

and planning of neighborhoods within the context of the City's current development regulations and the impact this has on housing development, community form, land use compatibility and connectivity. Housing development options are evaluated and policy adjustments recommended to encourage varied housing development.

The **Parks, Recreation and Open Space Focus Area** evaluates the community's livability and "green infrastructure" amenities, particularly its parks and recreation facilities, open space areas and linkages, and critical natural resources. This analysis identifies any deficiencies in the provision of parks, recreation areas and facilities, and programs; evaluates whether existing facilities are consistent with the community's preferences; and ensures that future land acquisition and facility improvements keep pace with new development. The conservation of land for open space uses, both for agriculture and natural resources, is another focus of this plan element.

The **Land Use and Character Focus Area** assesses the community's long-range development outlook and establishes guidance for making policy decisions about the compatibility and appropriateness of

individual developments within the context of the larger community. Other considerations include City capabilities for preserving valued areas and lands, protecting the integrity of neighborhoods, and safeguarding and enhancing community image.

Using conventional and readily available health indicators, the **Community Wellbeing Focus Area** examines the general health of local residents in response to issues pertaining to Michigan City's built environment and access to healthy lifestyles and foodways, and the ability of residents to be healthy.

The **Sustainability Focus Area** reviews the City's physical plant operations and practices; formulates strategies and recommendations for becoming more sustainable; and identifies procedures and metrics for benchmarking progress.

The **Community Resilience Focus Area** examines community management programs, policies, and plans designed to reduce the impacts caused by unforeseen natural and economic disasters impacting Michigan City; and promotes a series of strategies geared toward preserving the health, safety, and welfare of area residents and maintaining business continuity.



TEC Map 1: Regional Context