creating a mountain or hillside community can create beautiful views and often attract residents interested in the outdoors. A great source for attracting tourists.

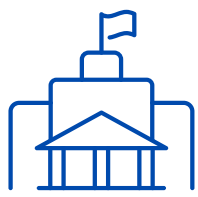
However, weather can be harsh and you are limited to where you can safely build. Also, some resources don't do well in a mountain range, like wi-fi.

Outside a Metropolis



If the area is available outside of a major city center like Detroit, New York, or Chicago, then your community will have access to many services outside of what you offer. Many people who work in the city may choose to live outside of it.

However, being part of a suburb means limited land growth and opportunities.




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Who We Are!

There are different types of communities you can establish ranging from a hamlet to a city. Choose the municipality type for your community!



Hamlet




Hamlets are defined by populations of 100 people or less. They lack many resources of larger cities and towns, relying on other communities or the township/county to provide services, schools, and utilities.

Hamlets are rural.



Village




Villages are also small, but with a population of up to 5,000 people. They have more resources than a hamlet, but often rely on township or county services to supplement their needs.

Villages can be rural or suburban.



Town




While a community can claim the title of town at various sizes, most populations are 10,000 to 30,000 people. They often have their own services and schools, but may rely upon others in case of emergency.

Towns are suburban in nature.



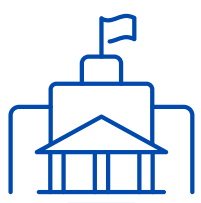
City



Cities are everything from 30,000 people to over 1 million. Anything higher and they are called metropolises. Cities are self sufficient and offer all the basic services to their population and more.

Cities are always suburban and urban in nature.

REMINDER! The size of community will help you determine the rest of this workbook. Think about the kind of community you'd like to live in and ways to make it your dream city (or town or hamlet)!



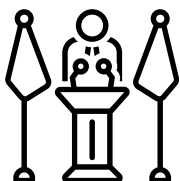
Welcome to the _____ of:

Leadership

Different sized cities may have different leadership models, so now its your turn to choose the one that works best for you!



Mayor & Council



This combination allows for a single leader to sit at the head of the community, who are then guided by the council, made up of members elected from different neighborhoods from around the municipality.

The two will work together, but often have responsibilities that are limited to each office, just like on the federal level.

These positions are sometimes paid, especially if the mayor is a full time job like it is in cities.



Council Leadership



In council leadership situations, a panel of several people are elected to represent each section of the community and they make decisions jointly. They are often part of subcommittees and boards to help make critical decisions on roads and services.

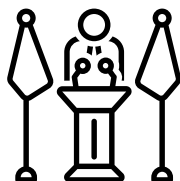
To handle the day to day running of your municipality, the council may choose to hire an administrator who oversees all the municipality's departments.

Council positions at this level are rarely paid.

Elections!

Political positions have term limits. Decide how often and when you will elect new persons into your community's leadership positions.

Elected Officials



_____ years per term and will be limited to _____ terms in succession.

Council seats are staggered. Only _____ seats can be up for election at any given time.

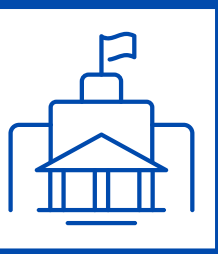
Election Timeline



Your primary election is held on the first Tuesday of _____.

Your general election is held on the first Tuesday of _____.

Special elections must be held within _____ days of a vacancy.



Welcome to the _____ of:

Safety Services

Choose what safety services your town provides its residents. Remember that these services are paid with tax dollars collected either at the town or township/county level.

Police Departments



The size of your town will help you determine the size of your department - or even if you have one. Thinking about the size of your city, choose the type of police force your municipality will have:

No police department - rely upon township or county forces to help residents (usually hamlets or villages)

Police department - the size and scope is dependent on type of municipality

- Small (3 to 5)
- Medium (6 to 10)
- Large (11 and higher)

Fire Departments & EMTs



Like with police departments, your ability to invest into a fire department is dependent on size. If you choose to have a department, then you will have to fund all the equipment.

No fire department - rely upon township or county forces to help residents (usually hamlets or villages)

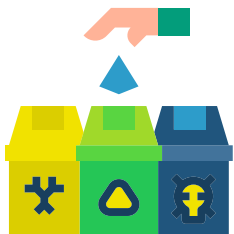
Volunteer fire fighters with EMT services provided by private company

Volunteer fire fighters / EMTs

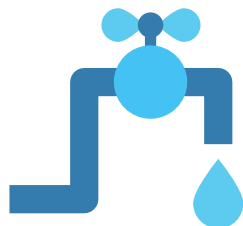
Paid fire fighters / EMTs

Utility Services

Will you provide utilities for you residents? They will pay your town directly to access these services!



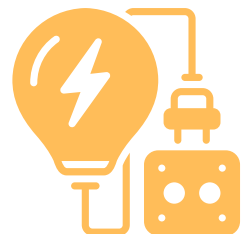
Trash and Recycling



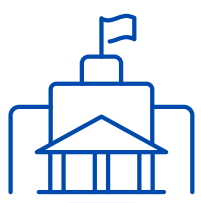
Water and Sewage



High Speed Internet



Electric



Welcome to the _____ of:

Education

Let's make sure kids get the best education by establishing some great schools. Remember, these are maintained with tax dollars and should meet the needs of all students in the community!

Elementary School



NAME:

MASCOT:

GRADES: K 1 2 3 4 5 6

Middle / Junior High School



NAME:

MASCOT:

GRADES: 5 6 7 8

High School School



NAME:

MASCOT:

GRADES: 8 9 10 11 12

Town College



NAME:

MASCOT:

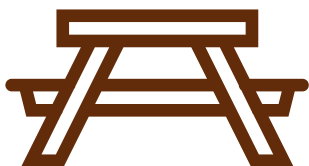
2 YEAR or 4 YEAR

Recreation

Let's establish some parks for people to enjoy. Remember to have different activities for people! These are maintained by tax dollars, so they should appeal to everyone! Don't forget to name them!

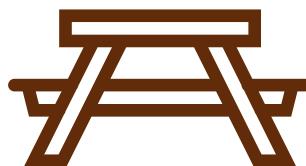
Park # 1: _____

Park # 2: _____



- Baseball Fields
- Basketball Courts
- Soccer fields
- Run/Walk Tracks
- Fitness Circuits
- Trails
- Fishing
- Playground
- Picnic areas

All parks have:
Bathrooms
Trash cans



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