

enVISION Fayette County

. . . is an update to the 2006 Fayette County Comprehensive Land Use Strategy Plan



en**VISION**
FAYETTE COUNTY
a comprehensive guide to future growth







WRITTEN AND DESIGNED BY:

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ISSUED WINTER 2016

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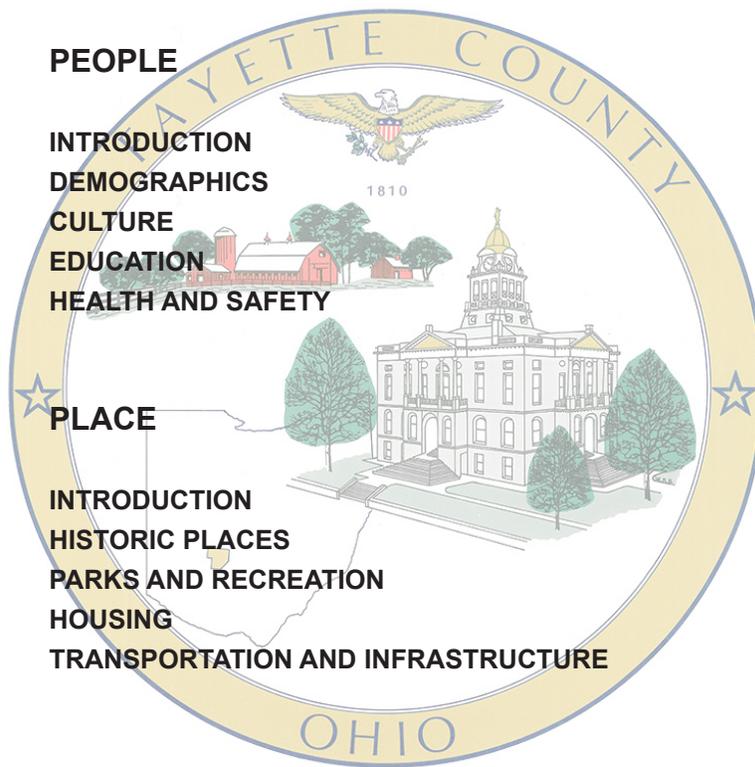
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OVERVIEW



PROLOGUE

Fayette County Commissioners Tony Anderson, Dan Dean, and Jack DeWeese are astute community leaders. They know that The Ohio State University (OSU) is a considerable resource that can be tapped for the benefit of their constituents. Previous successful OSU student projects such as 2014's Fayette County Hazard Mitigation Plan and the Mid-West Mega Commerce Center Study are examples of this. When discussing the need for an update to the County's 2006 Land Use Strategy Plan, the Commissioners directed Economic Development Director & Community Development Educator Godwin Apaliyah to contact OSU's City & Regional Planning Department. As a result of this inquiry, the Autumn 2016 graduate comprehensive planning studio took on the challenge.

With only three months to work, these 13 graduate students have been given the valuable opportunity to update Fayette County's comprehensive plan. They completed key research, gathered meaningful community input on issues that have genuine impact on residents, and made formal client visits in September, October, November and December. These efforts, combined with numerous conference calls, emails, and attendance at community events gave the students a "crash course" in all things Fayette County. Due to the students' enthusiastic approach, I believe their recommendations are authentic, beneficial, and evocative.

It has been a privilege for me to lead these outstanding young professionals. The County Commissioners, County Staff, area leaders, and residents have been welcoming, open, and helpful, which has facilitated the process. The project website (www.envisionfayette.weebly.com) included a survey which generated hundreds of responses. A Facebook page – enVISION Fayette County – spread the word about the project via social media and helped advertise public meetings. Media coverage from the Record Herald generated buzz and got people talking.

This entire document consists of original writings and diagrams backed by professional research. The prosperity of Fayette County has personal significance to me, and it is my sincere hope that the goals, objectives, recommendations, and ideas contained within this document will be implemented for the benefit of Fayette County residents for generations to come.

Chad D. Gibson, AICP

Lecturer

The Knowlton School
The Ohio State University



*“en**VISION** Fayette County” is an expression of its residents’ desires to maintain a high quality of life for all, preserve the unique heritage of the county, attract new opportunities, and ensure long-term prosperity and vitality.*

INTRODUCTION

Planning for future growth and development is integral to preserving and enhancing quality of life in Fayette County. In 2006, the county completed the Fayette County Comprehensive Land Use Strategy plan. The enVISION Fayette County Plan is an update to the 2006 Plan and will serve as a guiding document for the community in addressing long-term goals and growth. The enVISION Fayette County Plan conveys the vision of what Fayette County strives to be based on the needs and values of the county's residents. This document offers updates to the goals and recommendations originally outlined in the 2006 Fayette County Comprehensive Land Use Strategy Plan, and incorporates new feedback from residents, business owners, and county officials. The enVISION Fayette County Plan serves as an expression of the thoughts and feedback of resident-led subcommittees and suggests how to bolster partnerships to achieve the goals set out in the plan. Input from the public has been invaluable in the formation of this plan and established how the communities represented can work together to help the county realize its fullest potential.

REVIEW OF THE 2006 FAYETTE COUNTY COMPREHENSIVE LAND USE PLAN

The Fayette County 2006 Comprehensive Land Use Strategy Plan consists of eight sections, each of which was written by a subcommittee of community stakeholders. The eight sections listed in that plan were:

1. Infrastructure;
2. Economic Development;
3. Health and Safety;
4. Historic and Cultural Preservation;
5. Natural Resources;
6. Parks and Recreation;
7. Education;
8. Growth Management and Land Use.

Each section covered a variety of topics aimed at moving the county in a new direction, all while maintaining the rural character of Fayette County. Fayette County developed recommendations for the plan through a citizen-based approach. This approach promoted active resident involvement through community meetings. The community meetings guided the planning subcommittees and informed them of the citizens' concerns and aspirations for the county. The subcommittees created the plan sections which generally list values, history, policy, existing conditions, and recommendations as subsections. The enVISION Fayette County Plan builds on top of the foundation established in the 2006 Plan.



ENVISION
FAYETTE COUNTY
CULTURE

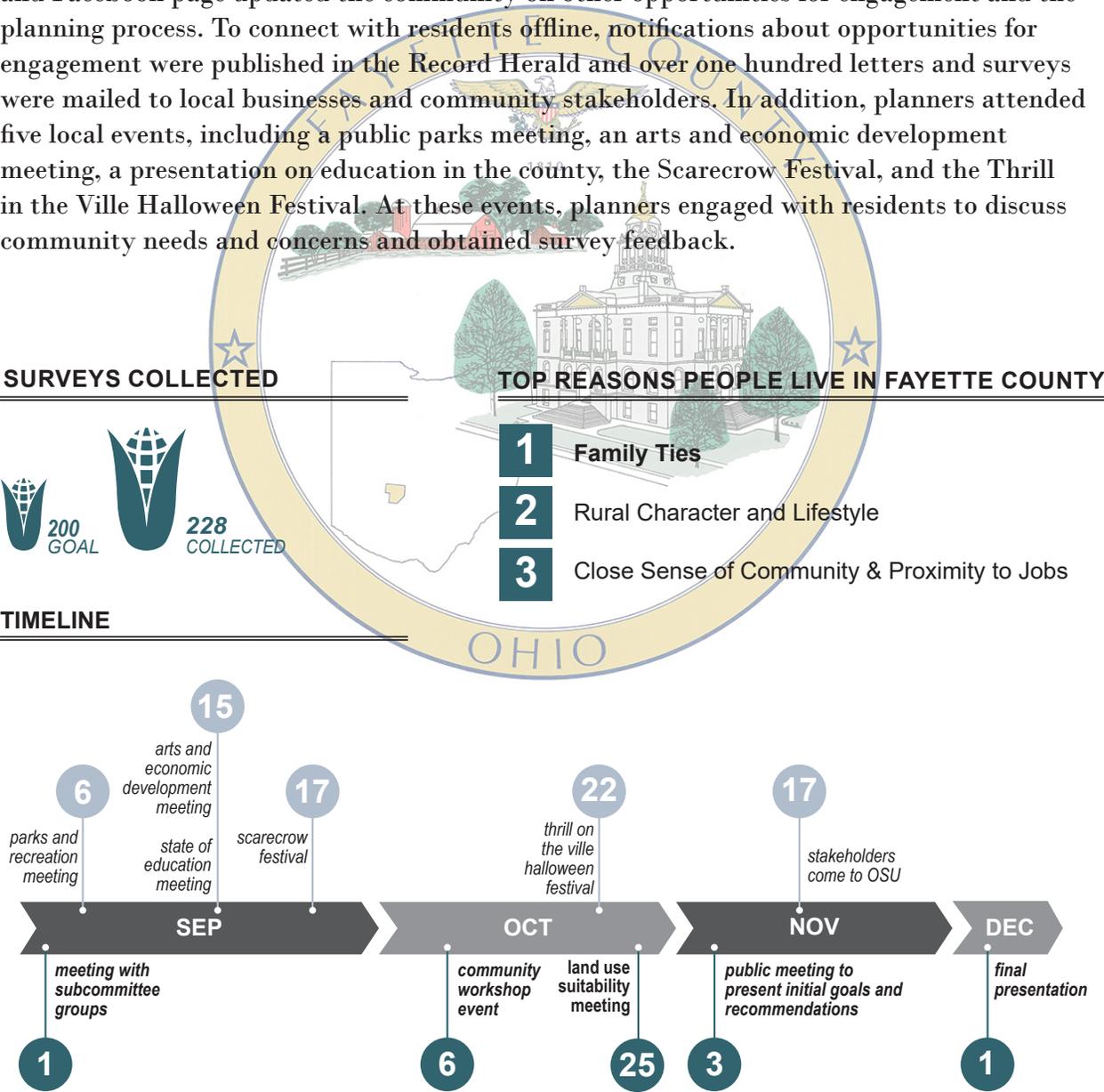
	1st Priority	2nd Priority	3rd Priority
Public Art Arts Organizations	●	●●	
Arts Arts Organizations	●●●●●	●●●●●	●●●●●
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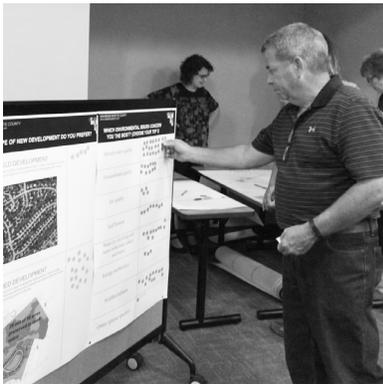


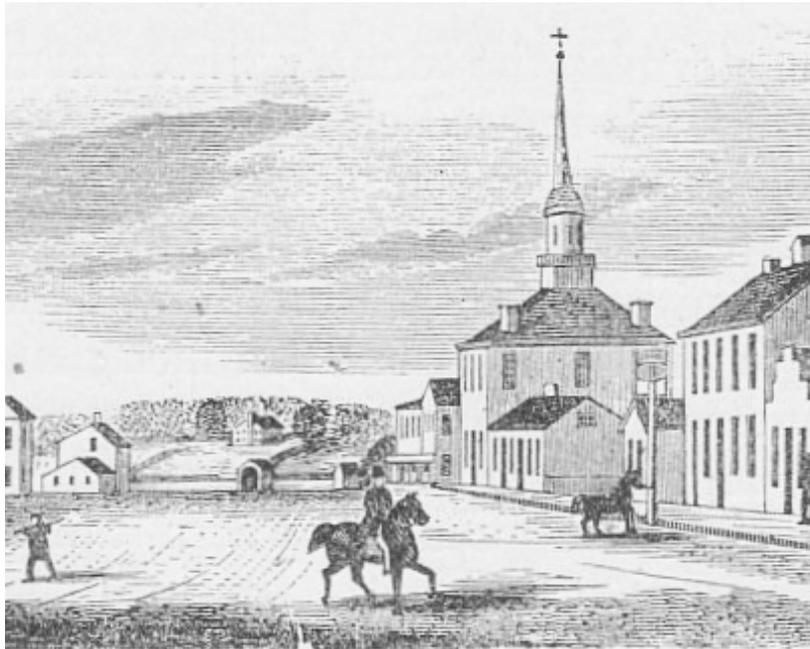
PUBLIC PROCESS AND OUTREACH

In updating a community’s comprehensive plan, the public outreach and feedback process is vital for capturing a community’s culture and vision for the future. Public feedback on the 2006 plan centered on nine subcommittees that focused on specific issue areas: agriculture, natural resources, health & safety, infrastructure, education, economic development, recreation, housing, and historical and cultural preservation. These subcommittees were the initial basis of the enVISION Fayette County plan’s public outreach efforts.

Beyond the subcommittees, planners creating the enVISION Fayette County plan sought to engage a diverse group of county residents through a variety of mediums. An online survey gathered feedback from residents on their priorities and goals for the county, while a website and Facebook page updated the community on other opportunities for engagement and the planning process. To connect with residents offline, notifications about opportunities for engagement were published in the Record Herald and over one hundred letters and surveys were mailed to local businesses and community stakeholders. In addition, planners attended five local events, including a public parks meeting, an arts and economic development meeting, a presentation on education in the county, the Scarecrow Festival, and the Thrill in the Ville Halloween Festival. At these events, planners engaged with residents to discuss community needs and concerns and obtained survey feedback.







Drawn by Henry Howe in 1846.

V I E W I N W A S H I N G T O N C . H .

PLAN ORGANIZATION

enVISION Fayette County is grouped into five major themes: People, Place, Prosperity, Partnerships, and Implementation. Although it is organized differently, enVISION Fayette County is not a completely new document but a revision and update of the chapters of the 2006 Fayette County Comprehensive Land Use Strategy plan.

The reorganized themes focus on the people who call Fayette County home, the places that create high quality of life, the opportunities to build and enhance prosperity, and the important partnerships needed between municipalities, non-government entities, and the County to respond to community-wide challenges. The sections discussing each of these themes states an overall vision for the theme and the sub-sections within the chapter list goals, existing conditions, and strategies to achieve the goals. Each strategy includes a description of the strategy and an estimated time frame for implementation. The time frame descriptions are as follows:



The seal of Fayette County, Ohio, is circular with a gold border. The words "FAYETTE COUNTY" are written in blue along the top inner edge, and "OHIO" is written in blue along the bottom inner edge. In the center, there is an eagle with wings spread, perched on a shield with red and white stripes, with the year "1810" below it. Below the eagle is a red barn with a white roof and a silo, surrounded by green trees. Below the barn is a large, white, classical-style building with a central dome and columns, also surrounded by green trees. Two blue stars are positioned on the left and right sides of the seal, flanking the central imagery.

Time Frame Descriptors:

- On-going
- Immediate: 2017
- Short Term: 2017 to 2019
- Medium Term: 2020 to 2022
- Long Term: 2022 +
- Completed

The Implementation chapter outlines the framework required to accomplish the strategies stated in the plan. Additionally, the appendix provides a quick reference table of the strategies included throughout the document and a list of potential funding options for the county. Throughout the enVISION Fayette County plan the words “will,” shall, and “should” are used. These words are not meant to be a legal mandate but are included to emphasise the importance of the recommendation in meeting the county’s goals.





PEOPLE



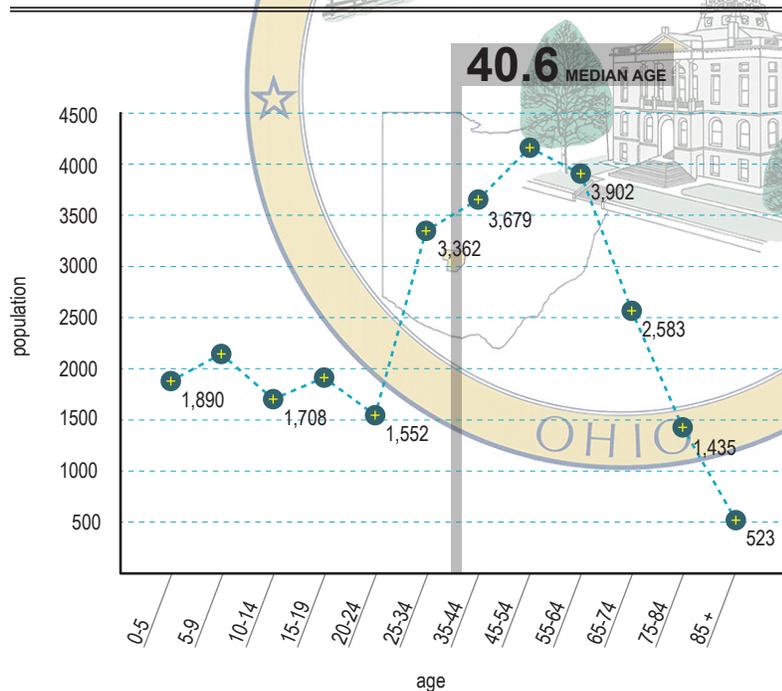
INTRODUCTION

People - the residents of Fayette County - are at the center of the enVISION Fayette County planning efforts. This section provides an overview of the people who call Fayette County home and assesses the general health, safety, well-being, and educational opportunities of county residents. This section also inventories the unique culture and heritage of the county and identifies opportunities for people of all ages to thrive. In addition, this section lists goals identified by the public and other key stakeholders that aim to enhance quality of life and retain the rich sense of place that makes Fayette County a desirable place for people to live, work, and raise a family.

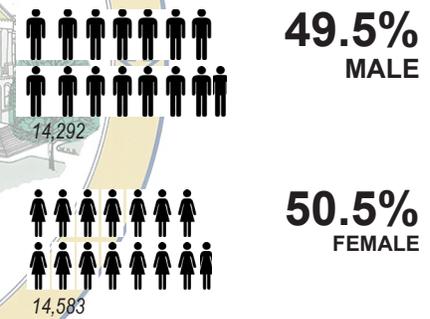
DEMOGRAPHICS

Fayette County hopes to attract 5,000 new residents to the county. According to the United States Census Bureau, Fayette County lost 351 residents from 2010 to 2015. The county will need to develop strategies to mitigate further population loss and attract new residents to achieve this goal.

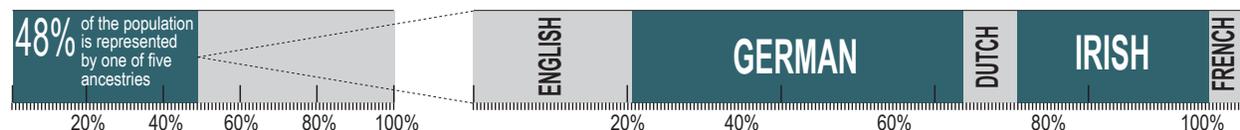
AGE



GENDER



ANCESTRY



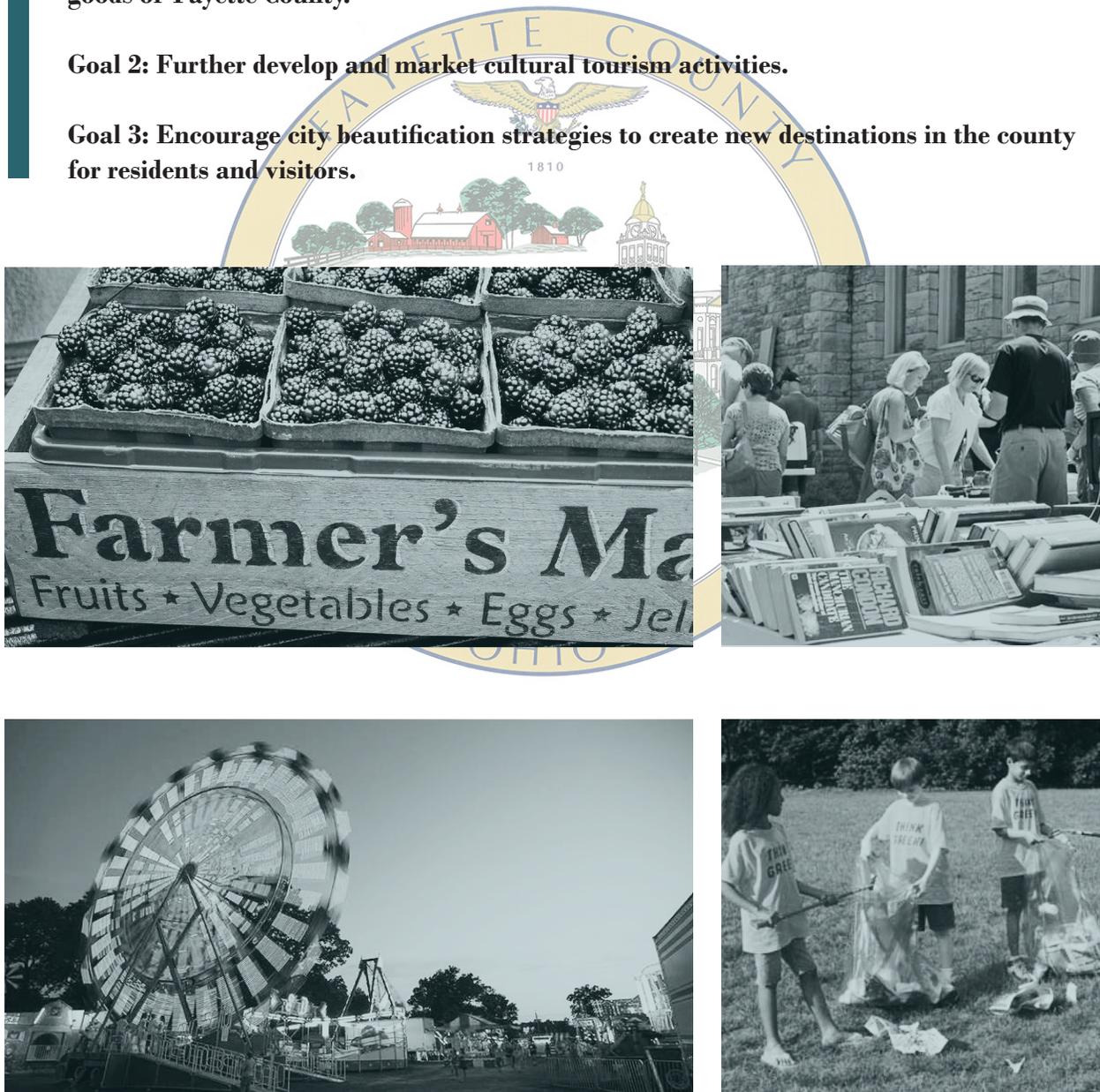
CULTURE

Cultural events and amenities are essential to the quality of life that Fayette County residents enjoy. While the county has a rich cultural history and hosts a variety of events, residents identified opportunities for improvement. Local citizens were particularly interested in the availability of public event spaces, the limited opportunities for walking tours of historic sites and cemeteries, and the lack of venues to celebrate locally-produced food, music, and goods. This subsection identifies existing cultural assets and proposes opportunities for expansion that are in keeping with the unique heritage of the county.

Goal 1: Establish additional festivals to celebrate the food, music, and locally-produced goods of Fayette County.

Goal 2: Further develop and market cultural tourism activities.

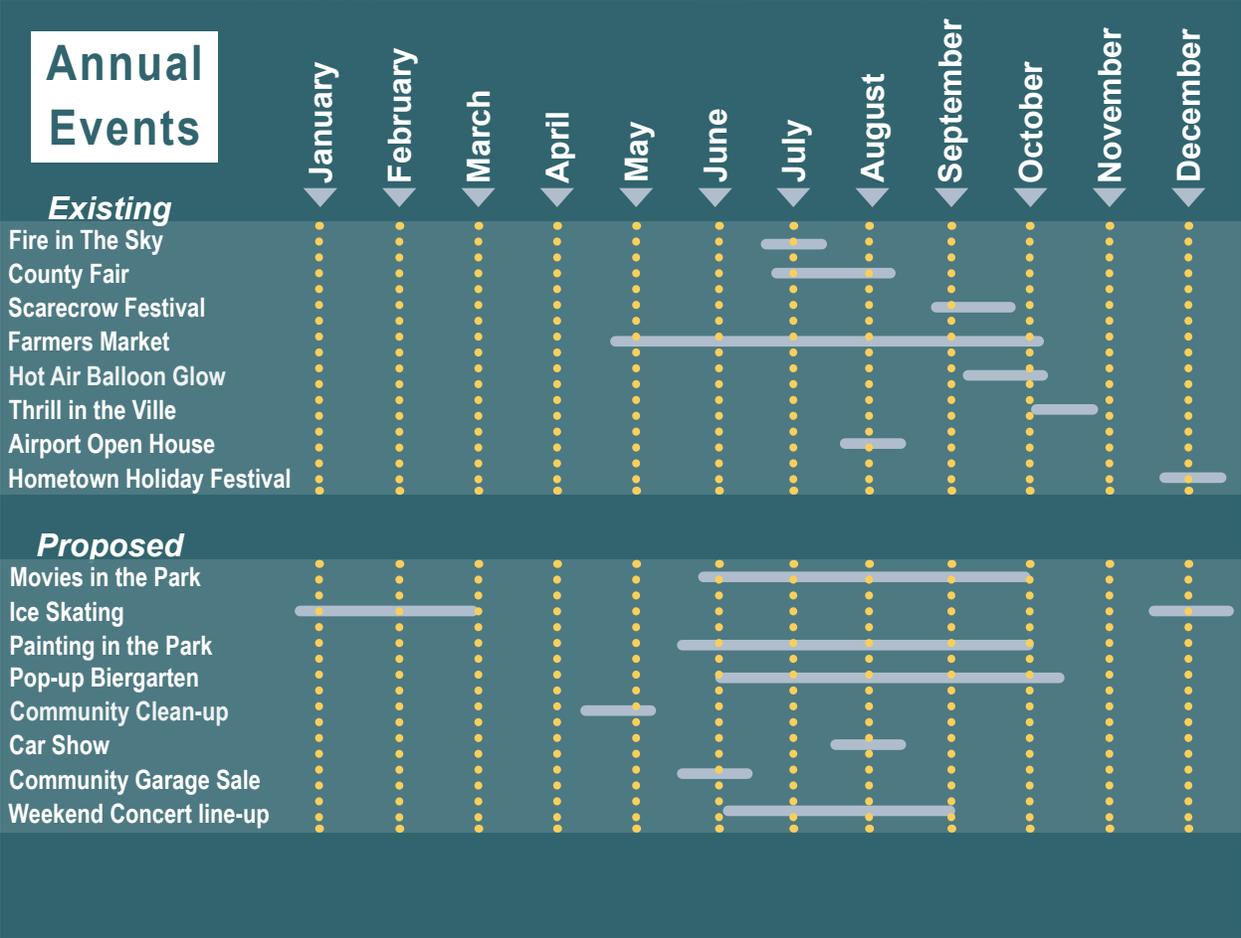
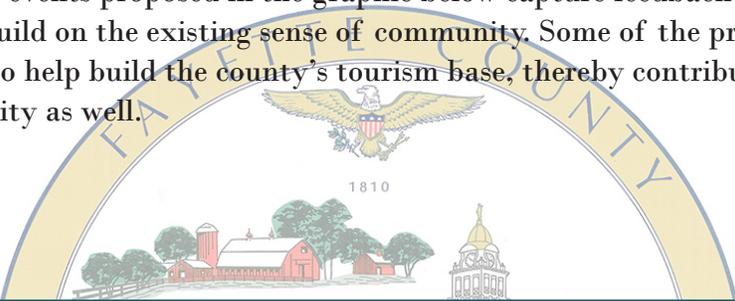
Goal 3: Encourage city beautification strategies to create new destinations in the county for residents and visitors.



EXISTING CONDITIONS

Festivals

Fayette County offers a variety of annual events and festivals that attract locals and visitors alike. These events celebrate and showcase the culture of the county and add to the entertainment options that residents enjoy. The desire for additional festivals and public gatherings came up regularly during the public engagement process and in conversations with the County Commissioners and representatives of the Travel and Tourism Bureau. County residents provided some specific examples of the kinds of activities and festivals that they would like to see pursued in the future. The County Commissioners expressed a desire to provide more entertainment options as part of the strategy to retain residents, particularly young people. The events proposed in the graphic below capture feedback from residents and opportunities to build on the existing sense of community. Some of the proposed options are also intended to help build the county’s tourism base, thereby contributing to economic development activity as well.



CULTURAL TOURISM

Fayette County has a rich history and offers opportunities for visitors and residents to learn about its unique culture and heritage. There are several walking tours showcasing properties that are recognized on the National Register of Historic Places. The county has also worked to establish tours of historic cemeteries, including some private family plots. The culture subcommittee is encouraging townships to further inventory family cemeteries for future tours.

Fayette County also has an extensive network of Underground Railroad sites, which are represented on the map below. Some of these structures have been lost, but the contributions of the county to the Network to Freedom live on. For more information on the historical significance of these sites, please see entry 1.2 in Appendix F: References.

UNDERGROUND RAILROAD SITES

11

1

5

4

3

2

6

9

10

8

7

1. WILLIAM USTICK HOME
2. JAMES ALEXANDER HOME
3. BLOOMINGBURG PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
4. COL. JAMES STEWART HOME
5. ADAM STEELE HOME
6. MOSES RAWLINGS HOME
7. EBENUEZER/THOMAS MCELROY HOME
8. AUGUSTUS WEST SITE
9. ALEX BEATTY HOME
10. ROBERT TEMPLETON HOME
11. GEORGE STEWART SITE



Incorporating public art within the downtown core both activates underutilized public space and showcases the strength of local artists.



PUBLIC ART

Public art installations are in relatively short supply in Fayette County. Still, the county has several murals, memorial parks, and public squares, which create destinations and convey a sense of place. Residents expressed interest in adding to these installations to create focal points, beautify public spaces, and mark new destinations.



RECOMMENDATIONS

Goal 1: *Establish additional festivals to celebrate the food, music, and locally- produced goods of Fayette County.*

Strategy: Develop additional public spaces designed to host concerts, festivals, weddings, picnics, and other events.

Time Frame of Completion: Ongoing

Strategy: Pursue additional sponsorship dollars so that Fayette County event spaces can better compete with other venues for concerts.

Time Frame of Completion: Ongoing

Goal 2: *Further develop and market cultural tourism activities.*

Strategy: Aggressively market the county's festivals, restaurants, tours, shopping, and tourist destinations on local television channels, in hotels, and at the Tanger Outlets.

Time Frame of Completion: Short Term

Strategy: Develop additional print and digital materials on the extensive network of local places that were part of the Underground Railroad and frame their significance within the regional Network to Freedom.

Time Frame of Completion: Short Term

Strategy: Further inventory family cemetery plots in the townships and market historic cemetery tours using digital and print materials.

Time Frame of Completion: Short Term

Goal 3: *Encourage city beautification strategies to create new destinations in the county for residents and visitors.*

Strategy: Pursue additional resources to fund public art installations. See the Capital Improvement Potential Funding Sources section of the Implementation chapter for funding opportunities.

Time Frame of Completion: Ongoing

Strategy: Incorporate murals, sculptures and ornate landscaping into public space design and redevelopment to create destinations and community gateways.

Time Frame of Completion: Ongoing

EDUCATION

Fayette County has a diverse and far-reaching education system consisting of two public school districts, a community college branch, and a number of other educational assets. The two primary public school districts in the county, Miami Trace Local Schools and Washington Court House City Schools executed an aggressive facility construction plan over the past 10 years. In 2009 the Fayette County Campus of Southern State Community College expanded, adding classrooms and community space. Looking forward, the demand for skilled labor and employees with greater educational attainment is projected to increase. The skills that future employers will require speaks to the need for greater collaboration between educational entities, industry, and businesses essential to promoting economic development and ensuring economic opportunities for residents of the county.

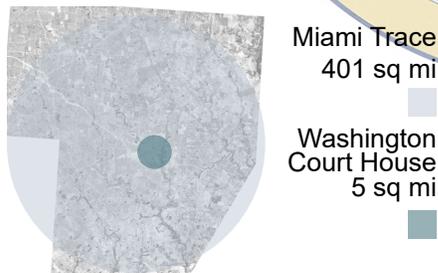
Goal 1: Leverage industry and educational partners in the community to promote economic development and increase economic opportunities for residents and employers in the county.

Goal 2: Pursue opportunities to improve access and pedestrian safety at Fayette County Schools

EXISTING CONDITIONS

The statistics and measures for education in the county have improved significantly over time, but educational attainment for the school districts and the adult population still lags behind both state and national averages.

SCHOOL DISTRICT SIZE



ENROLLMENT IN FAYETTE COUNTY



RESIDENTS OLDER THAN 25 WITH A BACHELOR'S DEGREE OR HIGHER



RESIDENTS WITH A HIGH SCHOOL DIPLOMA



RECOMMENDATIONS

Goal 1: *Leverage industry and educational partners in the community to promote economic development and increase economic opportunities for residents and employers in the county.*

Strategy: Increase collaboration with the Great Oaks Juvenile Vocational School District and local employers to offer a more cohesive and complete technical and vocational education to high school students in the county.

Time Frame of Completion: Ongoing

Strategy: Increase course and degree options at Southern State Community College to further diversify the educational offerings that support current and future employment opportunities in the county.

Time Frame of Completion: Medium Term

Goal 2: **Pursue opportunities to improve access and pedestrian safety at Fayette County Schools**

Strategy: Promote safe access to schools and healthy lifestyles for students by constructing paths, sidewalks, and crosswalks where possible. Pursue opportunities to connect new trails to schools when possible.

Time Frame of Completion: Long Term

Strategy: Continue to pursue the installation of a traffic signal at the Miami Trace campus to reduce traffic congestion and improve pedestrian safety.

Time Frame of Completion: Long Term

Strategy: Increase safety at bus stops by installing walking paths and lighting, and consider the installation of a pedestrian overpass at Southern State Community College.

Time Frame of Completion: Medium Term

HEALTH & SAFETY

Community health and safety has become increasingly important to Fayette County. According to the United States Census Bureau, 20 percent of Fayette County adults reported having fair or poor health in the past 30 days in 2010. Additionally, the Office of Criminal Justice Services (OCJS) states that more crimes were reported in 2014 than in 2009, suggesting that crime in the area has increased. Many community members are working to combat health issues and crime in the county, and this section supports their efforts to improve public health and enhance quality of life for Fayette County residents.

Goal 1: Encourage and support wellness and physical activity.

Goal 2: Reduce crime and increase community safety in Fayette County.

EXISTING CONDITIONS

As of October 2016, all of Fayette County qualifies as a Federal Medically Underserved Area (MUA). According to Policy Map, “Medically Underserved Areas are designated by the Federal Health Resources and Services Administration as having too few primary care providers, high infant mortality, high poverty, and/or a high elderly population”. As of 2014, Fayette County had just 11 primary care physicians, compared to neighboring Madison County’s 23, Clinton County’s 31, and Pickaway County’s 26, meaning that maintaining the health of Fayette County residents and retaining existing medical facilities is a top priority.

FAYETTE COUNTY RESIDENTS WITH CHRONIC CONDITIONS IN 2010

- 40% with high cholesterol
- 38% with high blood pressure
- 24% with depression
- 12% with diabetes
- 11% with COPD
- 10% with asthma

FAYETTE COUNTY RESIDENTS HEALTH RISK FACTORS IN 2013

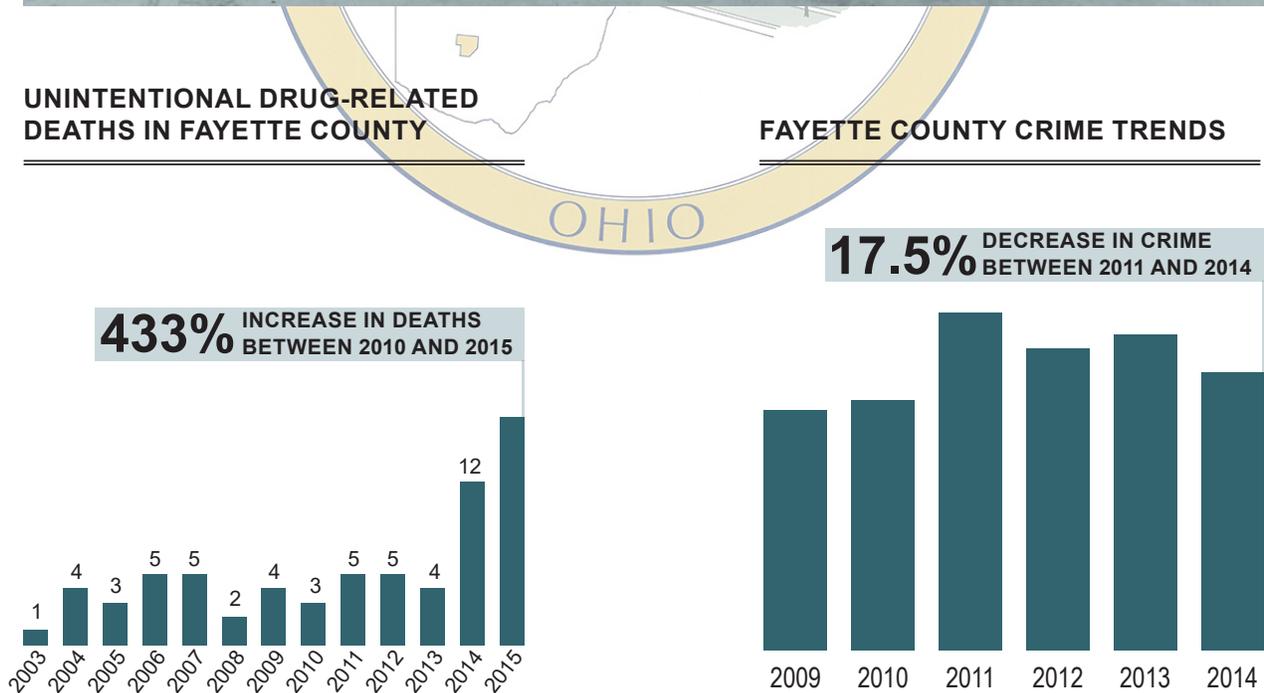
- 32% Adults reporting to be obese (body mass index of 30 or greater)
- 16% Adults not meeting physical activity recommendations
- 86% Adults who do not eat five or more daily servings of fruit / vegetables

In 2015, unintentional drug overdose was the leading cause of injury-related death in Ohio. Unintentional drug overdoses caused the deaths of 3,050 Ohio residents in 2015, the highest number on record in the state. The increased amount of drug use and abuse is a significant concern for the Fayette County community. Focusing on this and other public safety issues that are important to county residents is crucial to improving the quality of life in Fayette County. The Fayette County Sheriff's Office and Washington Court House Police Department provide public safety services in the area and additional actions can support law enforcement efforts and prevent future crimes.



UNINTENTIONAL DRUG-RELATED DEATHS IN FAYETTE COUNTY

FAYETTE COUNTY CRIME TRENDS





We're Care...

FAYETTE COUNTY
MEMORIAL HOSPITAL

RECOMMENDATIONS

Goal 1: *Encourage and support wellness and physical activity.*

Strategy: Update neighborhoods to better support physical activity and incorporate health benefit considerations into future development proposals

Time Frame of Completion: Ongoing

Strategy: Create a working group to develop strategies focused on attracting and retaining health care professionals in Fayette County, and to ensure that the local hospital provides high quality care.

Time Frame of Completion: Ongoing

Goal 2: *Reduce crime and increase community safety in Fayette County*

Strategy: Improve the availability and accessibility of drug & alcohol rehabilitation and intervention programs.

Time Frame of Completion: Ongoing

Strategy: Secure funding to remodel the building that will have the proposed men's residential drug treatment facility.

Time Frame of Completion: Medium Term

Strategy: Increase knowledge among providers and patients about existing drug treatment programs.

Time Frame of Completion: Ongoing

Strategy: Secure funding for the development of a new county jail to expand inmate capacity and improve safety for officers and offenders.

Time Frame of Completion: Medium Term





PLACE



INTRODUCTION

Places serve as a magnet for friends, families, and communities to gather. They are the homes where our families grow, public spaces where we create new memories, or institutions that connect us to the community. Fayette County already has many assets that can be strengthened and built upon. These include buildings rich in history, an abundance of green spaces and natural land, many charming neighborhoods with well-maintained homes, and a solid foundation of transportation and infrastructure connections.

Amidst these opportunities, county demographics continue to change and buildings, homes, and infrastructure continues to age. Adapting to and preparing for these changes will allow Fayette County to remain nimble and be ready with solutions for emerging needs. For enVISION Fayette County, planning for ‘place’ means providing spaces and connections that draw people together and strengthen their attachment to their community. This section represents the compilation of community feedback and a strengthened vision for place in Fayette County. Good placemaking results in communities that are full of energy, vibrancy, and opportunity - the enVISION for Fayette County.



HISTORIC PLACES

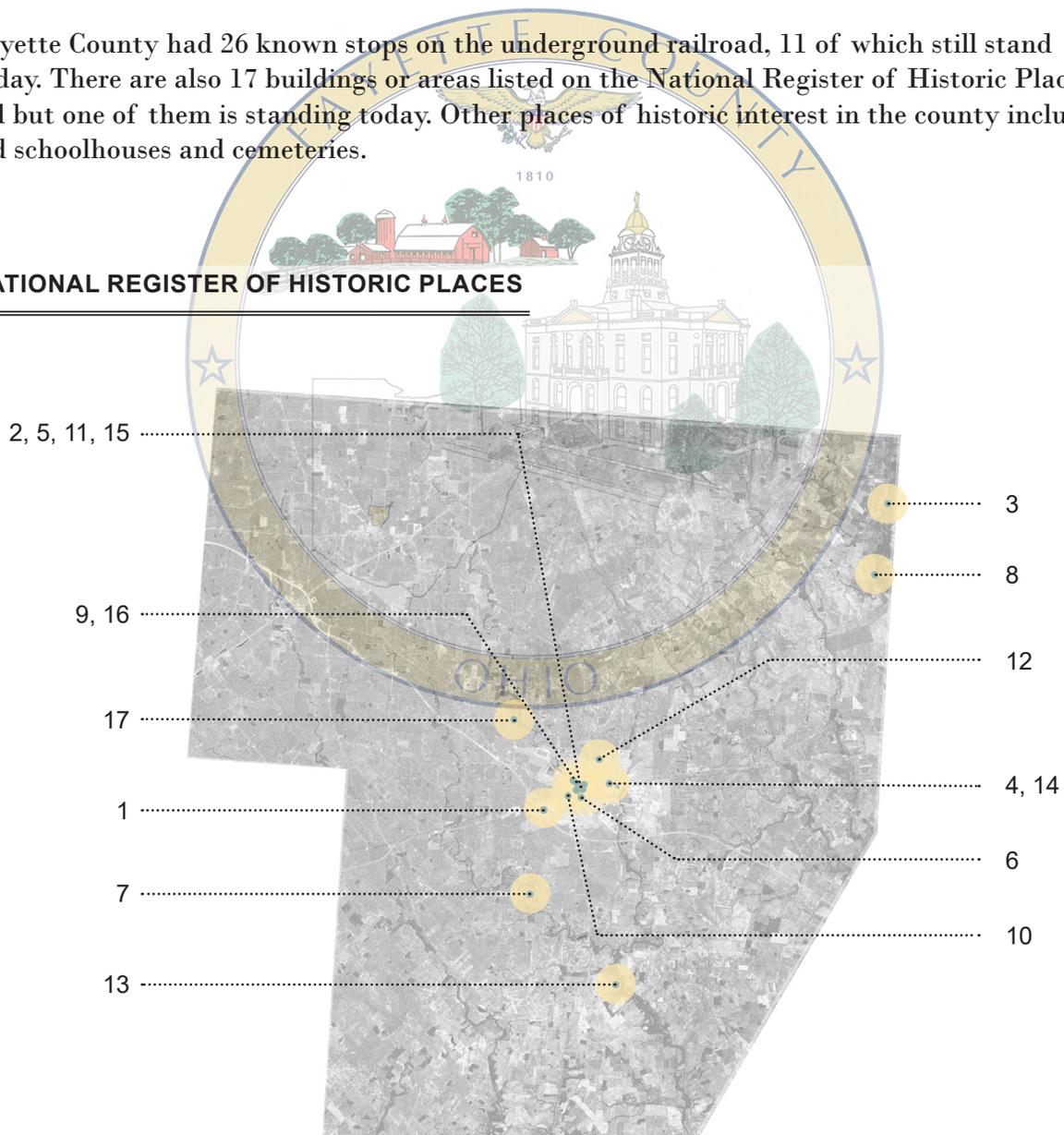
Fayette County is a vibrant community committed to the continued care of its natural and historic resources. Historic amenities in the county serve as a draw for tourism and a critical component of placemaking for the community.

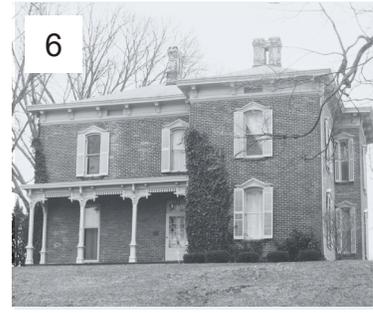
Goal 1: Ensure that historic places are a valuable component of placemaking and are connected with existing and planned amenities.

EXISTING CONDITIONS

Fayette County had 26 known stops on the underground railroad, 11 of which still stand today. There are also 17 buildings or areas listed on the National Register of Historic Places. All but one of them is standing today. Other places of historic interest in the county include old schoolhouses and cemeteries.

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES





SITES LISTED ON THE NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES

1. William Burnett House: Built in 1869 (Destroyed)
2. Courthouse: Built in 1882
3. Jackson Mound
4. Judy Chapel: Built in 1905
5. Barney Kelley House: Built in 1875
6. Jacob Light House: Built in 1875
7. Mark Road Bridge:
8. William McCafferty Farmhouse
9. Rawlings Brownell House: Built in 1851
10. Robinson Pavey House: Built in 1850
11. Morris Sharp House: Built in 1875
12. Edward Smith Jr. Farm: Built in 1855
13. Sollars Farmstead
14. Washington Cemetery Historic District
15. Washington Court House Commercial Historic District
16. Washington School
17. Woodlawn Farm House: Built in 1878

AREAS OF INTEREST NOT ON THE NATIONAL REGISTRY

- Rural Cemeteries
- St. Colman Catholic Church
- Grace United Methodist Church
- Sollars House
- Hegler House
- Haigler House
- Hukill House
- Brock House
- Lampe House
- Wendle House
- Underground Railroad sites
- Eyman Woods
- Coil Campgrounds
- Washington Middle School
- Bloomingsburg Academy

THE LOWEST PRICES IN OHIO
SATISFACTION WITH EACH TRANSACTION!

TOILET

CANDY

TOBACCO

RUBBER GOODS

PILL

THERE'S A BRUSH TO FIT THE JOB

40



RECOMMENDATIONS

Goal 1: *Ensure that historic places are a valuable component of placemaking and are connected with existing and planned amenities.*

Strategy: Identify historic sites that can be connected via bike paths or walking trails, increase and expand tours to include cemeteries, historically significant sites, and underground railroad sites.

Time Frame of Completion: Short Term

Strategy: Adopt wayfinding tools that connect people from busy public spaces to historic places. Strategies for wayfinding tools are discussed in more detail in the Parks & Recreation section.

Time Frame of Completion: Short Term

Strategy: Focus on reactivating historic districts in Washington Court House to make the area more attractive as a destination.

Time Frame of Completion: Long Term

Strategy: Pursue the listing of any sites of interest on the National Register of Historic Places list.

Time Frame of Completion: Short Term

PARKS AND RECREATION

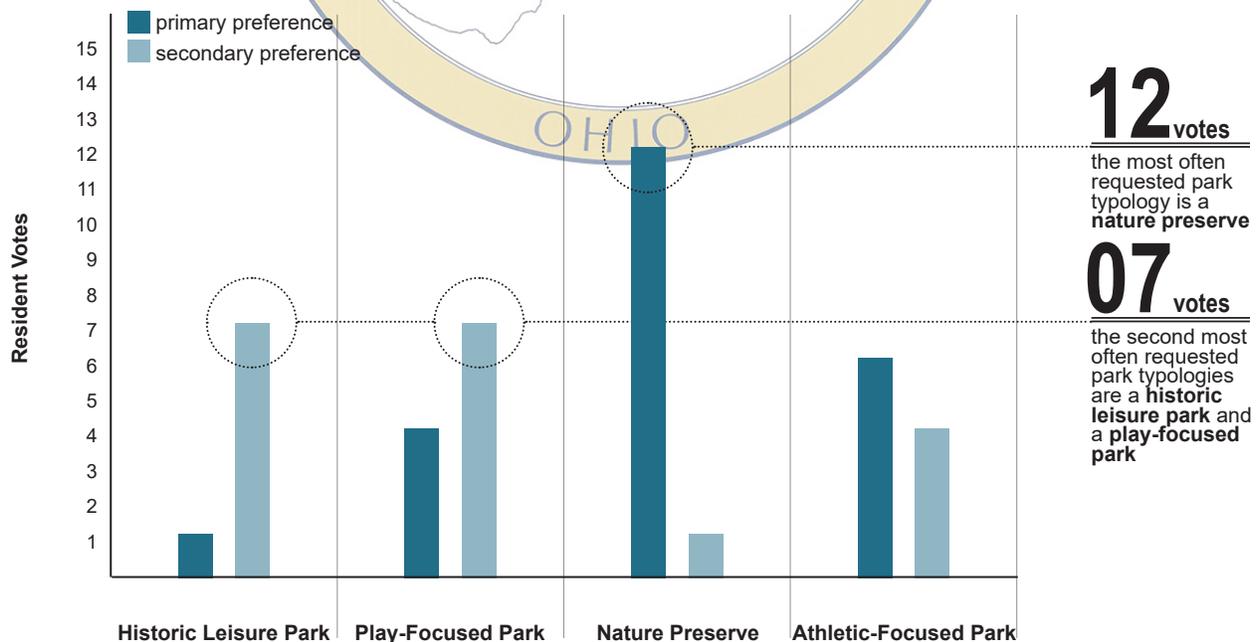
An abundance of greenspaces and recreational opportunities make Fayette County a desirable place to live, work and play. Parks and recreation are central to the enVISION Fayette County plan. The preservation and expansion of the county’s parks, forests, waterways and green corridors contribute substantially to the welfare of Fayette County residents. This network of parks, trails, and open space forms the backbone of Fayette County’s ecological system and is no less essential to the county’s prosperity and livability than any other kind of infrastructure. Like systems designed for transportation and water treatment, this ecological system must be managed. This section addresses the need to preserve and expand the county’s network of greenspace by providing more parks in developed areas, preserving the region’s most important natural assets and providing connections between parks and preserves. These investments will help to ensure the continued desirability of Fayette County and contribute to the improved health of the region’s residents and economic vitality.

Goal 1: Identify sites for future park and recreation space.

Goal 2: Ensure the financial sustainability of Fayette County’s parks by allowing opportunities for leasing public park facilities for programs and events.

Goal 3: Restore and improve existing park programming infrastructure such as paths, furniture and lighting through a combination of private and public funds.

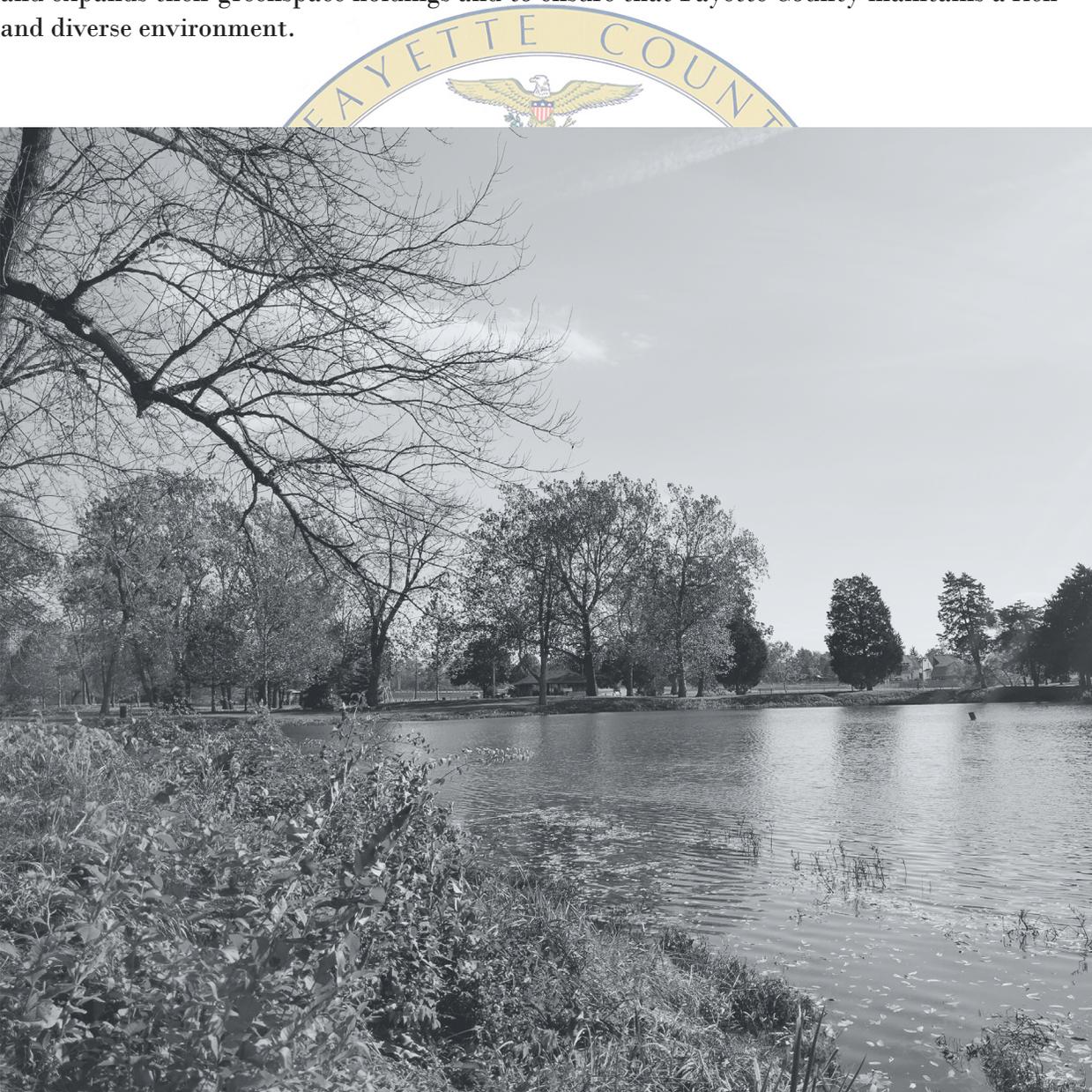
FAYETTE COUNTY PARK SURVEY RESULTS “WHAT TYPE OF PARK WOULD YOU LIKE MOST”



EXISTING CONDITIONS

Fayette County’s existing parks and greenspaces encompass a rich diversity of leisure options and ecological assets. This diversity includes trails for strolling and biking, playgrounds, sporting fields, and memorials, all of which are set within a landscape of manicured lawns, wetlands, forests, meadows, and urban environments.

The county’s current greenspace holdings comprise over 400 acres of lands and trail networks that extend over 35 miles, connecting Fayette County to neighboring ones. Yet the county’s green space and trail networks need to be expanded and enriched in order to create the best possible experience for residents and visitors. The recommendations for Fayette County’s parks and recreation are intended to set a framework for how the county manages, restores, and expands their greenspace holdings and to ensure that Fayette County maintains a rich and diverse environment.



278

acres of public park space

35

miles of scenic biking and hiking trails

1,532

tons of carbon sequestered from the existing park space

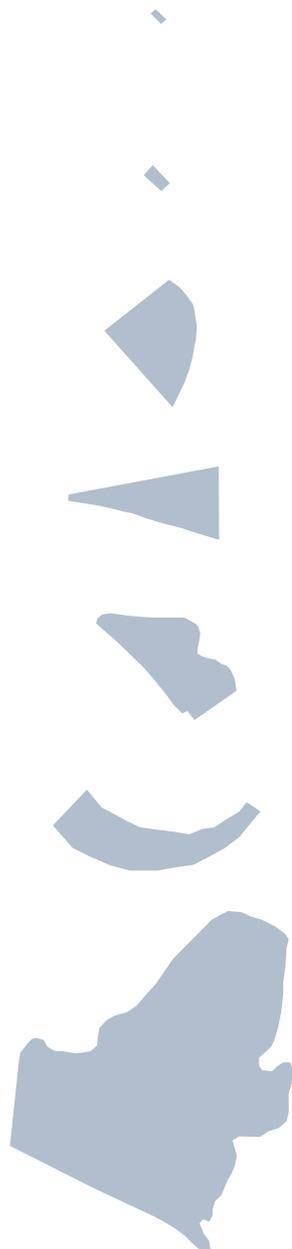
17

baseball diamonds currently in Fayette County

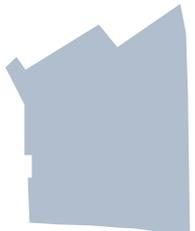


EXISTING PUBLIC PARKS

PARK NAME	ACRES	AMENITIES
Veterans Memorial Park	0.06	Benches, Gardens
Katie Schwartz Park	0.37	Playground, Picnicking, Basketball Court
Eyman Park	16.85	Shelterhouse, Skate Park, Playground, Picnicking, Basketball Court, Softball Fields, Greenway Trail Access, Tennis Courts, Historic Train Display
Chrisman Memorial Park	17.60	Shelterhouse, Playground, Picnicking, Basketball Court, Greenway Trail Access, Dog Park
Washington Park	18.15	Shelterhouse, Performance Lawn, Playground, Picnicking, Fishing Ponds, Hiking Trail, Greenway Trail Access
Gardener Athletic Field	18.50	Shelterhouse, Football Stadium, Tennis Courts, Picnicking, Greenway Trail Access, Performance Lawn
The Farm	206.72	YMCA, Sport Fields, Reservoir, Fishing, Picnicking, Model Airplane Field, Habitat Restoration, Gardens, Walking Trail



POTENTIAL PUBLIC PARK



Washington Country Club	76.36	Shelterhouse, Nine-hole Golf Course, Tennis Courts, Picnicking, Pond,
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RECOMMENDATIONS

Goal 1: *Identify sites for future park and recreation space.*

Strategy: Strategically target areas for future greenspace and green infrastructure.

Time Frame of Completion: Short Term

Strategy: Expand the existing Rails to Trails network, creating vital linkages between existing and proposed parks and green infrastructure.

Time Frame of Completion: Ongoing

Strategy: The YMCA site should be considered for further recreational development, including the addition of sporting fields, a natatorium, and other aquatic-focused programmed spaces.

Time Frame of Completion: Long Term

Goal 2: *Ensure the financial sustainability of Fayette County's parks by allowing opportunities for leasing public park facilities for programs and events.*

Strategy: Adopt an aggressive marketing strategy to promote parks as spaces that can be leased for public and private events, thus providing additional funding for park improvements.

Time Frame of Completion: Short Term

Goal 3: *Restore and improve existing park programming and infrastructure such as paths, furniture and lighting through a combination of private and public funds.*

Strategy: Identify a combination of motivating and capital campaign projects to help ensure the long-term financial sustainability of a Parks and Recreation Department.

Time Frame of Completion: Long Term

Strategy: Restore cultural landscapes, such as agricultural hedgerows and historic cemeteries and incorporate them into a larger Greenspace Plan.

Time Frame of Completion: Long Term

**Motivating Campaign projects refers to projects addressed with donated funds such as restoration work, memorial trees and program improvements*

**Capital Campaign projects refers to projects addressed with city and county funds as well as through grant awards such as park improvements, streetscape improvements and park infrastructure*

HOUSING

Home is the grounding place where people recharge, build families, and create memories. Its conditions have serious impacts on an individual's health and economic success. Housing is also one of the social determinants of health meaning where people call home has a direct link to their health outcomes like life expectancy and mental health. Furthermore, stable and affordable housing can lead to greater educational attainment for children and financial stability later in life. Given this context, Fayette County should develop and maintain a housing stock that is of high quality, diverse in type, affordable, and accessible to all Fayette County residents.

Goal 1: Improve the diversity of housing types in Fayette County.

Goal 2: Cultivate affordable and accessible housing options in Fayette County.

Goal 3: Provide resources that encourage residential property maintenance and upkeep.

EXISTING CONDITIONS

During the October community workshop, a five-question housing survey was distributed to attendees to help discern the county's most pressing housing needs. Themes identified from the the survey responses were used in establishing the housing existing conditions and final recommendations.

A significant amount of renters and homeowners in Fayette County are spending more than one-third of their income on housing. Overall, 75% county residents reported that they have trouble meeting their housing costs and identified a lack of affordable housing as one of the biggest challenges facing the community.

By 2030 1 in 5 Americans will be over 65. Fayette County mirrors the national trend with the amount of residents over 65 increasing in the past 5 years, as well as an identified growth in senior housing needs. 73% of survey respondents stated that property upkeep and mobility within the home are the biggest barriers for the elderly.

Over 25% of Fayette County homes were built before 1939 and 80% of survey respondents stated that there is a need to rehabilitate historic homes. Amidst this, most respondents reported that upkeep is the most challenging housing cost to manage.

HOMEOWNERS AND RENTERS



HOME AFFORDABILITY

 **50%** of renters spend more than 1/3 of their income on housing

 **25%** of homeowners spend more than 1/3 of their income on housing⁰

TOP HOME BARRIERS FOR THE ELDERLY

 **PROPERTY UPKEEP**

 **MOBILITY WITHIN THE HOME**

AGEING HOUSING STOCK

 **25%** of housing stock is built before 1939



What is Affordable Housing?

Affordable housing is not section 8 housing. The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development defines affordable housing as housing for which the occupant(s) is/are paying no more than 30 percent of his or her income for gross housing costs, including utilities.

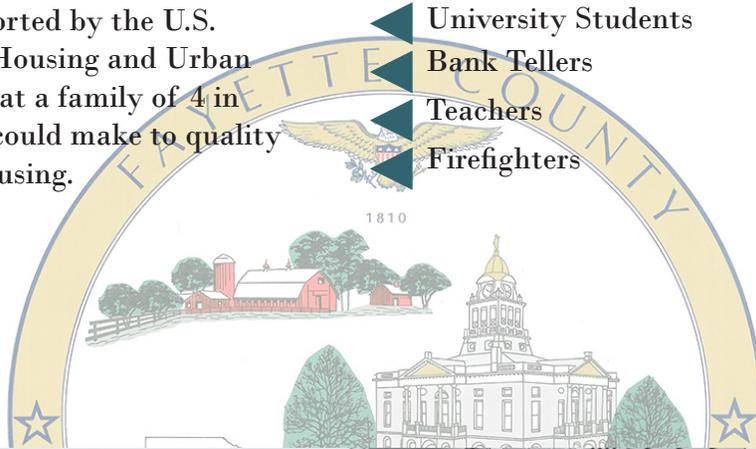
\$44,300

Professionals that earn this type of income include:

The amount reported by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, that a family of 4 in Fayette County could make to qualify for affordable housing.

- University Students
- Bank Tellers
- Teachers
- Firefighters

- Custodians
- Police Officers
- Paramedics
- Mechanics



RECOMMENDATIONS

Goal 1: *Improve the diversity of housing types in Fayette County.*

Strategy: Conduct an in-depth housing assessment to establish where different types of housing are located in the county, to understand which neighborhoods are experiencing the most severe declines in housing conditions, and to obtain a current snapshot of housing market conditions. This document can serve as a critical tool for data-driven decision making amongst housing investors and government agencies.

Time Frame of Completion: Short Term

Goal 2: *Cultivate affordable and accessible housing options in Fayette County.*

Strategy: Seek out and establish collaborative relationships with developers to increase moderate-income housing development.

Time Frame of Completion: Ongoing

Strategy: Apply for state and federal government grants to develop moderate-to-middle-income housing. These grants can be obtained by nonprofit entities to develop and rehabilitate housing that caters to persons with moderate to middle incomes.

Time Frame of Completion: Short Term

Goal 3: *Provide resources that encourage residential property maintenance and upkeep.*

Strategy: Publicize existing programs that assist seniors with home modifications and maintenance, and apply for funding that can be passed along to senior households. This allows seniors to modify their homes, so that they are able to safely age in place.

Time Frame of Completion: Ongoing

Strategy: Publicize existing programs that assist with home maintenance, and apply for home repair grant funding for county residents. Fayette County should review best-practices for providing property maintenance support through grants or volunteer neighbor-to-neighbor programs.

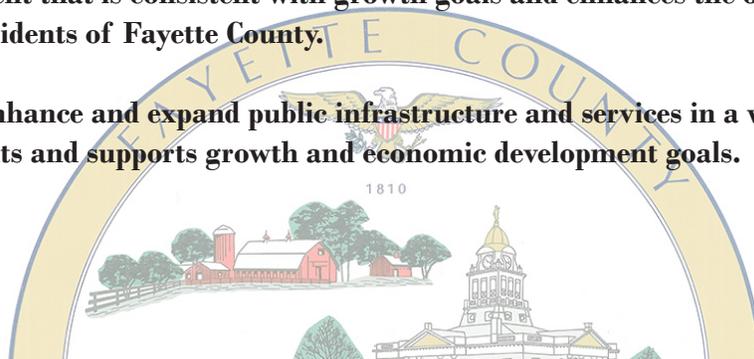
Time Frame of Completion: Ongoing

TRANSPORTATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE

Infrastructure and transportation are the seen and unseen networks that connect people and places in Fayette County. These networks are critical to the health of the residents, the environment, and the economy of Fayette County. These networks, which include roadways, railways, airways, pedestrian facilities, and public service facilities, guide commuting patterns, future economic expansion and land use patterns. The vision for Fayette County is to create a livable community with high quality networks that connect people to work, home, and amenities.

Goal 1: Ensure that the county's transportation network promotes economic development that is consistent with growth goals and enhances the overall quality of life for residents of Fayette County.

Goal 2: Enhance and expand public infrastructure and services in a way that maximizes investments and supports growth and economic development goals.



EXISTING CONDITIONS

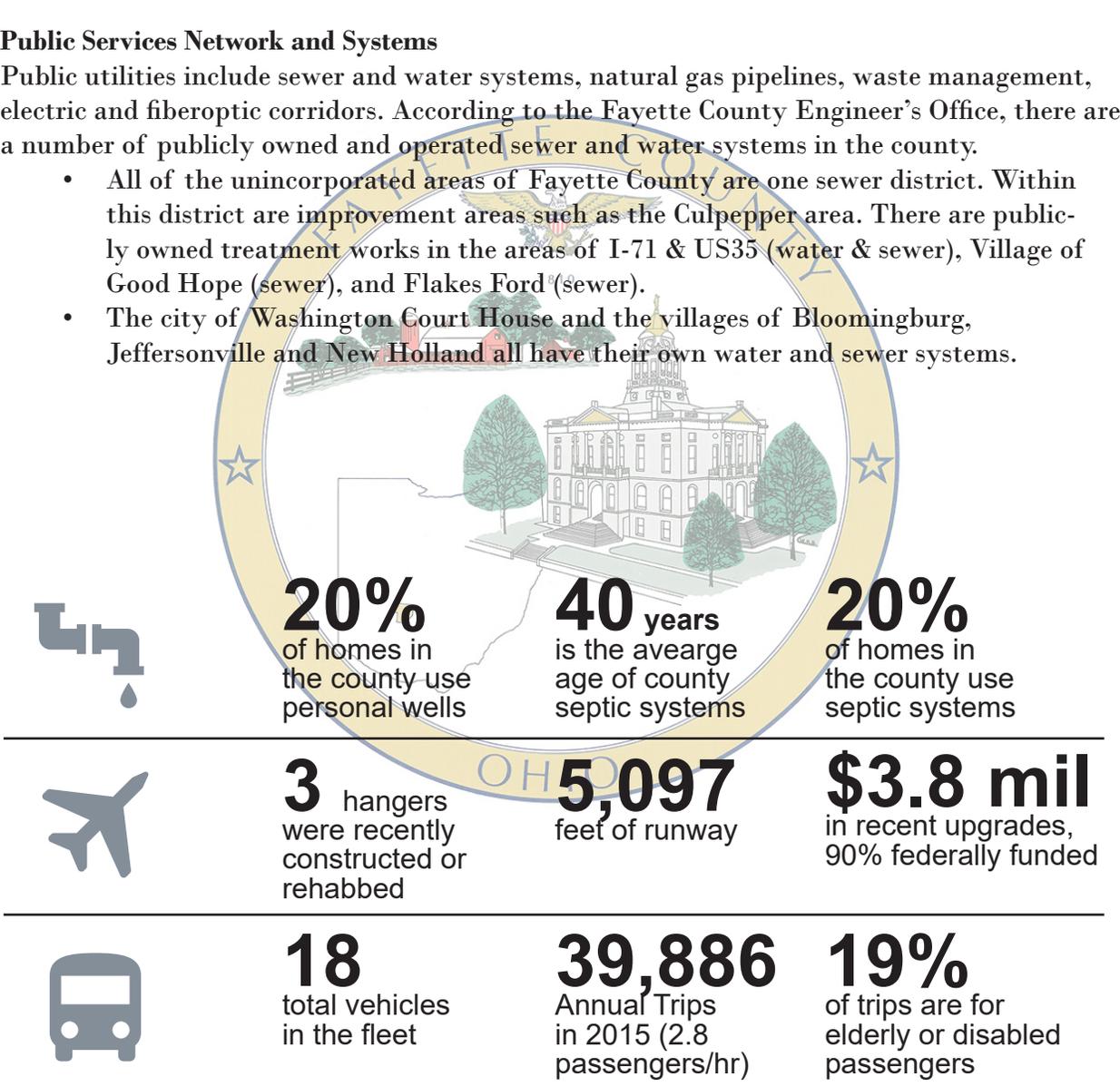
Transportation Network:

The County maintains many miles of roads and bridges. There are many existing and planned bike trail projects in the county. Much of the rail infrastructure is abandoned, which is a significant resource for future trail projects. Recently, the Fayette County Airport underwent a multi million dollar rehabilitation to bring it up to Federal Aviation Administration standards and to attract new users. The Community Action Coalition operates a demand-response transit service that serves the entire county.

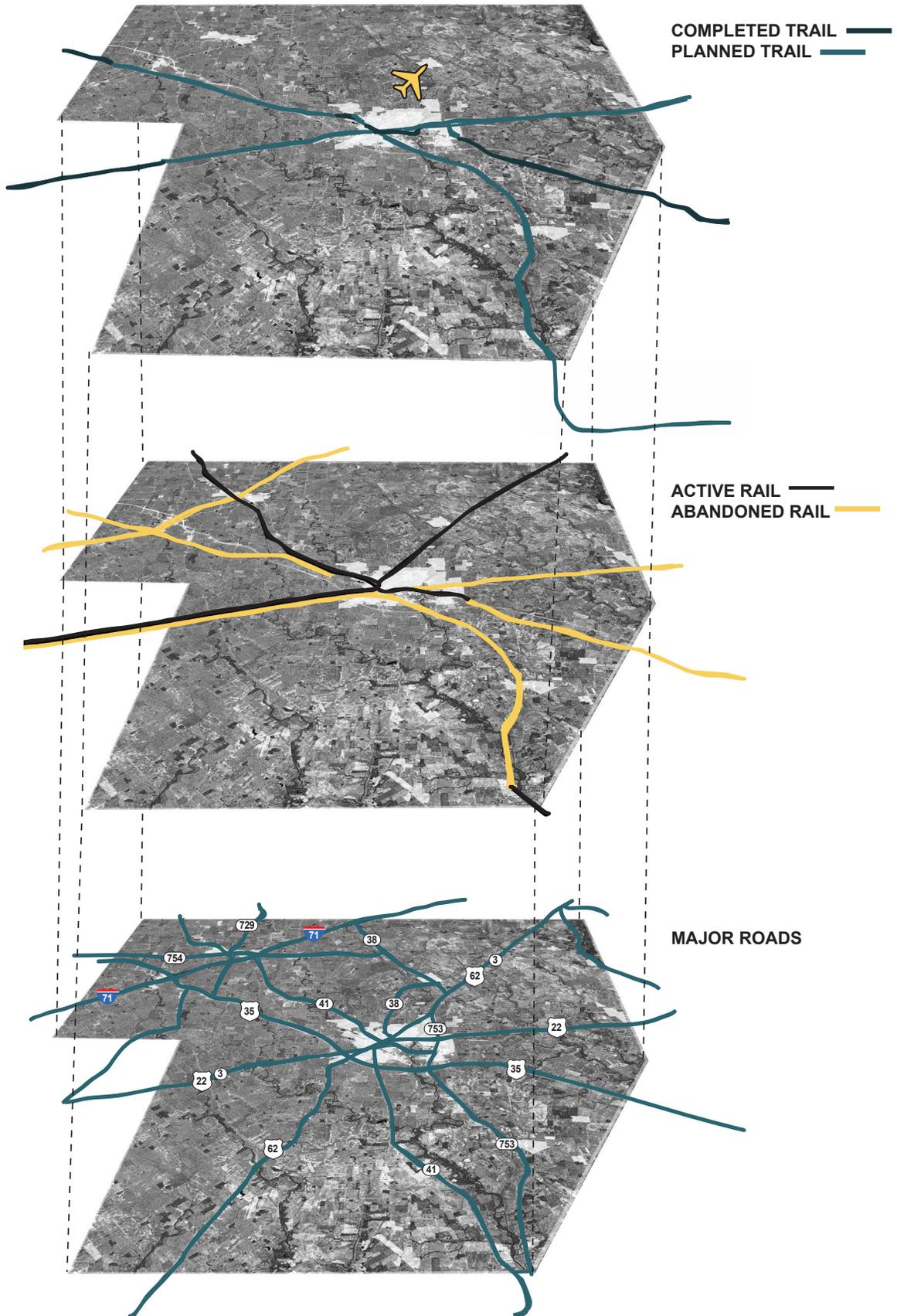
Public Services Network and Systems

Public utilities include sewer and water systems, natural gas pipelines, waste management, electric and fiberoptic corridors. According to the Fayette County Engineer’s Office, there are a number of publicly owned and operated sewer and water systems in the county.

- All of the unincorporated areas of Fayette County are one sewer district. Within this district are improvement areas such as the Culpepper area. There are publicly owned treatment works in the areas of I-71 & US35 (water & sewer), Village of Good Hope (sewer), and Flakes Ford (sewer).
- The city of Washington Court House and the villages of Bloomingburg, Jeffersonville and New Holland all have their own water and sewer systems.



TRANSPORTATION INVENTORY



RECOMMENDATIONS

Goal 1: *Ensure that the county's transportation network promotes economic development that is consistent with growth goals and enhances the overall quality of life for residents of Fayette County.*

Strategy: Create a plan to track, measure and update transportation infrastructure to maintain a high quality network of roads and trails.

Time Frame of Completion: Long Term

Strategy: Convert old rail beds into trails.

Time Frame of Completion: Short Term

Strategy: Consider non-trail bike and pedestrian amenities to connect trails.

Time Frame of Completion: Long Term

Strategy: Consider the aging population and the potential for future demand increases for transit service. Consider a semi fixed route in high demand areas like Washington Court House.

Time Frame of Completion: Long Term

Goal 2: *Enhance and expand public infrastructure and services in a way that maximizes investments and supports growth and economic development goals.*

Strategy: Bring all sewer and water services up to EPA standards.

Time Frame of Completion: Short Term

Strategy: Work with state and federal programs to maintain and replace outdated septic and well systems.

Time Frame of Completion: Long Term





PROSPERITY



INTRODUCTION

Fayette County has a proud history of creating the opportunity for its residents to build comfortable, healthy, and prosperous lives. The county's abundant natural resources, agricultural and industrial production abilities, and strategic location are assets that the county can continue to leverage to create opportunity for future generations. However, changes in the national and regional economy require new creativity in promoting Fayette County's strengths. Economic development activities must continue to include traditional business attraction through incentives and site preparation, but should also expand to reflect new realities. Tourism, support for small businesses, and workforce development are all increasingly important in building a resilient, 21st Century economy.

Fayette County's agricultural land remains its most important economic engine. The potential for new development requires careful consideration of how to protect the county's farmland, waterways, and other natural resources. The principles of self-sufficiency and growth management are critical for guiding the county's use of its resources to increase prosperity while preserving the community's unique assets. The Prosperity section states goals and explores opportunities for balancing economic growth and the conservation of Fayette County's natural resources and rural lifestyle.



ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

SMALL BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT

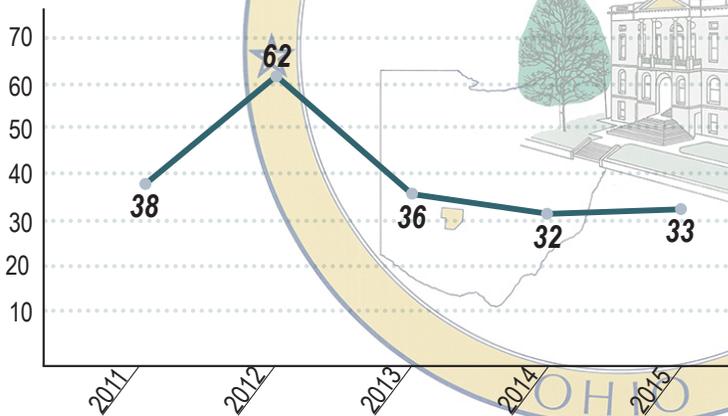
Some of the county's best economic opportunities will be homegrown - large and small businesses started by Fayette County residents will expand economic growth and provide jobs for neighbors.

Goal 1: Promote the success of small businesses located in Fayette County.

Goal 2: Encourage the redevelopment and reuse of underutilized commercial and industrial sites in the county.

EXISTING CONDITIONS

NUMBER OF BUSINESS STARTS



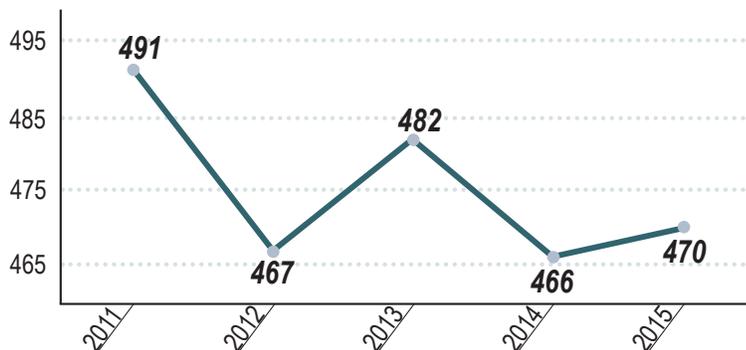
\$9,397,000

amount of lending to small businesses in 2015

\$267,718,000

total annual payroll for businesses in Fayette County in 2012

NUMBER OF ACTIVE BUSINESSES



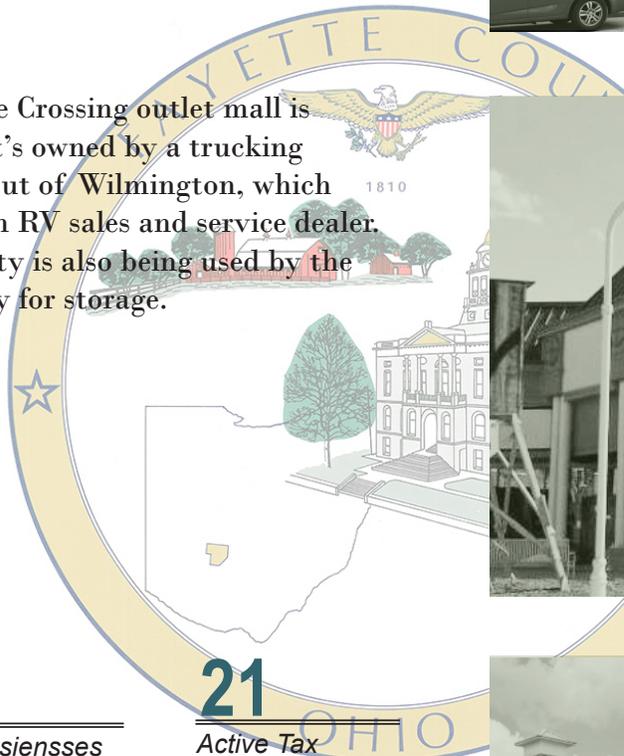
\$5,502,466,000

total sales, receipts, and value of shipments from Fayette County businesses in 2012

The Washington Court House Community Improvement Corporation (CIC) provides incentives for economic development to businesses located in the city. The CIC does not currently have a formal process to apply for incentives.



The Jeffersonville Crossing outlet mall is largely vacant. It's owned by a trucking company based out of Wilmington, which recently added an RV sales and service dealer. Part of the facility is also being used by the soybean company for storage.



300

Number of local busiessses that are members of the Fayette County Chamber of Commerce

21

Active Tax Increment Financing districts

+122%

Percentage of sales tax income from non-residents as compared to residents.

4

Active Community Reinvestment Areas



RECOMMENDATIONS

Goal 1: *Promote the success of small businesses located in Fayette County.*

Strategy: Continue the practice of regularly visiting local businesses to ensure that they are well-supported.

Time Frame of Completion: Ongoing

Strategy: Convene local entrepreneurs, farmers and lenders to discuss gaps in small business and small farm lending, particularly for microbusinesses.

Time Frame of Completion: Short Term

Strategy: Work with local lenders or community development financial institutions (CDFIs) to identify existing products that may fill gaps in lending and encourage the development of products that may not currently exist, as is feasible.

Time Frame of Completion: Immediate

Strategy: Work to connect underrepresented entrepreneurs, like women, with supports like the Women's Business Centers of Ohio, which can help connect prospective business owners to resources and training.

Time Frame of Completion: Short Term

Strategy: Meet with local anchor institutions like Southern State Community College and Fayette Memorial Hospital to discuss if there are opportunities for them to purchase from or contract with local businesses.

Time Frame of Completion: Short Term

Strategy: Market local produce grown in Fayette County through community-supported agriculture programs and a farmers market at the Tanger Outlet.

Time Frame of Completion: Short Term

Strategy: Change local and county-wide zoning codes to explicitly allow and support the production of craft beer.

Time Frame of Completion: Short Term

Goal 2: *Encourage the redevelopment and reuse of underutilized commercial and industrial sites in the county.*

Strategy: Collect information on vacant commercial, industrial, or office space in the county, including the condition of the space and rents. Create a page on the county website to highlight available commercial or industrial space in the county.

Time Frame of Completion: Immediate

Strategy: Publically identify a point person to work with new businesses and entrepreneurs to find suitable commercial, office, or industrial space within the county.

Time Frame of Completion: Short Term

Strategy: Promote economic development in areas with existing commercial development or near other key nodes, like tourist attractions or other amenities.

Time Frame of Completion: Medium Term

Strategy: Maintain the county's high retail pull factor by enticing consumers to visit commercial areas through tools like a Downtown Redevelopment District and the promotion of historic establishments.

Time Frame of Completion: Medium Term

Strategy: Utilize business grants offered through state agencies and partners like JobsOhio to maintain and expand local businesses.

Time Frame of Completion: Medium Term

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

BUSINESS ATTRACTION AND EXPANSION

Attracting new businesses to the county and encouraging employers that are already here to expand will help build prosperity for the county and its residents.

Goal 1: Expand and update the county's brand.

Goal 2: Reassess the Mid-West Mega Commerce Center (M2C2) site in order to make a final determination of whether it should continue to be targeted for large-scale development or if it should be divided and developed incrementally.

Goal 3: Expand existing employers and attract new industry to the Washington Court House Industrial Park.

Goal 4: Promote M2C2 as a site for a windmill farm.

EXISTING CONDITIONS

The Mid-West Mega Commerce Center (M2C2) is a 1,660 acre industrial site located at the interchange of Interstate 71 and Highway 35. The county has marketed the site heavily to site selectors, but estimates indicate it will take years and tens of millions of dollars to complete.

“It will take \$32 million to complete the Mega Site and it will take \$22 million to turn it into an industrial park.”

- Robert Kinzer, Mayor of Jeffersonville

Bluegrass Farms utilizes the M2C2 site to process non-GMO soybeans, which are transported via the rail-spur located on the site and shipped to Asia.

The Volero plant in Bloomingburg utilizes the rail infrastructure and is a large consumer of corn in the county.

The City of Washington Court House has used the following incentive strategies to attract industry in recent years:

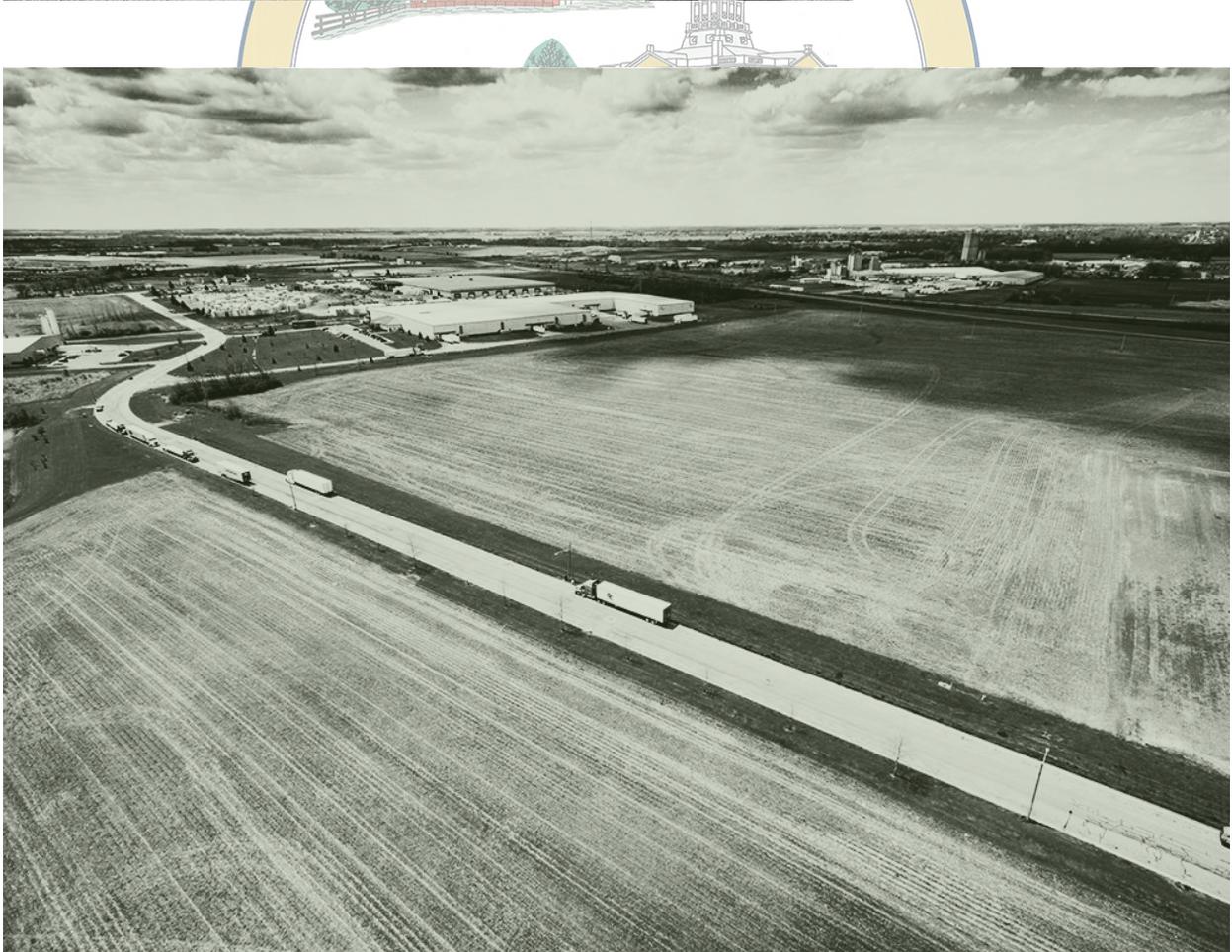
Property tax abatements and income-based incentives

Abatements on impact fees for sewer and water connection

Tax-Increment Financing (TIF) on commercial development. A list of active TIF districts is included in appendix B.



The Washington Court House Industrial Park (below) has 281 acres of shovel-ready developable land adjacent to U.S. Route 35 and 12 miles from Interstate 71. The Midwest Mega Commerce Center site (left) has over 1600 acres of, not yet shovel-ready, developable land that is currently marketed to large scale industrial companies.





RECOMMENDATIONS

Goal 1: *Expand and update the county's brand.*

Strategy: Create an online and print ad campaign aimed at large companies and site selectors that highlights the positive aspects of Fayette County. Utilize in-house resources to create the ad campaign or hire a third party.

Time Frame of Completion: Short Term

Strategy: Make the County's website more user-friendly and feature community data that is relevant to site selectors.

Time Frame of Completion: Short Term

Goal 2: *Reassess the Mid-West Mega Commerce Center (M2C2) site in order to make a final determination of whether it should continue to be targeted for large-scale development or if it should be divided and developed incrementally.*

Strategy: Divide the site into an industrial park and develop the site incrementally. Utilize the existing industrial infrastructure and promote uses like agricultural production that are already thriving in the county.

Time Frame of Completion: Long Term

Goal 3: *Expand existing employers and attract new industry to the Washington Court House Industrial Park.*

Strategy: Highlight the unique benefits of the site and offer tax incentives to companies already located at the industrial park. Offer assistance in securing grants from the State of Ohio.

Time Frame of Completion: Medium Term

Goal 4: *Promote M2C2 as a site for a windmill farm.*

Strategy: Present the M2C2 site to wind energy companies by showing the fiscal benefits of the area. Encourage companies that locate on the site to train residents in windmill construction.

Time Frame of Completion: Long Term

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT AND ATTRACTION

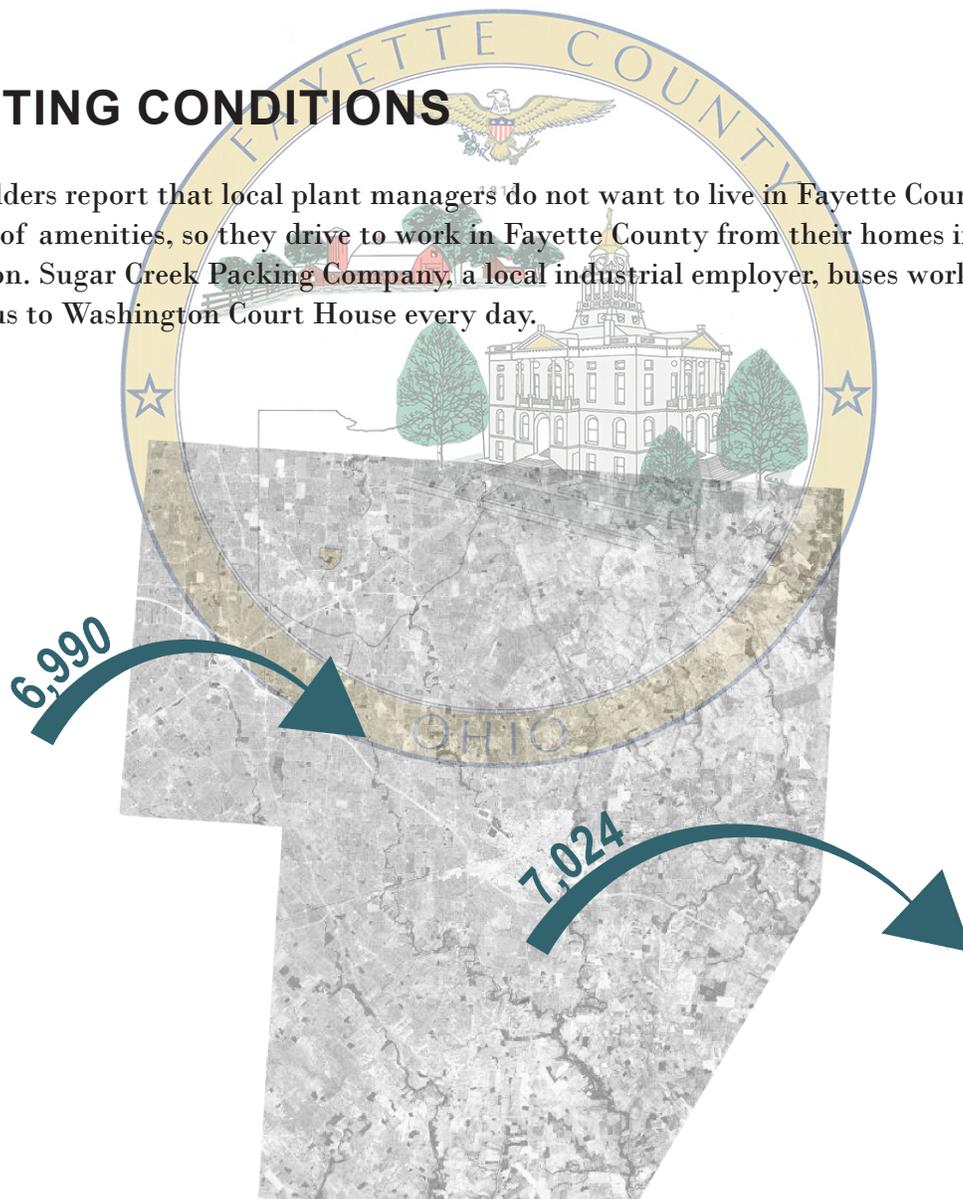
A well-trained, agile workforce is one of the most important tools for economic development.

Goal 1: Ensure that the skills and talents of Fayette County's workforce matches the needs of local employers.

Goal 2: Build a community that is attractive to the workforce Fayette County wants.

EXISTING CONDITIONS

Stakeholders report that local plant managers do not want to live in Fayette County due to the lack of amenities, so they drive to work in Fayette County from their homes in Columbus or Dayton. Sugar Creek Packing Company, a local industrial employer, buses workers from Columbus to Washington Court House every day.



Ohio Means Jobs helps with workforce training and held a regional meeting on workforce issues. Still, no organization within Fayette County is primarily responsible for coordinating workforce-related issues.

The County holds an annual manufacturing event to expose 10th grade students to job opportunities in the county. An emerging community mentoring network helps build students' interest in staying in the county.

Residents report that Fayette County has an increasingly disconnected workforce - or people dropping out of the workforce due to a lack of opportunity - as the reason behind low workforce participation.

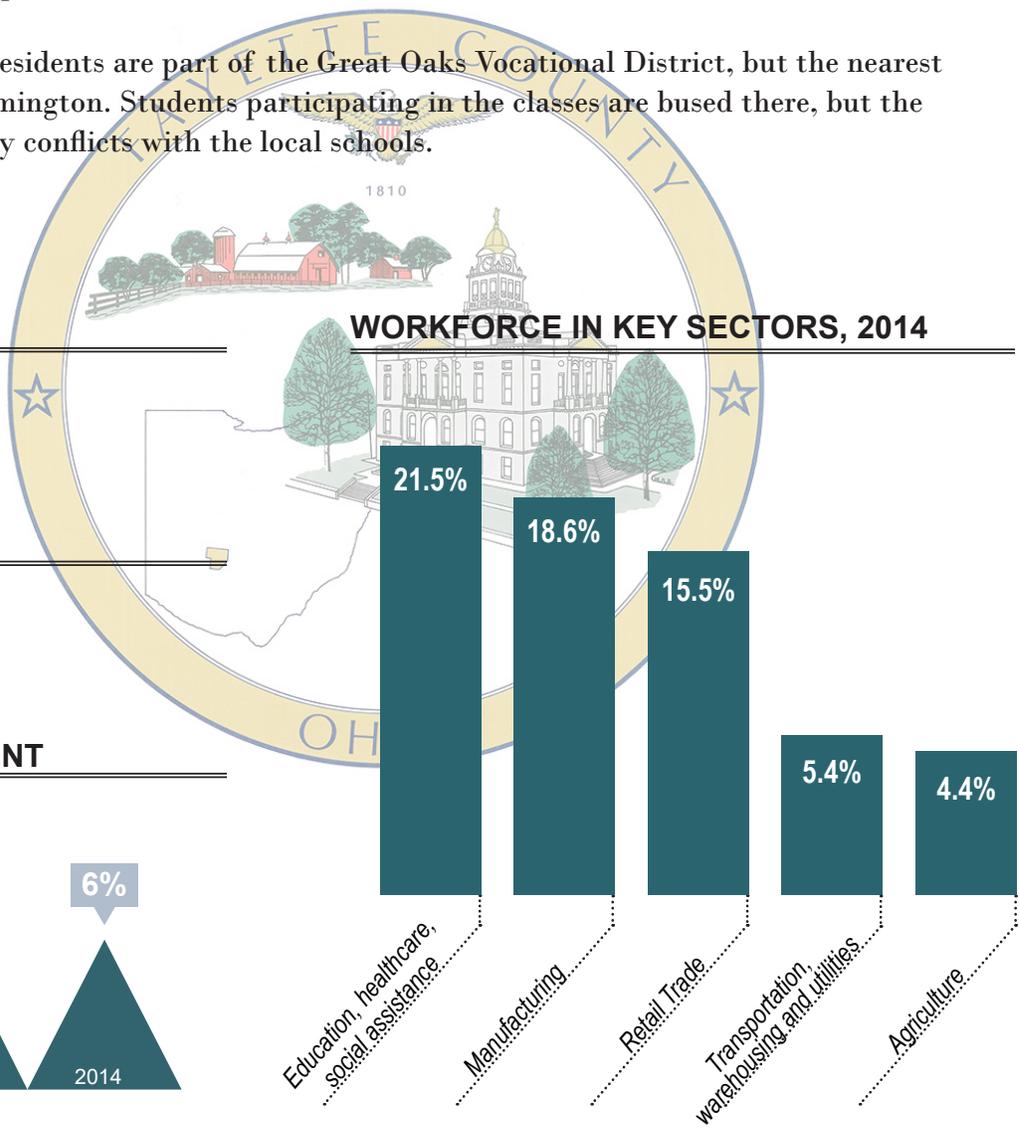
Fayette County residents are part of the Great Oaks Vocational District, but the nearest campus is in Wilmington. Students participating in the classes are bused there, but the schedule generally conflicts with the local schools.

11,078

filled jobs in Fayette County

11,112

Fayette County residents with jobs





RECOMMENDATIONS

Goal 1: *Ensure that the skills and talents of Fayette County’s workforce matches the needs of local employers.*

Strategy: Identify an existing organization that can serve as the clearinghouse for all workforce development efforts from both the employers’ and workers’ perspectives. This organization will ensure that employer-based training programs, nonprofit and public sector partners, and local schools are coordinating amongst one another.

Time Frame of Completion: Short Term

Strategy: Adopt a “dual-client” approach to workforce development that works to match the needs of employers with skills training for residents. Work with local employers to identify their particular training needs and gaps they’ve identified in the local workforce. Help them to either design their own training program based on these needs or work with workforce development organizations to create appropriate training opportunities.

Time Frame of Completion: Medium Term

Goal 2: *Build a community that is attractive to the workforce Fayette County wants.*

Strategy: Consider investments in amenities, commercial development, beautification, arts and culture, and housing as elements of an economic development strategy focused on attracting mobile, highly-skilled workers that first choose where they want to live and then look for a job.

Time Frame of Completion: Long Term

TOURISM

Fayette County's natural resources and unique culture should be shared. Building on the county's existing focus on travel and tourism can help turn those activities into even greater economic engines.

Goal 1: Promote agritourism.

Goal 2: Promote major county events on a large scale.

Goal 3: Promote commerce near Deer Creek State Park.

Goal 4: Utilize parks and recreation for economic development purposes

Goal 5: Create opportunities for tourism based on unique and various wildlife in the county.

Existing Conditions

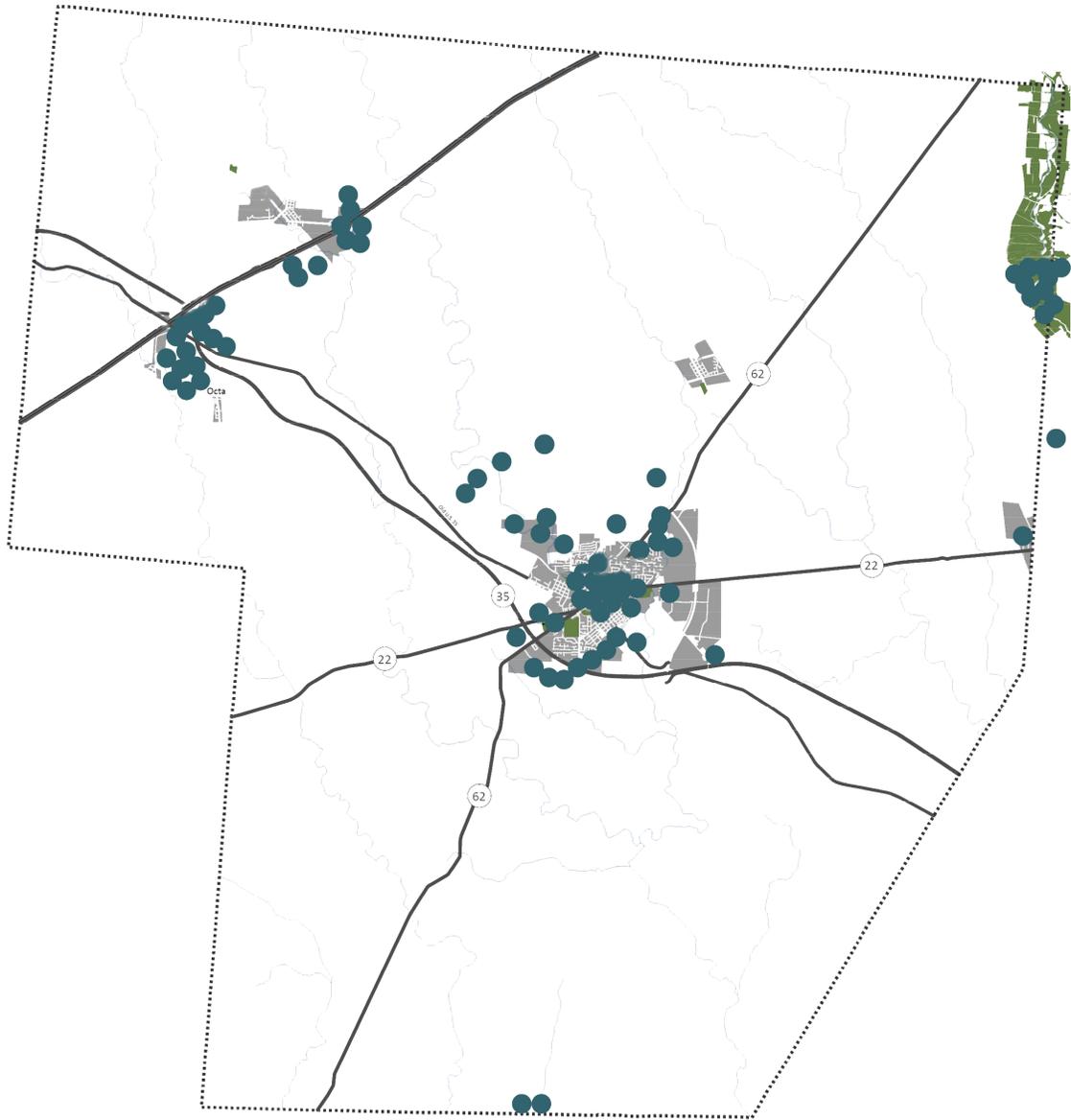
The county currently has a retail trade factor of 2.22, mostly due to the high traffic of the Tanger Outlets (see appendix). The outlets and the nearly 30 county-wide events each year have increased the amount of tourists staying in local hotels, which has increased the bed tax. The revenue from the bed tax is then being used to promote tourism. Fayette County is also world-renowned for its horse breeding and training, which is not currently promoted as a tourist attraction. Finally, many municipalities within Fayette County are located along the Tri-County Triangle Trail, which hosts hundreds of cyclists and a half marathon each year.



Improving wayfinding along the counties biking and walking trails helps improve accessibility and informs trail users.

COMMUNITY FEEDBACK

Places to take a visitor & places for future commercial development



Residents and stakeholders of Fayette County provided feedback on how to generate tourism in the county during a public meeting. In order to get this feedback, participants were asked to place stickers in the areas they felt were best suited for tourism and future commercial development. The map above shows that there is high interest in developing within and adjacent to the urban areas of Washington Court House, Jeffersonville and Tanger Outlets. Additionally, there is a high interest in promoting tourism at Deer Creek State Park.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Goal 1: *Promote agritourism.*

Strategy: Utilize existing farmland and natural resources to promote tourism. Hold public information sessions regarding venue promotion and insurance for farms used as entertainment venues.

Time Frame of Completion: Immediate

Strategy: Utilize the existing horse breeding industry to promote tourism in the region. Have horse shows and sales to bring in purchasers from the region, specifically Kentucky.

Time Frame of Completion: Short Term

Goal 2: *Promote county events on a large scale.*

Strategy: Purchase ads from major media market newspapers, online publications, and radio stations to promote the nearly 30 county wide events that happen during the year.

Time Frame of Completion: Short Term

Goal 3: *Promote commerce near Deer Creek State Park.*

Strategy: Perform preliminary research on property values, tax payments, and owners for parcels in the area to be developed at the lowest cost. Begin to make those sites suitable for development.

Time Frame of Completion: Medium Term

Strategy: Purchase property along Highway 207 near Deer Creek State Park and make it suitable for retail and restaurant development that would be attractive to park visitors.

Time Frame of Completion: Long Term

Strategy: Purchase property near the state park and make it suitable for large-scale hotel and event space development.

Time Frame of Completion: Long Term

Goal 4: *Utilize parks and recreation for economic development purposes.*

Strategy: Promote local businesses to users of the Tri-County Triangle Trail through advertising in trail maps. Approach local businesses about buying ads in the maps. Place copies of the map in local and regional bike shops and make it available for download.

Time Frame of Completion: Immediate

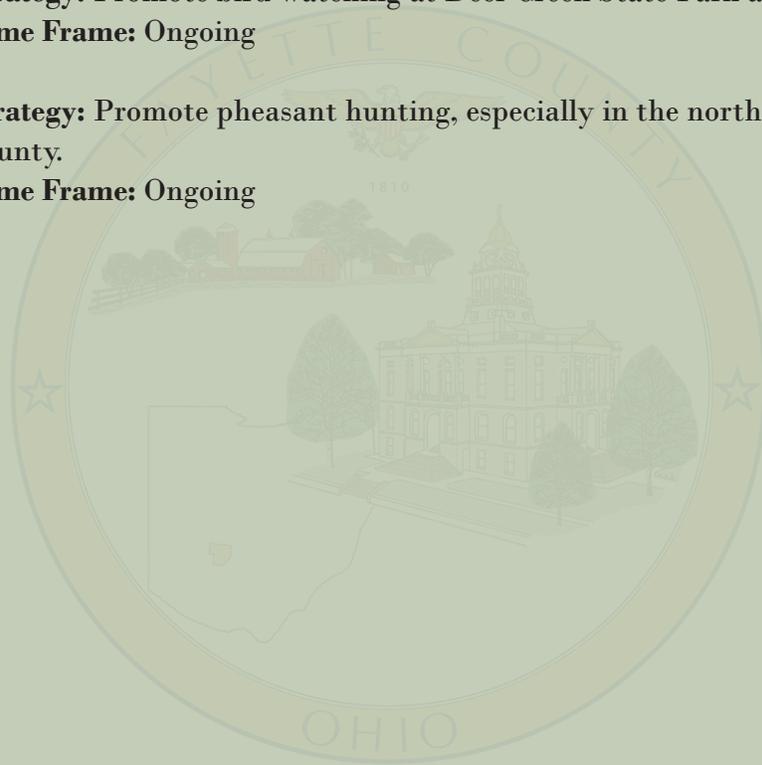
Goal 5: *Create opportunities for tourism based on unique and various wildlife in the county.*

Strategy: Promote bird watching at Deer Creek State Park and Shaw Wetlands.

Time Frame: Ongoing

Strategy: Promote pheasant hunting, especially in the northwest area of the county.

Time Frame: Ongoing



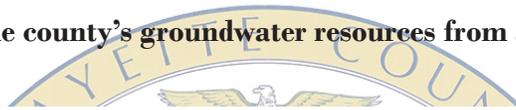
NATURAL RESOURCES

Fayette County is focused on preserving and protecting its natural resources to promote the well-being and health of its population, its economic vitality, and its agricultural infrastructure.

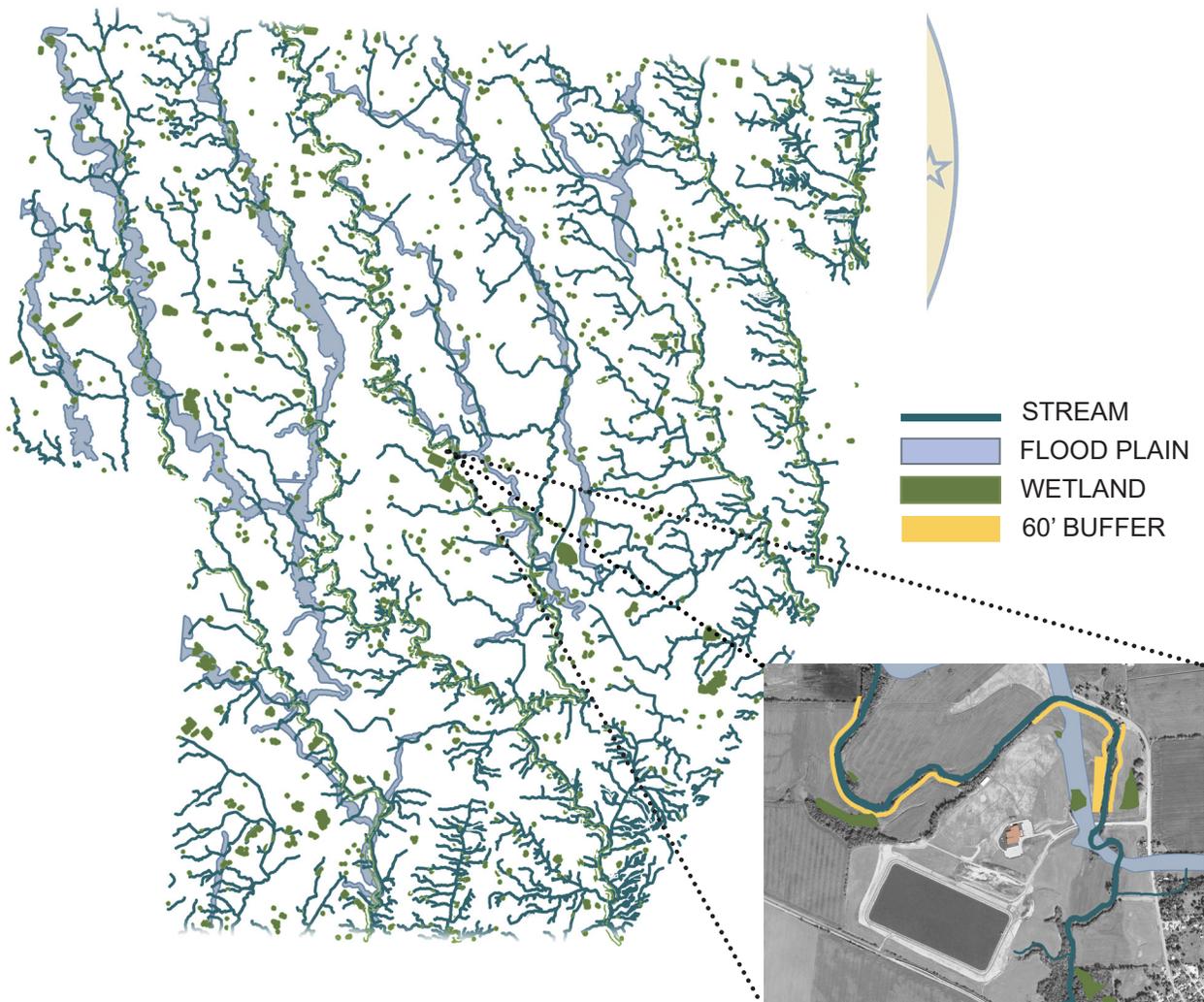
Goal 1: Improve the health of the watersheds in the county by protecting them from the negative impacts of urban and agricultural runoff.

Goal 2: Preserve and create wildlife habitats and increase the amount of forested and prairie areas in the county.

Goal 3: Protect the county's groundwater resources from aging septic systems.



Existing Conditions

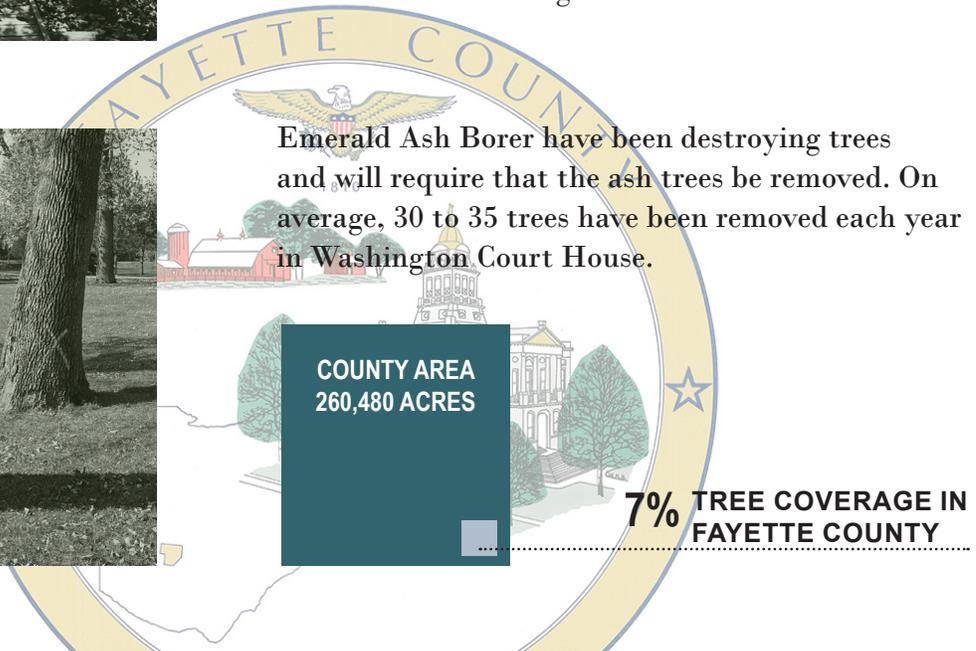




Watershed health is an important topic in Fayette County. According to the Fayette County Soil and Water Conservation District, the clearing of woods and the filling in of wetlands is an issue throughout the county. Many areas being cleared are along sensitive assets such as streams and waterways. Agriculture is a major source of the nutrient runoff pollution in the streams. Shaw Wetland is one of the only protected wetlands in the county. Soil and Water is also concerned that aged and leaking septic tanks are a threat to groundwater.



Emerald Ash Borer have been destroying trees and will require that the ash trees be removed. On average, 30 to 35 trees have been removed each year in Washington Court House.





RECOMMENDATIONS

Goal 1: *Improve the health of the watersheds in the county by protecting them from the negative impacts of urban and agricultural runoff.*

Strategy: With guidance from the Soil and Water District (SWCD), add 60 foot buffers to the county zoning codes for areas along creeks to improve stream quality. Work with farmers to stop encroachment on the creeks and repair riverbanks, riparian buffers, and vegetative buffers. Teach and encourage best management practices to farmers through initiatives with SWCD and OSU extension.

Time Frame of Completion: Medium Term

Strategy: Use Ohio Environmental Protection Agency Grants to pay for the prevention of soil erosion near streams. This program can teach best management practices to farmers in the county through initiatives with SWCD and OSU extension (see the appendix for more grant opportunities).

Time Frame of Completion: Short Term

Goal 2: *Preserve and create wildlife habitats and increase the amount of forested and prairie areas in the county.*

Strategy: Continue working with the tree committee to replant trees in Washington Court House and throughout the county. Encourage the planting of diverse tree species and the prevention of mono-cultures.

Time Frame of Completion: Ongoing

Strategy: Educate the population on the benefits of natural vegetation, encourage less mowing of open spaces, and plant parkland with prairie grasses.

Time Frame of Completion: Short Term

Strategy: Create educational programming at the Shaw Wetland to educate the community on its natural functions and the general importance of wetlands.

Time Frame of Completion: Medium Term

Goal 3: *Protect the county groundwater resources from aging septic systems.*

Strategy: Continue to work with state and federal programs to fund the replacement of outdated septic systems to protect groundwater.

Time Frame of Completion: Short Term

SELF-SUFFICIENCY

Fayette County seeks to become self-sufficient in its practices by focusing on ways to reduce energy costs, improve air quality, and enhance waste management. The vision for Fayette County is to become a sustainable rural community by embracing practices that balance the importance of the natural environment with the need for growth and economic development.

Goal 1: Become an energy-efficient community through the use of self-sufficient alternatives.

Goal 2: Work towards meeting Goal 1 and 2 of the State Waste Management Plan.

Goal 3: Improve air quality within the county.

Goal 4: Reduce excessive stormwater runoff.

EXISTING CONDITIONS

ENERGY

Energy efficiency is one of the most simple and effective ways to reduce costs for businesses and consumers while increasing the county's self-sufficiency. The Weatherization Assistance Program is a federally funded initiative created to assist low-income families and the elderly reduce their energy costs and invest in energy efficiency. Energy conservation from these efforts reduces dependency on foreign oil, helps clean the air we breathe, and decreases the cost of energy for families while ensuring the health and safety of their home. The Community Action Commission of Fayette County started this program in the late 1970's to assist families meet their energy needs. Since then, the program has served 40 to 50 homes a year. The continuation of this program is important to improve energy efficiency and decrease carbon pollution.

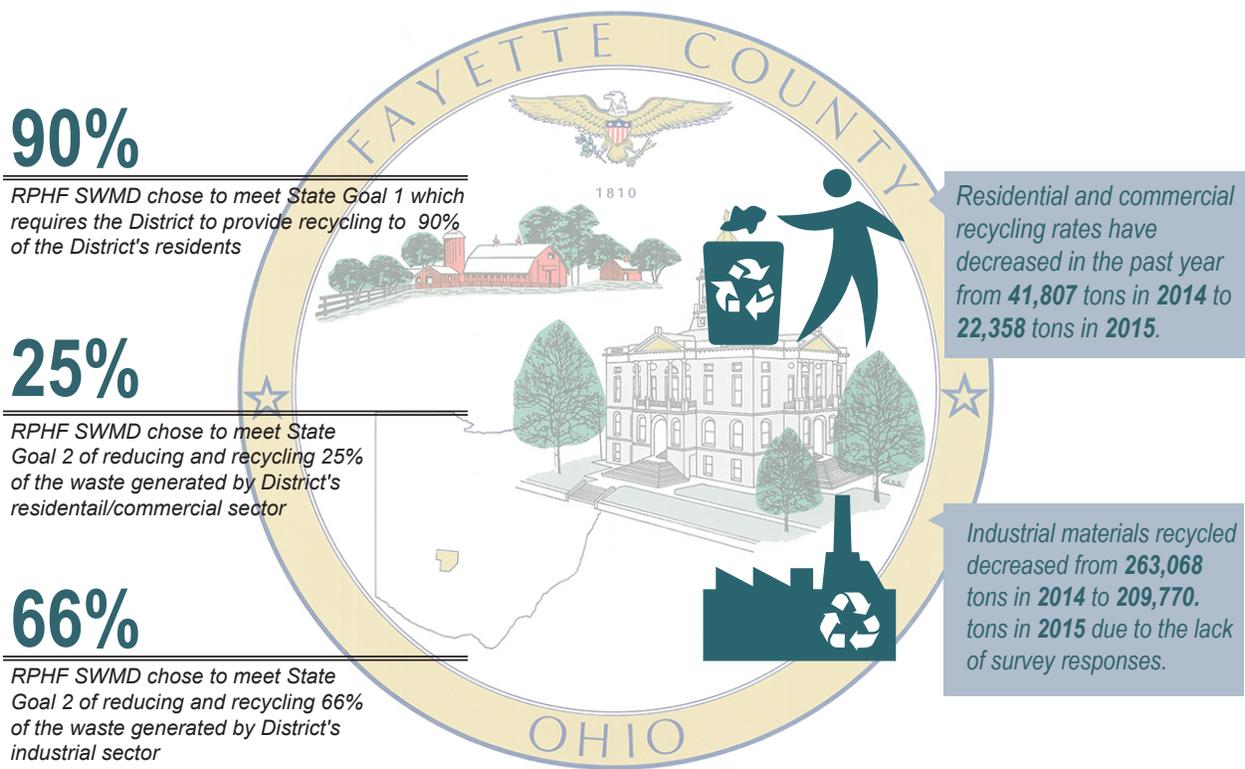
ENERGY RELATED PROGRAMS AVAILABLE TO FAYETTE COUNTY RESIDENTS:

- PIPP Program
- Electric Partnership Program
- Self Help Housing Program
- Winter Crisis Program
- Summer Crisis Program

WASTE

Fayette County is part of the Ross Pickaway Highland Fayette Joint Solid Waste Management District (RPHF SWMD) who's responsibility is to administer the State's Solid Waste Management Plan. The Solid Waste Management Plan establishes waste and recycling goals. Each district in Ohio must develop 15-year plan that describes how the district will meet such goals.

Drop-off recycling bins are located throughout the county and there have been continuous efforts from county leaders such the Soil and Water District to divert recyclable materials from the waste stream. Currently, Fayette County lacks recycling centers and composting facilities for residents.



AIR QUALITY

Poor air quality has an effect on everyone, especially children, older adults, and those living with respiratory diseases and heart conditions. By taking a proactive approach to maintaining good air quality, Fayette County can protect public health and reduce air pollution.

With the encroachment of residential development on agricultural areas, there is an increased sensitivity to pesticide spray drift. Pesticide drift is harmful to human's health, to ecosystems, and the natural environment around agriculture.

Community Feedback:

Community member's expressed concern about air quality issues such as agricultural dust and particulate matter, chemical drift, and as odors from livestock facilities.

STORMWATER MANAGEMENT

Stormwater runoff, caused by any rainfall event, has become a priority for many communities over recent decades. Rural areas are greatly impacted by the effects of stormwater. Fayette County has long been impacted by localized flooding in ditches, creeks and low lying areas. Since the county is predominantly rural and floodplains are clear of buildings, most damage is restricted to crop land and soil loss.

Community Feedback:

- Farms continue to experience flooding.
- Rattlesnake Creek continues to experience flooding.
- Since the 2006 Comprehensive Plan, the County amended stormwater requirements into the subdivision regulations.



A tall, white water tower with a spherical top. The top section of the tower is a dome with the words "CITY OF WASHINGTON" written in black, bold, sans-serif capital letters. The tower is supported by a lattice structure of vertical and horizontal beams. The background shows a cloudy sky, a utility pole with power lines, and a line of trees in the distance.

CITY OF WASHINGTON

RECOMMENDATIONS

Goal 1: *Become an energy-efficient community through the use of self-sufficient alternatives.*

Strategy: Encourage educators in the school districts to apply for the free energy efficiency education program created by the Ohio Energy Project. This program provides Ohio educators with an understanding of energy and its efficient use by giving them a take-home energy efficiency kit with classroom curriculum and teacher training. Students are then taught valuable lessons about energy conservation and efficiency.

Time Frame of Completion: Short Term

Strategy: Encourage local farmers to apply for the On-Farm Energy Initiative which assists them in identifying ways to reduce energy on their farms and educates them on how to implement conservation practices that address inefficient use of energy.

Time Frame of Completion: Short Term

Strategy: Explore the creation and implementation of programs that offer energy-efficiency services to middle-income homeowners and continue the support of the local weatherization assistance program.

Time Frame of Completion: Immediate

Strategy: Amend building regulations and codes to incorporate green building techniques, encourage practices that conserve energy, materials, and other resources and divert construction materials from landfill through recycling and reuse.

Time Frame of Completion: Immediate

Strategy: Encourage locally-produced energy by amending the zoning code to allow and accommodate energy generation from renewable resources such as solar power.

Time Frame of Completion: Immediate

Goal 2: *Work towards meeting Goals 1 and 2 of the State Waste Management Plan.*

Strategy: Create an office recycling program for all Fayette County offices that resembles the Pickaway County office recycling program.

Time Frame of Completion: Short Term

Strategy: Expand the curbside recycling program to Fayette County.

Time Frame of Completion: Short Term

Strategy: Collaborate with a local business or organization to create composting program.

Time Frame of Completion: Short Term

Goal 3: *Improve air quality for all.*

Strategy: Encourage the Soil and Water District to explore the Environmental Quality Incentives Program that provides financial assistance to implement conservation practices addressing air resource issues while promoting agricultural production.

Time Frame of Completion: Short Term

Strategy: Encourage farmers to adopt practices that decrease odors from livestock facilities.

Time Frame of Completion: Short Term

Strategy: Create an educational program to raise public awareness of environmentally friendly practices like carpooling and biking to work.

Time Frame of Completion: Short Term

Strategy: Collaborate with MORPC RideSolutions to offer commuters options for their daily commute to work through a ride-share program.

Time Frame of Completion: Immediate

Goal 4: *Reduce stormwater runoff.*

Strategy: Develop and implement a domestic water management and conservation program that educates homeowners on practices that help reduce sediment in waterways, conserve water, and improve water quality.

Time Frame of Completion: Short Term

Strategy: Improve stormwater management planning and adopt policies that reduce stormwater runoff like Low Impact Development Techniques for any retrofit or redevelopment proposal.

Time Frame of Completion: Short Term

Strategy: Identify, map and maintain critical culverts and storm drainage ditches near residential areas, roadways, and low-lying areas.

Time Frame of Completion: Medium Term

AGRICULTURE

Fayette County prides itself in its rich agricultural heritage. Historically, agriculture has been the county's predominant land use. The vision for Fayette county is to preserve this agricultural heritage while promoting managed housing, development and economic growth.

Goal 1: Concentrate new housing around existing development to mitigate the reduction of agricultural lands.

Goal 2: Encourage best management practices for agriculture activities to ensure the health and safety of all residents in Fayette County.

Goal 3: Promote programs and industries that protect agricultural lands and build on Fayette County's strong agricultural base.

EXISTING CONDITIONS

As of 2012, corn and soybeans were the primary crops grown in Fayette County with smaller quantities of wheat and hay.

The local 4-H Youth Development Program has been very successful on educating young people about animals, health, food and nutrition, plants, soils and more.

The Soil and Water Conservation District acted as the local sponsor of the Agricultural Easement Purchase Program.

Since the 1940's Fayette County's horse breeding industry such as Midland Acres and other small horse breeding farms have been substantial contributors to the agriculture industry. This industry has been essential for providing economic and ecological benefits to the county throughout the years and has produced great revenue for the local economy.

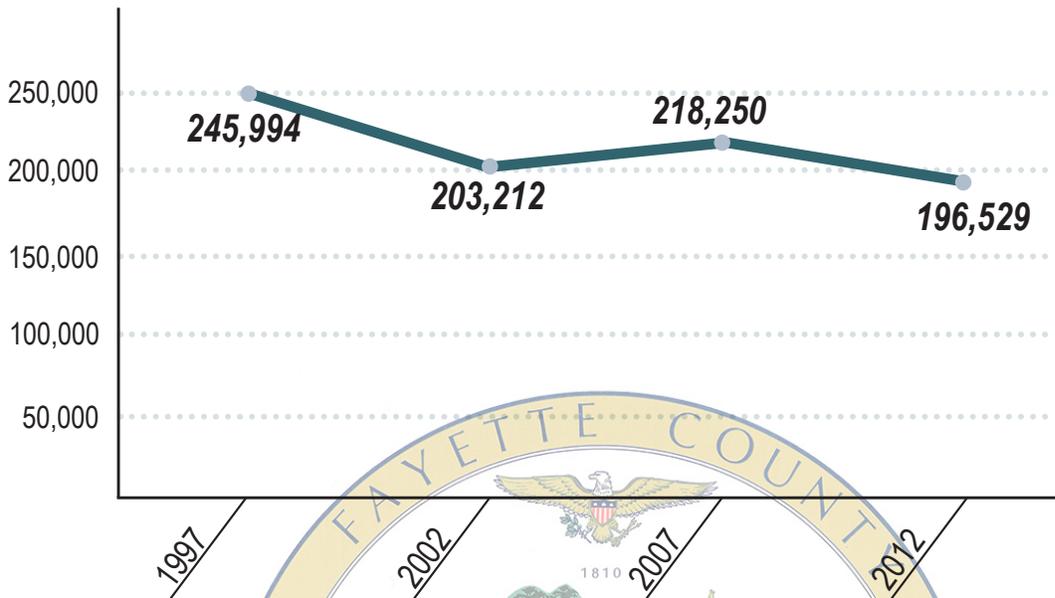
Community Feedback:

There has been an increase of individuals constructing homes in the county which has led to residential development around agricultural lands. Farmers should be accepting of other agricultural activities.

Existing Agricultural Programs Available to Fayette County Farmers:

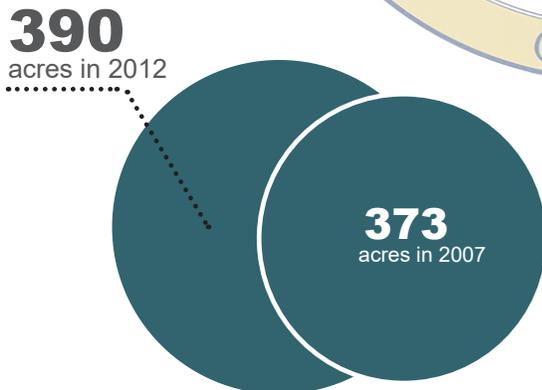
Agricultural Easement Purchase Program
Transfer of Development Right Program
Current Agricultural Use Value (CAUV) Program

LAND IN FARMS (ACRES)

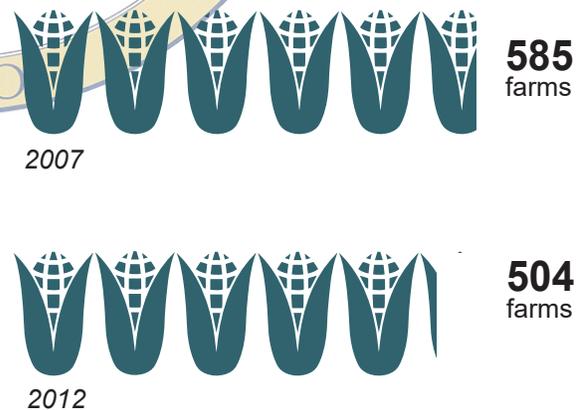


There has been a continued loss of farmland since the 2006 Comprehensive Plan was initiated. The County has not been able to meet the goal of maintaining an agricultural base of 217,000 acres for agricultural production. The acreage of land in farms decreased from 218,250 acres in 2007 to 196,529 in 2012 according to the USDA Census of Agriculture. Similarly, the number of farms has decreased since 2007 while the average farm size has increased.

AVERAGE FARM SIZE



NUMBER OF FARMS



RECOMMENDATIONS

Goal 1: *Concentrate new housing around existing development to mitigate continued reduction of agricultural lands.*

Strategy: Amend the zoning code to promote cluster and conservation development that requires greater than 15% preservation of open space.

Time Frame of Completion: Short Term

Strategy: Discourage sprawling communities by encouraging new development near existing water and sewer systems.

Time Frame of Completion: Ongoing

Goal 2: *Encourage best management practices for agriculture activities to ensure the health and safety of all residents in Fayette County.*

Strategy: Encourage farmers to explore the 4-R Nutrient Stewardship which provides free educational materials on nutrient management.

Time Frame of Completion: Short Term

Strategy: Collaborate with SWCD to adopt Ohio's Agricultural Pollution Abatement Program (APAP) which provides farmers with cost share assistance to develop and implement best management practices to protect Ohio's streams, rivers creeks.

Time Frame of Completion: Short Term

Strategy: Collaborate with OSU Extension and the Ohio Farm Bureau to educate farmers on the positive outcomes of crop rotation and diversity.

Time Frame of Completion: Short Term

Goal 3: *Promote programs and industries that protect agricultural lands and build on strong agricultural base.*

Strategy: Provide information, technical assistance and support for the Agricultural Easement Purchase Program and Current Agricultural Use Value Program.

Time Frame of Completion: Ongoing

Strategy: Provide information, technical assistance, and support for the Transfer of Development Rights Program to transfer density from agricultural areas to more developed areas.

Time Frame of Completion: Ongoing

Strategy: Encourage the development of agricultural businesses and industries to keep crop processing local and attract more agricultural suppliers.

Time Frame of Completion: Short Term

Strategy: Continue the support of local horse breeding industries to maintain the county's equestrian legacy.

Time Frame of Completion: Ongoing

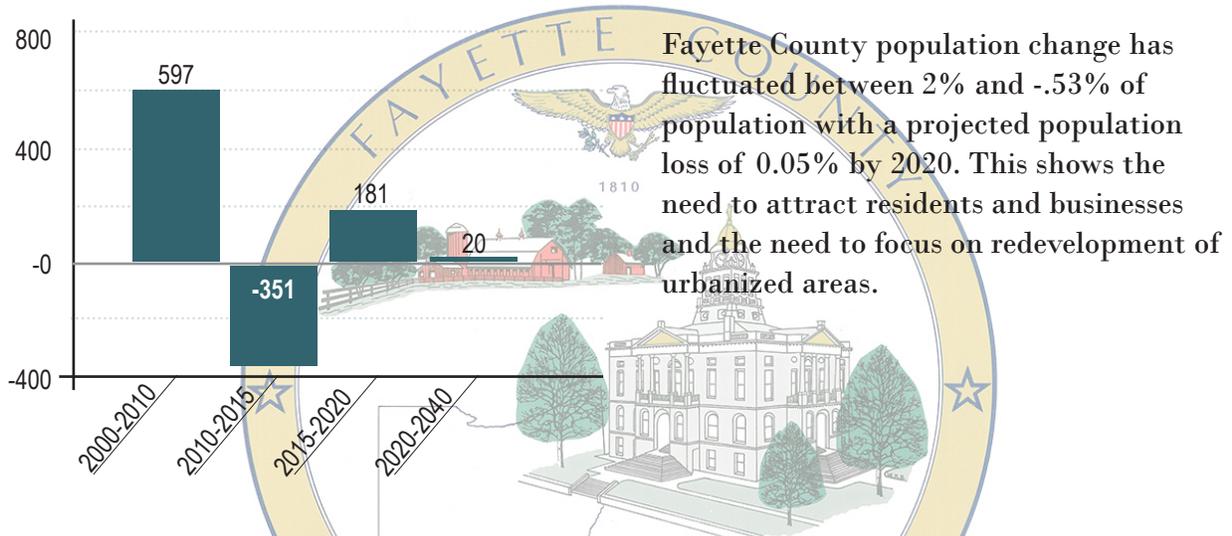


GROWTH MANAGEMENT

Fayette County prides itself on its unique rural and agricultural character. Growth management looks to preserve this character by using community goals to guide future development to areas that would most benefit Fayette County as a whole.

Goal 1: Preserve the rural and agricultural character of Fayette County while promoting and implementing healthy growth management strategies that were defined as vital by the community.

EXISTING CONDITIONS

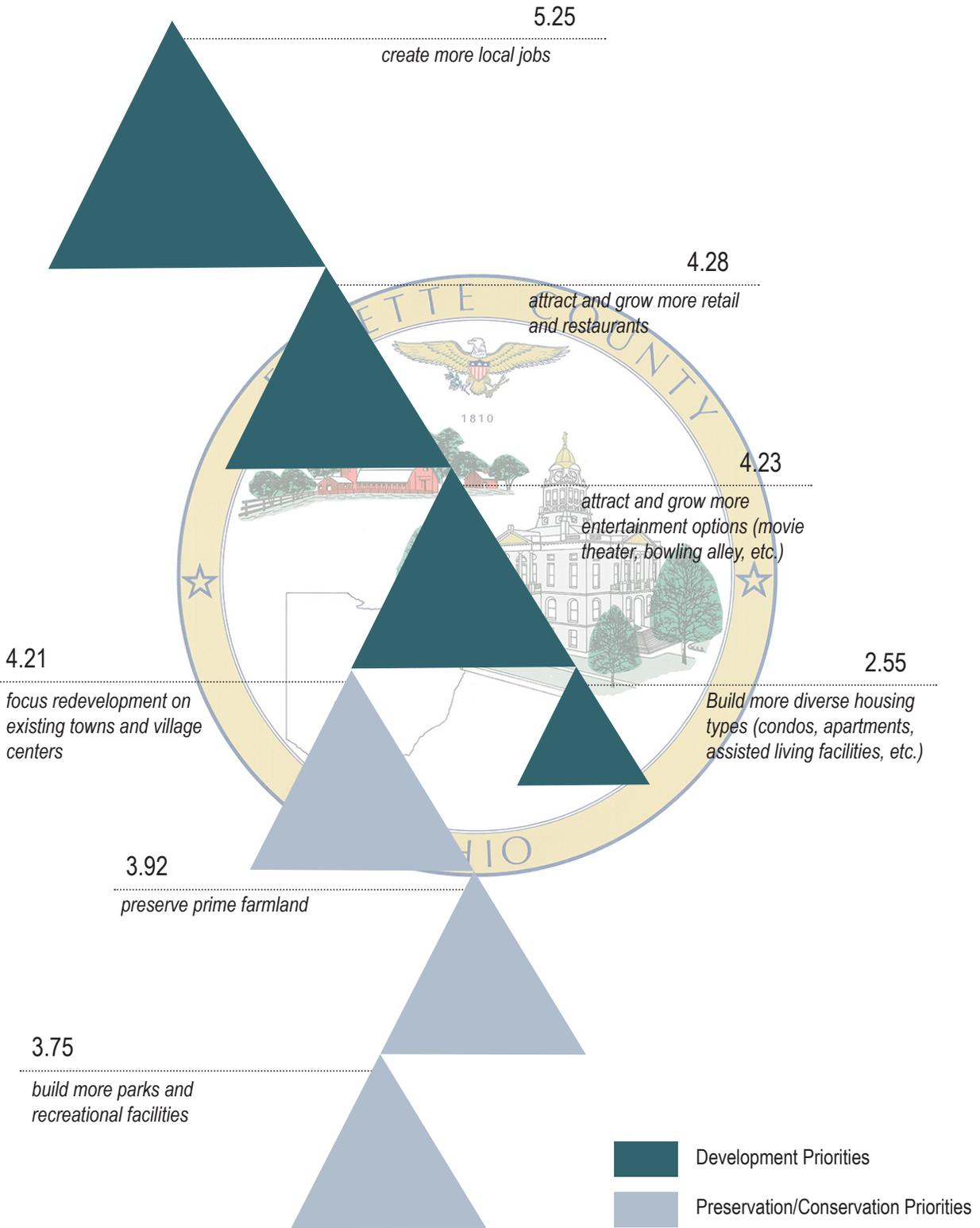


2006 Fayette County Comprehensive Land Use Plan Growth Management Keys:
Prioritize redevelopment within existing urbanized areas.
Direct new development toward urbanized areas.
Encourage mixed-use development where appropriate.
Minimize development within the best agricultural lands.
Locate major commercial & industrial in areas with existing utilities & infrastructure.

The enVISION Fayette Plan 2016 Public Survey identifies development and preservation as the two major themes in the preferences for Fayette County future priorities.

Creating local jobs, and attracting entertainment, retail, and restaurants as the top developmental priorities.
Create parks and recreations facilities, redevelopment within urban areas, and preserve farmland as the top preservation priorities.

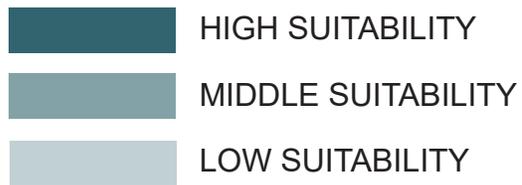
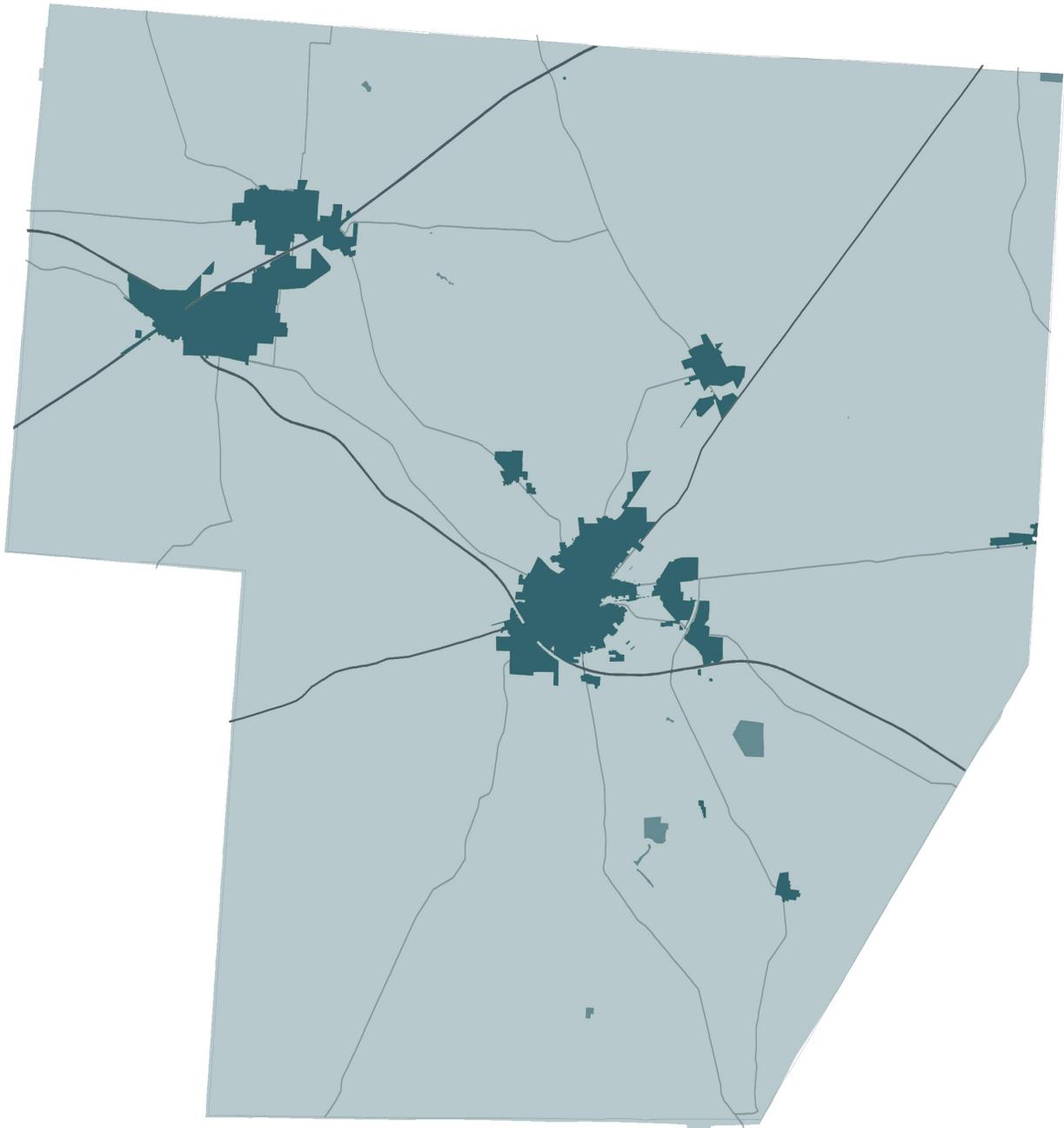
enVISION FAYETTE PLAN 2016 PUBLIC SURVEY



LAND SUITABILITY ANALYSIS MAP

This plan includes a land suitability map analysis that determine the relative suitability for development in Fayette County. The suitability factors analyzed and considered are based on Fayette County goals and policies. These suitability factors include the proximity to natural resources, existing urban areas, and utilities to name a few of the analyzed characteristics. This analysis is intended to be a guide to local decision-makers in the creation and revising local policies and practices within Fayette County. Additional discussion and information regarding the Land Use Development Suitability Map and the weight criteria is included in Appendix B.







RECOMMENDATIONS

Goal 1: *Preserve the rural and agricultural character of Fayette County while promoting and implementing healthy growth management strategies that were defined as vital by the community.*

Strategy: Create a Fayette County zoning/land use GIS map that is available online for the use of Fayette County residents and developers. This is important to encourage growth while maintaining the rural and agricultural character of the county.

Time Frame of Completion: Medium Term

Strategy: Work with all jurisdictions to include all zoning within Fayette County with the Fayette County zoning/land use GIS map. This will streamline the zoning and land-use review by jurisdictional officials and be a resource for jurisdictional officials, county residents, and developers.

Time Frame of Completion: Medium Term

Strategy: Use the Development Suitability Map as a guide to make appropriate zoning and subdivision regulation updates that allows for the greatest use of sites that have the highest suitability for development based on counties goals and existing conditions. By using the Development Suitability Map as a guide, the county can combine the existing conditions and future goals to maximize growth while enhancing the quality of life in the county.

Time Frame of Completion: Long Term

Strategy: Fayette County should look to discourage high and medium-density new commercial or residential development in low-suitability areas and encourage development in high-suitability areas to protect the rural, natural, and agricultural quality of Fayette County.

Time Frame of Completion: Long Term

Strategy: Fayette County, with the use of the Development Suitability Map, should collaborate with the various jurisdictions that are not included in the Fayette County zoning code in order to maximize the development potential of the area. This collaboration should focus on the land that is near the incorporated border with the county as this land use will impact the land use in the adjacent county land.

Time Frame of Completion: Medium Term



An aerial photograph of a rural landscape, showing a grid of agricultural fields. A winding river or stream flows through the lower-left portion of the image. In the upper-right, there is a cluster of buildings, possibly a farm or small town. A large black rectangle is centered over the middle of the image, containing the word "PARTNERSHIPS" in white, bold, uppercase letters. Below the text is a thin white horizontal line.

PARTNERSHIPS

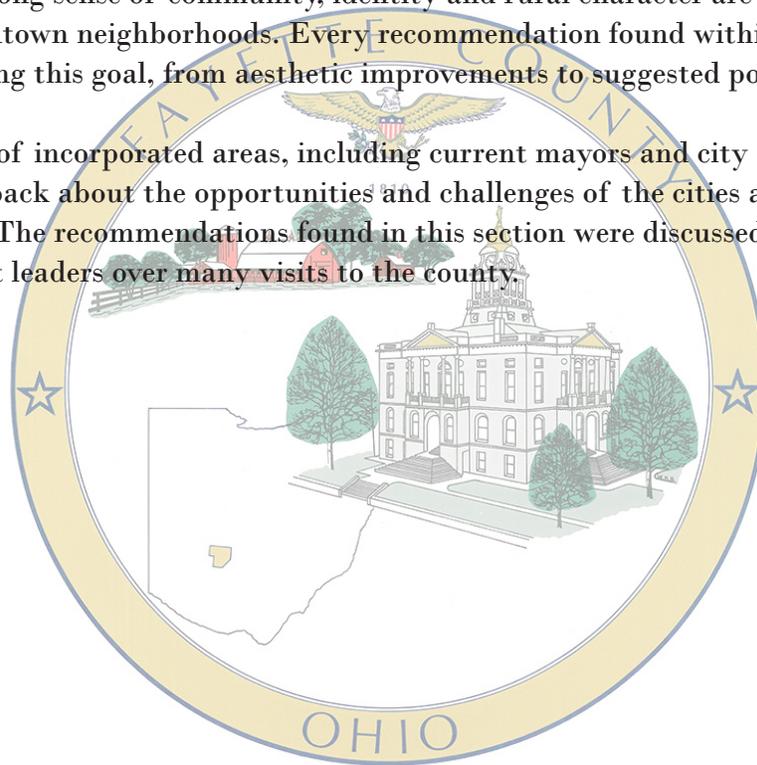


INTRODUCTION

Goals are best achieved when we work together. When Fayette County forms partnerships with community members and other governmental agencies, they are not only better suited to meet their goals, they also foster a greater sense of community. This section brings focus to the cities and villages within the county and their role in moving it forward. The Partnerships section analyzes current conditions and provides recommendations for the county's incorporated areas, primarily focusing on the revitalization of downtown neighborhoods. Washington Court House serves as a focus area and receives site-specific recommendations that illustrate the goals of this section.

Fayette County is most resilient when its largest city and its villages have active and vibrant downtown. A strong sense of community, identity and rural character are also important qualities in downtown neighborhoods. Every recommendation found within this section plays a part in achieving this goal, from aesthetic improvements to suggested policies.

Representatives of incorporated areas, including current mayors and city managers, gave substantial feedback about the opportunities and challenges of the cities and villages of Fayette County. The recommendations found in this section were discussed at length with local government leaders over many visits to the county.



GUIDELINES FOR INCORPORATED AREAS

Downtown Washington Court House is just one of the areas in Fayette County that can build on its existing assets to engage residents, draw visitors, and encourage economic growth. The other incorporated areas also have unique assets that can be leveraged to build stronger communities.

- Goal 1: Relocate appropriate community events downtown to showcase amenities to visitors.**
- Goal 1: Consider different zoning and overlay options to help guide development according to community goals.**
- Goal 3: Improve walkability, bikeability, and livability.**
- Goal 4: Improve on-street amenities and downtown's aesthetic.**

EXISTING CONDITIONS

The incorporated areas in Fayette County include Washington Court House, Jeffersonville, Octa, Bloomingburg, New Holland, and Milledgeville. Due to the fact that these six Cities and Villages are home to a majority of residents, they are of great importance to the planning process and the overall well-being of the County.





Infill development is development that is placed on vacant, unused, or underused parcels. There are many opportunities for infill development in the towns and villages. The blue-shaded area represents potential development on an underused parcel.



Improving the streetscape and walkability within Fayette County's urban centers will not only improve aesthetic, but will also address safety issues at pedestrian crossings. There are many opportunities in the county for improved pedestrian safety.



RECOMMENDATIONS

Goal 1: *Relocate appropriate community events downtown to showcase amenities to visitors.*

Strategy: Encourage community leaders and organizations to host events downtown to draw new visitors to shops, restaurants, and other amenities.

Time Frame of Completion: Medium Term

Goal 2: *Consider different zoning and overlay options to help guide development according to community goals.*

Strategy: Consider overlay and other options for the establishment and restoration of second-story and third-story residential units where appropriate, and provide incentives to property owners for improvements.

Time Frame of Completion: Ongoing

Strategy: Update zoning code to allow for and encourage desired development in certain areas. Zoning code updates could include the use of design and district overlays or form-based code.

Time Frame of Completion: Medium Term

Strategy: Initiate Main Street Programs to revitalize downtown areas and encourage economic development.

Time Frame of Completion: Ongoing

Goal 3: *Improve walkability, bikeability, and livability.*

Strategy: Improve sidewalks for pedestrians, especially near intersections. Install crosswalks in areas of high pedestrian traffic.

Time Frame of Completion: Long Term

Strategy: Install bicycle amenities such as bike racks, public air pumps, signage, and bike route maps.

Time Frame of Completion: Short Term

Strategy: If property owners are willing, strive for a connection to Central Ohio Greenways when considering future trail paths.

Time Frame of Completion: Medium Term

Strategy: Invest in bike lanes where feasible. In areas of high cyclist and automobile traffic, protected bike lanes should be favored to ensure safety for all road users.

Time Frame of Completion: Long Term

Strategy: Plant trees along streets to offer canopy cover, a buffer between pedestrians and traffic, and an improved aesthetic.

Time Frame of Completion: Short Term

Strategy: Invest in public seating. Prioritize creating seating areas with movable options that allow for flexible use of space.

Time Frame to Completion: Short Term

Goal 4: *Improve on-street amenities and downtown's aesthetic.*

Strategy: Install additional street lighting to improve safety and aesthetics.

Time Frame of Completion: Short Term

WASHINGTON COURT HOUSE FOCUS AREA

Washington Court House is the seat of the county and the largest city. The county court house is an iconic building and represents the county’s identity and its history. Over half of the county’s population and jobs are located within its borders. The city’s prominence in the county warrants a closer look at its role.

Site specific recommendations capitalizes on a community’s unique potential by creating public spaces that promote community health, happiness, and well-being. The placemaking vision for Washington Court House is to cultivate a unique downtown landscape that is magnetic, fun, and entertaining. The City of Washington Court House, along with the other towns and villages, are the county’s necessary partners.

- Goal 1: Strengthen the sense of place by enhancing color and character in the downtown historic district.**
- Goal 2: Activate spaces downtown for community activities.**

EXISTING CONDITIONS

The Historic area discussed in enVISION Fayette County is a 12 square block district in the heart of Washington Court House. It is home to the iconic Fayette County Courthouse and other attractions and amenities like the Carnegie Library, Pour Boys Brewery, the Fayette County Farmers’ Market, and the veterans memorial.

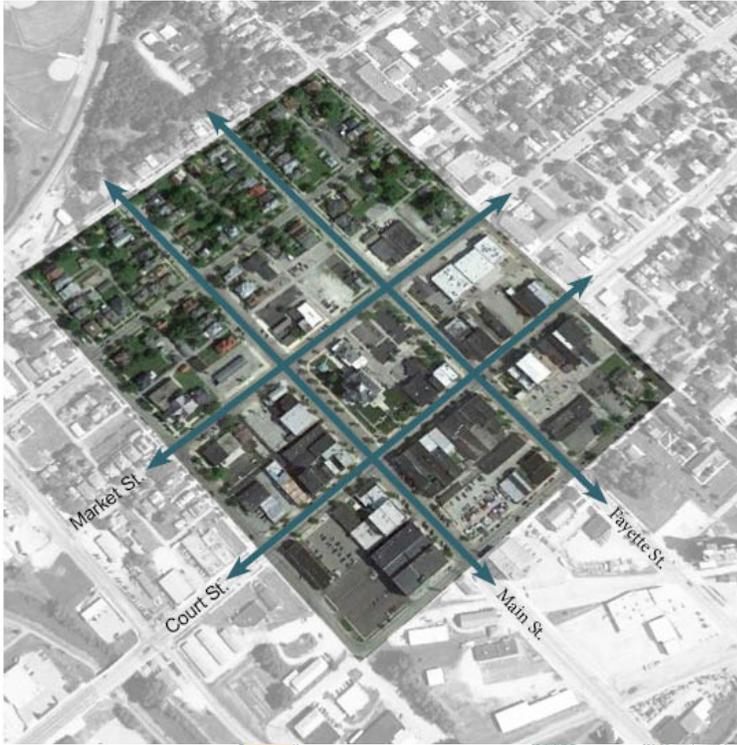


PARKING

28%

of the buildable area, which does not include streets, alleyways, sidewalks, or street parking, is dedicated to surface parking lots

WASHINGTON COURT HOUSE HISTORIC DISTRICT



TREE CANOPY

Washington Court House Historic District
47 acres

12.8% *tree canopy coverage in district*

VACANT STRUCTURES

30+

Washington Court House is committed to improving the character of its downtown. The Historic District Overlay contains stricter development standards and many suggestions for building materials in order to make the Historic District more lively for the community. It also contains over 100 vibrant color choices that can be used on the exterior of historic buildings to strive for a colorful downtown.





Activating the alleyways within Fayette County's urban cores presents opportunities to create pocket parks and enhanced commercial space.



Providing varied programming of underutilized surface parking lots both promotes potential uses for these sites and brings citizens back to downtown centers.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Goal 1: *Strengthen the sense of place by enhancing color and character downtown.*

Strategy: Strategically use public investments like planters, benches, and outdoor art to create more color downtown.

Time Frame of Completion: Short Term

Goal 2: *Activate spaces downtown for community activities.*

Strategy: Establish a permanent sheltered space for the farmer's market. Begin with an outdoor pavilion that will allow for easy modification if desired in the future.

Site Location Suggestion: Surface parking lot at S. Main St. & E. East St. (where current market is held)

Time Frame of Completion: Medium Term

Strategy: Continue to assess the feasibility of a downtown cinema, brewhouse, and café. Work to develop partnerships with developers or business entities that can incorporate multiple uses in one space for a maximum return on investment. A movie theatre that is established as a 501(c)3 nonprofit can be eligible for grants to do restorations and innovative programming.

Time Frame of Completion: Ongoing

Strategy: Washington Court House should create play areas that can be positive spaces for residents of all ages. Residents identified a splash pad as one such amenity that is desired by the community.

Site Location Suggestion: West Market Street between N. Main Street and N. Hinde Street

Time Frame of Completion: Medium Term

Strategy: Activate downtown alleyways with pedestrian amenities, seating, and other creative uses. Aesthetics can be improved through lighting, planters, benches, and other public infrastructure. The City should work to activate and transform alleys into vibrant spaces for events, art, business expansion, eateries, and pedestrian connections.

Site Location Suggestion: E. Court Street between N. North Street and N. Fayette Street.

Time Frame of Completion: Short Term





IMPLEMENTATION

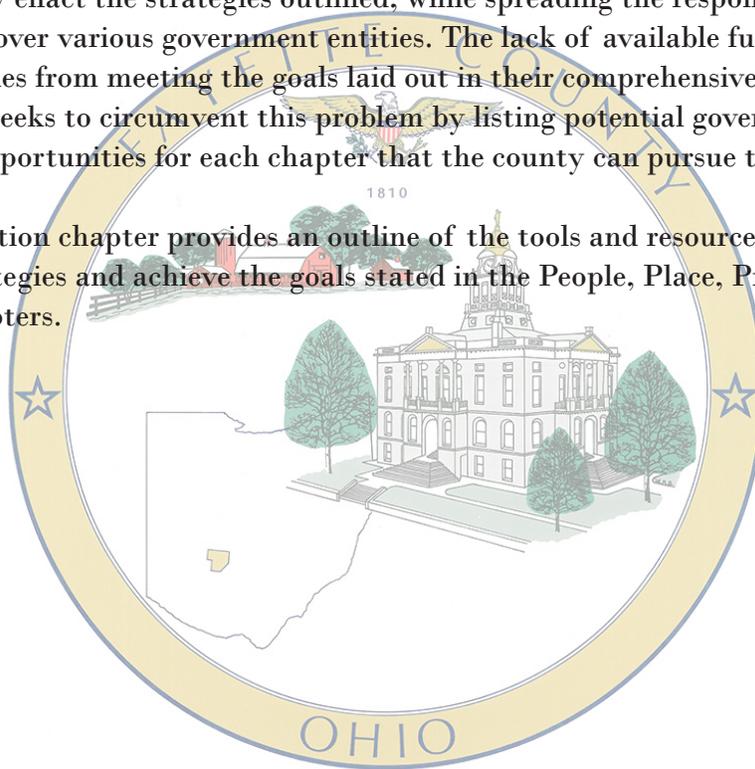


INTRODUCTION

The enVISION Fayette County recommendations will not be enacted automatically with the adoption of this plan. The plan can only be implemented successfully through collaboration between governmental and non-governmental entities that are working for the betterment of the county.

Despite the best intentions, many communities struggle to execute the vision laid out in their comprehensive plans. County Commissioners and other government officials have many immediate priorities they must address, which makes the time they can spend on the implementation of recommendations very limited. Thus, it is important that enVISION Fayette County incorporate implementation recommendations that help the county efficiently enact the strategies outlined, while spreading the responsibility for implementation over various government entities. The lack of available funding also inhibits many communities from meeting the goals laid out in their comprehensive plans. enVISION Fayette County seeks to circumvent this problem by listing potential governmental and non-profit funding opportunities for each chapter that the county can pursue to reach its goals.

The Implementation chapter provides an outline of the tools and resources necessary to enact the strategies and achieve the goals stated in the People, Place, Prosperity, and Partnership chapters.



IMPLEMENTATION

This chapter discusses how to implement the recommendations made throughout the plan which will help realize the goals and aspirations voiced by Fayette County residents through the public involvement process. This chapter is separated into four sections:

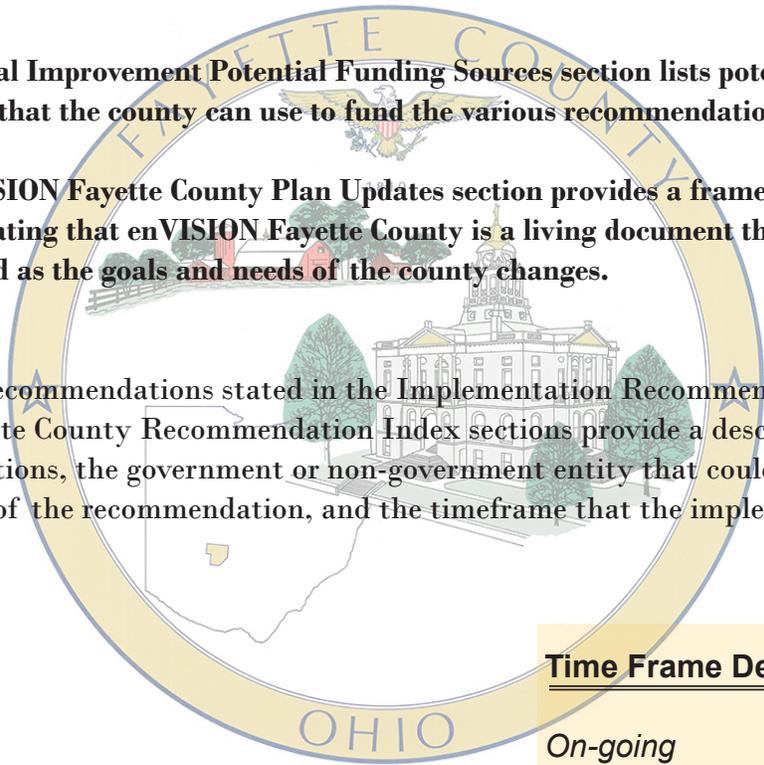
The Implementation Recommendation section provides strategies to successfully implement the enVISION Fayette County Plan.

The enVISION Fayette County Recommendation Index sections provides all the recommendations, in table format, for all recommendations discussed throughout the plan.

The Capital Improvement Potential Funding Sources section lists potential financial resources that the county can use to fund the various recommendations.

The enVISION Fayette County Plan Updates section provides a framework demonstrating that enVISION Fayette County is a living document that should be updated as the goals and needs of the county changes.

As a review, all recommendations stated in the Implementation Recommendation and enVISION Fayette County Recommendation Index sections provide a description of the recommendations, the government or non-government entity that could lead the implementation of the recommendation, and the timeframe that the implementation should be completed.



Time Frame Descriptions:

<i>On-going</i>	
<i>Immediate:</i>	<i>2017</i>
<i>Short Term:</i>	<i>2017 to 2019</i>
<i>Medium Term:</i>	<i>2020 to 2022</i>
<i>Long Term:</i>	<i>2022 +</i>
<i>Completed</i>	

enVISION FAYETTE RECOMMENDATION INDEX

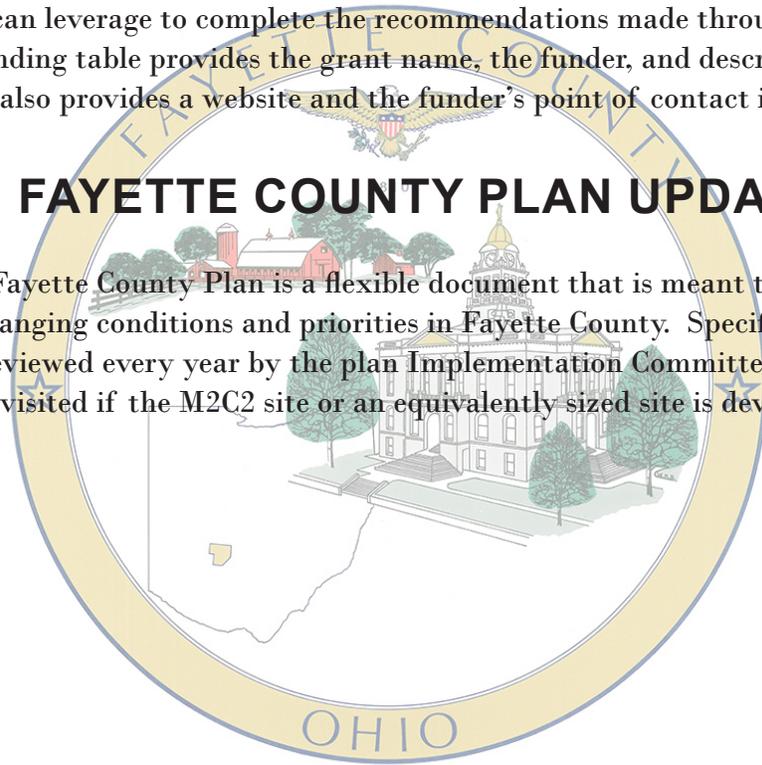
The Recommendation Index is included in the appendix for quick reference and review for the community. The index includes descriptions of the strategy, the entity that should lead implementation efforts, and the time frame of completion.

CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT FUNDING SOURCES

One of the major factors that keeps the county from achieving goals is limited available funding. The need for funding is often ongoing, and because funding application deadlines are often rolling, a quick reference resource can help the county to easily determine potential funding sources. This section, included in appendix C, lists potential funding sources that Fayette County can leverage to complete the recommendations made throughout this plan. The potential funding table provides the grant name, the funder, and description of the grant. The table also provides a website and the funder's point of contact if it was available.

enVISION FAYETTE COUNTY PLAN UPDATES

The enVISION Fayette County Plan is a flexible document that is meant to be updated to accommodate changing conditions and priorities in Fayette County. Specifically, the land use plan should be reviewed every year by the plan Implementation Committee, updated every five years, and revisited if the M2C2 site or an equivalently sized site is developed.



IMPLEMENTATION PROCESS EXAMPLE

Strategy: Purchase ads in large media market newspapers and radio stations throughout the region to promote the nearly 30 county-wide events that happen during the year.

Step 1: County Commissioners (or Implementation Committee) contact the Tourism Bureau about the strategy.

Step 2: The Tourism Bureau should create a list of county-wide events and identify those events that are most appealing to tourists from outside of the county. The Tourism Bureau should use any available data that shows where people are traveling from and what the target demographics are for the chosen events.

Step 3: The Tourism Bureau should research publications in Dayton, Columbus, Cincinnati, and statewide that appeal to the target demographics. Additionally, weigh the cost of ad space in each publication to decide which publication is the most appropriate.

Step 4: The Tourism Bureau should purchase an event ad or submit a press release to the appropriate publications.

Step 5: The Tourism Bureau should prep a spokesperson to field any questions regarding the event.

Step 6: The Tourism Bureau should inform the County Commissioners (or Implementation Committee) of the completion of the strategy and update the enVISION Fayette County Plan.

Step 7: The Tourism Bureau should inform the County Commissioners (or Implementation Committee) on the success of the strategy and if the strategy should be repeated for additional events.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Goal 1: *Promote the success of enVISION Fayette County by emphasizing accountability and monitoring and by strategically implementing the recommendations in the allotted time frame.*

Strategy: To improve awareness of the enVISION Fayette County plan, hard copies (for review by the public) should be made available at Carnegie Public Library locations and the Fayette County Government Office. Additionally, an electronic version should be made available on the Fayette County website.

Time Frame of Completion: Immediate

Strategy: Create accountability for implementing the recommendations of this plan by establishing an Implementation Committee. The committee should be comprised of community members and will meet a minimum of two times a year to track progress, review the plans next steps, and report back to the community.

Time Frame of Completion: Immediate

Strategy: While this planning effort more than doubled the public outreach efforts of the prior plan, there is an opportunity to further increase public outreach during the implementation phase. The Implementation Committee and County officials should provide implementation updates in the Record Herald, on the County's website, and on any County social media platforms. This should include invitations to take part in the implementation process and should discuss major next steps in implementation.

Time Frame of Completion: Ongoing

