

June 2018

Executive Summary

# Community Development Plan Paulding County, Ohio



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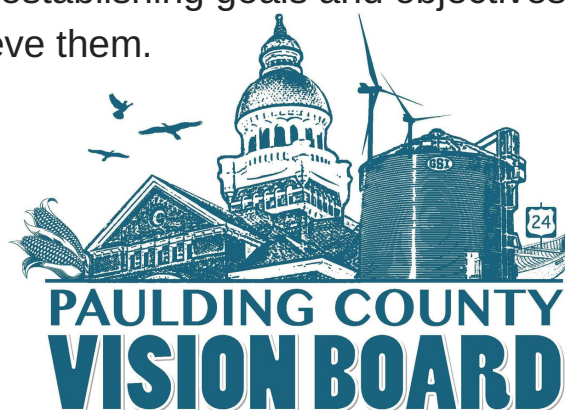


*Paulding County's Community Development Plan was made possible through the collaborative effort of the Paulding County Commissioners, the Paulding County Vision Board, Maumee Valley Planning Organization, and Paulding County residents.*

## Vision Board

The Paulding County Vision Board was formed by a passionate group of residents who began meeting in 2016 to discuss issues facing the County, exchange ideas, and network. The group determined that if the villages and townships within the County collaborated, a larger impact could be made to benefit all residents. The Vision Board was formed officially under the Paulding County Commissioners on April 24, 2017. The Board then decided to create a county-wide Community Development Plan to begin a formal planning process that would lead to establishing goals and objectives for Paulding County and strategies for how to achieve them.

*The Paulding County Vision Board's mission is to coordinate collaboration, plan strategically, secure funding, and create a livable Paulding County community.*



# Plan Vision



Paulding County envisions being a community which has: a thriving economy; a safe, reliable and efficient transportation network; abundant natural, historic, and rural assets; active and vibrant downtown areas; an environment that supports healthy lifestyles; and exceptional quality of life for all residents.

## Plan Purpose & Development

This plan describes the history, current state and future vision for Paulding County and establish a roadmap for how to make that vision a reality. Paulding County's Community Development Plan was created with the guidance of the Paulding County Vision Board and members of the public using a four phased approach.

### Phase 1: Regional Overview

- Compiled existing data and history
- Reviewed previous plans
- Established foundation of contextual research

### Phase 2: Research & Outreach

- Analyzed existing conditions
- Projected future conditions
- Conducted public involvement

### Phase 3: Goals & Action Plan

- Developed the plan's vision
- Designated goals, objectives, and action items
- Identified specific community projects

### Phase 4: Plan Completion

- Created evaluation and monitoring procedures
- Presented draft plan to Vision Board & Public
- Completed and adopted final plan

# Goals & Objectives

Goals and objectives were developed to help better plan for what the residents of the County desire for the future of the Paulding County community.

## Transportation

- Increase the safety and efficiency of the system for all users
- Improve and enhance bicycle and pedestrian facilities
- Support the County's economy through the transportation network
- Enhance mobility for all Paulding County residents

## Economic Development

- Increase employment growth and investment
- Retain and support existing businesses and workforce
- Attract new businesses and workforce
- Enhance communications

## Housing

- Improve availability of affordable, desirable housing options
- Enhance existing housing options
- Enhance planning for diverse housing types
- Enhance availability of lodging options

## Quality of Life

- Enhance recreational, cultural and essential amenities
- Support and enhance beautification efforts
- Address drug abuse issues
- Minimize poverty





# Public Involvement

In order to gather as much feedback from residents as possible, multiple opportunities to provide input were provided during plan development (see timeline). Those opportunities included the following:

- County-wide Public Survey
- Two Series of Public Meetings
- Survey of High School Students
- Public Comment Period

The first series of public meetings were held in each school district and were used to introduce the plan and present the public survey results.

The second set of meetings were conducted in each Village that wanted to participate. Residents identified strengths, weaknesses, and goals for both the County and the Village.

*Community planning session in the Village of Antwerp, OH*



Fig. 1 Public Participation Timeline

Public Survey

Aug-Oct 2017

1st Meetings

Oct 2017

2nd Meetings

Nov 2017

School Survey

Dec-Jan 2017

Public Comments

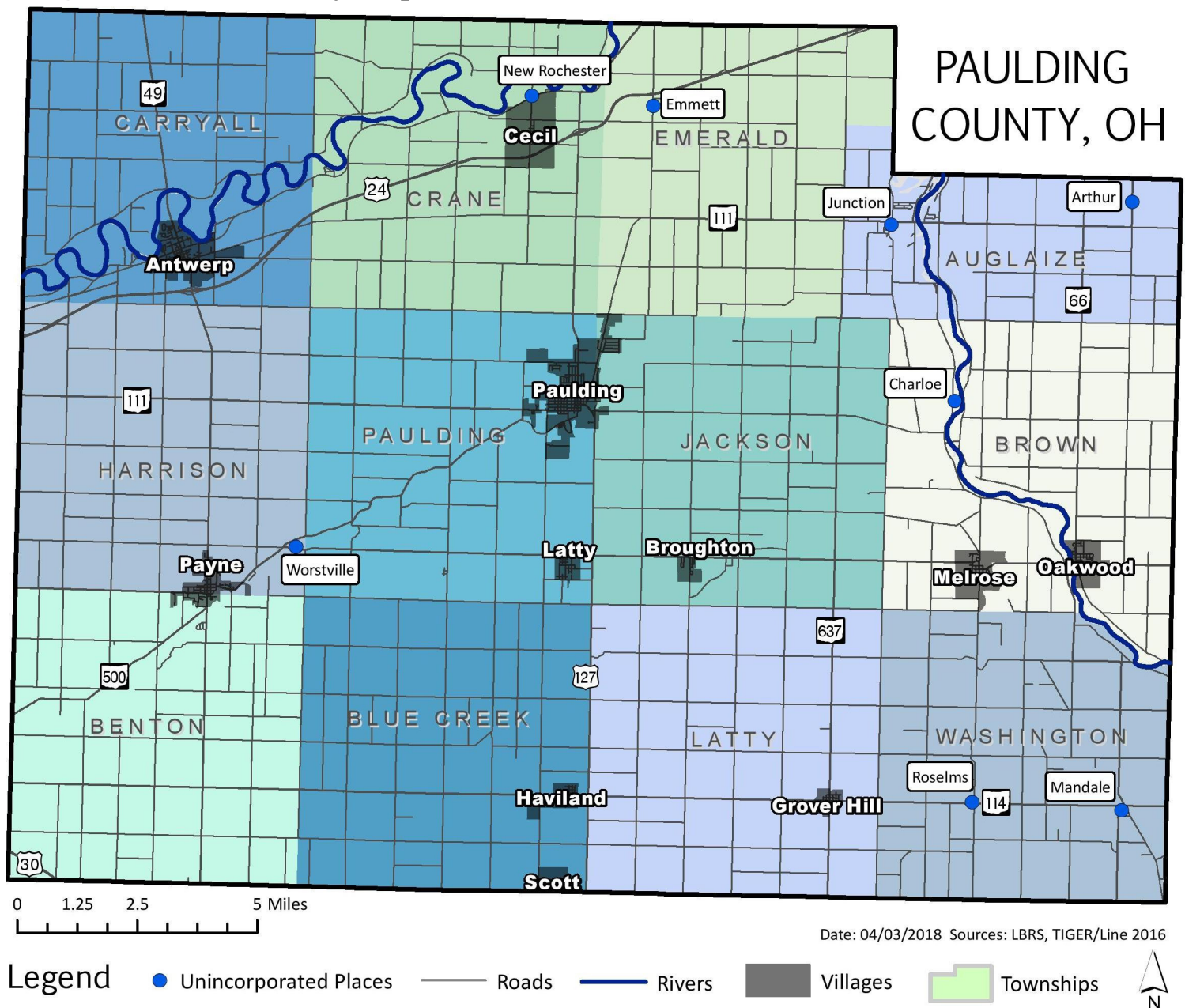
May-Jun 2018

# Village Snapshots

The Villages in the County participated in public input sessions that had residents share their community's strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, and threats in order to better understand what goals residents have for the future. Many Villages had similar goals:

- Retain and attract residents
- Create walking and biking trails
- Reinvest in infrastructure
- Address the drug problem
- Cleanup blighted structures and beautify neighborhoods
- Engage residents to take pride in their communities

Fig. 2 Paulding County Map



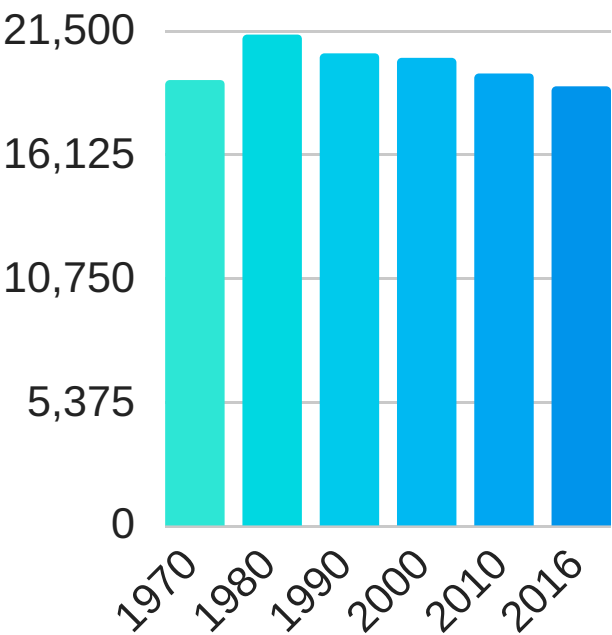


# Existing Conditions

## Population

Much like the rest of the northwest Ohio area, the population of Paulding County has been steadily declining over the past three decades. The County experienced a period of slight growth from 1970 to 1980, which was followed by a trend of decline. However, the Villages of Paulding and Haviland, as well as Crane, Jackson, and Washington Townships have experienced nominal growth since 2000.

Fig. 3 Paulding County Population 1970 - 2016



## Employment & Industry

According to 2016 data, less than half of employed residents work in Paulding County, 35% work outside of the County and 18% work in another State. Paulding County ranks high in agricultural production in Ohio especially for wheat (2nd in the State), and Soybeans (11th in the State). According to the 2012 Agricultural Census, there were 676 farms in the County. The largest industry sectors are manufacturing, followed by educational, health care, social assistance services, and retail trade.

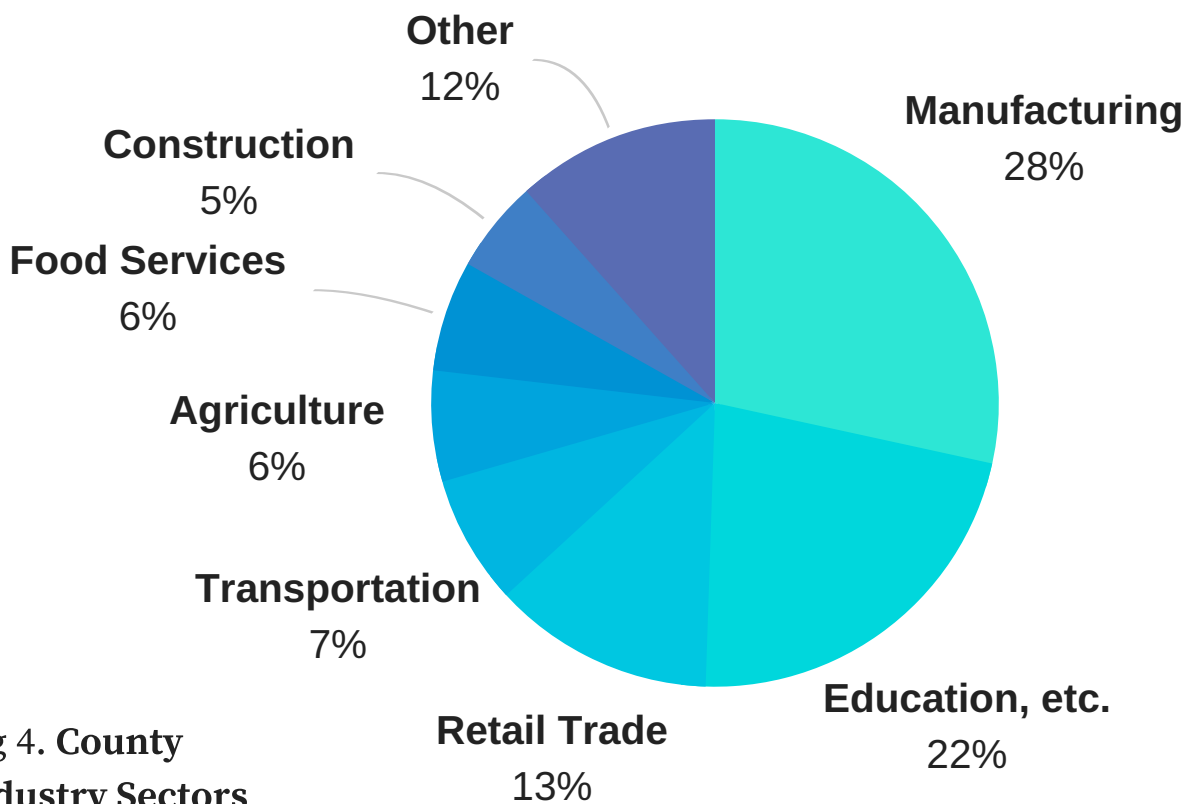


Fig 4. County Industry Sectors

# Existing Conditions

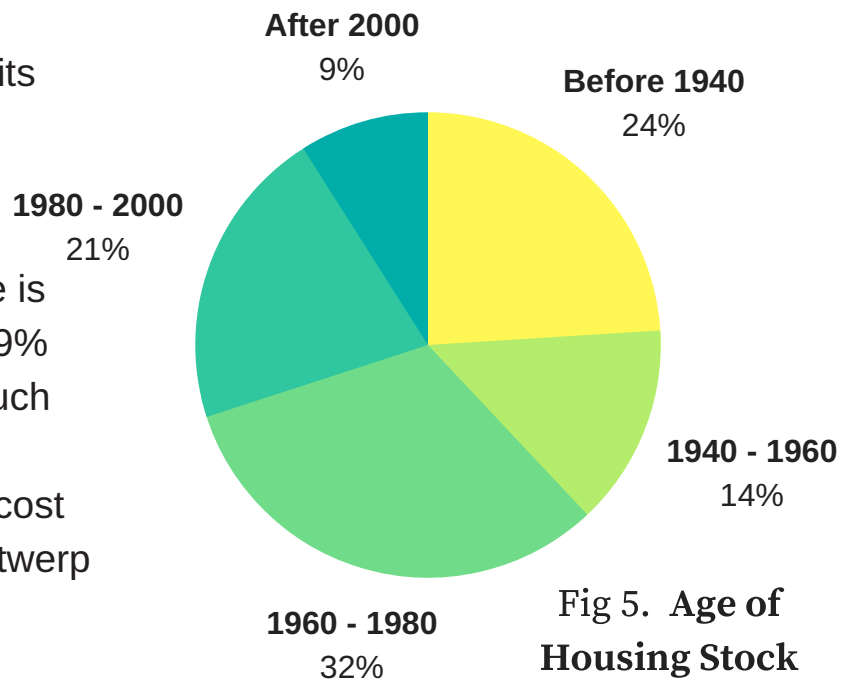
## Income

	Median Household	Per Capita
Paulding County	\$48,003	\$24,174
State of Ohio	\$50,674	\$27,800
United States	\$55,322	\$29,829



## Housing

- The County has 8,685 housing units  
1,026 (11.8%) vacancies
- Nearly 70% of homes were  
built before 1980
- The County's homeownership rate is  
higher than the US and OH at 77.9%
- The average cost of housing is much  
lower than the National average
- Broughton Village has the lowest cost  
housing options; Paulding and Antwerp  
Villages have the most expensive



## Quality of Life

Quality of life factors were assessed through the access and availability of goods and services, such as health care, transportation, recreation, housing, utility, food costs, and school districts.

- Paulding County has  
one hospital located in  
Paulding and a branch  
of that hospital in  
Antwerp
- The 2014 Ohio School  
District ratings for  
Paulding County all  
earned a "B" out of the  
standard A-F scale
- Antwerp Local ranked  
highest in the County

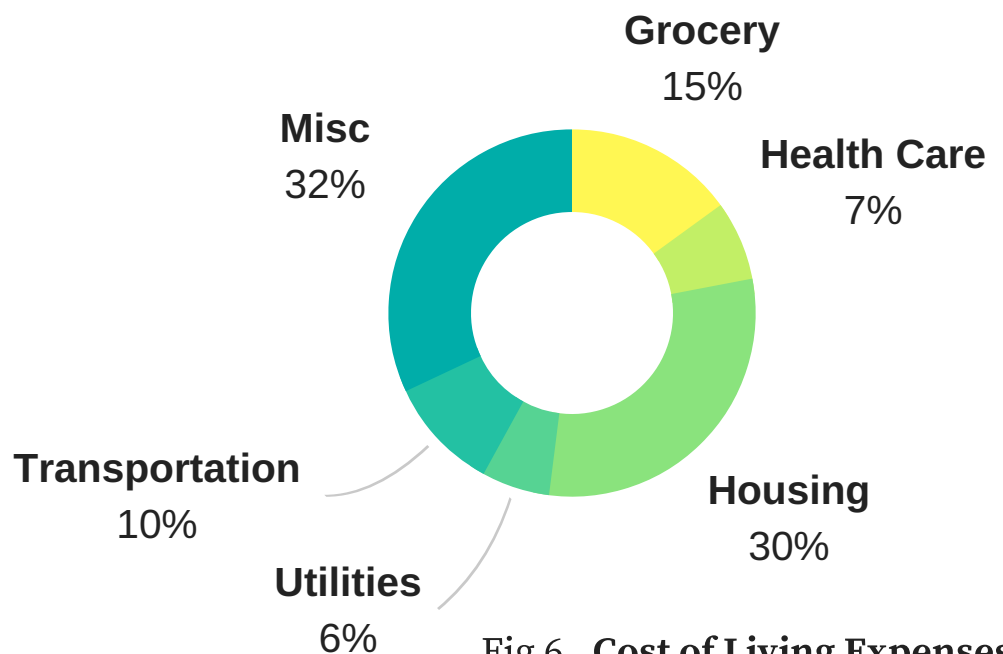


Fig 6. Cost of Living Expenses



# Existing Conditions

## Land Use

Land cover in Paulding County is dominated by crops, which make up roughly 87% of the total land cover in the County. Deciduous forest follows as the second largest land cover at 7.6%. Soybeans are the most prevalent crop and land cover, followed by corn, winter wheat, and deciduous forest. Only 7.3% of the total land cover in Paulding County is devoted to development. Many acres of **\*prime farmland** are located within Paulding County.

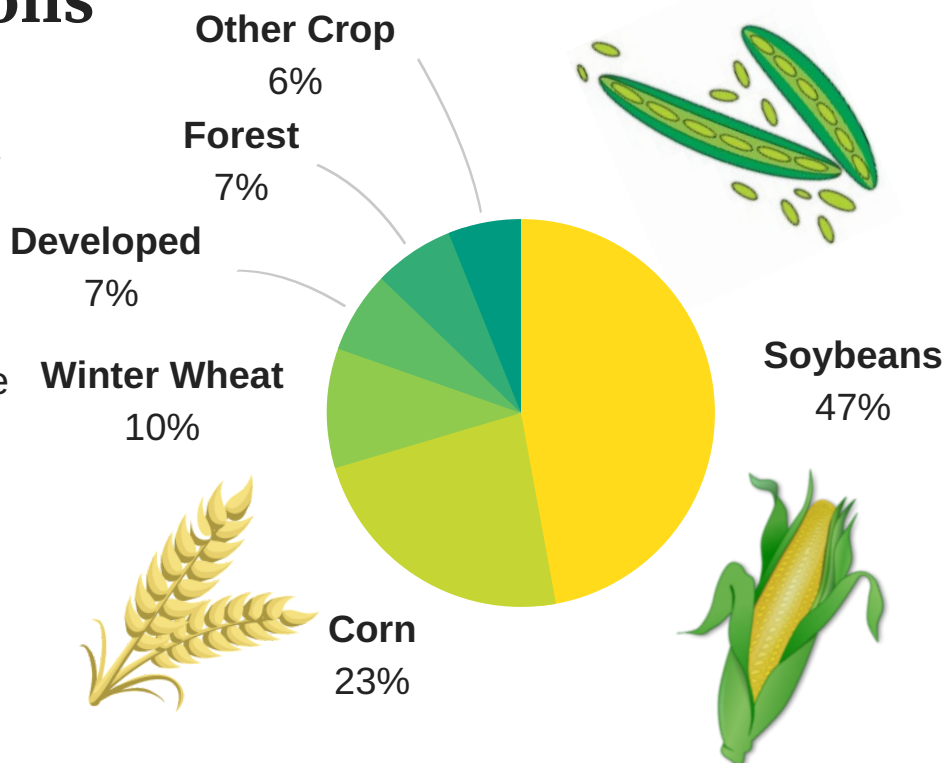


Fig 7. Land Use in Paulding County

*\*Land that has the best combination of physical and chemical characteristics for producing food, feed, forage, fiber, and oilseed crops (USDA).*

## Transportation

Paulding County has an efficient transportation network that includes several U.S. and state routes, and two major railroad lines. There is no airport located in the County, however, the Fort Wayne International Airport (FWA) in Indiana is the closest option for air transportation.

### U.S. Routes:

U.S. 24 (Toledo-Ft. Wayne)

U.S. 127 (North-South)

U.S. 30 (East-West)

### State Routes:

49, 66, 111, 114, 500,

613, 637

### Railroads:

Norfolk Southern

Indiana Northeastern

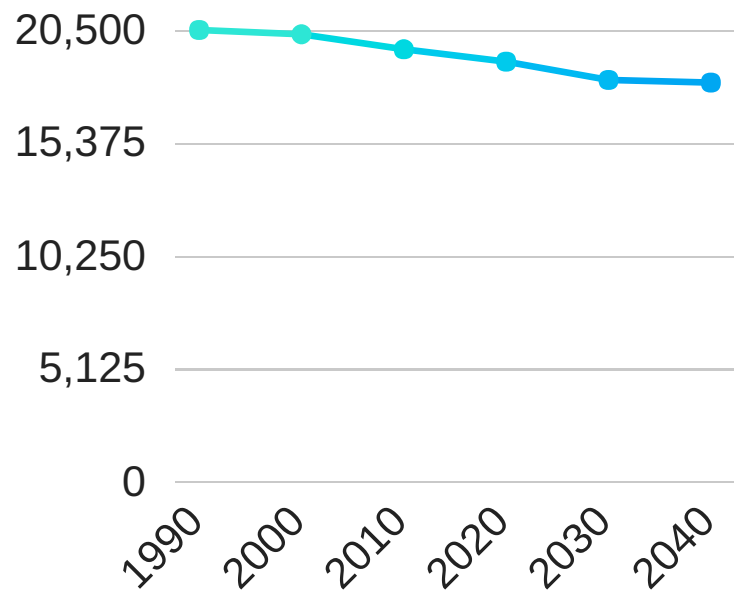


# Future Conditions

## Population

As previously discussed, Paulding County has experienced a gradual population decline over the past decade, a trend that is expected to continue into the future. Data provided by the Ohio Development Services Agency shows that the projected population for Paulding County will decline gradually until the year 2040. It is projected that the population aged 60 and older will increase 43% by 2040.

Fig 8. Paulding County Population Projection 2040



The townships of Latty and Auglaize are projected to experience the most population decline with over 10% decreases in those areas. Crane, Jackson and Washington Townships follow with 7.5% - 10% population decline.

## Employment



The 'Other Services' industry is projected to grow the most in total number of Paulding County jobs. Services account for 68% of the U.S. Gross Domestic Product and four out of five U.S. jobs. With this in mind, it is clear why the 'Other Services' industry is projected to add jobs in the future in Paulding County.

## Transportation

ODOT's Travel Demand Model predicts future traffic volumes for State Routes by 2040. The largest growth volumes are seen on State Routes 114, 111, 500 and U.S. Routes 127 and 30.



Truck volumes were also forecast for 2040, and show the largest increases in volume on SR 500 near the Village of Payne. Increases are also predicted for truck travel on SR 114, as well as SR 500 near Paulding Village.





# Action Plan

A critical step in the development of the Plan was to analyze existing conditions and future projections data in order to assess potential future needs. All the data gathered from the public during public involvement activities was utilized to determine what the vision of the residents is for the future and how to make that vision a reality.

The key factors learned from the existing conditions, future projections and public input are as follows:

## Future Projections:

- The population is expected to decline
- The population is expected to age
- The Health Care industry will likely grow in response to the aging population
- More Trucks and vehicles are expected to be traveling on the County's State and U.S. Routes by 2040



## Public Input:

- Residents want safe and well maintained roads
- Residents feel it is imperative to retain and attract workers and businesses
- Improve internet and cellular connectivity
- Make improvements to residential structures and provide affordable housing
- Bring more private investment into the County
- Address the drug issues
- Retain youth by providing better job opportunities and quality of life assets



*Residents think that rural character and small town charm is the County's biggest strength for economic development.*

# Action Plan

Strategies were created in response to the existing and future condition data and analysis. These strategies correspond to a specific objective and overarching goal, and touch on issues pertaining to housing, economic development, transportation, and quality of life.

Implementing strategies outlined in the Action Plan will be the responsibility of multiple organizations in Paulding County and will be a **collaborative effort** over time as funding and staff allow.



## Short Term Implementation Items

Short term implementation items were identified to determine strategies that are feasible for short term implementation or those that are already taking place within the County. The short term implementation items for each category are as follows.

### *Transportation*

- Identify high crash & severity locations; conduct studies to determine potential countermeasures
- Pursue funding to construct new infrastructure for bicyclists & pedestrians
- Pursue funding to make condition improvements and expand existing infrastructure
- Research transportation options for counties that do not have public transportation, such as coordination of human services transportation





# Action Plan

## Short Term Implementation Items

### *Economic Development*

- Enhance & promote sites available for development
- Create a subcommittee to investigate issues and develop solutions
- Encourage increased communication between the County and Villages/Townships
- Support Economic Development office's efforts in marketing the County to bring more businesses and industry
- Work with vocational/community colleges, and high schools to identify opportunities and link existing & new training programs to the educational needs of companies



### *Housing*

- Create a task force to review housing, zoning and code enforcement issues and create incentives for housing development
- Work with home owners to investigate and pursue available grant funds, such as the Community Housing Impact and Preservation program
- Utilize funds available through the Paulding County Land Bank program to clean up blighted structures throughout the County



### *Quality of Life*

- Improve upon assets already in place, such as trails and parks
- Utilize the resources of the Land Bank to cleanup blighted residential structures
- Create Preservation and Design Review Boards to oversee development
- Seek grant funding for downtown revitalization
- Apply for funding through Target of Opportunity grants to enhance facilities
- Provide more access and awareness of existing services to residents of the County



# Project List

Projects were solicited from each Village and Township in order to better understand the specific needs for each entity in the County. A total of **85 projects** are included in the plan, with information on need, estimated cost, desired completion year, and potential funding sources. These projects covered a wide range of improvements, such as:

- Street Improvements
- Road Paving
- Sidewalks
- Walking Trails
- Community Center
- Road Signage Upgrades
- Culvert Replacements
- Waterline Replacements
- Water and Sewer Extensions
- Water Tower Improvements
- Emergency Sirens
- Fire Hydrants
- Cleanup of Blighted Structures



## Funding Sources

For each project included in the plan, potential funding sources were identified. Sources such as the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG), Ohio Public Works Commission (OPWC), and the Ohio Department of Transportation (ODOT) were described and paired with projects that fit the funding criteria. This section is meant to help Villages and Townships in Paulding County better understand what funding sources may be available for projects they would like to accomplish.

# Monitoring & Evaluation

Performance measures were developed in order to track progress towards the achievement of the goals outlined in the plan. These performance measures are quantifiable indicators that will be used to assess how well the objectives are being achieved to support the overall goals.

Performance measures were developed for each objective. Below is a list of some of the included measures that will be quantified during implementation of the plan:

- Serious injury crashes
- Employment options
- Housing task force meetings
- Community/cultural events
- Bicycle and/or pedestrian projects completed
- Local incentives available for existing businesses
- Blighted structures demolished in neighborhoods
- Buildings improved in the downtown areas

*Performance measurement is the process of regularly measuring outcomes and results which generates reliable data on the efficiency and effectiveness of a program or activity.*



## Next Steps

The Vision Board is dedicated to ensuring Paulding County achieves its vision. The Community Development Plan will be an **active document** which will be utilized to implement identified strategies and work towards accomplishing plan goals. The Vision Board will continue to coordinate collaboration, plan strategically, secure funding, and create a livable Paulding County community until **every resident has exceptional quality of life**.

### *Paulding County's Vision*

*Paulding County envisions being a community which has: a thriving economy; a safe, reliable and efficient transportation network; abundant natural, historic, and rural assets; active and vibrant downtown areas; an environment that supports healthy lifestyles; and exceptional quality of life for all residents.*



# Community Development Plan

## Paulding County, Ohio

Executive Summary



### *Acknowledgements*

A high level of public involvement during development of this plan was desired and throughout the planning process, hundreds of Paulding County residents were engaged and provided feedback. The Paulding County Vision Board would like to acknowledge and thank those residents who contributed their time and invaluable input to the development of this plan. Without their input, this plan would not be possible.

### **Contact**

For more information on the plan, visit [www.pauldingcountyvisionboard.com](http://www.pauldingcountyvisionboard.com)