

# Study Predicts Township Future Need for Schools

Talking about schools in Bloomfield Township is not an easy thing to do. There is one snag. The boundaries.

Bloomfield Township, some people think, is naturally served by the Bloomfield Hills School District. Not so—completely.

At the elementary level, four schools are under the Hills District jurisdiction. They include Eastover, Hickory Grove, Conant and Wing Lake.

If a youngster attends Harlan or Bloomfield Village School, he will be in a school in the township except that these two are part of the Birmingham School System.

Some township children attend the Irving School. That's Pontiac affiliated.

**CURRENTLY, THERE ARE** seven elementary schools located within the township. Planners have forecasted a need for 14.3 schools.

However, due to the nature of the school districts, it is difficult to establish the best locations for these required elementary schools.

**AS A GUIDE TO THE** determination of the best locations for future elementary plants, a service radius standard was developed.

The gross area of the township is approximately 25 square miles. On the basis of an ultimate elementary school requirement of 14 plants, this means that each school will have to serve approximately a 1.8-square mile area.

The service radius for an area of this size is about three-quarters of a mile.

**APPLYING THIS** service area radius to the existing elementary schools, a pattern results showing where more coverage is needed.

As development progresses, the respective school boards will be in a position to determine modifications that will be required to handle the unique needs of their respective districts.

The accompanying diagram suggests a pattern of elementary schools which could handle overall township school enrollments at full development (provided that pupil per dwelling ratios materialize as expected).

## Residential Planning Unit Basic Theory

In devising the master plan, planners and consultants agreed first on some initial principals. One of them is the "residential planning unit."

**THE FIRST STAGE** is "the city" (or in Bloomfield's case, the township):

It is a complex of people, business, industry, civic and cultural centers all interconnected by a circulation system.

The township provides the basic services in addition to facilities provided at the community and neighborhood levels.

**THE SECOND STAGE** is a closer look at the township showing many communities. The community has as its service area, the high school district or the community center.

It is served by a major shopping center and is provided with one or more community parks.

**THE THIRD STAGE** is the most basic unit—the neighborhood. It contains a population large enough to support one elementary school and neighborhood park.

The residential street system is designed to eliminate through traffic within the residential area.

The elementary school and park are located at the center of the neighborhood within safe walking distance of all school children.

# Fire Protection a Must

Fire stations are usually unimposing buildings—but they are one of the very most important structures in any town.

There are three fire halls in Bloomfield Township today. A fourth is being planned.

### WHERE—AND WHY there?

Station One is at Telegraph and West Long Lake in the building housing the township offices.

Station Two is on Eastover Road just west of Adams.

Station Three is on West Maple just west of Telegraph.

Station Four will be on Franklin Road north of Square Lake Road.

A fifth station, at Lahser and Maple, is not included as servicing the township because it is not credited by the Michigan Inspection Bureau. It was built to serve the residents of the Bloomfield Village area of the township.

**REVIEWING THE** availability of fire fighting equipment, planners feel that the township will be well covered for fire protection when the fourth station on Franklin Road is complete.

The exception to this would be where commercial sections are not within a three-quarters of a mile response area—such as Woodward and Square Lake Road, and Woodward southeast of Bloomfield Hills City.

It appears, planners say, financially impractical to supply additional station facilities to cover these particular situations especially since surrounding residential areas are within the response range.

**THE NATIONAL BOARD** of Fire Underwriters, an organization supported by fire insurance companies, has set up standards for classifying cities into ten categories. The Classes are for fire insurance purposes.

Additional details and actual insurance rates are determined by the various State Inspection Bureaus.

The following classes are applicable to an area with the characteristics of development evident in Bloomfield Township:

**CLASS 9—AN** area within five miles of a fire station without fire

hydrants—the same dwelling as same dwelling as in Class 10 (brick veneer residence with approved roof.)

**Class 8—An** area with three miles of a fire station and within 1,000 feet of a fire hydrant—the same dwelling as in Class 10.

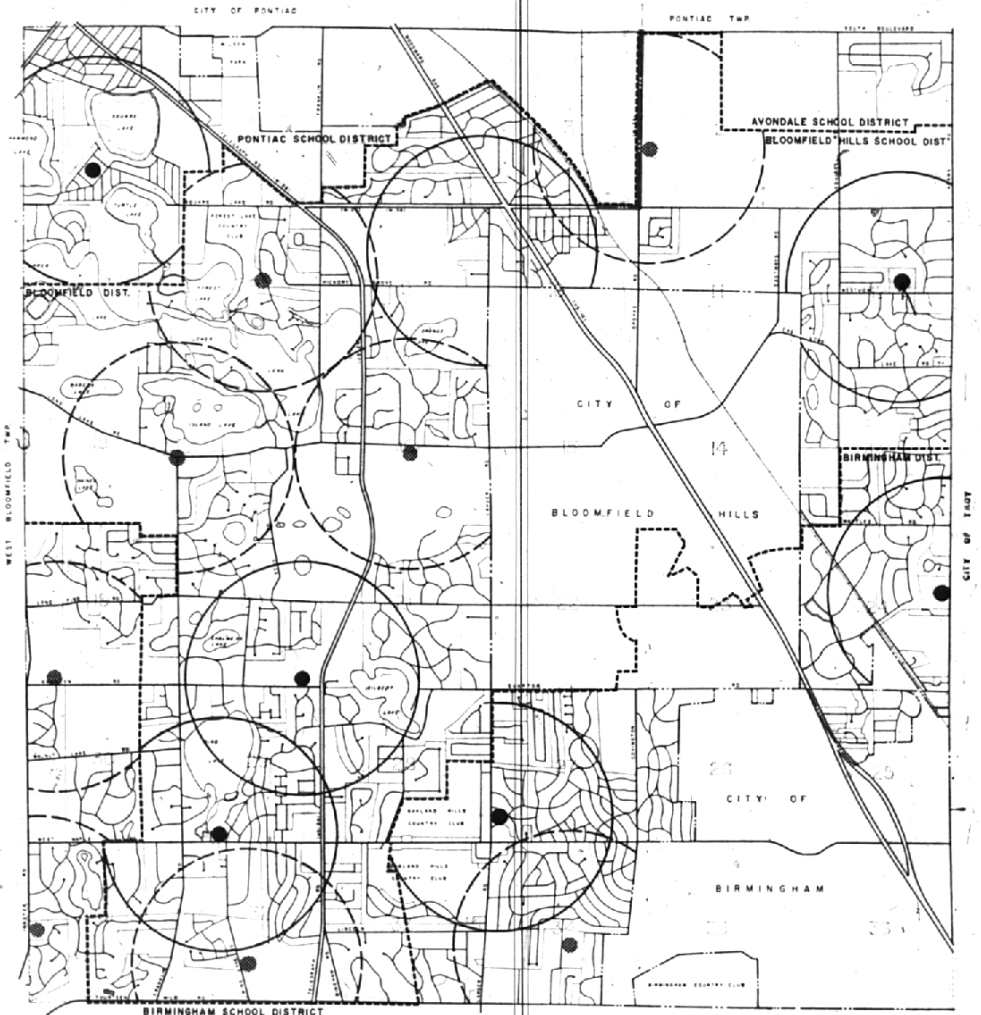
**IN TERMS OF** location, a fire station should have unhampered access to a two-way thoroughfare.

It should not be at the intersection of two major highways, where back up traffic could interfere with the movement of fire trucks.

It should not be in the midst of a commercial area either because of heavy auto and pedestrian congestion.

The thoroughfare on which the station is located should be one which allows ready access to all parts of the area to be protected.

Again, distance is an important factor. The amount of timber construction, the availability of water, the topography of the land and many other barriers also effect the speed in which township fire department crews can reach their destination.



- SCHOOL DISTRICT BOUNDARIES
- EXISTING ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS
- PROPOSED ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS
- 3/4 MILE SERVICE RADIUS (EXISTING SCHOOL)
- 3/4 MILE SERVICE RADIUS (PROPOSED SCHOOL)

ELEMENTARY SCHOOL PLAN

