



Spring Lake Township, Michigan

*A Report to Our Residents for the
Fiscal Year End March 31, 2016*



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Demographic Information:

Area (acres): 10,696

Population: 14,300*

Median Age (years): 42.9**

Median household income:
\$56,744**

Per capita income: \$31,665**

Employment rate: 64.2%**

Median Home Value: \$181,400**

Bachelor's Degree or Higher:
37.2%**

Travel Time to Work:
20.7 minutes **

*Source: 2010 Census

**Source: 2010-2014(e) Census

Organization and Information

Spring Lake Township is a general law township located in West Michigan, along the shores of Lake Michigan near the mouth of the Grand River. The Township was formed on March 15, 1849.

We offer a variety of services to our residents, including but not limited to:

- Assessing
- Street lighting
- Land planning and zoning
- Fire protection
- Parks and recreation
- Water and sewer utilities
- Cemetery maintenance and operation
- Elections administration

Township Governance



L to R: Jim Koster (Treasurer), Rick Homan (Trustee), Rachel Terpstra (Trustee), H. Carolyn Boersma (Clerk), Ron Lindquist (Trustee), Lawrence Mierle (Trustee), and John Nash (Supervisor)

The Township operates under and is governed by an elected Township Board, which is comprised of the Supervisor, Clerk, Treasurer, and four trustees. Each board member is elected by the Township residents and serves a four-year term. Additionally, the Township board has appointed a Township Manager to oversee the day-to-day operations of the Township.

- Where nature smiles for seven miles -

**Township Calendar
Year Statistics**

*How We Are Doing – A Performance
Report on Key Missions and Service*

	2015	2016
FIRE		
Total number of incidences	959	993
Number of fire incidences	93	100
Fire loss	\$161,500	\$605,600
Number of EMS incidences	723	766
Average response time (minutes) for:		
EMS calls	6:29	6:07
Fire calls	8:22	8:23
POLICE		
Total calls for service (Township)	3,092	3,113
Total Violent Crimes (Township)	23	13
Total Property Crimes (Township)	110	86
Marine Unit Hours (Spring Lake)	675	466
UTILITY		
Drinking water supplied (1,000 gallons)	482,242	499,652
Water treated (1,000 gallons)	544,531	560,148
ASSESSING		
Taxable Value	\$688,420,980	\$707,424,000
Foreclosures Initiated	15	8
Foreclosures Completed	1	8
BUILDING		
New single family building permits	27	26
Value of building permits	\$8,355,449	\$12,493,209

Township of Excellence

- Out of 1,240 Townships in Michigan, Spring Lake Township was the first to achieve the Township of Excellence Standard in 2012.
- Spring Lake Township continues to have the lowest retained millage rate in the area.
- Spring Lake Township continues to have the lowest combined water and sewer rates in the area.

2015-2016 Highlights

Grant Information:

- The Township was awarded a Federal Coastal Zone Management Grant in collaboration with the City of Norton Shores. This is a joint park planning process and inventory of the significant natural features on the site of the Little Black Lake property, owned by both municipalities. This grant will also include the study of natural features of 12 acres along the Grand River as well as a Township-wide natural feature study to allow our community to consider well designed park development plans and protection of important natural features. The grant has a matching project total of \$22,000.

Collaboration:

- Spring Lake Township continued its efforts to collaborate with surrounding municipalities and departments to share services and staff. Examples include a mutual aid agreement for Fire equipment and staff; shared Planner, Assessor, and water billing responsibilities with the Village of Spring Lake; shared Finance staff with City of Grand Haven; two shared Ottawa County Sheriff Deputies; and also a joint Recreation Plan with the Cities of Grand Haven, Ferrysburg, Grand Haven Township, and the Village of Spring Lake. Most recent is the shared office space in Spring Lake Village Hall.

Capital Improvements:

- New Fire Station at the corner of Fruitport Road and M-104.
 - This new facility will follow LEED (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design) design. We are pursuing the Gold level (Four certified levels; Certified, Silver, Gold and Platinum) by adding Solar Panels to the flat roof of the apparatus bay.
 - Currently the exterior shell of the building has been completed with windows and roof to be installed soon.
 - The project remains on schedule with a projected move in date of October 2016.

Data sources include: fire data from Spring Lake Township Fire Department Annual Report and Ottawa County Dispatch; police data from Ottawa County Sheriff's Office Annual Report and Ottawa County Dashboard; utility data from Ottawa County Public Utilities; taxable value and foreclosure completed data from Spring Lake Township Assessing Department; foreclosure initiated data from Ottawa County Register of Deeds; building data from Ottawa County Department of Planning.

Where did our revenue come from and how did we spend it?

General Fund – Fund Balance

The general fund is the chief operating fund of the Township. At the end of fiscal year (FY) 2016, unreserved fund balance of the general fund was \$694,591. As a measure of the general fund's liquidity, it may be useful to compare unreserved fund balance to total fund expenditures. Unreserved fund balance represents 27% of total budgeted general fund expenditures for fiscal year 2016.

Property Taxes

Spring Lake Township is responsible for assessing property as a basis for county and school taxation, and collecting those taxes for all local units of government.

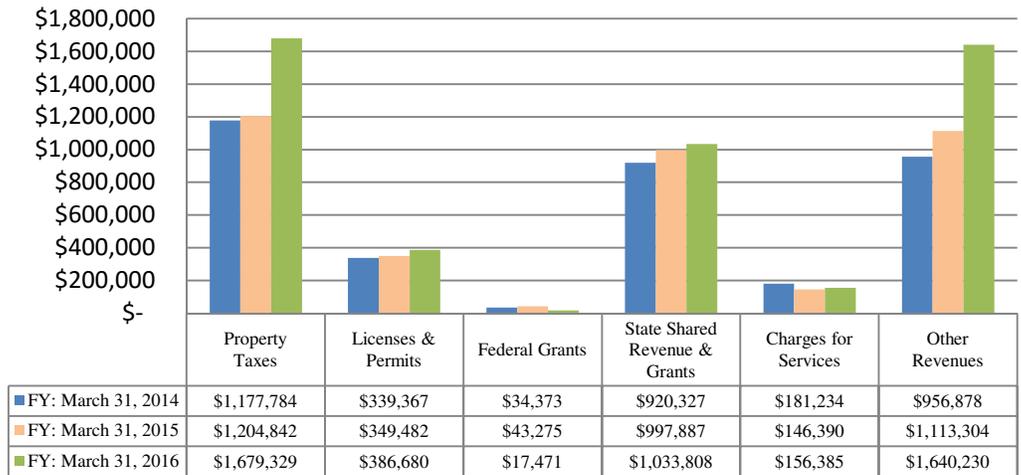
The chart to the right represents the allocation of each \$1 of property taxes collected by Spring Lake Township for a citizen with a homestead exemption.

Annual Audit

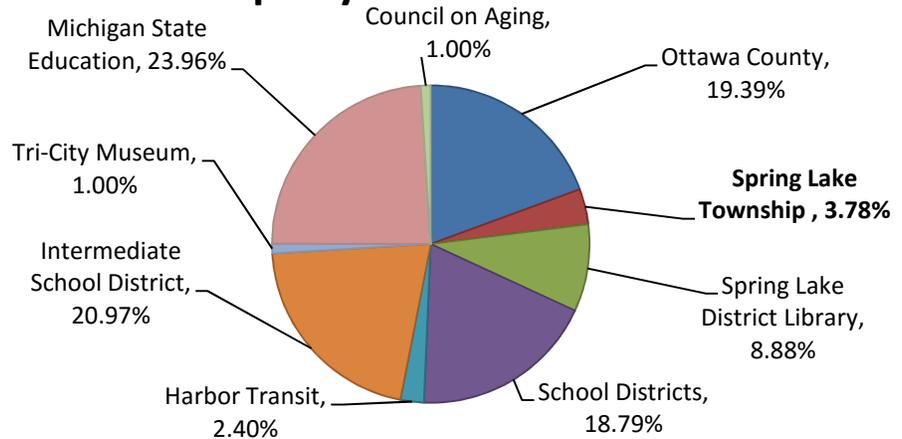
The Township is required by the State of Michigan to undergo an annual independent audit. The Township's audit for the fiscal year ending March 31, 2016 resulted in a clean audit opinion.

Complete financial statements of the Township can be found on our website under the Treasurer & Finance Department.

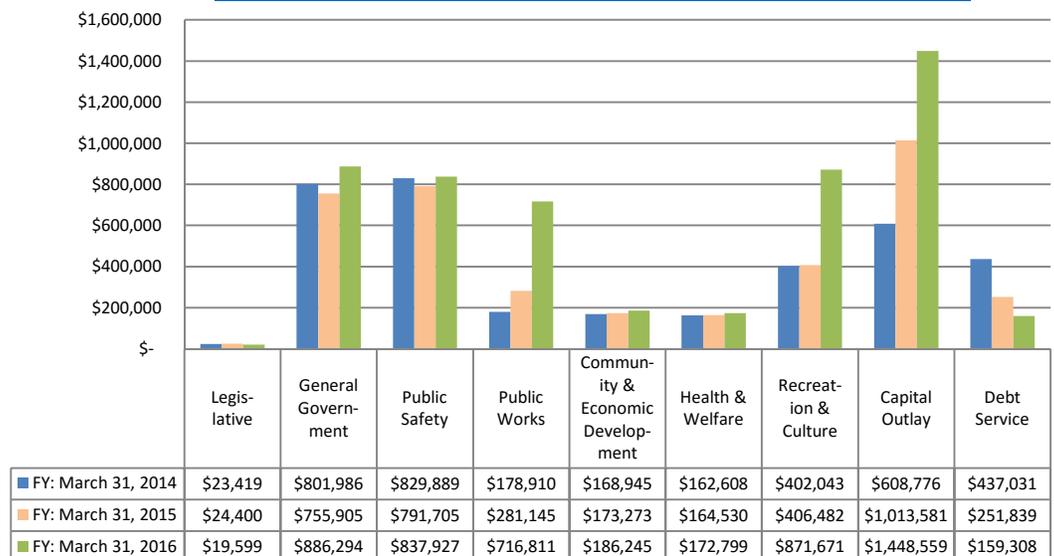
Primary Sources of Governmental Activities Revenue



Property Tax Collections



Primary Sources of Governmental Activities Expense



What's Next?

Economic Outlook and Moving Forward

About Citizen Centric Reporting

The Association of Government Accountants (AGA) developed guidance on producing Citizen Centric Reporting as a method to demonstrate accountability to residents and answer the question, "Are we better off today than we were last year?" Additional details can be found at the AGA website:

www.agacgfm.org/citizen/

Additional Information

Are you interested in more information about Spring Lake Township? Sign up for our monthly e-newsletters on our website. We also include newsletters with each tax bill and print messages on the quarterly water/sewer billing:

www.springlaketwp.org

Check out the Treasurer & Finance Department section of our website for additional performance and financial data, including our Dashboard and 2016 Citizen's Guide to Financial Health.

Don't forget to like us on our Facebook page:

www.facebook.com/springlaketwp

Contact Information

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Township's Economic Outlook

The Township had adopted balanced budgets for its governmental funds for Fiscal Year 2016. Unrestricted Fund Balance for the General Fund was 11.2% of expenditures at the end of Fiscal Year (FY) 2016. FY 2016 saw an increase in State Equalized Value (SEV) of 4.9%. In FY 2016 State Revenue Sharing decreased by 1.2% or **-\$11,621** from the previous year.

The Township's credit rating is an **AA**: "Double A. Very strong creditworthiness" from Standard & Poor. This is the second highest rating that Standard & Poor issues. Spring Lake Township looks to raise our rating to prior years of **AA+** credit.

Moving Forward

For the first time in many years, Spring Lake Township has two new large residential developments in the planning stages.

- The first development is Arcadia. This development is located on 148th Ave north of the Spring Lake High School. The development will consist of 89 single family home sites and 22 attached condominiums. The design elements will include protection of wetlands with wetland buffers, hiking trails, pond access and a possible future commercial area.
- The second development is Spring Ridge. This development is still in the preliminary stages. It is located on VanWagoner Rd. The development will consist of 55 lots. The design elements include sidewalks, two parks and a new bike path along the road frontage.

Communication Efforts

Much is said about transparency in Local Government. Spring Lake Township is committed to improving communications and transparency. Specifically, to meet this commitment, we have taken the following measures:

- Producing this Citizen Centric Report of finances.
- Producing a "Dashboard" to give residents a one page snapshot of how we are doing in the major areas of interest.
- Excellent website that is available 24/7.
- Producing an electronic newsletter that is sent out on a regular basis to update our residents about current issues in the Township.
- Posting of all minutes and agendas on our website.
- Produce two newsletters annually that are included with your tax bill.
- Provide messages and important notes on the quarterly water/sewer billing.

We want to hear from you!

Do you like this report? Do you believe it should include any other information?

Please let us know by emailing the Township Manager at GGallagher@springlaketwp.org or calling (616) 842-1340.