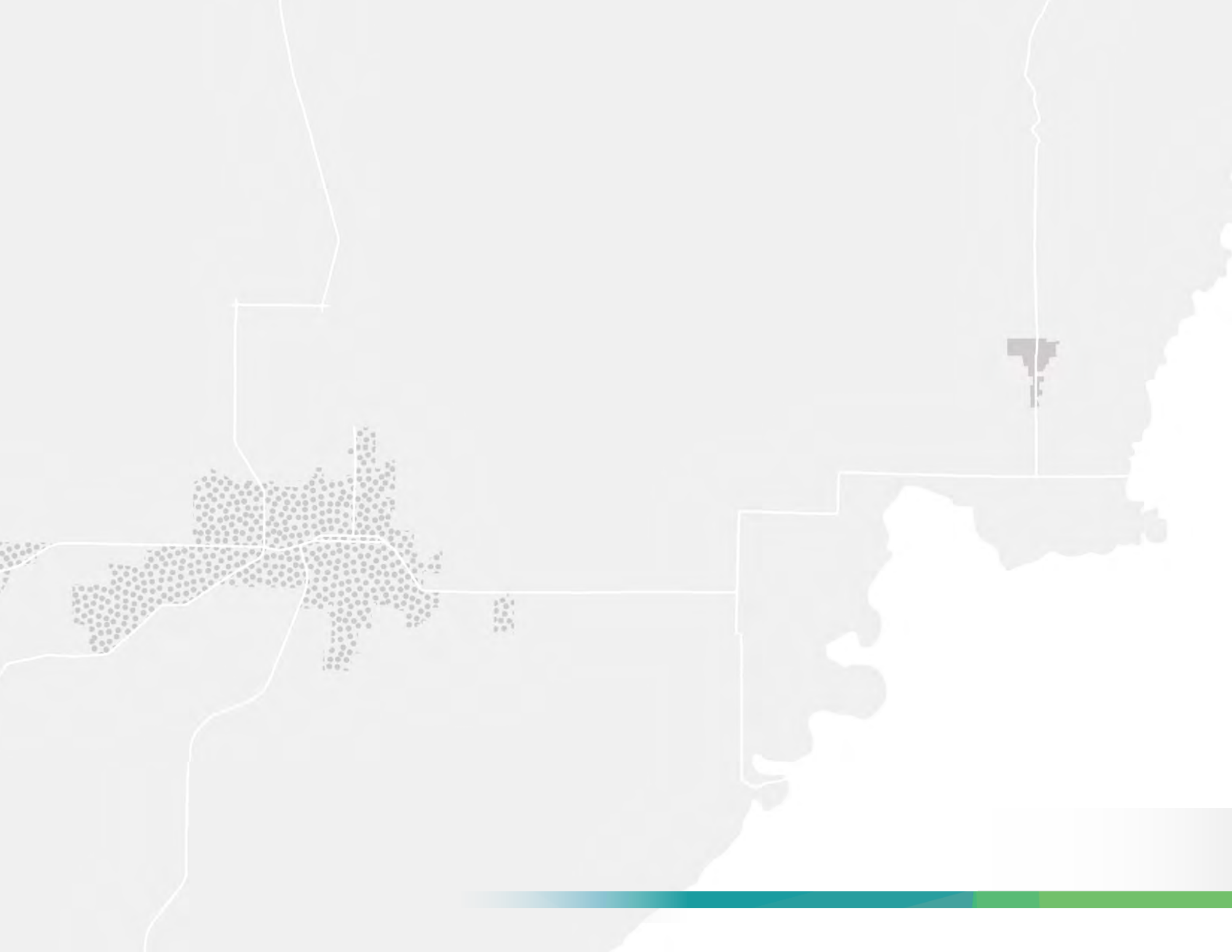




2045
WARRICK COUNTY
COMPREHENSIVE PLAN

OUR VISION FOR THE NEXT 20 YEARS

DRAFT NOVEMBER 2023



ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The Warrick County 2045 Comprehensive Plan was created through the contributions of many community members have helped guide the future of Warrick County. In addition to the people and commissions that are recognized below, this plan is a reflection of the ideas shared by the several hundred community members who participated in planning process. Thank you to everyone who contributed their valuable time and expertise to this effort.

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SECTION 01

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY



ABOUT THE PLAN

The Warrick County 2045 Comprehensive Plan was created to guide future growth and development throughout the county. To do this, this plan was developed over a 12-month process where local leaders, stakeholders, and community members shared their ideas about the county's future in order to establish a vision for what the county wants to accomplish in the next 20 years. To arrive at this destination, the Comprehensive Plan lays out five goals, 17 strategies, and 46 action steps that ultimately support the community's vision. The plan contains detailed narratives on each of these objectives, along with direction for successful implementation and background on the planning process. In contrast, this executive summary offers a high-level view of the plan's vision statement, supporting themes, goals, and strategies to serve as snapshot of what the County is aiming to achieve in the coming years.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY



The **VISION STATEMENT** is a brief narrative that guides the plan.

Warrick County is a safe and welcoming community that is growing and thriving, offering diverse outdoor spaces, high-quality education, a flourishing economy, and vibrant towns and neighborhoods.



The vision statement is supported by three **GUIDING THEMES**.



**1.ENHANCING
SENSE OF PLACE**



**2.SUPPORTING
PLANNED GROWTH**



**3.CONNECTING
COMMUNITIES**

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The plan includes five **GOALS**.

GOAL 1: LAND USE AND HOUSING

Support future growth and development in key areas while preserving the county's agricultural character, protecting natural assets, and promoting quality design.

GOAL 2: TRANSPORTATION

Maintain and expand the county's current transportation network while paving the way for new travel choices in and between communities.

GOAL 3: UTILITIES

Expand utility services to serve rural areas to support future growth.

GOAL 4: QUALITY OF LIFE

Create and support new opportunities for people to enjoy the places, businesses, and recreation that Warrick County has to offer.

GOAL 5: ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Encourage economic growth by supporting local businesses, attracting employers, and enhancing the tourism experience.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Each goal is supported by a series of **STRATEGIES**.

GOAL 1: LAND USE AND HOUSING

STRATEGY 1.1 3 ACTION STEPS

Encourage targeted residential growth by accommodating new single-family homes, senior housing, and diverse multi-family housing options.

STRATEGY 1.2 2 ACTION STEPS

Support and encourage high-quality housing and mixed-use development to maintain and promote community character.

STRATEGY 1.3 6 ACTION STEPS

Conserve agricultural and natural areas as new development continues to grow throughout the county.

STRATEGY 1.4 2 ACTION STEPS

Attract industrial development in strategic locations to provide opportunities for economic development and employment options.

STRATEGY 1.5 3 ACTION STEPS

Explore options for reclaiming and redeveloping retired coal mines.

GOAL 2: TRANSPORTATION

STRATEGY 2.1 3 ACTION STEPS

Develop new roads and improve existing roads to support current and future growth.

STRATEGY 2.2 2 ACTION STEPS

Make improvements and repairs to existing roads to provide for safe and comfortable travel throughout the county.

STRATEGY 2.3 2 ACTION STEPS

Expand public transit service throughout the county and consider options for supporting people in rural areas.

STRATEGY 2.4 3 ACTION STEPS

Attract and integrate emerging transportation technologies, such as autonomous and electric vehicles, micromobility, and supporting infrastructure.

STRATEGY 2.5 4 ACTION STEPS

Connect community destinations, parks, and neighborhoods by expanding and improving pedestrian and bicycle infrastructure.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Each strategy is supported by detailed **ACTION STEPS.**

GOAL 3: UTILITIES

STRATEGY 3.1 3 ACTION STEPS

Support the expansion of broadband throughout the county to serve rural communities and provide residents with high-quality options.

STRATEGY 3.2 3 ACTION STEPS

Expand and improve utilities, such as water and sewer, to support current and future growth.

GOAL 4: QUALITY OF LIFE

STRATEGY 4.1 1 ACTION STEPS

Undertake a county-wide branding process that promotes both a unified identity for Warrick County and distinct branding for incorporated areas or neighborhoods that fit into the overall county-wide branding.

STRATEGY 4.2 2 ACTION STEPS

Support neighborhoods, communities, and incorporated towns within Warrick County's jurisdiction by bolstering their capacity to serve residents.

STRATEGY 4.3 3 ACTION STEPS

Continue to expand the public school system, emergency response, and other public services to correspond with future population growth.

GOAL 5: ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

STRATEGY 5.1 2 ACTION STEPS

Encourage new dining, shopping, and entertainment options for all ages.

STRATEGY 5.2 2 ACTION STEPS

Establish Warrick County as a welcoming and enjoyable destination for visitors.

SECTION 02

INTRODUCTION

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➤ Plan Organization | p.12



OVERVIEW

Section 2 contains a brief overview of Comprehensive Plan's content and the planning process through which it was developed. First, Planning Process details the three-phase approach to developing the plan and how community was shared to guide the plan. Second, Planning Area describes the areas in Warrick County that are addressed in this plan. Last, Plan Organization sets the stage for the rest of the plan by introducing the overall organization of the plan recommendations into a vision statement, guiding themes, goals, strategies, and action steps.

PLANNING PROCESS

Overview

The Warrick County 2045 Comprehensive Plan was developed over a nearly year-long planning process. The different steps to this process, from the existing conditions analysis to strategy development, were separated into three distinct phases. More detail on each phase is provided below.

The plan itself was developed through the efforts of three primary groups: Area Plan Commission Staff, the Comprehensive Plan Steering Committee, and a team of consultants that led the plan development. During this process, community engagement was performed consistently across the three phases but the type of engagement varied between each phase to gain different types of input that would best inform the work being done at each point in the process.

Phase One: Existing Conditions and Visioning

In order to determine where Warrick County should go in the future and how the county should get there, it is necessary to understand where the county has been and where it is today. Thus, Phase One was focused on performing an existing conditions analysis and seeking community input to develop an overarching vision for the county and its many communities. Demographic highlights from the Existing Conditions Report are included on pages 16 and 17, and a full version of the report can be found in Appendix A. Additionally, a high-level summary of the community engagement process and the resulting input can be found on pages 18 through 21, with a full Community Engagement Report included in Appendix B.

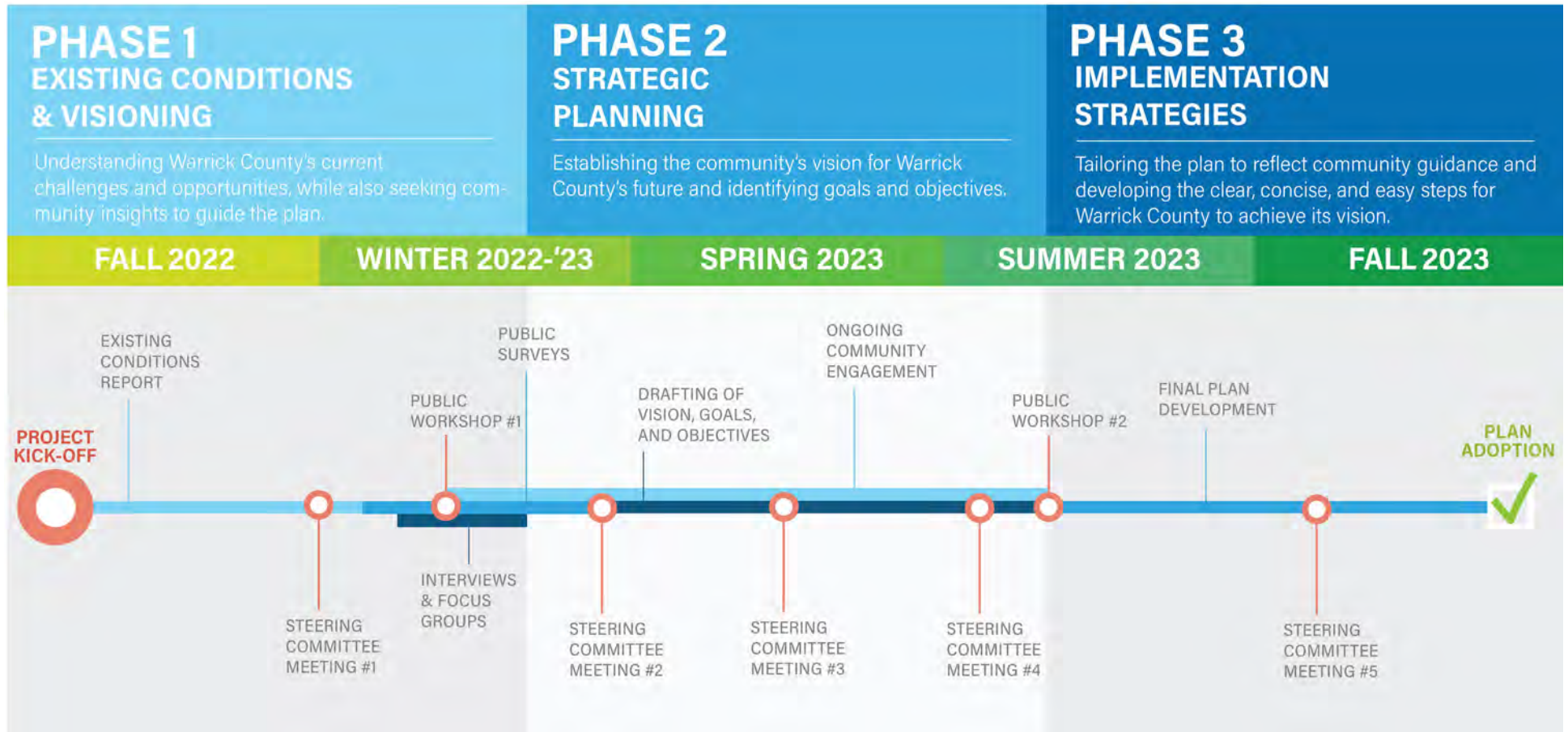
Phase Two: Strategic Planning

By using the insights gained from Phase 1, the planning team used Phase 2 to develop both the overall vision for the comprehensive plan and the supporting goals and strategies that will carry out the vision. Community engagement during this phase was aimed at validating and revising the draft vision elements to ensure there is broad agreement on the county's future needs before developing a detailed plan on how to reach those needs. Pages 22 through 35 include the plan's vision statement, guiding themes, goal statements, and the Future Land Use Map.

Phase 3: Implementation Strategies

During the final third of the planning process, the planning team finalized the strategies and detailed action steps that ultimately support the overall vision. These two components provide direction on "how" to ultimately reach "where" Warrick County wants to be in 2045. These relevance and feasibility of these strategies and action steps were vetted by the public through a final round of community engagement. Pages 72 through 95 include the plan strategies, action steps, and implementation tables that summarize the resources and local stakeholders that can be relied-upon to carry-out the plan.

PROJECT TIMELINE



PLANNING AREA

Areas Included in This Plan

The Warrick County 2045 Comprehensive Plan will guide future development for all areas of the county except for Boonville, Chandler, and Newport. Because these three communities manage their own city planning efforts, they each develop and maintain their own comprehensive plans. The towns of Lynnville, Tennyson, and Elberfeld, along with the newly-founded Victoria Woods and the county's many unincorporated communities, are included in the plan's jurisdiction;

however, Victoria Woods will no longer be within the plan's jurisdiction upon establishing its own planning and zoning services. While Boonville, Chandler, and Newport are not located in the County's planning area, coordination between the County and these three communities and other surrounding counties is important successfully implementing different components of this plan, such as planning for future utility and transportation infrastructure.

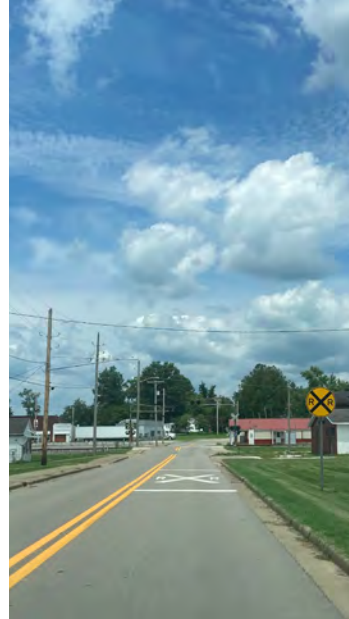
Elberfeld



Lynnville



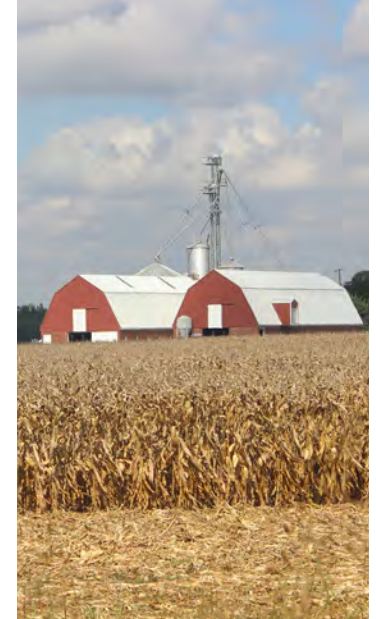
Tennyson

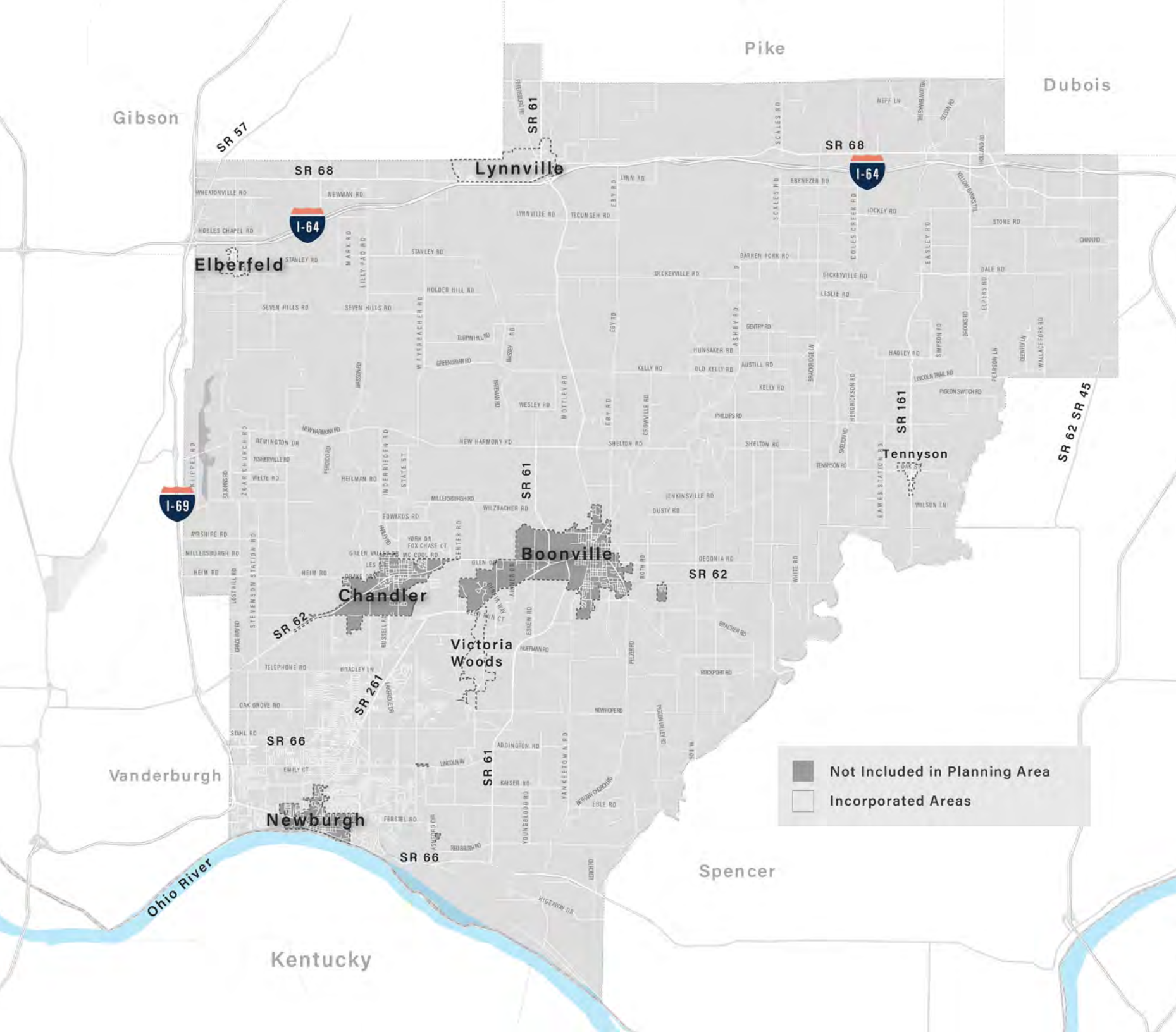


Ohio Township



Rural Areas





COMPREHENSIVE PLAN AREA

PLAN ORGANIZATION

Following the Introduction section, the Comprehensive Plan is organized into four sections:

Warrick County Today is a high-level overview of the **existing conditions analysis** and the **public input** that has guided the development of this plan. An in-depth analysis on these topics can be found in the Existing Conditions Report (Appendix A) and the Public Engagement Report (Appendix B).

Warrick County Tomorrow: The Destination captures the overall vision for Warrick County's future and sets the stage for the goals, strategies, and action steps that will help achieve that vision. This section begins with the **vision statement** and three **guiding themes** that, when combined, establish the values and objectives that have shaped the development of the plan's goals, strategies, and action steps. Every recommendation included in the plan aligns with at least one of the guiding themes and ultimately supports some component of the vision statement. This section also introduces the Future Land Use Plan and Future Transportation Plan, which are instrumental to guiding the future of growth and development in Warrick County.

Warrick County Tomorrow: The Road Map is a detailed guide to how Warrick County can realize its vision for the future. Included in this section are five different **goals**, each of which includes a series of **strategies and action steps** that can be implemented to reach each goal. The goal topics include Land use and Housing, Transportation, Utilities, Quality of Life, and Economic Development.

Implementing the Plan provides a framework for completing the action steps before 2045. Included in this section is a recommended **timeline for implementation**, a recommended approach to **annual progress evaluations**, potential **partners and resources** for implementation, and current **funding opportunities**.

PLAN ORGANIZATION: VISION, GOALS, STRATEGIES

VISION STATEMENT

“ ”

“WHAT” WARRICK COUNTY WANTS TO ACHIEVE

The vision statement is a succinct narrative that describes Warrick County’s overall vision for the future.

GUIDING THEMES



THEME #1



THEME #2



THEME #3

SUPPORTS THE VISION STATEMENT

The guiding themes are general values and ambitions that were developed based on input from community engagement. By identifying these themes, the relevance of each strategy can be measured against whether or not it aligns with one or more guiding theme.

FUTURE LAND USE PLAN



CHARACTER AREA #1

CHARACTER AREA #5

CHARACTER AREA #2

CHARACTER AREA #6

CHARACTER AREA #3

CHARACTER AREA #4

“WHERE” WARRICK COUNTY WANTS TO SEE CHANGE

The future land use plan identifies where different types of future development should be located throughout the county.

GOAL AREAS

GOAL STATEMENT #1

STRATEGY #1.1

ACTION STEP A

STRATEGY #1.2

ACTION STEP A

This plan includes
five goal areas:

#1: LAND USE AND HOUSING

#2: TRANSPORTATION

#3: UTILITIES

#4: QUALITY OF LIFE

#5: ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

“HOW” WARRICK COUNTY WILL ACHIEVE ITS VISION

Goals are the topic categories the plan addresses with statements that summarize the overarching intent of strategies within each section.

Strategies are the “big ideas” that will be pursued under each goal.

Action Steps are the detailed, recommended approaches to use when implementing each strategy.

SECTION 03

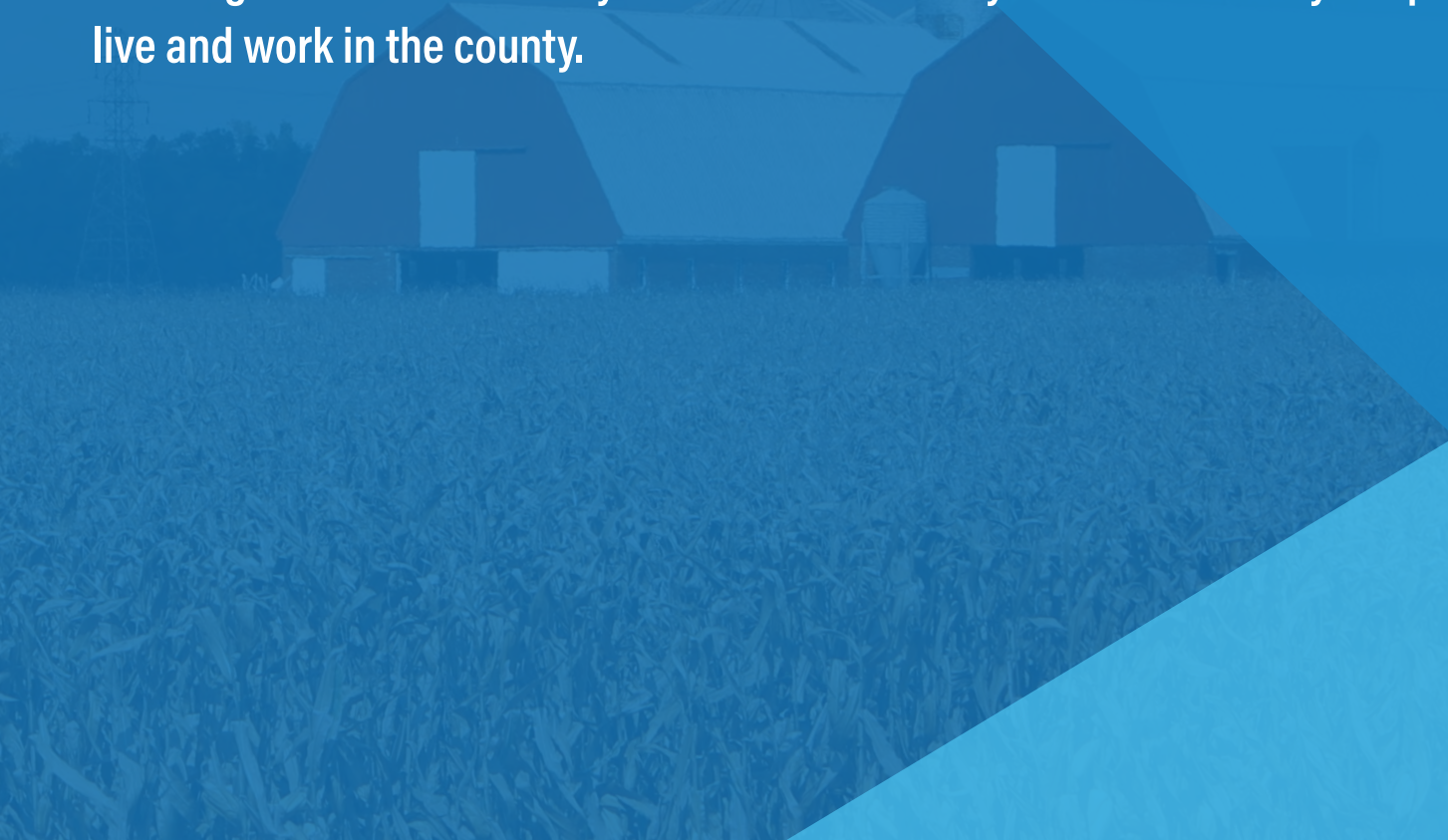
WARRICK COUNTY TODAY

- Snapshot: Demographics | p.16
- Snapshot: Community Engagement Process | p.18
- Snapshot: Community Engagement Results | p.20

OVERVIEW



Warrick County Today is a summary of the information that forms the demographic, physical, social, and economic composition of the community. Through a summary of the community engagement process, this section also offers insights into what the community wants to see change, what should stay the same, and the opportunities and challenges in Warrick County's future that can only be understood by the people who live and work in the county.



SNAPSHOT : DEMOGRAPHICS

This snapshot indicates how Warrick County's 66,004 residents are people are living today. Using data from the US Census Department's American Community Survey (ACS), these population, housing, and economic summaries provide key insights into how the county is meeting the needs of the community today and potential areas for future improvement. A detailed analysis of the demographic and physical conditions of Warrick County today can be found in Appendix B.

66,004 POPULATION



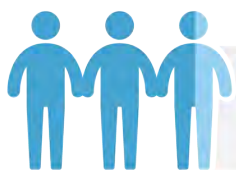
PEOPLE IN 2020

While neighboring counties are projected to see slight population declines by 2027, Warrick County is projected to continue growing.



MEDIAN AGE

Warrick County has a higher median age than many of its peer communities, due to a smaller young adult population.

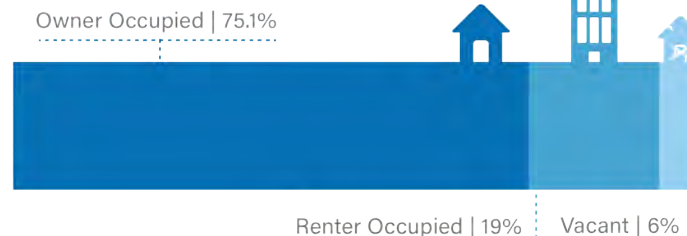


2.5 PEOPLE

AVERAGE HOUSEHOLD SIZE

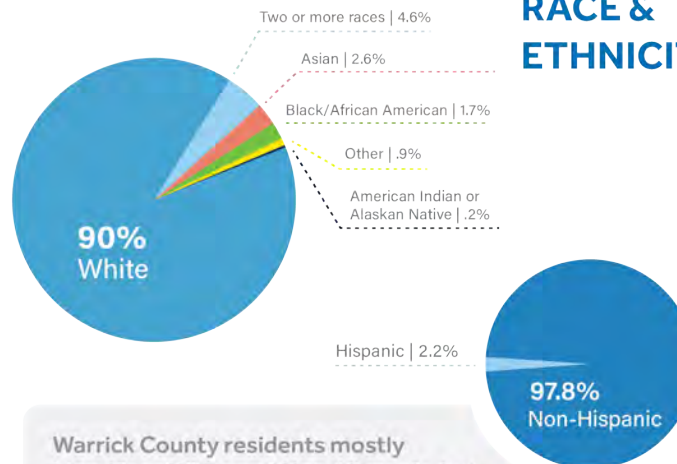
Warrick County has a larger average household size than many of its peer communities.

HOUSING TENURE



Homeownership is strong in Warrick County, with high home values and ownership rates. Rental options are more limited and more expensive than in peer communities.

RACE & ETHNICITY



Warrick County residents mostly identify as White and Non-Hispanic, but the County has recently become more diverse than in previous years.

HOUSING SUPPLY

81%

of homes in Warrick County are single-family structures.



HOUSING COSTS

MEDIAN HOME VALUE


\$173,900



MEDIAN MONTHLY RENT

\$895

JOB SECTORS

	Annual Average Employment	Total Annual Wages	Annual Average Wage Per Employee
Top Job Sector	 Service Providing 10,303 Employees	 Service Providing \$466,869,567	 Manufacturing \$76,672
Bottom Job Sector	 Technology 42 Employees	 Technology \$662,966	 Technology \$15,630

EMPLOYMENT

3.5% of Warrick County's labor force is unemployed.



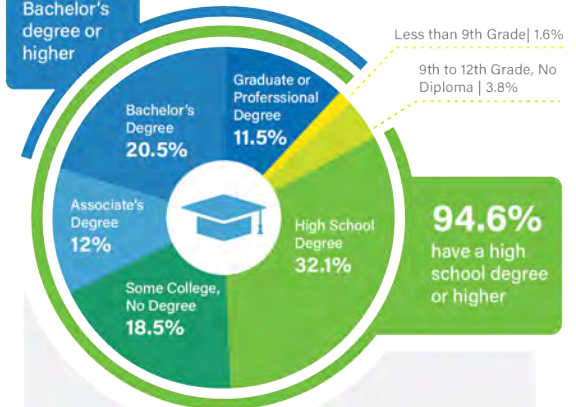
This is lower than both statewide and national unemployment rates.



62.5% of Warrick County's work force are employed at jobs located outside of Warrick County.

EDUCATIONAL ATTAINMENT

32% have a Bachelor's degree or higher



94.6% have a high school degree or higher

Warrick County has a higher high school educational attainment rate than the state, country, and most of its peer communities.

INCOME AND POVERTY

\$82,846

is the median household income in Warrick County



Warrick County residents are overall more financially secure than residents in their peer communities.

6.5% of Warrick County residents are living below the poverty line.

AVERAGE COMMUTE TIME

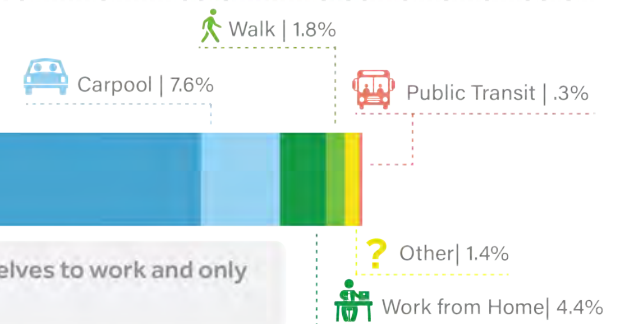


Warrick County residents are spending more time driving to work than residents in peer communities.

GETTING TO WORK

 Drive Alone | 84.5%

The majority of workers in Warrick County drive by themselves to work and only 4.4% work from home.



SNAPSHOT : COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT PROCESS

880 TOTAL PEOPLE

Throughout the 11-month planning process, community members were able to provide their input on the plan through four steering committee meetings, 12 focus group sessions, four in-person public events, an online survey, a mailed survey, a take-home version of the final public meeting, and an interactive display that traveled to different locations in Warrick County. By the end of October 2023, an estimated 880 people shared their input on the future of the county and its many towns and neighborhoods and what is needed in the coming years to meet the community's needs. Page 20 includes a high-level summary of the input received and a detailed report on the community engagement process is included in Appendix B.



Steering committee members revising the draft plan.

Community members at the Public Visioning Workshop.



ENGAGEMENT BY THE NUMBERS



16 STEERING COMMITTEE
members met four times over
the course of the planning
process.



440 SURVEY RESPONSES
from the online visioning
survey



11 SURVEY RESPONSES
from the paper survey that
was mailed to a random
sample of county residents.



286 STUDENTS
completed the youth
engagement activity
worksheet.



40 MEETING ATTENDEES
shared their ideas for the
county's future at the public
visioning workshop.



35 FOCUS GROUP GUESTS
shared their thoughts on
the future of major issues in
Warrick County.



Community members provide feedback on the draft plan elements at Food Truck Thursday at Friedman Park.



Passerbys at the county fair stop by to learn about the comprehensive plan.

Focus group members discussing quality of life challenges and opportunities.



30 COMMUNITY MEMBERS provided input on the draft plan at Friedman Park's Food Truck Thursdays event.



20 COUNTY FAIR-GOERS visited the Comprehensive Plan booth and shared their input on the draft plan.



32 FOCUS GROUP GUESTS reviewed the draft plan and offered their revisions to fine-tune recommendations.



4 RESPONSES were gathered from the interactive mobile display that traveled throughout the county for a month with the draft plan recommendations.



1 ORGANIZATION participated in the "meeting in a box" activity during their board meeting to share their input on the draft plan.

SNAPSHOT : COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT RESULTS

From all of the community engagement efforts used throughout the planning process (see page 18), this section offers a high-level summary of the issues, ideas, and consensus that the Warrick County community shared throughout the process. The below highlights are separated into the five different categories that the plan recommendations are organized into: Land Use and Housing, Transportation, Quality of Life, Utilities, and Economic Development. For an in-depth review of the community input for this plan, please reference Appendix B.

LAND USE & HOUSING



What types of **DEVELOPMENT** would you like to see more of in Warrick County?

Parks and Recreation	58%
Retail and Dining	55%
Protected Open Space and Natural Areas	49%
Hospitality	18%
Office Space	4%
General Business	23%
Employment/Business Park	19%
Housing	24%
Industrial	12%
Other	13%



Which **HOUSING OPTIONS** would you like to see more of in Warrick County?

Single-Family Homes	56%
Senior Housing and Assisted Living	31%
Duplexes	10%
Townhomes	20%
Patio Homes	13%
Apartments	18%
Condominiums	15%
Carriage Houses/Granny Flats	11%
Other	2%

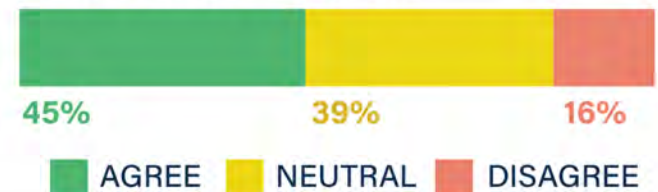
TRANSPORTATION

TOP 5 TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENTS



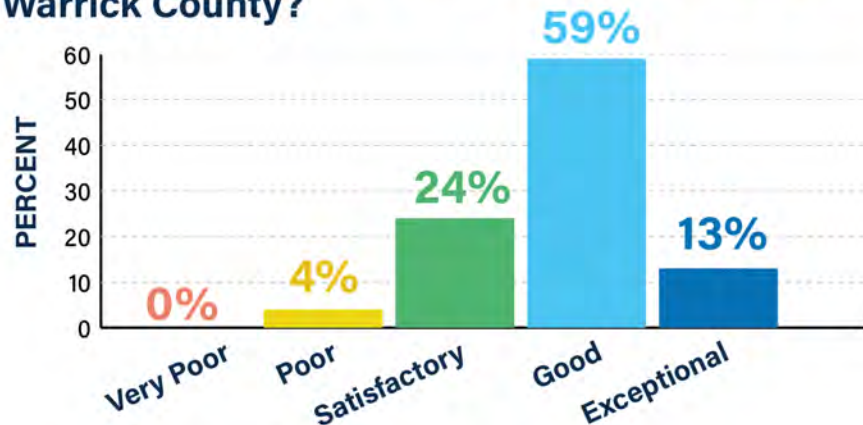
AGREE OR DISAGREE

Warrick County should have a stronger public transit (bus) system.



QUALITY OF LIFE

How would you **RATE THE QUALITY OF LIFE** in Warrick County?



The **TOP 5 WAYS** to enhance **QUALITY OF LIFE** in Warrick County:

PARKS AND REC PROGRAMMING

42%



RELIABLE PUBLIC INFRASTRUCTURE

36%



STRONG SCHOOL SYSTEM

46%



50%

IMPROVED ROAD CONDITIONS & CONNECTIVITY



35%

ENTERTAINMENT OPTIONS

UTILITIES

"Broadband for Lynnville is extremely important"

"Wi-Fi down in the Red Brush area is needed for sure, we keep getting left out of it."

AGREE OR DISAGREE

Warrick County should embrace growth.



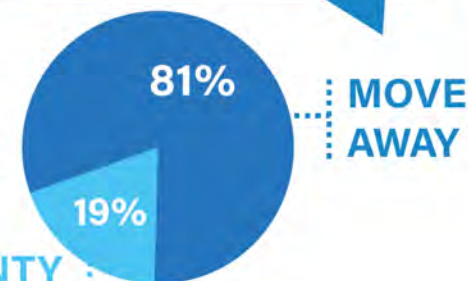
YOUTH ENGAGEMENT

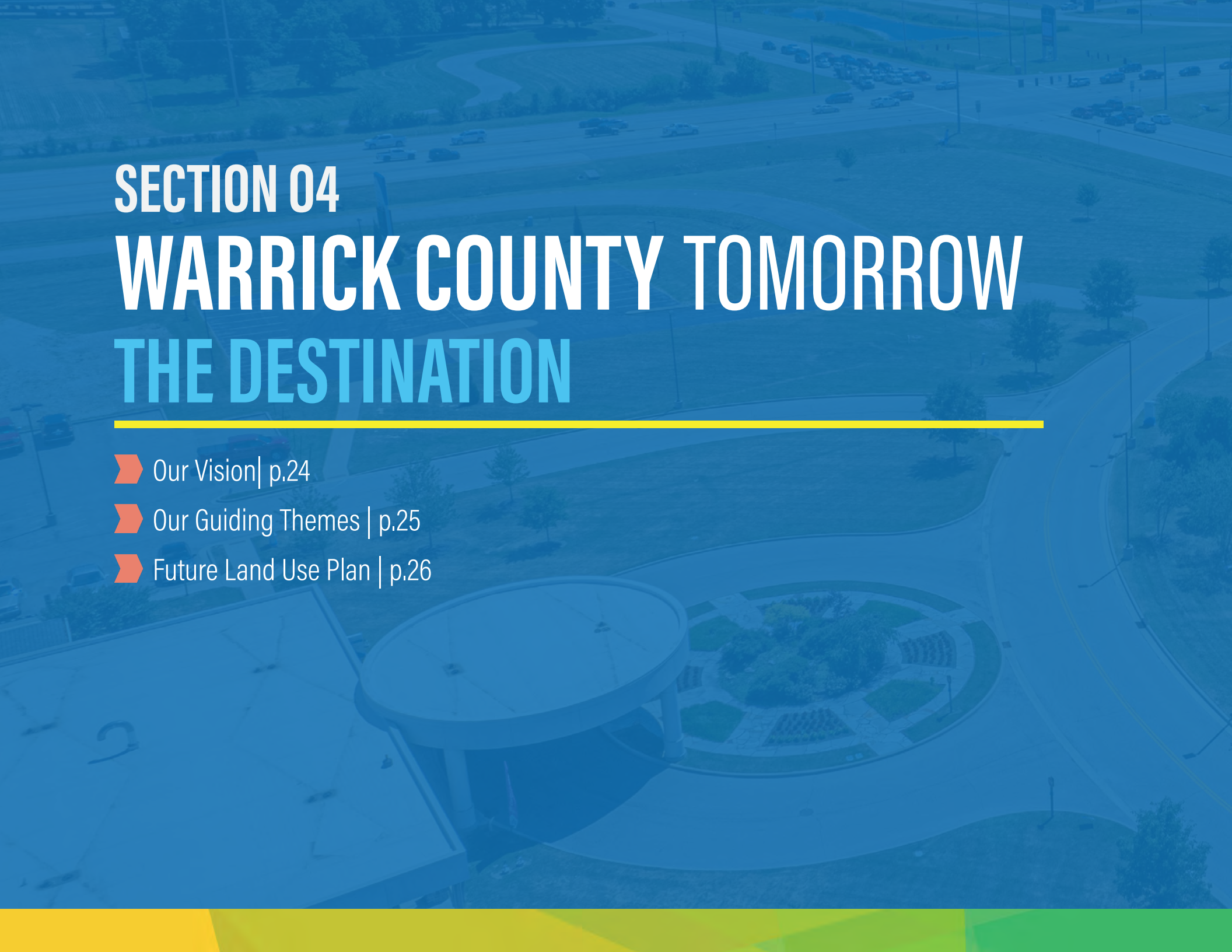
"I would like to build an accessible park with a community pool to bring together the community in the summer time. Something that would bridge the gap between the disabled community and the rest of the community."

"A large garden in which volunteer community members can come together to create a flourishing garden that has herbs, food, and flowers. If the concept takes off, then more can be constructed throughout the community. This gives people who can't afford to eat healthy organic foods the chance to as well as encourages those that can to start doing so."

When you grow up, do you want to live in Warrick County, or do you want to move away?

LIVE IN WARRICK COUNTY





SECTION 04

WARRICK COUNTY TOMORROW

THE DESTINATION

- Our Vision | p.24
- Our Guiding Themes | p.25
- Future Land Use Plan | p.26

OVERVIEW

This section introduces the overarching vision for Warrick County's future. The vision statement opens the section with a brief summary of the kind of community that the county aspires to become within the next 20 years. This vision statement is then supported by three guiding themes that expand upon the vision and provide three guideposts that the plan recommendations can be measured against. These themes including "enhancing sense of place," "supporting planned growth," and "connecting communities." Lastly, this section includes the Future Land Use Plan, which communicates the community's vision by identifying areas for future growth and the overall distribution of different types of land uses across the county. Ultimately, Section 4 is the "big picture" of what Warrick County is planning to accomplish.

OUR VISION



Warrick County is a safe and welcoming community that is growing and thriving, offering diverse outdoor spaces, high-quality education, a flourishing economy, and vibrant towns and neighborhoods.



OUR GUIDING THEMES



ENHANCING SENSE OF PLACE

Warrick County is composed of many communities, each with their own cultures, legacies, and future needs. From towns and neighborhoods to rural areas and natural assets, every community contributes something unique and valuable to Warrick County's character, economy, and quality of life. Celebrating these distinct identities while also uniting them with a shared vision for the future will establish Warrick County as the groundwork for prosperity.



SUPPORTING PLANNED GROWTH

Warrick County is a growing community. This growth opens the door for new opportunities but can also present challenges as the demand for more developable land, amenities, government services, and infrastructure increases. By conserving natural areas and vital agricultural land, attracting development to key growth areas, and supporting the expansion of public infrastructure, Warrick County will be better positioned to serve its residents and businesses.



CONNECTING COMMUNITIES

Traveling within and between Warrick County's communities is typically easily done in personal vehicles, but can be challenging for those who want to reach a destination using other means. By pursuing infrastructure and utility improvements that expand transportation options, residents will be better connected to each other and their destinations, both within and outside of Warrick County.

FUTURE LAND USE PLAN

Using a Future Land Use Map

A zoning map and its corresponding zoning ordinance dictate where specific types of land uses are permitted within a community. Alternatively, a future land use plan and map serve as a guide (not regulation) for local officials when considering potential rezonings, land use changes, or updates to the overall zoning code. A future land use plan can help identify if a new zone district needs to be established to accommodate a land use that has yet to be addressed by the existing code. Additionally, a future land use plan can reduce conflicts between incompatible uses by identifying the ultimate desired use or character for a property or area when a rezoning application is being considered. While a future land use map is distinctively different from the zoning map, it should be referenced by the Area Plan Commission, County Commissioners, Town Councils, and Board of Zoning Appeals when making land use decisions. However, current conditions, recent growth, and similar factors should also be considered in land use decisions. For example, this comprehensive plan and future land use plan is just one of the five criteria that should be used by the plan commission and local officials when considering a rezoning. Additionally, a future land use plan can communicate to community members and developers what the ideal future land use of a single property or within a larger area should be.

Character Areas

A traditional future land use map prescribes one specific land use for properties, neighborhoods, and areas within a community and is limited by not acknowledging how a community organically develops. Warrick County's future land use map focuses on establishing major character areas that each include a mix of uses that contribute to the community's desired future character rather than only identifying a single use in each area. For example, a residential neighborhood might not just include lower-density housing but also parks, schools, or some appropriate neighborhood retail services (such as a coffee

shop or corner store) that accommodate every day needs. Similarly, some commercial areas might also include higher-density housing. In defining and pursuing strategies to establish these character areas, Warrick County will be home to a diverse range of living options in connected and high-quality communities that also promote the identity of existing towns, cities, and communities. For Warrick County, seven character areas are included in the future land use map, which are summarized on page 27 and explained in more detail in the following pages.

Growth Areas

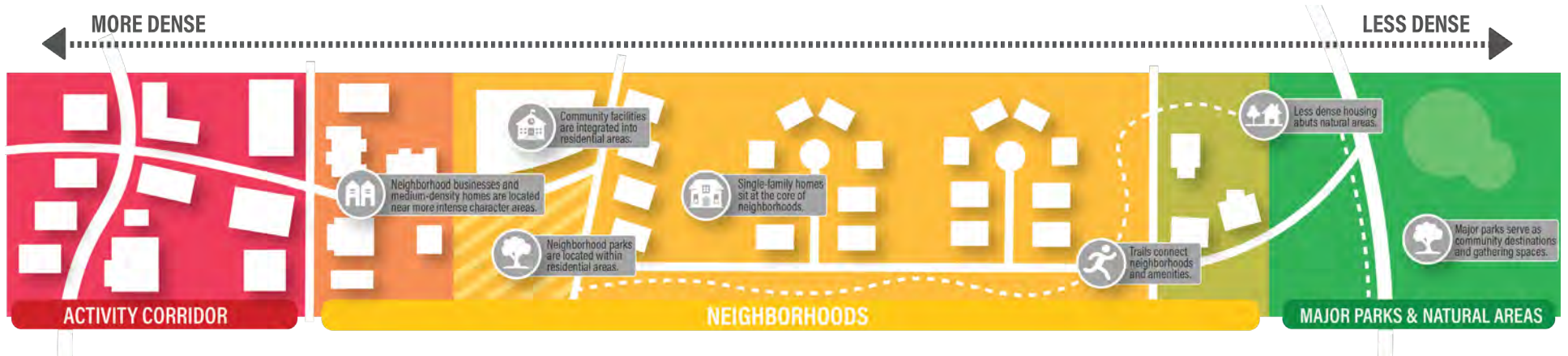
In addition to the character areas, the future land use plan includes a general "growth areas" where more additional development is anticipated and desired in the future. These areas might not necessarily develop in the short-term but are likely to develop after areas with higher demand for development have been built out. The growth areas are based on recent growth, roadway access, potential for utility service, other county planning efforts, and/or the market demand may necessitate longer-term development. The identified growth areas do not strictly limit new development to only these areas, but rather indicate where new development is desired across Warrick County's existing rural areas.

Unlike the character areas, the growth areas do not identify specific land uses since these areas will likely be influenced by future development in adjacent areas. Instead, the growth areas outline logical places where future development may occur. As development is proposed or considered in the growth areas, the Area Plan Commission and local officials should consider land uses that are compatible with not just current uses but also those uses that are likely to develop in the future. Ultimately, the growth areas allow more flexibility for the market to determine what type of development will be successful for any given property.

Transitioning Between Character Areas

The future land use map draws distinct boundaries between the different character areas, but, in practice, the edges of each character area should serve as transitional zones that have densities and land uses that are more compatible with abutting character areas. For example, Neighborhood character areas are primarily low-density residential at their core. Where Neighborhoods abut higher-intensity

character areas, such as Activity Corridors or Industry Hubs, denser uses, such as multi-family housing or neighborhood businesses, can be used to help buffer neighborhoods and transition into adjacent areas. Similarly, where Neighborhoods abut lower-intensity character areas, such as Rural Communities or Major Parks and Natural Areas, lower-density housing can be used to transition as well.



RURAL COMMUNITIES



FUTURE RURAL COMMUNITIES

Agricultural lands will continue to represent a large portion of Warrick County with the goal of prioritizing the conservation of existing farmlands as development continues to grow throughout the county. Rural communities do not just consist of agricultural land, but also open space and the rural residential communities that have served as a bedrock of Warrick County's identity.

DESIRED FUTURE USES

- Agriculture
- Open space
- Rural residential

RECLAIMED MINE LANDS



FUTURE RECLAIMED MINE LANDS

Retired coal mines currently occupy a large area of Warrick County, especially in rural areas where access to the utilities that would support future development are limited. In the future, retired mine lands should continue to support agricultural land and open spaces where desirable, while also allowing for certain uses that are both compatible with Warrick County's rural character and can make use of land that may not be suitable for farmland. Some potential uses for this land could include large-scale commercial solar facilities or recreational uses, such as off-roading or mountain biking.

DESIRED FUTURE USES

- Agriculture
- Open space
- Rural residential
- Large-scale solar facilities
- Recreation

MAJOR RECREATIONAL AREAS



FUTURE RECREATIONAL AREAS

Existing parks and natural areas should be preserved in the coming years. This character area only reflects existing major, publicly-owned parks and natural areas because neighborhood parks, pocket parks, open spaces, and public spaces are envisioned to be integrated into many of the other character areas.

DESIRED FUTURE USES

- Local and state parks
- State natural areas
- Nature preserves

NEIGHBORHOOD CENTERS



FUTURE NEIGHBORHOOD CENTERS

Future neighborhoods should offer low and medium-density housing options that support people in all stages of life. Parks, open spaces, trails, schools, and other amenities will be integrated throughout residential neighborhoods to offer residents comfortable, high-quality communities. On busier streets and in areas where neighborhoods abut more intense land uses, higher-density housing and neighborhood commercial businesses that serve the adjacent neighborhoods, such as coffee shops or corner stores, can serve as transitional uses that buffer between higher-density and lower-density areas. In many ways, these future neighborhoods will bridge the gap between the rural charm and small towns that typify Warrick County.

DESIRED FUTURE USES

- Low-density residential (single-family neighborhoods, conservation subdivisions)
- Medium-density residential (townhomes, patio homes, etc).
- Community amenities (parks, trails, schools, libraries, etc).
- Neighborhood commercial (coffee shops, daycares, pharmacy, etc).

TOWN CENTERS



FUTURE TOWN CENTERS

Warrick County is home to several small towns that, while each being unique communities, all offer denser, more walkable cores with a mix of residential, commercial, and community facilities. These town centers will continue to be part of what makes Warrick County a special place to live. Unlike the Neighborhoods character area, Town Centers will be characterized by higher-density development, more commercial offerings, and mixed-use developments. By maintaining the existing appeal of town centers and supporting future development that is compatible with each community's vision, Warrick County will offer the community a diverse range of places to live, work, and enjoy.

DESIRED FUTURE USES

- Mixed-use (buildings or developments that offer a mix of housing and commercial space)
- High-density residential (apartments, condominiums)
- Medium-density residential (townhomes, patio homes, etc.).
- Low-density residential (single-family)
- Community amenities (parks, public spaces, elementary schools, libraries, etc.).
- Commercial (restaurants, retail, offices).

ACTIVITY CORRIDORS



FUTURE ACTIVITY CORRIDORS

Today, commercial development in Warrick County is concentrated along state roads, especially in Ohio Township between Chandler, Boonville, and Newburgh. In the coming years, development along these corridors and some adjacent streets should continue to be commercial in nature, but also provide space for higher-density residential options. These future activity corridors will serve as the central nodes that connect Warrick County, offer entertainment attraction, and accommodate larger community amenities and businesses that serve a broader range of the community, such as regional commercial, major employers, or hotels.

DESIRED FUTURE USES

- Regional commercial (restaurants, retail, offices, lodging, entertainment, etc.)
- Mixed-use (buildings or developments that offer a mix of housing and commercial space)
- High-density residential (apartment buildings)
- Community amenities (public spaces, high schools, government centers, etc.)

INDUSTRY HUBS

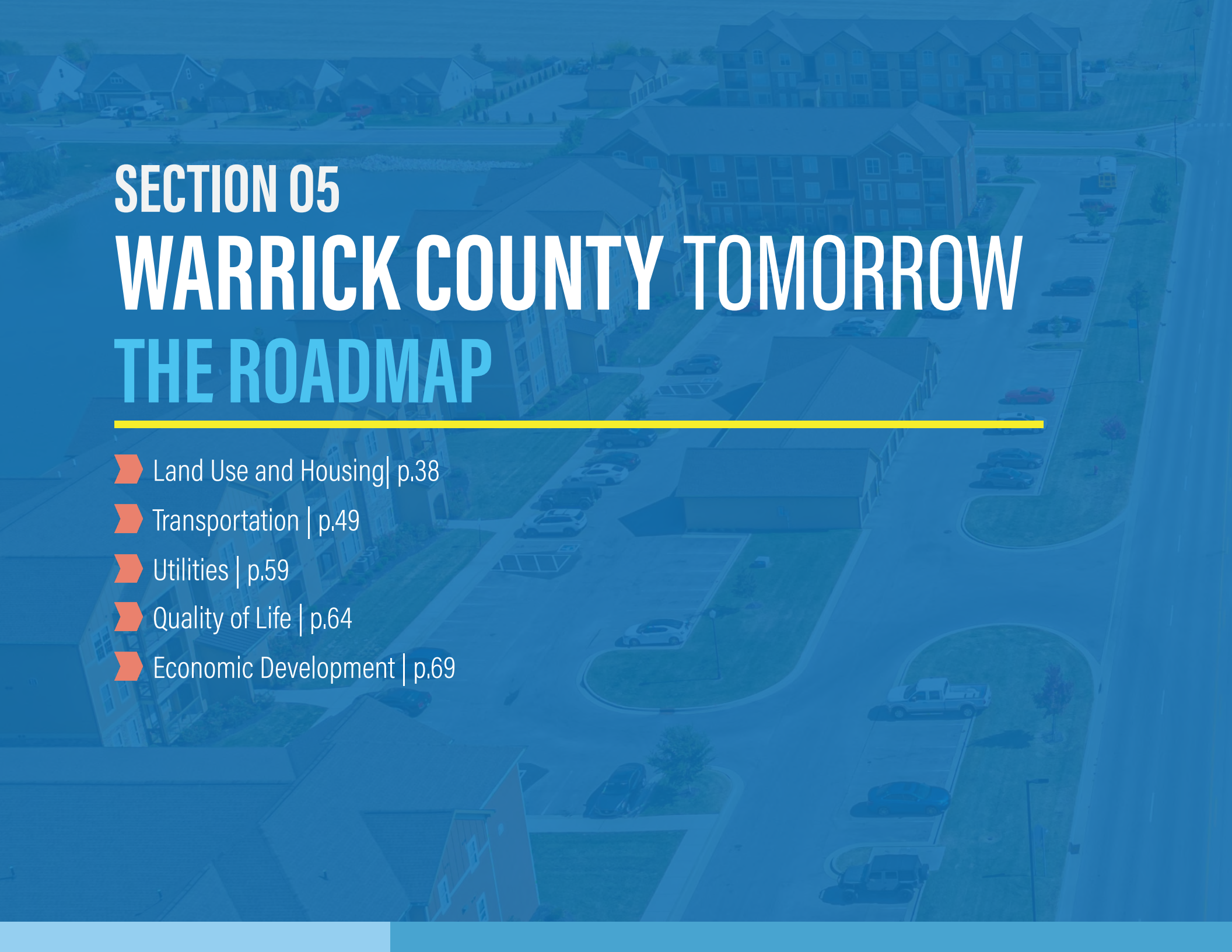


FUTURE INDUSTRY HUBS

Future industrial development is desired in strategic locations that provide immediate access to the interstate, limited constraints with the flood-prone areas, and minimal encroachment upon agricultural land. Future industrial areas can include traditional industrial uses, such as manufacturing or processing plants, but also offers space for larger, campus-oriented businesses. Future industrial uses should contribute to the overall prosperity and quality of life of Warrick County by offering a range of employment opportunities, strengthening the local economy, and contributing to a healthy community.

DESIRED FUTURE USES

- Light industrial
- Heavy industrial
- Business campuses



SECTION 05

WARRICK COUNTY TOMORROW

THE ROADMAP

- Land Use and Housing | p.38
- Transportation | p.49
- Utilities | p.59
- Quality of Life | p.64
- Economic Development | p.69



OVERVIEW

Where Section 3 articulates the vision for Warrick County's future or "what" Warrick County is striving to become, Section 4 explains "how" the County can achieve this vision by completing a series of goals, strategies, and action steps. To do this, this section includes five goal statements, each of which are supported by a series of strategies and action steps. These goals address the following topics: Land Use and Housing, Transportation, Utilities, Quality of Life, and Economic Development. For each strategy, this section identifies funding opportunities and partners/resources to support implementation. The action steps that support each strategy also include a brief description about the action steps, the "Champions" that will lead and advocate for the completion of the action steps, and priority ratings that communicate the importance of each action step.

LAND USE AND HOUSING

GOAL 1

Support future growth and development in key areas while preserving the county's agricultural character, protecting natural assets, and promoting quality design.

ENHANCING SENSE OF PLACE	SUPPORTING PLANNED GROWTH	CONNECTING COMMUNITIES	LAND USE AND HOUSING STRATEGIES
			STRATEGY 1.1 Encourage targeted residential growth by accommodating new single-family homes, senior housing, and diverse multi-family housing options.
			STRATEGY 1.2 Support and encourage high-quality housing and mixed-use development to maintain and promote community character.
			STRATEGY 1.3 Conserve agricultural and natural areas as new development continues to grow throughout the county.
			STRATEGY 1.4 Attract industrial development in strategic locations to provide opportunities for economic development and employment options.
			STRATEGY 1.5 Explore options for reclaiming and redeveloping retired coal mines.

LAND USE AND HOUSING

STRATEGY 1.1

Encourage targeted residential growth by accommodating new single-family homes, senior housing, and diverse multi-family housing options.

ABOUT

Due to recent residential development spreading into rural areas, pressure has been placed on land that has traditionally been used for agriculture. To accommodate future population growth, the Future Land Use Map identifies areas where future Neighborhood Centers are both desirable and reduce conflicts with rural communities. While the Future Land Use Map identifies “where” the majority of new residential growth should be located in the coming years, future action is needed to answer the question of “how” Warrick County can achieve the desired residential growth.

ACTION STEP #1.1a

Evaluate updates to the zoning ordinance to allow higher-density housing and additional housing types along high-traffic corridors or near more intense land uses, such as commercial or industrial uses.

ABOUT THE ACTION STEP

By allowing multi-family housing, townhomes, patio homes, and similar housing types in areas between single-family residential neighborhoods and commercial or industrial areas, the County can accommodate more affordable housing options that are located near employment, shopping, and transit routes. Additionally, this transition in housing density will help preserve the character and provide a buffer for low-density neighborhoods as new development occurs.

ACTION STEP #1.1b

Use zoning incentives to encourage the development single-story and smaller housing units to that offer more accessible housing options for seniors.

ABOUT THE ACTION STEP

Senior housing can include a range of options, from patio homes to independent living units to nursing homes. Warrick County has already supported this through allowing accessory dwelling units (also called mother-in-law suites or granny flats) in many zoning districts. To further help Warrick County residents maintain independence and remain in their community as they age, the County can explore financial (such as state or federal tax credits) or zoning incentives (such as density bonuses, parking reductions, or reduced living area requirements) that will encourage the development of housing options that are more physically accessible for older adults and people with mobility challenges.

LAND USE AND HOUSING

STRATEGY 1.1 (CONTINUED)

ACTION STEP #1.1c

Explore options for requiring the development of neighborhood parks when large subdivisions are developed.

ABOUT THE ACTION STEP

Warrick County residents want to enjoy better access parks and natural areas but residential development is currently outpacing the growth of parks and recreational areas throughout the county. As new residential subdivisions are planned, the Area Plan Commission should consider revising the subdivision ordinance to require parks or natural areas to be built as part of future large-scale residential subdivisions. This process will need to identify entities, such as homeowner associations, that should be responsible for the maintenance of these neighborhood parks once they are built.

LAND USE AND HOUSING

STRATEGY 1.2

Support and encourage high-quality housing and mixed-use development to maintain and promote community character.

ABOUT

The community wants to see better upkeep and overall design of multi-family housing to reinforce the overall character of the county and quality of neighborhoods. Because the Future Land Use Plan recommends integrating multi-family housing and mixed-use development into different character areas, it is important for these moderate-to-high density housing options to be designed in ways that support the overall identity and appearance of the neighborhoods in which they are located. To support this effort, the Area Plan Commission can develop minimum design standards and/or required amenities for all multi-family and mixed-use developments in the county, along with additional design guidelines for specific areas as they are needed, such as historic downtowns or certain neighborhoods.

ACTION STEP #1.2a

Consider amending the zoning ordinance to require or incentivize minimum design and amenity standards for new multi-family residential development and mixed-use development.

ABOUT THE ACTION STEP

By establishing design standards for new multi-family housing and mixed-use development, the County can identify architectural features, landscaping and open space requirements, and amenities that are needed in order to support the desired character and quality of individual developments and the broader community. These standards can be a requirement based on specific thresholds (such as a certain number of units) or incentivized through zoning (such as reduced parking or increased density).

ACTION STEP #1.2b

Consider amending the zoning ordinance to develop design standards for neighborhoods or towns that desire them in order to reinforce the desired character of development within these areas.

ABOUT THE ACTION STEP

The County and towns can reinforce the desired character of a neighborhood or town, if they desire, by developing design standards that are tailored to a specific area. An example could include specific architectural standards for a downtown area to reinforce the historic quality or atmosphere of that district. To achieve this, the Area Plan Commission can collaborate with local governments and neighborhood associations to determine what should be included in the design standards for each area.

LAND USE AND HOUSING

STRATEGY 1.3

Support future growth and development in key areas while preserving the county's agricultural character, protecting natural assets, and promoting quality design.

ABOUT

Agricultural land and production are the heart of Warrick County, but recent development pressures have led to more intense land uses on or abutting agricultural land. While this change reflects the desirability to live in Warrick County, future growth should be strategically located in areas where it will not disrupt communities that want to retain their rural character.

While the Future Land Use Plan identifies areas for residential, commercial, and industrial growth, other direct and indirect steps can be taken to offer additional approaches to support farmland conservation. Indirect steps include focusing on more efficient urban development and allowing for higher density development in appropriate areas so that less land is used. Other, more direct, actions that can be taken locally include a combination of expanding awareness of easement programs, additions to county ordinances, and education for agricultural property owners.

ACTION STEP #1.3a

Improve property owner awareness of the leasing process for large-scale solar by collaborating with the Warrick County Farm Bureau and the Purdue Agricultural Extension Office to host educational workshops.

ABOUT THE ACTION STEP

As solar power generation becomes more widespread across Warrick County, Indiana, and the Midwest, the County and local partners can collaborate to provide rural property owners with the knowledge they need to make informed decisions about selling and leasing their properties for large-scale solar power generation, such as commercial solar.

ACTION STEP #1.3b

Continue to encourage local agricultural land owners to develop agricultural conservation easements through established programs to preserve productive land in the county.

ABOUT THE ACTION STEP

Conservation easements protect agricultural or natural land from being used for certain types of uses or development. In Indiana, existing land trusts manage conservation easements and property owners can utilize different tax benefits upon donating their land or title for an easement. Existing programs, such as the Conservation through Community Leadership program administered by Purdue Agricultural Extension or the Agricultural Conservation Easement Program through USDA, can be publicized to further conserve farmland.

LAND USE AND HOUSING

STRATEGY 1.3 (CONTINUED)

ACTION STEP #1.3c

Consider adopting a local Right to Farm Ordinance to further protect agricultural uses from being limited as non-agricultural development occurs.

ABOUT THE ACTION STEP

While Indiana has adopted a statewide Right to Farm Ordinance, local ordinances can provide additional protections and assurances for agricultural uses when new development occurs in traditionally agricultural areas. Ultimately, a Right to Farm Ordinance would protect farmers from lawsuits brought by owners of adjacent, nonagricultural property owners and protect agricultural uses from development pressures.

ACTION STEP #1.3d

Adopt regulations to require agricultural buffers within the zoning ordinance to protect the integrity of agricultural operations as new development occurs on properties abutting land zoned for agricultural use.

ABOUT THE ACTION STEP

When non-agricultural land uses are located next to agricultural uses, buffers can help to mitigate conflicts between the uses. This could include a combination of distance (or additional setbacks) and/or plantings that new development provide. With recent and future residential growth into agricultural areas, buffer areas can help protect the interests of both property types.

LAND USE AND HOUSING

STRATEGY 1.3 (CONTINUED)

ACTION STEP #1.3e

Consider adopting land use regulations that incentivize the development of conservation subdivisions.

ABOUT THE ACTION STEP

Conservation subdivisions create open space and/or preserve natural features, environmental areas, or farmland within new residential developments by clustering houses on smaller lots and therefore preserving these features. This approach to residential development can reinforce the overall character of rural communities, reduce the impact that residential development has on agricultural communities by preserving natural areas or farmland, and reduce the overall footprint of development.

ACTION STEP #1.3f

Consider amendments to the zoning ordinance to protect productive agricultural land from large-scale utilities, such as commercial solar.

ABOUT THE ACTION STEP

Large-scale solar facilities require large and relatively flat areas of land, which makes agricultural land a prime location for solar power generation. Unlike many farming communities, Warrick County also has large portions of the county that have been used for surface coal mining that can be difficult to redevelop for other uses. The County's unique position offers an opportunity to direct the location of large-scale utilities to land that has been previously mined to both preserve prime agricultural land and spur reclamation of retired mining sites.

LAND USE AND HOUSING

STRATEGY 1.4

Attract industrial development in strategic locations to provide opportunities for economic development and employment options.

ABOUT

With a large supply of undeveloped land within close proximity to I-69 and I-64, Warrick County has a relatively untapped resource that can support the expansion of employment options for county residents. Currently, more than 60% of the county's working population commutes to jobs in other counties and residents desire more jobs closer to home. Additionally, the recent opening of the Warrick Pathways and Career Center will help develop a workforce that is prepared for jobs in advanced manufacturing and health sciences.

ACTION STEP #1.4a

Continue to support plans and projects from the Economic Development Department to further the development of employment opportunities.

ABOUT THE ACTION STEP

The Warrick County Economic Development Department has led efforts to encourage new employers to locate in Warrick County and also increase the quality of life for residents. Recent and current projects by the department include the Warrick Wellness Trail, North Warrick Industrial Park, and countywide broadband as well as the TIF and development area. This department also serves as the Local Economic Development Organization (LEDO) for the county. By continuing to support the department's plans and coordinating with staff, the County can work towards a unified strategy for encouraging new employment opportunities.

ACTION STEP #1.4b

Coordinate with the Warrick County Redevelopment Commission and the Economic Development Department to support projects identified in the Capital Improvement Plan in order to encourage development where future Industry Hubs should be located.

ABOUT THE ACTION STEP

The 2022 amendment to the County's Capital Improvement Plan includes 35 planned projects to support overall economic development throughout the county, some of which are aimed at making infrastructure improvements and land acquisitions to support industrial development. By continuing to support the implementation of the planned projects that align with the development of future Industry Hubs, the County can attract more job opportunities for the local community and region.

LAND USE AND HOUSING

STRATEGY 1.5

Explore options for reclaiming and redeveloping retired coal mines.

ABOUT

Retired surface coal mines have been redeveloped for a variety of uses in the county, but the cost of safely redeveloping for other uses, such as housing, can present challenges for current property owners and future developers. For both public and private property, Warrick County can be proactive on reducing the safety risks of abandoned mines and encouraging reclamation and redevelopment options that will benefit the community. Encouraging local participation in the Indiana Department of Natural Resources' (IDNR) Abandoned Mine Lands Reclamation Program is one way to reduce safety issues (such as high walls), but additional efforts to encourage the reuse and redevelopment of retired mine lands can also be used to have a more widespread impact on coal mine reclamation.

ACTION STEP #1.5a

Promote IDNR's Abandoned Mine Lands Reclamation Program (AML Program) to property owners with retired mines to mitigate hazards from abandoned mine lands and support a more robust inventory of needed mine restoration projects in the county.

ABOUT THE ACTION STEP

The AML Program funds projects that eliminate and reduce hazards caused by mines that were abandoned prior to 1977. Examples include high walls and coal refuse piles. This program does not require a match by the local government or property owner. By promoting this program to local property owners and encouraging them to report needed improvements on their properties, the AML Program will be better positioned to fund these projects in the future.

ACTION STEP #1.5b

Explore options for incentive programs to focus the development of solar fields on land formerly used for coal mining rather than productive farmland.

ABOUT THE ACTION STEP

In addition to amending the zoning ordinance to protect agricultural land from development of large-scale solar facilities (see Strategy 1.1, Action Step 6), the County can assess the potential for incentivizing solar fields to be developed on former surface coal mines. Because the reclamation of mined land will increase the upfront costs of developing solar fields and the resulting remediation can facilitate future redevelopment on these sites, developing a financial incentive, such as tax abatements, to support this effort will meet local energy demands and prime the county for future growth.

LAND USE AND HOUSING

STRATEGY 1.5 (CONTINUED)

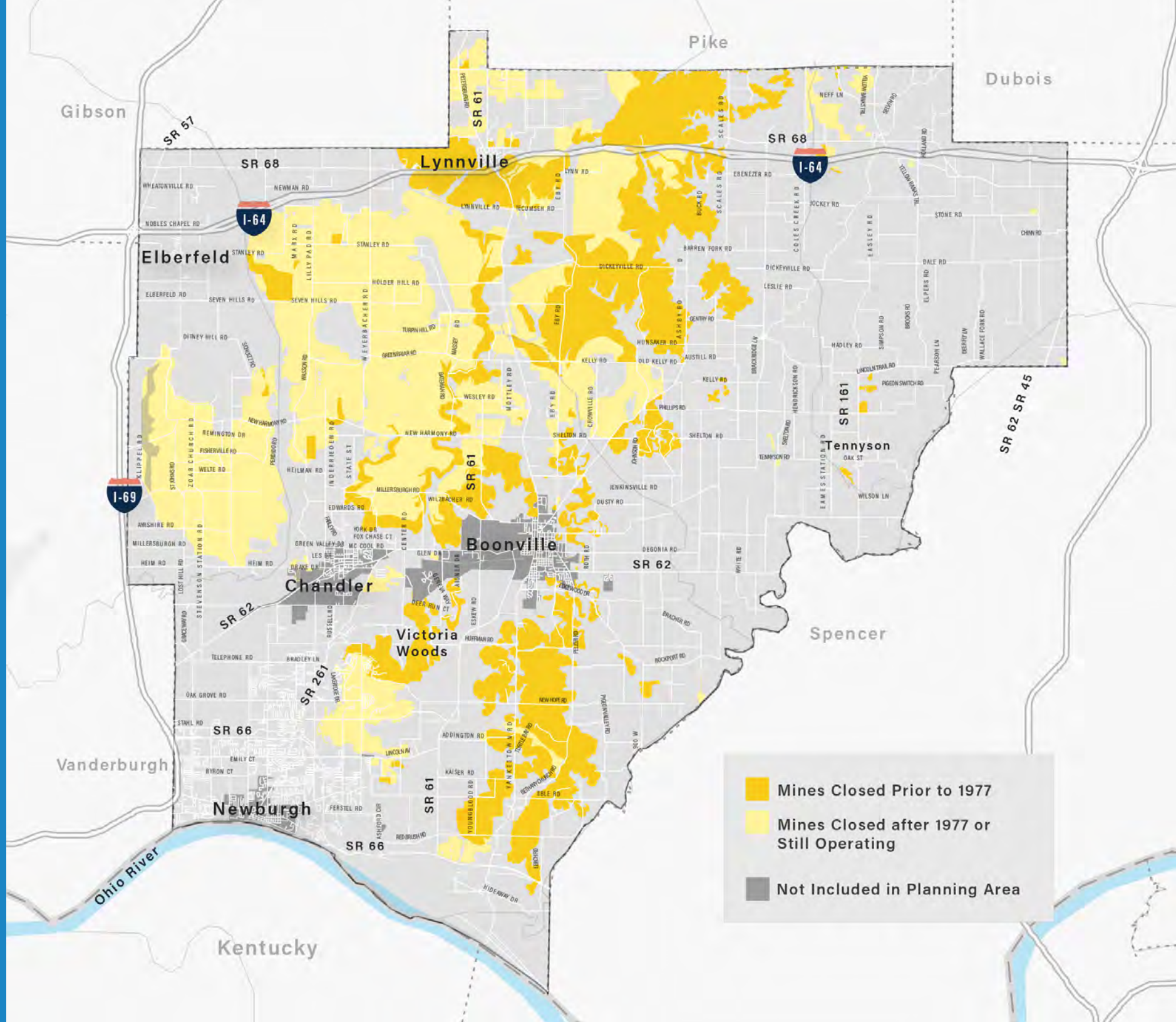
ACTION STEP #1.5c

Assess the feasibility of developing a zoning or tax incentive to encourage the reuse of retired mine lands for recreational uses, such as mountain biking or off-roading.

ABOUT THE ACTION STEP

One potential route to remediating some of the county's mine lands is to explore options for incentivizing the development of recreational areas that can take advantage of the rough and hilly terrain on retired coal mines. This strategy has the opportunity to not only make use of land that is difficult to redevelop, but it would also introduce recreational areas that would serve the county and the region. To develop an incentive program, the potential incentives would need to be weighed against both the overall cost of redeveloping sites for this use and the potential earnings for a recreational developer.

ABANDONED MINES



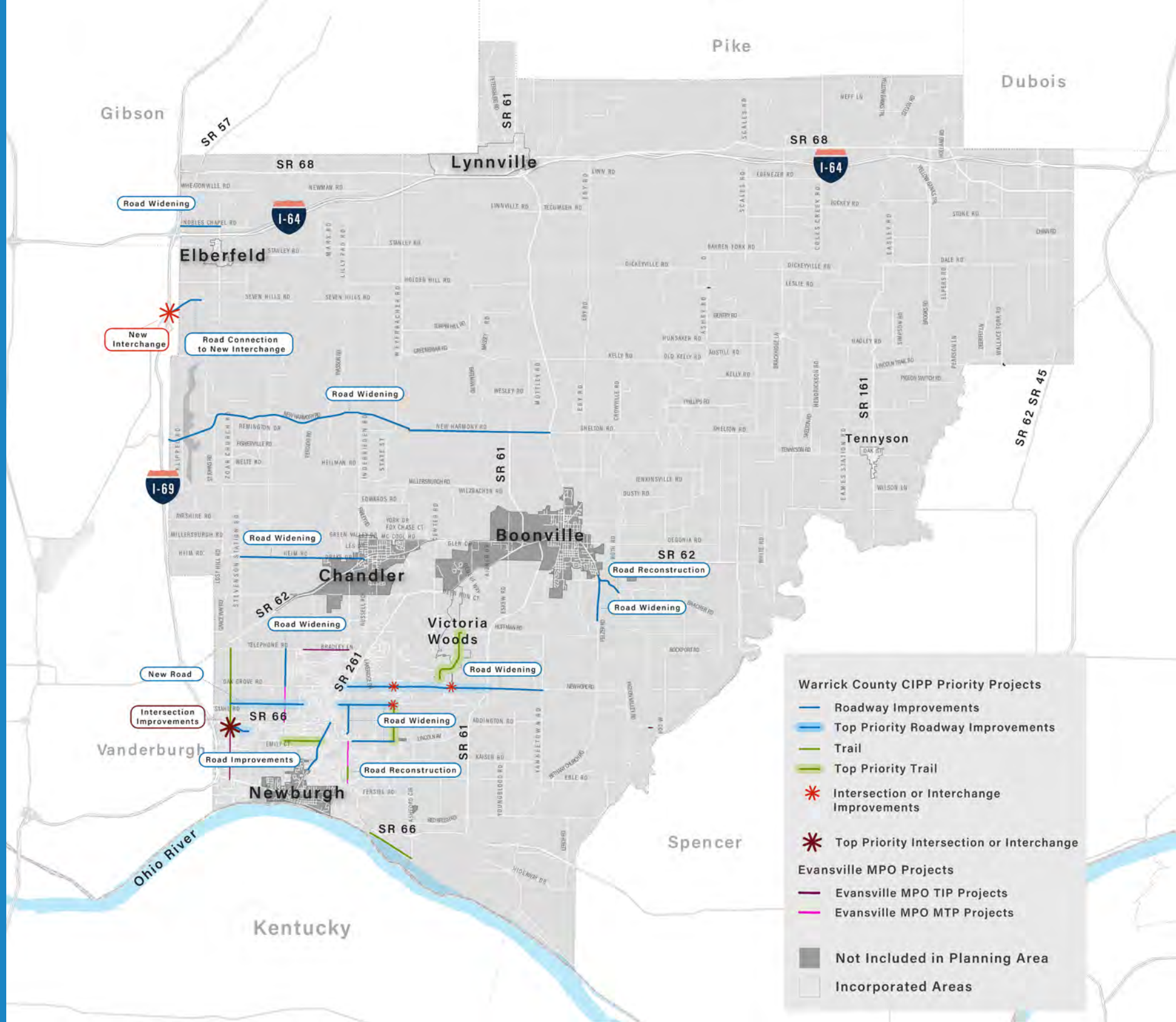
TRANSPORTATION

GOAL 2

Maintain and expand the county's current transportation network while paving the way for new travel choices in and between communities.

ENHANCING SENSE OF PLACE	SUPPORTING PLANNED GROWTH	CONNECTING COMMUNITIES	TRANSPORTATION STRATEGIES
			STRATEGY 2.1 Develop new roads and improve existing roads to support current and future growth.
			STRATEGY 2.2 Make improvements and repairs to existing roads to provide for safe and comfortable travel throughout the county.
			STRATEGY 2.3 Expand public transit service throughout the county and consider options for supporting people in rural areas.
			STRATEGY 2.4 Attract and integrate emerging transportation technologies, such as autonomous and electric vehicles, micromobility, and supporting infrastructure.
			STRATEGY 2.5 Connect community destinations, parks, and neighborhoods by expanding and improving pedestrian and bicycle infrastructure.

TRANSPORTATION PROJECTS



TRANSPORTATION

STRATEGY 2.1

Develop new roads and improve existing roads to support current and future growth.

ABOUT

Facilitating growth through new roads while simultaneously improving existing roads will foster a highly connected and efficient roadway network throughout Warrick County. The County's Transportation Capital Improvement Plan and Program (CIPP) identifies priority investments in county-owned transportation infrastructure, including new road projects to enhance connectivity and support new growth, widening of existing roads to add capacity and improve safety, and new trail and path facilities to provide multimodal connections to community amenities.

In addition to Warrick County projects, INDOT and towns within the county also have planned and programmed transportation projects that will increase connectivity, capacity, and safety throughout the County. Many of these improvements are funded through competitive federal funding programs through the Evansville Metropolitan Planning Organization (EMPO) and are required to be listed in the EMPO Transportation Improvement Program (TIP). Additionally, the EMPO's Long-Range Transportation Plan also identifies improvements that will be needed to support growth through 2050, including many road widening and reconstruction projects in Warrick County.

ACTION STEP #2.1a

Advance projects identified in the County and EMPO plans.

ABOUT THE ACTION STEP

From the County's Capital Improvement Plan and Program (CIPP), there are eight high-priority projects (six road projects and two trail projects) that are programmed between 2021 and 2025 and total \$63 million. The county's long-range capital improvement plan also identifies 20 additional road and six additional trail projects to complete over a 20-year period at an estimated cost of \$273 million.

ACTION STEP #2.1b

Identify external funding sources and develop a funding matrix for planned projects.

ABOUT THE ACTION STEP

Funding opportunities for transportation projects come from a variety of sources, from federal and state grant programs to general revenue and transportation-specific tax levies. Local agencies like Warrick County rely on a combination of funding streams to invest in capital projects and maintenance. Understanding the funding landscape, aligning projects with potential funding opportunities, and leveraging local resources to pursue and secure competitive grants can maximize the value of every dollar Warrick County invests in transportation. The County can strategically target funding opportunities by developing a funding matrix that identifies eligible sources for each transportation project, taking into account information like eligible activities, maximum awards, program deadlines, local match requirements, and other critical details.

TRANSPORTATION

STRATEGY 2.1 (CONTINUED)

ACTION STEP #2.1c

Continue to partner with EMPO, INDOT, and towns to monitor, evaluate, and prioritize system needs and future projects through regional and local planning initiatives.

ABOUT THE ACTION STEP

The transportation network that people traveling in Warrick County use every day, from streets and highways to sidewalks and trails, is owned, operated, and monitored by a variety of local and state agencies. Most people, however, see it as a single system and don't consider the coordination, cooperation, and partnerships necessary to create a safe and seamless user experience. Warrick County should continue to partner with these agencies in the delivery of a first-class multimodal transportation experience for Warrick County residents and visitors.

TRANSPORTATION

STRATEGY 2.2

Make improvements and repairs to existing roads to provide for safe and comfortable travel throughout the county.

ABOUT

With continued growth and development comes new safety and maintenance challenges for Warrick County. New residential, commercial, and industrial developments generate additional traffic on Warrick County roads, and with that traffic comes additional stress on bridges and pavement, congestion on roads, and increased safety risks. By taking a data-driven, proactive approach to asset management, system preservation, and traffic safety improvements, Warrick County can efficiently direct resources to focus on critical maintenance, preservation, and safety needs before they become hazardous to travelers.

Through partnering with EMPO, INDOT, and other local agencies, the County can pursue funding opportunities to develop a countywide safety action plan to evaluate crash history, identify trends, and develop a high-injury network for future safety investments can help to achieve this. With a high-level understanding of pavement conditions, asset management, and safety conditions, the County can tactfully target the locations most in need of repairs.

ACTION STEP #2.2a

Maintain and update the Develop an asset management program to monitor roadways, bridges, sidewalks, and multiuse facility conditions and proactively address system maintenance and preservation needs.

ABOUT THE ACTION STEP

Without an asset management plan and program, transportation agencies often resort to taking a “worst first” approach to asset investment, addressing failing infrastructure while deferring less significant needs for later. A more sustainable approach is to apply the “right fix at the right time on the right road.” Through an asset management program, Warrick County can inventory existing asset conditions, establish performance measures and goals, identify and rate risks, determine lifecycle planning and funding strategies, and create a fiscally responsible plan for investment in transportation infrastructure.

ACTION STEP #2.2b

Maintain and update the Develop a countywide safety action plan to evaluate crash history, identify trends, and develop a high-injury network for future safety investments.

ABOUT THE ACTION STEP

Safety action plans represent a departure from the decades-old approach to addressing transportation safety by “chasing the red dots” (addressing locations where fatal and severe injury crashes have occurred). These plans take a broader, systemic view of safety that evaluates risk across the entire roadway system, often with a focus on vulnerable road users like pedestrians, bicyclists, and motorcyclists who are at a greater risk of fatal or severe injury as a result of a crash. Many regional and local agencies are taking advantage of the US DOT’s Safe Streets and Roads for All Grant Program to fund safety action planning and related improvements.

TRANSPORTATION

STRATEGY 2.3

Expand public transit service throughout the county and consider options for supporting people in rural areas.

ABOUT

Through public outreach conducted for the comprehensive plan, numerous stakeholders and residents expressed the need for expanded transit service to better meet the mobility needs of county residents. The county has two existing fixed route service areas through WATS and METS. The METS service provides a connection from Newburgh to Vanderburgh County and the WATS service then provides one fixed route between Newburgh, Chandler, and Boonville. WATS also provides on-demand services for the remaining portions of the county. These transit options provide valuable services but services are ultimately still limited for most Warrick County residents.

In the pursuit of expanding the County's transit options and networks, funding for a transit study should be pursued with collaboration from INDOT and other local agencies. With a transit study, the County will better understand the trends and needs of the Warrick County population in relation to potential public transit expansion and how best to address the populations in more rural areas.

ACTION STEP #2.3a

Explore transit service delivery options (which are ways to provide transit service) for rural Warrick County, including on-demand microtransit, mobility as a service, and other emerging transit service delivery models.

ABOUT THE ACTION STEP

Some rural residents require access to public transit. Currently, on-demand transit service in Warrick County is available on weekdays from 6 am to 6 pm; however, community members have expressed a need for enhanced rural transit service with expanded hours with more on-demand options, especially to help seniors reach vital destinations, such as healthcare services or grocery stores.

ACTION STEP #2.3b

Evaluate fixed route service expansion opportunities, including new routes, route frequency, and evening and weekend services.

ABOUT THE ACTION STEP

As new development occurs in the county, expansions to fixed-route service may be needed to support travel and help residents reach every-day destinations. By performing a study of the county's current and future transit needs and collaborating with WATS, the County can prepare to upgrade transit service as needed to meet the community's needs.

TRANSPORTATION

STRATEGY 2.4

Attract industrial development in strategic locations to provide opportunities for economic development and employment options.

ABOUT

The transportation landscape is constantly changing, from technological advancements in vehicle design and fuel economy to innovative pavement materials and geometric configurations that safely and efficiently move large volumes of vehicles, pedestrians, and bicyclists. Through concepts like shared mobility, micromobility, and mobility on demand, transportation companies and practitioners are reshaping transportation options to meet the diverse needs of urban, suburban, and rural communities.

While some technological advancements, such as fully autonomous passenger vehicles, are decades away, others, like Intelligent Transportation Systems (ITS), smart infrastructure, and electric vehicles are already here and present opportunities to benefit Warrick County and its residents today and into the future.

ACTION STEP #2.4a

Plan for electric vehicle charging infrastructure to support the growing demand for and ownership of electric vehicles.

ABOUT THE ACTION STEP

Electric vehicles represent a growing segment of the automobile market and are here to stay. In April of 2023, the Federal Government set a goal to make half of all new vehicles sold in the U.S. in 2030 zero-emissions vehicles, and to build a convenient and equitable network of 500,000 chargers to help make EVs accessible to all Americans for both local and long-distance trips. By developing an EV charging station plan, Warrick County can position itself and its local partners to secure federal funding for EV charging infrastructure, provide clear guidance for developers and property owners considering EV charging stations, and accelerate the EV adoption.

ACTION STEP #2.4b

Integrate ITS technologies into capital projects to improve traffic safety, reliability, and operations.

ABOUT THE ACTION STEP

Intelligent Transportation Systems (ITS) apply a variety of technologies to monitor, evaluate, and manage transportation systems to enhance efficiency and safety. ITS can be used by local agencies to move traffic more effectively, manage traffic using “smart signals” that respond to the needs of travelers, help clear traffic incidents more quickly, provide better information to travelers about road conditions, reduce traffic maintenance costs, and improve transportation system efficiency.

TRANSPORTATION

STRATEGY 2.4 (CONTINUED)

ACTION STEP #2.4c

Monitor transportation trends and emerging technologies to pro-actively capitalize on opportunities to lay the foundation for connected and autonomous vehicles, mobility on demand, and Smart infrastructure.

ABOUT THE ACTION STEP

The transportation environment is evolving rapidly to integrate new technologies, from alternative fuels and construction materials to autonomous and connected vehicles. These technologies and mobility solutions are expanding mobility options for people in urban, suburban, and rural communities, and their application can offer benefit to Warrick County residents, visitors, and businesses.

TRANSPORTATION

STRATEGY 2.5

Connect community destinations, parks, and neighborhoods by expanding and improving pedestrian and bicycle infrastructure.

ABOUT

From sidewalks and crosswalks to on-street bikeways and trails, bicycle and pedestrian infrastructure is an integral component of the multimodal transportation system and an increasingly valued amenity for residents and employers. These facilities expand transportation options and enhance quality life by increasing connectivity to community destinations like parks, schools, transit, and retail.

As growth and development continues in Warrick County, a proactive approach to walking and bicycling infrastructure development will be necessary to efficiently and effectively address active transportation needs and support the county's growing population. Through planning and policy initiatives, Warrick County and its community partners can integrate bicycle and pedestrian infrastructure into future capital improvement and resurfacing projects to ensure safe and comfortable travel for all, regardless of their mode of transportation.

Opportunities for trail system expansion and improvement can also support active transportation. Warrick County Trails has laid the foundation for a trail system and has identified future trail projects in and around Newburgh, Boonville, and Chandler. Through its Parks and Recreation Master Plan, Warrick County has also identified future trail projects and organizational action items to support continued trail development, ongoing maintenance, and user experience. Expanding the trail system to other parts of Warrick County and developing a singular, identifiable brand can increase trail usage among county residents, attract economic development and new residents, and help market Warrick County as a premier destination for recreational tourism. Continued coordination with Warrick County Trails, municipal partners, and key stakeholders throughout the county will be necessary to elevate the trail system to its fullest potential.

ACTION STEP #2.5a

Identify and prioritize sidewalk infill opportunities to increase pedestrian connectivity and accessibility to local destinations and amenities.

ABOUT THE ACTION STEP

The pedestrian network in Warrick County has not kept pace with growth and development, leaving many people unable to walk to nearby destinations safely and comfortably. Because there are more sidewalk system needs than there are resources available to fund these improvements, it is imperative that Warrick County develop an objective rating system to identify and prioritize sidewalk projects based on criteria like population density, pedestrian trip generators, feasibility, available right-of-way, and other important factors.

TRANSPORTATION

STRATEGY 2.5 (CONTINUED)

ACTION STEP #2.5b

Partner with Warrick County Trails and local municipalities to expand the trail and on-street bikeway system in Warrick County by implementing planned projects and evaluating opportunities for future connections.

ABOUT THE ACTION STEP

Warrick County's growing trail system is not just a valued transportation asset, but also a recreational amenity and a potential draw for recreational tourism. Trails reflect the value Warrick County residents' place on recreation, health, and connecting to nature. Continuing to invest in trails and on-street bikeways and integrate these features into new developments and transportation projects will strengthen community character, attract new residents and businesses, and enhance the quality of life for people in Warrick County.

ACTION STEP #2.5c

Continue to follow the Evansville Metropolitan Planning Area's Complete Streets policy to support safe and efficient travel for all roadway users, including pedestrians, bicyclists, transit users, motorists, and freight operators.

ABOUT THE ACTION STEP

Whether by binding ordinance or by resolution, communities across the country have adopted Complete Streets policies to lay the foundation for safe, accessible multimodal transportation systems. A successful Complete Streets policy expresses a clear commitment and vision, applies to all transportation projects and phases of work, includes clear design guidance, creates a plan for implementation, and measures progress over time.

ACTION STEP #2.5d

Evaluate and revise street design standards to accommodate pedestrian and bicycle mobility.

ABOUT THE ACTION STEP

The character, quality, and accessibility of roadways in unincorporated Warrick County are largely determined by the street design standards established by the County. Updating these standards to better incorporate comfortable, low-stress pedestrian and bicycle facilities is an important step in changing the way roads are designed, constructed, and improved over time.

UTILITIES

GOAL 3

Expand utility services to serve rural areas to support future growth.

ENHANCING
SENSE
OF PLACE

SUPPORTING
PLANNED
GROWTH

CONNECTING
COMMUNITIES

UTILITIES STRATEGIES



STRATEGY 3.1

Support the expansion of broadband throughout the county to serve rural communities and provide residents with high-quality options.



STRATEGY 3.2

Expand and improve utilities, such as water and sewer, to support current and future growth.



UTILITIES

STRATEGY 3.1

Support the expansion of broadband throughout the county to serve rural communities and provide residents with high-quality options.

ABOUT

One of the most frequent issues for residents was limited access to broadband in rural areas of the county. According to Purdue University's 2021 Digital Divide Index, 88% of people in the northeast region of the county do not have access to internet speeds that are at least 100/20 mbps and 19% have no internet access at all. One major challenge for broadband service in rural areas is the lack of infrastructure to support quality internet, many times because the open market does not justify the investment from a private provider.

ACTION STEP #3.1a

Form a Broadband Committee to lead and monitor county-wide efforts to improve broadband access across Warrick County.

ABOUT THE ACTION STEP

For Warrick County, successfully improving broadband access will require coordination across public and private partners. By assembling a county-wide Broadband Committee, the county can benefit from a consistent and united effort to expand access. This committee should meet at least twice per year and include representatives from local governments, county departments and agencies, internet providers, and any relevant local organizations or nonprofits.

ACTION STEP #3.1b

Coordinate with local governments and county agencies to increase public internet access in community facilities.

ABOUT THE ACTION STEP

Because expansions to broadband access across the county will likely be a years-long process, the County should consider options for improving internet access in public spaces and buildings. For places like libraries and parks, providing free internet access has the opportunity to not only support residents as they access basic needs but also improve use of these amenities and facilities.

UTILITIES

STRATEGY 3.1 (CONTINUED)

ACTION STEP #3.1c

Host workshops to improve internet literacy for adults to improve access to online resources for rural residents.

ABOUT THE ACTION STEP

Recent national trends have sparked the development and expansion of online resources and delivery services. From telemedicine to online banking, rural communities have new opportunities to access vital resources from home; however, internet literacy and broadband service are still substantial barriers. As the County works to improve access to broadband for its small and rural communities, developing adult internet literacy workshops can help residents take full advantage of internet resources as broadband services is expanded.

UTILITIES

STRATEGY 3.2

Expand and improve utilities, such as water and sewer, to support current and future growth.

ABOUT

As Warrick County continues to grow in the coming years, maintaining and expanding utility infrastructure is vital to supporting growth. This infrastructure will also need to be located where it corresponds with future growth areas from the Future Land Use Map. Because public utility services are operated by the local governments and not Warrick County government, the County will need to help bring utility providers, both public and private, together to coordinate growth with utility expansion.

ACTION STEP #3.2a

Continue to coordinate development proposals with water and sewer utility providers and require letters from these providers prior to approving rezonings and plats to verify the provider's willingness to provide service to the developments.

ABOUT THE ACTION STEP

To ensure water and sewer utility services are able to meet the needs of future developments, the Area Plan Commission should continue to coordinate with these utilities at the early stages of a development. As development proposals, plats, and rezoning requests are received by the APC, the applications should be provided to the utilities so that they can begin to assess capacity and any needed improvements. Additionally, the APC should require the applicant to provide a letter or statement from the water and sewer providers that states the utility is able and willing to serve the new development. This early coordination allows developments to be better coordinated with water and sewer and prevents issues after land development has started.

ACTION STEP #3.2b

Host annual coordination meetings with the water and sewer providers to coordinate current and future growth with each utility district's strategic plan.

ABOUT THE ACTION STEP

Water and sewer service is provided by multiple municipalities across the county, and supporting growth in unincorporated areas requires coordination between different providers. By hosting annual coordination meetings with these providers to coordinate future service areas, both public agencies and developers can be better prepared to support growth by incorporating local trends or growth patterns into their long-range plans.

UTILITIES

STRATEGY 3.2 (CONTINUED)

ACTION STEP #3.2c

Coordinate future growth with electric and gas providers.






ABOUT THE ACTION STEP

Access to electricity, and sometimes natural gas, is essential for new development. With CenterPoint Energy as the county's primary energy provider, planned growth should align with the utility's future service capacities to ensure new development is successful. As Warrick County looks towards the future, coordinating with energy providers will be instrumental to successful planning efforts.

QUALITY OF LIFE

GOAL 4

Create and support new opportunities for people to enjoy the places, businesses, and recreation that Warrick County has to offer.

ENHANCING SENSE OF PLACE	SUPPORTING PLANNED GROWTH	CONNECTING COMMUNITIES	QUALITY OF LIFE STRATEGIES
			STRATEGY 4.1 Undertake a county-wide branding process that promotes both a unified identity for Warrick County and distinct branding for incorporated areas or neighborhoods that fit into the overall county-wide branding.
			STRATEGY 4.2 Support neighborhoods, communities, and incorporated towns within Warrick County's jurisdiction by bolstering their capacity to serve residents.
			STRATEGY 4.3 Continue to expand the public school system, emergency response, and other public services to correspond with future population growth.

QUALITY OF LIFE

STRATEGY 4.1

Undertake a county-wide branding process that promotes both a unified identity for Warrick County and distinct branding for incorporated areas or neighborhoods that fit into the overall county-wide branding.

ABOUT

Warrick County is home to several historic small towns that are special to both the people who live there and the larger community. To help establish and promote a sense of place for the county, Warrick County can collaborate with local governments to develop a branding plan that unites the county's many communities under one overarching Warrick County "umbrella" while still allowing each individual community to have unique signage/branding that falls within the overarching brand of the town.

ACTION STEP #4.1a

Collaborate with representatives from local communities and the county to develop new branding for the County and participating communities.

ABOUT THE ACTION STEP

By developing a new logo and overall brand for Warrick County and its local communities, the County and each city or town can communicate both the county's current identity and the community's vision for its future. To do this, the County should coordinate with participating towns and cities and county-level departments and organizations, such as Visit Warrick County or the Economic Development Department, to go through a branding process.

QUALITY OF LIFE

STRATEGY 4.2

Support neighborhoods, communities, and incorporated towns within Warrick County's jurisdiction by bolstering their capacity to serve residents.

ABOUT

The Towns of Lynnville, Elberfeld, and Tennyson are located within the jurisdiction of the County's Area Plan Commission. Because of this, these three towns and many other unincorporated communities, such as Yankeetown and Selvin, rely upon the County for their planning and zoning needs. While this comprehensive plan also includes these towns and unincorporated areas, the specific needs, character, and community identities of each town are more unique that can be addressed by a county-level planning effort. As interest and opportunity for developing town-wide or downtown plans for each of these areas emerges in the coming years, the County can collaborate with local town representatives and staff to actively plan for the future of these specific communities in more detail.

ACTION STEP #4.2a

Work with incorporated towns and cities within Warrick County's jurisdiction to develop individual small area plans for each community. These plans can identify projects and strategies to establish a framework for pursuing both the unique needs of each community in combination with the desired Town Center character areas as detailed in the future land use plan.

ABOUT THE ACTION STEP

With the adoption of this comprehensive plan for the county, there is an opportunity to take a closer look at Warrick County's small towns and develop more detailed and focused action plans to strengthen their downtowns and overall community. If a town is considered low-to-moderate income, the plans could be funded through OCRA's Planning Grants program.

ACTION STEP #4.2b

Evaluate the existing level of service in cities and towns for public services, such as trash collection, and explore options for filling service gaps.

ABOUT THE ACTION STEP

Warrick County's small towns, including Lynnville, Elberfeld, and Tennyson, vary greatly in the levels and types of services that they offer their residents. Depending on certain factors, such as variations in local tax bases or staff capacity, the ability of small communities to meet local or future demand can be limited. By coordinating with representatives from each of Warrick County's incorporated towns, local communities identify and fill gaps in public services.

QUALITY OF LIFE

STRATEGY 4.3

Continue to expand the public school system, emergency response, and other public services to correspond with future population growth.

ABOUT

Warrick County's public schools are a major asset to the community and recent growth in student population has placed a strain on some schools, especially in the Ohio Township area. As Warrick County continues to grow, schools and other public services should be better prepared to plan for and respond to such growth to maintain and strengthen the overall health, safety, and quality of life in Warrick County. By providing regular updates to public agencies and departments as new development applications are received by the APC and development proposals are approved, Warrick County can be better prepared to ensure future growth is holistically supported across government services.

ACTION STEP #4.3a

As new development proposals are received and/or development is approved by the Area Plan Commission, coordinate with county-level departments and local governments to support planned growth in public services that matches growth.

ABOUT THE ACTION STEP

Warrick County can be better prepared to respond to growing development pressures by strengthening coordination and communication between county-level and local agencies that offer public services, such as fire and police departments, 911 services, public schools, utilities, and emergency management.

ACTION STEP #4.3b

When residential rezonings and subdivision plats are received by the Area Plan Commission, provide an opportunity for Warrick County Public Schools to review and provide comment on proposed developments before the applications are considered.

ABOUT THE ACTION STEP

This action is intended to provide Warrick County Public Schools with information related to residential growth and development as early in the process as possible so that the school district can begin to proactively plan for students. It can also provide an opportunity to help shape future growth by assessing and sharing the potential impact that new residential development proposals might have on student populations in local schools. For developments that are approved by the Area Plan Commission, this process also gives the school district advanced notice of planned growth.

QUALITY OF LIFE

STRATEGY 3.2 (CONTINUED)

ACTION STEP #4.3c

Support the implementation of the Parks and Recreation Master Plan.




ABOUT THE ACTION STEP

In 2023, the Parks Department completed its Parks and Recreation Master Plan, which includes strategies for maintaining current park facilities and expanding recreational offerings in the coming years. By continuing to implement the plan's projects and policies, Warrick County will see major improvements to current facilities and a new park in Ohio Township to support new growth.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

GOAL 5

Encourage economic growth by supporting local businesses, attracting employers, and enhancing the tourism experience.

ENHANCING SENSE OF PLACE	SUPPORTING PLANNED GROWTH	CONNECTING COMMUNITIES	ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT STRATEGIES
			STRATEGY 5.1 Encourage new dining, shopping, and entertainment options for all ages.
			STRATEGY 5.2 Establish Warrick County as a welcoming and enjoyable destination for visitors.



ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

STRATEGY 5.1

Encourage new dining, shopping, and entertainment options for all ages.

ABOUT

Retail, dining, and entertainment opportunities close to home can increase the quality of life and desirability of the county for current and future residents. The county's students have a desire to see more recreation and theme parks for entertainment. Community members shared ideas for hosting local arts and food fairs in small town, creating opportunities for more local businesses, and having more entertainment options throughout the county. While some of the ideas may directly rely upon interest from private developers and business owners, the County can work towards creating a business climate in which community members are encouraged to own and operate their own businesses and also provide incentives through zoning and other tools to attract these uses.

ACTION STEP #5.1a

Support local businesses by hosting a monthly fair for local food and retail vendors that rotates locations between different towns, cities, and Town Centers each month.

ABOUT THE ACTION STEP

From Food Truck Thursday's at Friedman to the Boonville Holiday Market, events that promote local businesses are well-attended in Warrick County and the public wants to see more events and festivals throughout the county. A semi-frequent market that rotates between different communities has the opportunity to support local vendors, provide more events for the community, and activate public spaces throughout the county.

ACTION STEP #5.1b

Continue to collaborate with the Chamber of Commerce and Economic Development Department to develop a small business revolving loan program.

ABOUT THE ACTION STEP

To encourage the development of local businesses that can provide the dining, retail, and entertainment that are desired in the Warrick County community, the County can develop a small business grant program to help business owners afford the start-up costs that are often prohibitive for success. To strengthen the long-term success of this strategy, the County can host workshops for grantees and other business owners on topics such as financing, marketing, or meeting local building and zoning codes.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

STRATEGY 5.2

Establish Warrick County as a welcoming and enjoyable destination for visitors.

ABOUT

While tourism is not Warrick County's leading industry or employment sector, people do travel regionally to visit destinations in towns, including Newburgh and Boonville, and for recreation, such as sporting events or state parks. From a county-wide rebranding process to increasing entertainment options, many of the strategies and action steps already addressed in this plan help support tourism efforts. The action steps included below outline two additional efforts that can be undertaken in order to further support this strategy.

ACTION STEP #5.2a

Continue developing a system of wayfinding signs that located along primary corridors and entry points into the county to direct visitors to key destinations, including state and county parks, sports facilities, natural areas, and other attractions as desired.

ABOUT THE ACTION STEP

Wayfinding signs not only help visitors reach destinations, but they also help communicate an identity for communities and advertise different attractions. By installing signs along certain routes, Warrick County can create a welcoming environment for visitors and promote the destinations that make Warrick County a great place to visit.

ACTION STEP #5.2b

Coordinate with Warrick County Economic Development to identify strategies to attract hotels and other lodging near recreational attractions, such as Interlake State Recreational Area, and youth sports facilities.

ABOUT THE ACTION STEP

Aside from campgrounds, there are few places where visitors can find lodging in Warrick County today. To attract lodging that is appropriate in the community, the County can explore strategies to attract new lodging to support tourism.



SECTION 06

IMPLEMENTING THE PLAN

- Plan Maintenance | p.74
- Completion Timelines | p.75
- Implementation Tables | p.80
- Additional Funding and Resources | p.91



OVERVIEW

Where Section 4 outlines and further explains each of the strategies of the plan, this section offers a more simplified and structured view of the plan components by bringing them together in tables and a timeline to support the implementation process. This section also includes recommended performance measures that can assist in tracking the successful completion and the desired impacts of plan components. When putting this comprehensive plan into action, this section is intended to provide the people, organizations, and governments that will use the plan with a structured approach to implementation.

PLAN MAINTENANCE

Tracking Progress

A comprehensive plan should be reviewed at least every five years to assess current progress, evaluate how potential shifts in demographic trends, legislative changes, new funding opportunities, or technological advances. Annually, the County should develop a progress report to assess progress towards meeting the plans goals and consider hosting quarterly meetings to review recent progress and determine next steps. Meetings can be held with the Comprehensive Plan Steering Committee, but should at least include the “Champions” identified under each action step within this plan.

The below table demonstrates how an annual report card can be used to track plan implementation for each action step:

ACTION STEP	STATUS			COMMENTS ON PROGRESS AND NEXT STEPS
	COMPLETE	IN PROGRESS	NOT STARTED	

COMPLETION TIMELINES

ONGOING ACTIONS

ACTION STEP	PRIORITY LEVEL
Action Step #1.3b: Continue to encourage local agricultural land owners to develop agricultural conservation easements through established programs to preserve productive land in the county.	HIGH
Action Step #1.4a: Continue to support plans and projects from the Economic Development Department to further the development of employment opportunities.	MEDIUM
Action Step #1.4b: Coordinate with the Warrick County Redevelopment Commission and the Economic Development Department to support projects identified in the Capital Improvement Plan in order to encourage development where future Industry Hubs should be located.	MEDIUM
Action Step #2.1a: Advance projects identified in the County and EMPO plans.	HIGH
Action Step #2.1b: Identify external funding sources and develop a funding matrix for planned projects.	HIGH
Action Step #2.1c: Continue to partner with EMPO, INDOT, and towns to monitor, evaluate, and prioritize system needs and future projects through regional and local planning initiatives.	HIGH
Action Step #2.2a: Maintain and update the asset management program to monitor roadways, bridges, sidewalks, and multiuse facility conditions and proactively address system maintenance and preservation needs.	HIGH
Action Step #2.2b: Maintain and update the countywide safety action plan to evaluate crash history, identify trends, and develop a high-injury network for future safety investments.	HIGH
Action Step #2.4b: Integrate ITS technologies into capital projects to improve traffic safety, reliability, and operations.	MEDIUM
Action Step #2.4c: Monitor transportation trends and emerging technologies to pro-actively capitalize on opportunities to lay the foundation for connected and autonomous vehicles, mobility on demand, and Smart infrastructure.	LOW
Action Step #2.5c: Continue to follow the Evansville Metropolitan Planning Area's Complete Streets policy to support safe and efficient travel for all roadway users, including pedestrians, bicyclists, transit users, motorists, and freight operators.	MEDIUM
Action Step #3.2a: Continue requiring a letter from all utility providers, including water, sewer, and electric/gas, prior to approving rezonings and plats to verify the provider's willingness to provide service to new developments.	MEDIUM

Action Step #3.2b: Host annual coordination meetings with the water and sewer providers to coordinate current and future growth with each utility district's strategic plan.

MEDIUM

Action Step #3.2c: Coordinate future growth with electric and gas providers.

LOW

Action Step #4.3a: As new development proposals are received and/or development is approved by the Area Plan Commission, coordinate with county-level departments and local governments to support planned growth in public services that matches growth.

MEDIUM

Action Step #4.3b: When residential rezonings and subdivision plats that received by the Area Plan Commission, provide an opportunity for Warrick County Public Schools to review and provide comment on proposed developments before the applications are considered.

HIGH

Action Step #4.3c: Support the implementation of the Parks and Recreation Master Plan.

HIGH

IMMEDIATE ACTIONS (2024 TO 2025)

ACTION STEP

PRIORITY LEVEL

Action Step #1.3a: Improve property owner awareness of the leasing process for large-scale solar by collaborating with the Warrick County Farm Bureau and the Purdue Agricultural Extension Office to host educational workshops.

MEDIUM

Action Step #1.3c: Consider adopting a local Right to Farm Ordinance to further protect agricultural uses from being limited as non-agricultural development occurs.

MEDIUM

Action Step #1.5a: Promote IDNR's Abandoned Mine Lands Reclamation Program (AML Program) to property owners with retired mines to mitigate hazards from abandoned mine lands and support a more robust inventory of needed mine restoration projects in the county.

HIGH

Action Step #3.1a: Form a Broadband Committee to lead and monitor county-wide efforts to improve broadband access across Warrick County.

HIGH

Action Step #5.1b: Continue to collaborate with the Chamber of Commerce and Economic Development Department to develop a small business revolving loan program.

MEDIUM

SHORT-RANGE ACTIONS (2026 TO 2030)

ACTION STEP	PRIORITY LEVEL
Action Step #1.1a: Evaluate updates to the zoning ordinance to allow higher-density housing and additional housing types along high-traffic corridors or near more intense land uses, such as commercial or industrial uses.	MEDIUM
Action Step #1.1b: Use zoning incentives to encourage the development single-story and smaller housing units that offer more accessible housing options for seniors.	MEDIUM
Action Step #1.1c: Explore options for requiring the development of neighborhood parks when large subdivisions are developed.	HIGH
Action Step #1.2a: Consider amending the zoning ordinance to require or incentivize minimum design and amenity standards for new multi-family residential development and mixed-use development.	HIGH
Action Step #1.2b: Consider amending the zoning ordinance to develop design standards for neighborhoods or towns that desire them in order to reinforce the desired character of development within these areas.	MEDIUM
Action Step #1.3d: Adopt regulations to require agricultural buffers within the zoning ordinance to protect the integrity of agricultural operations as new development occurs on properties abutting land zoned for agricultural use.	MEDIUM
Action Step #1.3e: Consider adopting land use regulations that incentivize the development of conservation subdivisions.	LOW
Action Step #1.4f: Consider amendments to the zoning ordinance to protect productive agricultural land from large-scale utilities, such as commercial solar.	HIGH
Action Step #1.5b: Explore options for incentive programs to focus the development of solar fields on land formerly used for coal mining rather than productive farmland.	MEDIUM
Action Step #2.5a: Identify and prioritize sidewalk infill opportunities to increase pedestrian connectivity and accessibility to local destinations and amenities.	HIGH
Action Step #2.5b: Partner with Warrick County Trails and local municipalities to expand the trail and on-street bikeway system in Warrick County by implementing planned projects and evaluating opportunities for future connections.	HIGH
Action Step #2.5d: Evaluate and revise street design standards to accommodate pedestrian and bicycle mobility.	MEDIUM
Action Step #4.1a: Collaborate with representatives from local communities and the county to develop new branding for the County and participating communities.	MEDIUM

MEDIUM-RANGE ACTIONS (2031 TO 2035)

ACTION STEP	PRIORITY LEVEL
Action Step #1.5c: Assess the feasibility of developing a zoning or tax incentive to encourage the reuse of retired mine lands for recreational uses, such as mountain biking or off-roading.	MEDIUM
Action Step #2.3a: Explore transit service delivery options (which are ways to provide transit service) for rural Warrick County, including on-demand microtransit, mobility as a service, and other emerging transit service delivery models.	MEDIUM
Action Step #2.4a: Plan for electric vehicle charging infrastructure to support the growing demand for and ownership of electric vehicles.	MEDIUM
Action Step #3.1b: Coordinate with local governments and county agencies to increase public internet access in community facilities.	LOW
Action Step #3.1c: Host workshops to improve internet literacy for adults to improve access to online resources for rural residents.	LOW
Action Step #4.2a: Work with incorporated towns and cities within Warrick County's jurisdiction to develop individual small area plans for each community. These plans can identify projects and strategies to establish a framework for pursuing the both the unique needs of each community in combination with the desired Town Center character areas as detailed in the future land use plan.	LOW
Action Step #4.2b: Evaluate the existing level of service in cities and towns for public services, such as trash collection, and explore options for filling service gaps.	MEDIUM
Action Step #5.1a: Support local businesses by hosting a monthly fair for local food and retail vendors that rotates locations between different towns, cities, and Town Centers each month.	MEDIUM

LONG-RANGE ACTIONS (2036 TO 2045)

ACTION STEP

PRIORITY LEVEL

Action Step #5.2a: Continue developing a system of wayfinding signs that located along primary corridors and entry points into the county to direct visitors to key destinations, including state and county parks, sports facilities, natural areas, and other attractions as desired.

LOW

Action Step #2.3b: Evaluate fixed route service expansion opportunities, including new routes, route frequency, and evening and weekend services.

LOW

Action Step #5.2b: Coordinate with Warrick County Economic Development to identify strategies to attract hotels and other lodging near recreational attractions, such as Interlake State Recreational Area, and youth sports facilities.

LOW

IMPLEMENTATION TABLES

GOAL 1: LAND USE AND HOUSING

THEME
KEY



ENHANCING
SENSE OF PLACE



SUPPORTING
PLANNED
GROWTH




CONNECTING
COMMUNITIES

Support future growth and development in key areas while preserving the county's agricultural character, protecting natural assets, and promoting quality design.

Strategy		Theme			Partners and Resources	Funding Sources
Strategy #1.1: Encourage targeted residential growth by accommodating new single-family homes, senior housing, and diverse multi-family housing options.					Warrick County Council on Aging, County Commissioners, local developers	Current operation budgets, general fund, Low Income Housing Tax Credits (LIHTC)
Action Step					Champion	Priority Level
1.1a	Evaluate updates to the zoning ordinance to allow higher-density housing and additional housing types along high-traffic corridors or near more intense land uses, such as commercial or industrial uses.				Area Plan Commission	MEDIUM
1.1b	Use zoning incentives to encourage the development single-story and smaller housing units that offer more accessible housing options for seniors.				Area Plan Commission	MEDIUM
1.1c	Explore options for requiring the development of neighborhood parks when large subdivisions are developed.				Area Plan Commission, Parks Department	HIGH
Strategy #1.2: Support and encourage high-quality housing and mixed-use development to maintain and promote community character.					Local governments, neighborhood associations, Indiana Landmarks (for historic areas)	Current operation budgets, Indiana Landmarks (for historic areas), general fund
1.2a	Consider amending the zoning ordinance to require or incentivize minimum design and amenity standards for new multi-family residential development and mixed-use development.				Area Plan Commission, County Commissioners	HIGH
1.2b	Consider amending the zoning ordinance to develop design standards for neighborhoods or towns that desire them in order to reinforce the desired character of development within these areas.				Area Plan Commission, Town Councils	MEDIUM

LAND USE AND HOUSING (CONTINUED)

Strategy		Theme			Partners and Resources	Funding Sources
Strategy #1.3: Conserve agricultural and natural areas as new development continues to grow throughout the county.					American Farmland Trust, Natural Resources Conservation Service, Indiana Land Resources Council, Purdue Extension Conservation Easement Resource, Indiana Land Protection Alliance, Indiana Land Use Task Force, USDA, Agricultural Conservation Easement Program – Indiana, Indiana Department of Natural Resources	Current operation or program budgets, general fund
Action Step					Champion	Priority Level
1.3a	Improve property owner awareness of the leasing process for large-scale solar by collaborating with the Warrick County Farm Bureau and the Purdue Agricultural Extension Office to host educational workshops.				Farm Bureau, Purdue Extension	MEDIUM
1.3b	Continue to encourage local agricultural land owners to develop agricultural conservation easements through established programs to preserve productive land in the county.				Farm Bureau, Purdue Extension	HIGH
1.3c	Consider adopting a local Right to Farm Ordinance to further protect agricultural uses from being limited as non-agricultural development occurs.				Area Plan Commission, Farm Bureau, Purdue Extension	MEDIUM
1.3d	Adopt regulations to require agricultural buffers within the zoning ordinance to protect the integrity of agricultural operations as new development occurs on properties abutting land zoned for agricultural use.				Area Plan Commission	MEDIUM
1.3e	Consider adopting land use regulations that incentivize the development of conservation subdivisions.				Area Plan Commission	LOW
1.3f	Consider amendments to the zoning ordinance to protect productive agricultural land from large-scale utilities, such as commercial solar.				Area Plan Commission	HIGH

LAND USE AND HOUSING (CONTINUED)

Strategy		Theme			Partners and Resources	Funding Sources
Strategy #1.4: Attract industrial development in strategic locations to provide opportunities for economic development and employment options.					Indiana Economic Development Corporation (IEDC), Warrick County Commissioners, Redevelopment Commission, Area Plan Commission	TIF funds, IEDC Industrial Development Grant Fund, IEDC Certified Technology Parks Program, Current Operational Budgets
Action Step					Champion	Priority Level
1.4a	Continue to support plans and projects from the Economic Development Department to further the development of employment opportunities.				Economic Development Department	MEDIUM
1.4b	Coordinate with the Warrick County Redevelopment Commission and the Economic Development Department to support projects identified in the Capital Improvement Plan in order to encourage development where future Industry Hubs should be located.				Redevelopment Commission, Economic Development Department	MEDIUM
Strategy #1.5: Explore options for reclaiming and redeveloping retired coal mines.					Indiana Department of Natural Resources (IDNR), US Office of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy, Farm Bureau, Warrick County Parks Department, IEDC	Abandoned Mine Land Program, Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF), Redevelopment Tax Credit (RTC), TIF Funds, Current Operational Budgets
1.5a	Promote IDNR's Abandoned Mine Lands Reclamation Program (AML Program) to property owners with retired mines to mitigate hazards from abandoned mine lands and support a more robust inventory of needed mine restoration projects in the county.				Area Plan Commission, Farm Bureau, Purdue Extension	HIGH
1.5b	Explore options for incentive programs to focus the development of solar fields on land formerly used for coal mining rather than productive farmland.				Area Plan Commission, Redevelopment Commission, Economic Development	MEDIUM
1.5c	Assess the feasibility of developing a zoning or tax incentive to encourage the reuse of retired mine lands for recreational uses, such as mountain biking or off-roading.				Area Plan Commission, Redevelopment Commission	MEDIUM

GOAL 2: TRANSPORTATION

THEME
KEY



ENHANCING
SENSE OF PLACE



SUPPORTING
PLANNED
GROWTH





CONNECTING
COMMUNITIES


Maintain and expand the county's current transportation network while paving the way for new travel choices in and between communities.

Strategy		Theme		Partners and Resources	Funding Sources
Strategy #2.1: Develop new roads and improve existing roads to support current and future growth.				Evansville Metropolitan Planning Organization, INDOT	Bipartisan Infrastructure Law Discretionary Grants, INDOT Local Public Agencies program, Recreational Trails Program, Community Crossings Matching Grant Program, State Transportation Improvement Program Reconnecting Communities Pilot Program, General Fund
Action Step				Champion	Priority Level
2.1a	Advance projects identified in the County and EMPO plans.			Highway Department, County Engineer, Parks Department	HIGH
2.1b	Identify external funding sources and develop a funding matrix for planned projects.			Highway Department, County Engineer	HIGH
2.1c	Continue to partner with EMPO, INDOT, and towns to monitor, evaluate, and prioritize system needs and future projects through regional and local planning initiatives.subdivisions are developed.			Highway Department, County Engineer	HIGH



TRANSPORTATION (CONTINUED)

Strategy		Theme			Partners and Resources	Funding Sources
Strategy #2.2: Make improvements and repairs to existing roads to provide for safe and comfortable travel throughout the county.					Evansville Metropolitan Planning Organization, INDOT, town councils, FHWA Asset Management Program, FHWA Systemic Approach to Safety, Vision Zero Network	USDOT Safe Streets and Roads for All Grant Program, Community Crossings Matching Grant Program, State Transportation Improvement Program (STIP), Reconnecting Communities Pilot Program
2.2a	Maintain and update the asset management program to monitor roadways, bridges, sidewalks, and multiuse facility conditions and proactively address system maintenance and preservation needs.				Highway Department, County Engineer	HIGH
2.2b	Maintain and update the countywide safety action plan to evaluate crash history, identify trends, and develop a high-injury network for future safety investments.				Highway Department, County Engineer	HIGH
Strategy #2.3: Expand public transit service throughout the county and consider options for supporting people in rural areas.					Warrick Area Transit System (WATS), METS, Evansville Metropolitan Planning Organization, INDOT, local agencies and municipalities, FHWA Asset Management Program, FHWA Systemic Approach to Safety, Vision Zero Network	Bipartisan Infrastructure Law, EMPO Transit Funding, Rural Transportation Assistance Program – 5311(b)(3), FTA Accelerating Innovative Mobility, FTA Enhancing Mobility Innovation
2.3a	Explore transit service delivery options (which are ways to provide transit service) for rural Warrick County, including on-demand microtransit, mobility as a service, and other emerging transit service delivery models.				WATS	MEDIUM
2.3b	Evaluate fixed route service expansion opportunities, including new routes, route frequency, and evening and weekend services.				WATS	LOW

TRANSPORTATION (CONTINUED)

Strategy		Theme			Partners and Resources	Funding Sources
Strategy #2.4: Attract and integrate emerging transportation technologies, such as autonomous and electric vehicles, micromobility, and supporting infrastructure.					Evansville Metropolitan Planning Organization, INDOT, local agencies and municipalities, Drive Clean Indiana, U.S. Department of Energy Alternative Fuels Data Center, US Joint Office of Energy and Transportation, INDOT Electric Vehicle Charging Infrastructure Network, USDOT Intelligent Transportation Systems Joint Program Office, USDOT New and Emerging Technologies	INDOT Indiana Electric Vehicle Charging Infrastructure Program, USDOT Charging and Fueling Infrastructure Discretionary Grant Program, Federal Funding Matrix
2.4a	Plan for electric vehicle charging infrastructure to support the growing demand for and ownership of electric vehicles.				Economic Development	MEDIUM
2.4b	Integrate ITS technologies into capital projects to improve traffic safety, reliability, and operations.				Highway Department, Economic Development	MEDIUM
2.4c	Monitor transportation trends and emerging technologies to pro-actively capitalize on opportunities to lay the foundation for connected and autonomous vehicles, mobility on demand, and Smart infrastructure.				Highway Department	LOW

TRANSPORTATION (CONTINUED)

Strategy		Theme			Partners and Resources	Funding Sources
Strategy #2.5: Connect community destinations, parks, and neighborhoods by expanding and improving pedestrian and bicycle infrastructure.					Evansville Metropolitan Planning Organization, INDOT, Warrick County Trails, local agencies and municipalities, AASHTO Guide for the Planning, Design, and Operation of Pedestrian Facilities, 2nd Edition, AASHTO Guide for the Development of Bicycle Facilities, 4th Edition, NACTO Urban Bikeway Design Guide, USDOT Small Town and Rural Multimodal Networks Guide, USDOT Separated Bike Lane Planning and Design Guide, National Complete Streets Coalition, FHWA Complete Streets Resources, INDOT Complete Streets Program	Bipartisan Infrastructure Law, Indiana Trails Program, Greenways Foundation of Indiana, USDOT RAISE Discretionary Grant Program, Reconnecting Communities and Neighborhoods (RCN) Program
2.5a	Identify and prioritize sidewalk infill opportunities to increase pedestrian connectivity and accessibility to local destinations and amenities.				Highway Department, Area Plan Commission	HIGH
2.5b	Partner with Warrick County Trails and local municipalities to expand the trail and on-street bikeway system in Warrick County by implementing planned projects and evaluating opportunities for future connections.				Highway Department, Warrick County Trails	HIGH
2.5c	Continue to follow the Evansville Metropolitan Planning Area's Complete Streets policy to support safe and efficient travel for all roadway users, including pedestrians, bicyclists, transit users, motorists, and freight operators.				Highway Department, County Engineer	MEDIUM
2.5d	Evaluate and revise street design standards to accommodate pedestrian and bicycle mobility.				Highway Department, County Engineer, Area Plan Commission	MEDIUM

GOAL 3: UTILITIES

THEME
KEY



ENHANCING
SENSE OF PLACE






SUPPORTING
PLANNED
GROWTH



CONNECTING
COMMUNITIES

Expand utility services to serve rural areas to support future growth.

Strategy		Theme		Partners and Resources	Funding Sources
Strategy #3.1: Support the expansion of broadband throughout the county to serve rural communities and provide residents with high-quality options.			 	Economic Development Department, County Commissioners, U.S. Department of Commerce: Planning A Community Broadband Roadmap, Town Councils	USDA Distance Learning & Telemedicine Grant, USDA Community Connect Grant, USDA ReConnect Loan and Grant Program, OCRA's Next Level Connections Program
Action Step				Champion	Priority Level
3.1a	Form a Broadband Committee to lead and monitor county-wide efforts to improve broadband access across Warrick County.			Economic Development	HIGH
3.1b	Coordinate with local governments and county agencies to increase public internet access in community facilities.			Economic Development	LOW
3.1c	Host workshops to improve internet literacy for adults to improve access to online resources for rural residents.			Economic Development	LOW
Strategy #3.2: Expand and improve utilities, such as water and sewer, to support current and future growth.				Local public utility providers	Current operation budgets
Action Step				Champion	Priority Level
3.2a	Continue requiring a letter from all utility providers, including water, sewer, and electric/gas, prior to approving rezonings and plats to verify the provider's willingness to provide service to new developments.			Area Plan Commission	MEDIUM
3.2b	Host annual coordination meetings with the water and sewer providers to coordinate current and future growth with each utility district's strategic plan.			Area Plan Commission	MEDIUM
3.2c	Coordinate future growth with electric and gas providers.			Area Plan Commission	LOW

GOAL 4: QUALITY OF LIFE

THEME
KEY



ENHANCING
SENSE OF PLACE



SUPPORTING
PLANNED
GROWTH





CONNECTING
COMMUNITIES

Create and support new opportunities for people to enjoy the places, businesses, and recreation that Warrick County has to offer.

Strategy		Theme			Partners and Resources	Funding Sources
Strategy #4.1: Undergo a county-wide branding process that promotes both a unified identity for Warrick County and distinct branding for incorporated areas or neighborhoods that fit into the overall county-wide branding.					Warrick County Economic Development Department, local governments, Visit Warrick County, County Commissioners	Current operation budgets, general funds
Action Step					Champion	Priority Level
4.1a	Collaborate with representatives from local communities and the county to develop new branding for the County and participating communities.				Economic Development	MEDIUM
Strategy #4.2: Support neighborhoods, communities, and incorporated towns within Warrick County's jurisdiction by bolstering their capacity to serve residents.					Town Councils, Warrick County departments and agencies, County Commissioners, Chamber of Commerce.	OCRA Planning Grants, general funds
Action Step					Champion	Priority Level
4.2a	Work with incorporated towns and cities within Warrick County's jurisdiction to develop individual small area plans for each community. These plans can identify projects and strategies to establish a framework for pursuing the both the unique needs of each community in combination with the desired Town Center character areas as detailed in the future land use plan.				Area Plan Commission, Town Councils	LOW
4.2b	Evaluate the existing level of service in cities and towns for public services, such as trash collection, and explore options for filling service gaps.				Town Councils	MEDIUM

QUALITY OF LIFE (CONTINUED)

Strategy		Theme			Partners and Resources	Funding Sources
Strategy #4.3: Continue to expand the public school system, emergency response, and other public services to correspond with future population growth.					Warrick County departments and agencies, local governments, Warrick County Public Schools	Current operation budgets
Action Step					Champion	Priority Level
4.3a	As new development proposals are received and/or development is approved by the Area Plan Commission, coordinate with county-level departments and local governments to support planned growth in public services that matches growth.				Area Plan Commission	MEDIUM
4.3b	When residential rezonings and subdivision plats that received by the Area Plan Commission, provide an opportunity for Warrick County Public Schools to review and provide comment on proposed developments before the applications are considered.				Warrick County Public Schools	HIGH
4.3c	Support the implementation of the Parks and Recreation Master Plan.				Parks Department	HIGH

GOAL 5: ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

THEME
KEY



ENHANCING
SENSE
OF PLACE



SUPPORTING
PLANNED
GROWTH



CONNECTING
COMMUNITIES

Encourage economic growth by supporting local businesses, attracting employers, and enhancing the tourism experience.

Strategy		Theme			Partners and Resources	Funding Sources
Strategy #5.1: Encourage new dining, shopping, and entertainment options for all ages.					Warrick County Chamber of Commerce, Warrick County Area Plan Commission, Visit Warrick County, Warrick County Economic Development Department, Indiana Economic Development Corporation	IEDC Loan Fund Investment Program, National Endowment for the Arts Our Town Grant Program, Current operation budgets
Action Step					Champion	Priority Level
5.1a	Support local businesses by hosting a monthly fair for local food and retail vendors that rotates locations between different towns, cities, and Town Centers each month.				Economic Development	MEDIUM
5.1b	Continue to collaborate with the Chamber of Commerce and Economic Development Department to develop a small business revolving loan program.				Economic Development	MEDIUM
Strategy #5.2: Establish Warrick County as a welcoming and enjoyable destination for visitors.					Visit Warrick County, Tourism Board, local governments, Warrick County Highway Department, Area Plan Commission	Current operation budgets, general fund
Action Step					Champion	Priority Level
5.2a	Continue developing a system of wayfinding signs that located along primary corridors and entry points into the county to direct visitors to key destinations, including state and county parks, sports facilities, natural areas, and other attractions as desired.				Area Plan Commission, Town Councils	LOW
5.2b	Coordinate with Warrick County Economic Development to identify strategies to attract hotels and other lodging near recreational attractions, such as Interlake State Recreational Area, and youth sports facilities.				Town Councils	LOW

ADDITIONAL FUNDING & RESOURCES

Overview

In addition to the funding options identified for each strategy, this section also includes a list of additional funding options for Indiana communities that can be leveraged to support the implementation of this plan.

Local Financing Tools

Bonds

Bonds are backed by the credit and taxing power of the issuing jurisdiction. A bond is a government debt issued in order to raise money for needed capital improvements. Its retirement is paid for by property tax and other predictable forms of local income.

Impact Fees

An impact fee is a charge on new development to pay for the cost of infrastructure and related services that are necessitated by and benefit the new development. The fee is based on the type of development assessed for the increase in the burden on infrastructure. Fees contribute to a non-reverting fund and can be used for infrastructure improvements and amenities including park and recreation and multi-modal projects.

Infrastructure Revolving Loan Fund

This revolving loan fund can be used to provide low interest loans for infrastructure projects that facilitate economic development.

Residential Tax Increment Financing

Effective July 2019, new legislation was signed by Governor Holcomb to allow TIF for residential property (SEA 566). This legislation is targeted at rural communities to fund infrastructure for single-family housing growth. Residential TIF must be executed through a Redevelopment Commission.

Tax Abatement

Tax abatement is a phase-in of property taxes and is intended to encourage development in areas that would not otherwise develop. Tax abatement is one of the tools widely used by municipal governments to attract new businesses to the community. It encourages investment in new equipment or facilities that will improve the company, while stabilizing the community's economy. Communities may develop procedures for abatement application and policies regarding the amount and length of the abatement that will be approved. Procedures may also be developed to ensure compliance with the terms in the statement of benefits.

Tax Increment Financing

A Tax Increment Financing (TIF) district used by many communities to fund local infrastructure improvement projects. Tax rates for developments within the district are locked at a set rate, and as property values rise within the district, any additional tax revenue generated is used to fund improvement projects within the district instead of using it for typical purposes. TIF can be very effective at directing new development to an area.

Resource Organizations:

Accelerate Indiana Municipalities (AIM)

AIM works as an official voice for municipal government within Indiana, with more than 460 cities and towns as members. The organization works to foster, promote, and advocate for the success of Indiana municipalities as hubs of innovation and talent, and as the driving forces of the state's economy.

Indiana Association for Floodplain and Stormwater Management (INAFSM)

The Indiana Association for Floodplain and Stormwater Management was founded in 1996 by professionals interested in and responsible for floodplain and stormwater management in the State of Indiana.

INAFSM members include federal, state, and local agency staff, engineers, consultants, planners, elected officials, members of academia, students, and floodplain residents.

Indiana Chapter of the American Planning Association

APA-IN promotes vision and leadership that fosters better planning in Indiana by building public and political support and providing its members and communities with the tools to achieve future needs and create vital communities. Citizen planning training is one event that may be appropriate for a newly formed plan commission offered by APA-IN.

Indiana Finance Authority (IFA)

In order to provide economic efficiencies and management synergies and enable the State of Indiana ("State") to communicate as one voice with the various participants in the financial markets, the Indiana Development Finance Authority, the State Office Building Commission, the Indiana Transportation Finance Authority, the Recreational Development Commission, the State Revolving Fund Programs and the Indiana Brownfields Program were consolidated into a new and separate entity called the Indiana Finance Authority ("IFA") on May 15, 2005. The Indiana Health and Educational Facilities Finance Authority was also merged into the IFA, effective July 1, 2007. As the successor entity to these formerly separate debt-issuing entities, the IFA is authorized to issue revenue bonds payable from lease rentals under lease agreements with various state agencies and to finance or refinance the cost of acquiring, building and equipping structures for state use including state office buildings, garages, highways, bridges, airport facilities, correctional facilities, state hospitals and recreational facilities related to State parks. The IFA also manages the Wastewater and Drinking Water State Revolving Fund Loan Programs and the Indiana Brownfields Program.

Indiana Small Business Development Center

The Indiana Small Business Development Center offers technical support and entrepreneurial guidance through regional partners to

assist small business growth and sustainability within the state. On top of offering workshops throughout the state, they also provide market research, business planning, and valuation services for small businesses.

Prosperity Indiana

The Indiana Association for Community Economic Development (Prosperity Indiana) is a statewide membership organization that seeks to fund members, build and retain relationships, and address local and national issues which may impact Indiana communities. Prosperity Indiana provides tools, research, online resources, and technical assistance for housing rehabilitation and construction, real estate development, industrial and business development, social services, and employment generating activities.

Redevelopment Association of Indiana (RAI)

This is a membership organization for redevelopment board members and staff representing 460 cities, towns, and counties in Indiana. The Redevelopment Association operates under the premise that while there are legally mandated action and commonly adopted practices, there also is abundant room for local innovation and Indiana ingenuity. One of the association's principal missions is to serve as an informational and educational resource for existing redevelopment commissions and units of government considering the establishment of a redevelopment commission. Redevelopment Association members are available to share their experiences.

Funding and Grants:

Indiana Arts Commission (IAC)

This state program works to positively impact the cultural, economic, and educational climate of Indiana by providing opportunities to enhance the artistic resources of Indiana communities. The organization provides multiple supporting programs and grants to support the growth of arts in local settings and provide resources for regional or local organizations trying to influence and culture of arts in their community.

Arts Organization Support (AOS)

The Arts Organization Support (AOS) provides annual operating support for the ongoing artistic and administrative functions of eligible arts organizations that align with the Indiana Arts Commission's Public Funding Imperatives. It is a two-year grant commitment.

Arts Project Support (APS)

Arts Project Support (APS) grants provide funding to Indiana arts and non-arts organizations to support a distinct aspect of the organization's arts activities, such as a one-time event; a single production; an exhibition; an educational seminar; or series of related arts activities, such as art classes or training sessions.

Indiana Department of Natural Resources (IDNR)

The mission of the Indiana Department of Natural Resources is to protect, enhance, preserve, and wisely use natural, cultural, and recreational resources for the benefit of Indiana's citizens through professional leadership, management, and education.

Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF)

LWCF federal grants can be used to protect important natural areas, acquire land for outdoor recreation and develop or renovate public outdoor recreation facilities such as campgrounds, picnic areas, sports/playfields, swimming facilities, boating facilities, fishing facilities, trails, natural areas and passive parks. It provides grants for 50% of the cost of acquisition and/or development. To be eligible, the group must be a legally established park board and have a current 5-year park and recreation master plan on file in the Division of Outdoor Recreation. The minimum grant request is \$50,000 and the maximum request is \$500,000 with a local match requirement.

Indiana Trails Program (ITP)

Matching assistance program that provides funding for the acquisition and/or development of multi-use recreational trail projects. Minimum funding available is \$100,000 and maximum funding available is \$400,000 and a 20% match is required. Both motorized and non-

motorized projects may qualify for assistance. This program was formally recognized as the "Recreational Trails Program", but was been changed to reflect the change from federal to state funding in 2021.

Indiana Economic Development Corporation (IEDC)

This statewide organization offers programs and initiatives for companies creating jobs in Indiana. They actively work to improve the state's quality of place, infrastructure, and developable sites to build economic strength by attracting new businesses and talent. The organization offers a number of incentives and programs for new or expanding businesses, which includes technical support and data collection.

Indiana Department of Transportation (INDOT)

INDOT's mission is to plan, build, maintain, and operate a transportation system that encourages safety, mobility, and economic growth, they provide assistance to smaller communities through Local Public Agency (LPA) Programs, Community Crossings grants for paving projects, and Transportation Alternative funding for roadway, sidewalk, trail, and streetscape projects.

Community Crossings Matching Grant Fund Program

In 2023, INDOT funded 75% of the project of communities under 10,000. Eligible projects included bridge and road preservation type projects along with ADA sidewalk projects that intersect with any road project, roundabouts and road reconstructions. Trails and enhancement type projects are not eligible and only construction costs are eligible. In the upcoming years, this program is expected to change and the community should reference INDOT's website for more information.

Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality Improvement Program (CMAQ)

The main goal of the CMAQ Program is to fund surface transportation improvement projects with the goal of reducing overall congestion and improving air quality. These funds are released in collaboration

between INDOT and local Indiana MPOs and can be used for a variety of projects includes, but not limited to, acquiring alternative fuel vehicles for public transit applications, purchasing alternative fuels, and establishing publicly-owned alternative fueling stations and other needed infrastructure.

Highway Safety Improvement Program (HSIP)

The Highway Safety Improvement Program's goal is to achieve a significant reduction in traffic fatalities and serious injuries on all public roads through the implementation of infrastructure-related highway safety improvements. There are a number of improvements this program helps fund, such as improving the visibility of curves through signs and markers, installing emergency power battery backups at traffic signals, installing raised medians, upgrading guardrails to meet current standards and more.

Local Public Agency (LPA) Program

INDOT shares gas tax revenue from the state Motor Vehicle Highway Fund and Local Road and Street Fund with LPAs towards capital improvement needs. Communities must have a local employee in charge with ERC training, projects must be ADA compliant, provide matching funds and meet project eligibility.

Transportation Alternatives Funding

The Transportation Alternatives (TA) program will receive about \$780 million to carry out all TA projects, including SRTS and RTP projects across the country, which represents about a 35% reduction from the current \$1.2 billion spent on these programs. Under the bill, states will sub-allocate 50% of their TA funds to Metropolitan Planning Organizations (MPO) and local communities to run a grant program to distribute funds for projects. States could use the remaining 50% for TA projects or could spend these dollars on other transportation priorities.

Indiana Housing & Community Development Authority (IHCDA)

IHCDA's partners with developers, lenders, investors, and nonprofit organizations that serve low- and moderate-income Indiana families.

They provide government and private funds to invest in well-designed projects that will benefit communities and those living within. IHCDA provides funds, incentives, data collection, and educational services.

Development Fund

This program provides a loan of up to \$750,000 (or a grant in limited special circumstances) for eligible activities for low- and moderate-income housing.

Emergency Solutions Grant Program (ESG)

This program provides emergency shelters and transitional housing through services and rental assistance for homeless individuals and families.

HOME Investment Partnership Program (HOME)

This program strives to provide habitable and affordable housing for low- and moderate-income persons by improving the quality of existing housing stock.

Low-Income Housing Tax Credits (LIHTC)

This program is a dollar-for-dollar federal tax credit that incentivize the investment of private equity in the development of affordable housing. The project owner must agree to comply with Chapter 42 regulations and maintain an agreed open percentage of low-income units, as well as meet requirements for a 15-year compliance period and a subsequent 15-year extended use period. Maximum request is \$1.2 million tax credits.

The Housing Trust Fund (HTF)

This is a new affordable housing production program that will complement existing federal, state and local efforts to increase and preserve the supply of decent, safe, and sanitary affordable housing for extremely low- and very low-income households (persons at or below 30% of the Area Medium Income), including homeless families.

Indiana Humanities

Indiana Humanities is a nonprofit organization dedicated to promoting the public humanities through partnerships, grants, and facilitation. This organization supports using literature, history, philosophy, and shared cultural heritage to help Hoosiers and their communities understand themselves and the world around them. They provide small grants to local non-profits that help support their mission within communities. The grants range from research on socioeconomic conditions within a community, to funding for libraries to expand their collection to better represent the cultures of the residents it serves.

Indiana Office of Community and Rural Affairs (OCRA)

OCRA works with local, state and national partners to provide resources and technical assistance to aid communities in shaping and achieving their vision for community and economic development. They award grants to fund projects including, but not limited to, public gathering places, water/sewer infrastructure, restoration of historic structures, community facilities, broadband infrastructure, and revitalizing commercial districts. They have a focus on infrastructure, quality of place, economic development, and capacity building. Some of the programs include:

- Planning Grants
- Public Facilities Program (PFP)
- Stormwater Improvement Program (SIP)
- Wastewater and Drinking Water Program
- Blight Clearance Program (BCP 2.0)

Indiana Destination Development Corporation (IDDC)

In 2019, the Indiana Destination Development Corporation replaced the Indiana Office of Tourism Development. The IDCC offers matching grant to cities, towns, counties and nonprofit entities located in Indiana that are involved with tourism promotion and development.

Public Art and Placemaking Activation Grants

The IN Indiana Placemaking Activation Grant is a matching grant of up to \$25,000 to fund signage and placemaking efforts. The IN

Indiana Public Art Activation Grant is a non-matching grant of up to \$10,000 to fund public art projects. In 2023, the IDDC plans to allocate up to \$500,000 total between both grants based on the quality of applications received. Grantees will receive 75% of funding upon award and 25% upon project completion.

National Endowment for the Arts – Our Town Program

Our Town is the NEA's creative placemaking grants program. Through project-based funding, the program supports activities that integrate arts, culture, and design into local efforts that strengthen communities. These projects require a partnership between a local government entity and nonprofit organization. Grants range from \$25,000 to \$150,000, with a minimum cost share/match equal to the grant amount.

State and Federal Tax Credits

Many state and federal tax credit programs are administered by IEDC including: Community Revitalization Enhancement District Tax Credit; Economic Development for a Growing Economy (EDGE) - Payroll Tax Credit; Hoosier Business Investment Tax Credit (HBI); Industrial Development Grant Fund; Industrial Recovery Tax Credit; and Venture Capital Investment Tax Credit (VCI).



APPENDIX A: EXISTING CONDITIONS

DEMOGRAPHICS | A1

PHYSICAL CONDITIONS | 12

DEMOGRAPHICS

OVERVIEW

This section provides an overview of the demographic makeup of Warrick County, offering insights into how residents are living their everyday lives and how their lives are shaped by planning-related issues, such as employment or housing options. Warrick is composed of many different communities, so this section also identifies how life in some towns differs across the county. To better understand what makes Warrick County unique from its neighboring communities, some demographic trends are also compared with Vanderburgh and Posey Counties in Indiana and Henderson County in Kentucky. Some statistics are also compared with national and statewide trends. This level of demographic analysis is a key component of the planning process and helps ensure the strategies in Warrick County Comprehensive Plan are based on the current and future needs of Warrick County.



Photo credit: Warrick County Parks and Recreation

HIGHLIGHTS

- Warrick County is experiencing steady and continual population growth and is becoming more racially and ethnically diverse, but the median age of Warrick County is high at 42.3, which is due to low numbers of young, working-age adults.
- Warrick County's educational attainment rates, median household income, and poverty rates are all strong when compared with peer communities and statewide averages.
- Home values and rental rates are high in Warrick when compared with peer communities, suggesting both a strong housing market and higher housing costs for residents.
- For housing, Warrick County is largely composed of single-family homes and the rental market has shifted from smaller apartment buildings to larger apartment complexes since 2010.
- Warrick County has a high employment rate, with manufacturing being the highest-paying industry and service being its largest industry.
- Over half of Warrick County's working population travels outside of the county to go to work and most are driving alone on their commute.

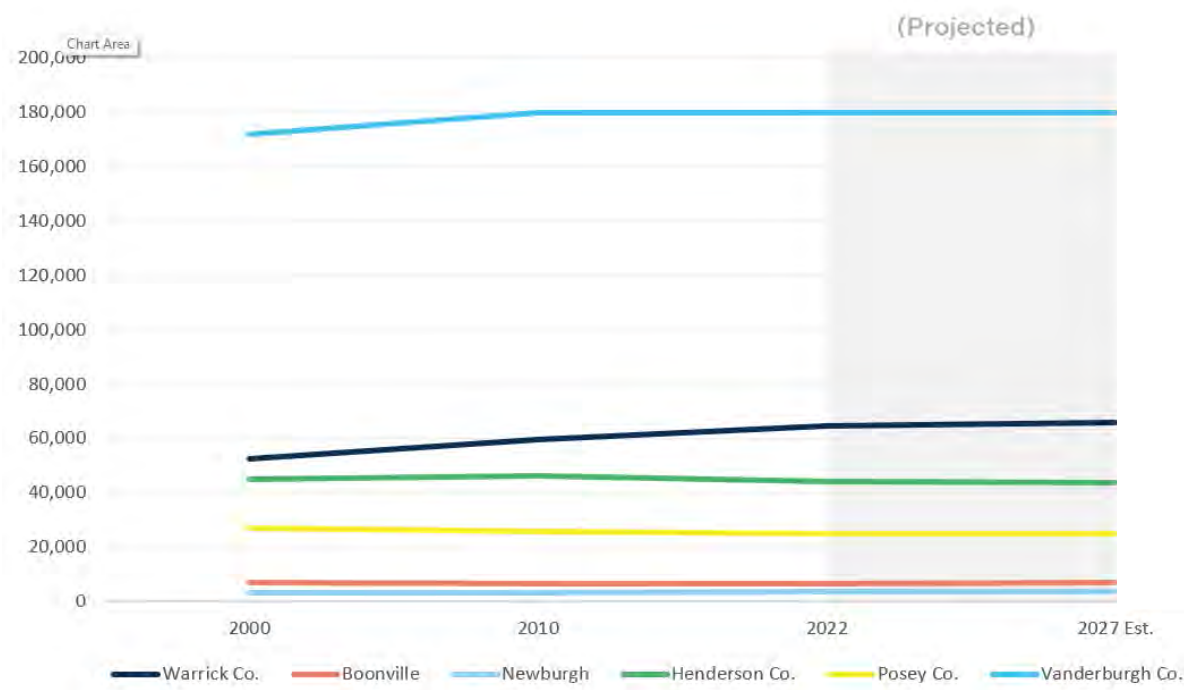
POPULATION GROWTH

Warrick County is currently home to 64,791 people, with its population experiencing a continual rise since 2000. Within the County, Newburgh experienced 8.8% growth from 2010 to 2022 and is projected to see another 2% increase by 2027. Boonville, the county seat, saw a 2.4% decline in population from 2000 to 2010 but is projected to return to its 2000 population numbers by 2027. This growth for Warrick is consistent with statewide and national trends and is notable at a time when its neighboring counties are projected to experience minor population declines in the next five years.

2022 Populations

- 1. Vanderburgh County (179,989)
- 2. Warrick County (66,004)
- 3. Henderson County (43,751)
- 4. Posey County (24,772)
- 5. Boonville (6,830)
- 6. Newburgh (3,807)

Population Change



Source: US Census Bureau via ESRI, American Community Survey (2016-2020), 2010 Census Profilew, 2000 Decennial Census, ESRI forecasts for 2022 and 2027

AGE DISTRIBUTION

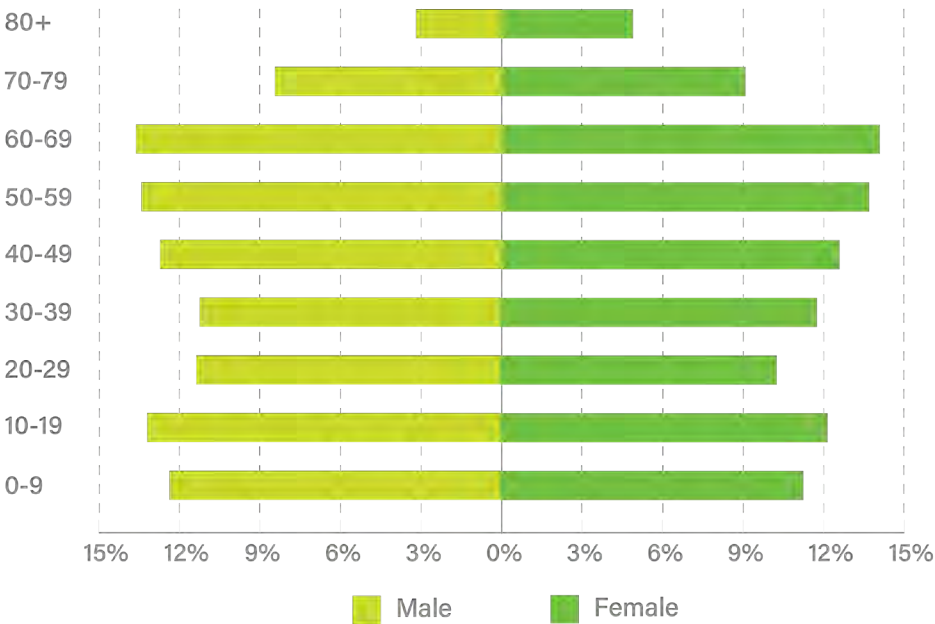
The median age in Warrick County is 42.3 years old. This age is high when compared with the national (38.8) and statewide (38.9) median ages, but is similar to the median ages for its neighboring communities. The population pyramid below helps identify the cause of Warrick’s older median age. Residents between the ages 20 and 39 represent 22% of the population, which is lower than the percentages for this age group for any of the other neighboring communities, Indiana (26%), or United States (27%). The absence of these younger adults in Warrick County results in more representation from adults aged 40 to 79. At 8,987 people (14%), adults aged 60-69 years are Warrick County’s largest age group. According to the US Department of Agriculture, this demographic trend is common across rural America as working-age adults relocate other areas¹. Warrick’s oldest and youngest populations also reflect national and regional trends, with people aged 80 years and older representing 4% of the population and children aged 0-19 years representing 25% of the population.

1. United States Department of Agriculture (2022). *Rural America at a Glance*, p. 21.

Median Age

- 1. Posey County (44)
- 2. Boonville (42.6)
- 3. Warrick County (42.3)
- 4. Newburgh (41.8)
- 5. Henderson County (41.7)
- 6. Vanderburgh County (39.4)
- 7. Indiana (38.9)

Population Pyramid

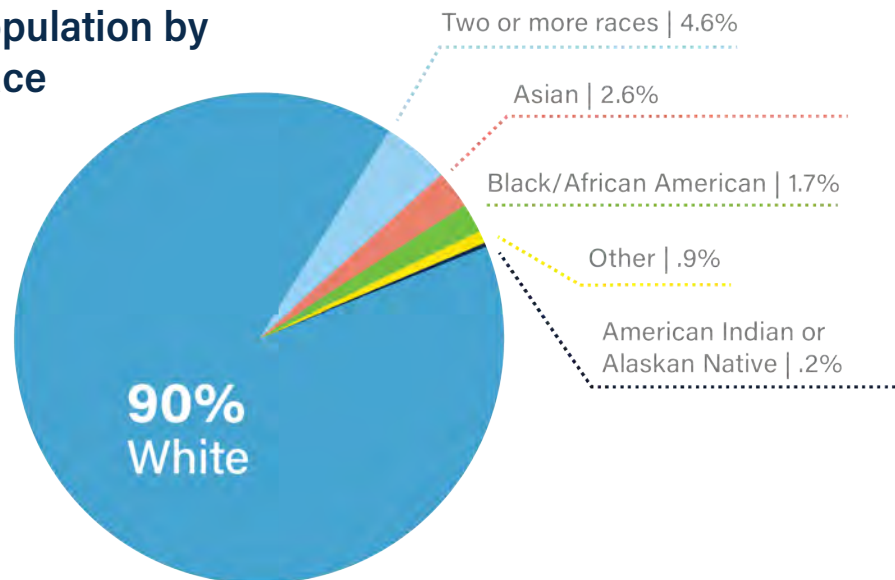


Source: US Census Bureau via ESRI, ESRI Forecasts for 2022.

RACIAL AND ETHNIC DIVERSITY

Approximately 90% of Warrick County's population identifies as white, 4.6% as multi-racial, 2.6% as Asian, 1.7% as African American, 0.2% as American Indian or Alaskan Native, and 0.9% as other. Additionally, 2.2% of Warrick County residents identify as Hispanic. Warrick's population has diversified in the past 12 years, with increasing rates of the non-white and Hispanic residents. The greatest increase was in people who identify as multiracial, increasing by 304%. The only racial or ethnic group whose population decreased between 2010 and 2022 were Pacific Islanders. During this time, both Boonville and Newburgh also became more diverse. Warrick County's racial and ethnic composition is similar to that of its neighboring communities, however, the non-white population in Indiana (23%) and the US (39%) are far higher than in Warrick County. The US Census Bureau categorizes race based on commonly recognized racial groups in the US, whereas ethnicity is a determination of whether or not someone identifies as "Hispanic" or "Non-Hispanic" because people of Hispanic, Latino, or Spanish origin may be of any race.

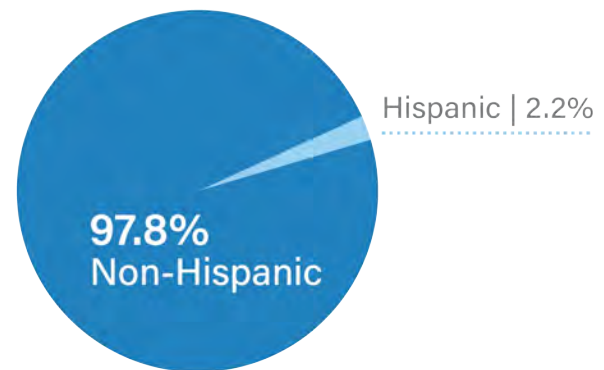
Population by Race



Percent of Non-White Population

1. United States (39%)
2. Indiana (23.2%)
3. Vanderburgh County (19.8%)
4. Henderson County (16.3%)
5. Newburgh (10.5%)
6. Warrick County (10%)
7. Boonville (6.1%)
8. Posey County (6%)

Population by Ethnicity



Source: US Census Bureau via ESRI, ESRI forecasts for 2022

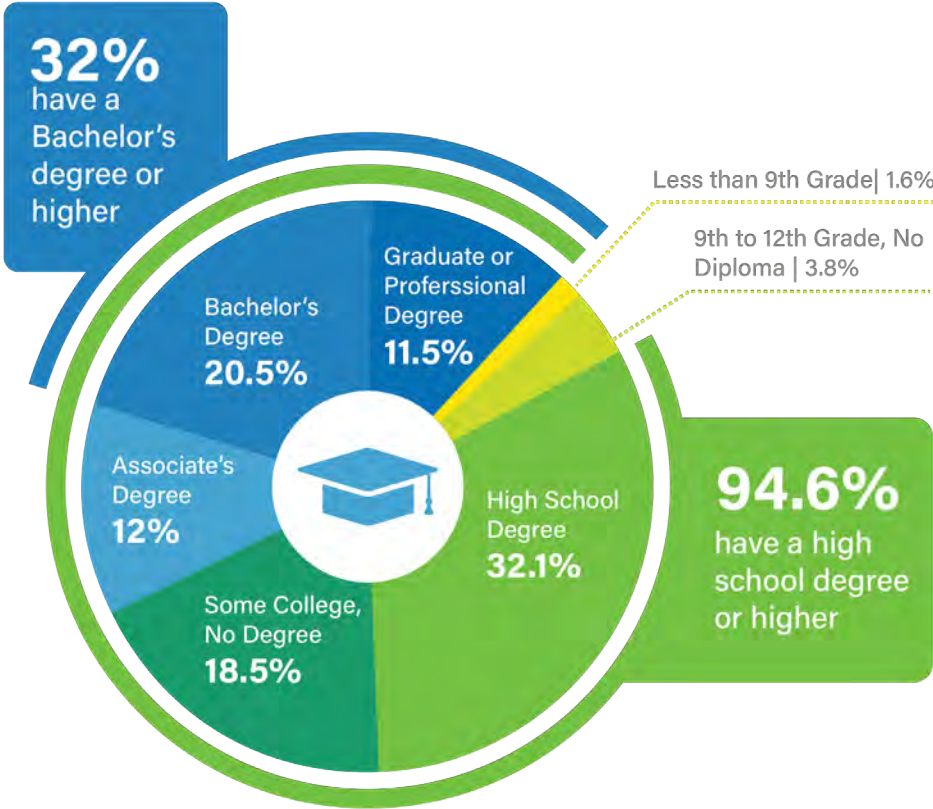
EDUCATIONAL ATTAINMENT

Out of Warrick County’s adult population over 24 years old, 94.6% have a high school degree or higher and 32% have a bachelor’s degree or higher. Warrick County exceeds most of its neighboring communities in high school attainment and is higher than both Henderson County and Vanderburgh County in bachelor’s attainment. Warrick County also surpasses Indiana’s educational attainment levels for high school attainment (91%) and bachelor’s attainment (28.4%). Warrick County surpasses the national average at the high school attainment level (89.4%) but not the bachelor’s attainment level (35%).

High School Degree or Higher

- 1. Posey County (95.9%)
- 2. Warrick County (94.6%)
- 3. Newburgh (94.2%)
- 4. Boonville (92%)
- 5. Vanderburgh County (90.9%)
- 6. Indiana (90.9%)
- 7. Henderson County (89.1%)

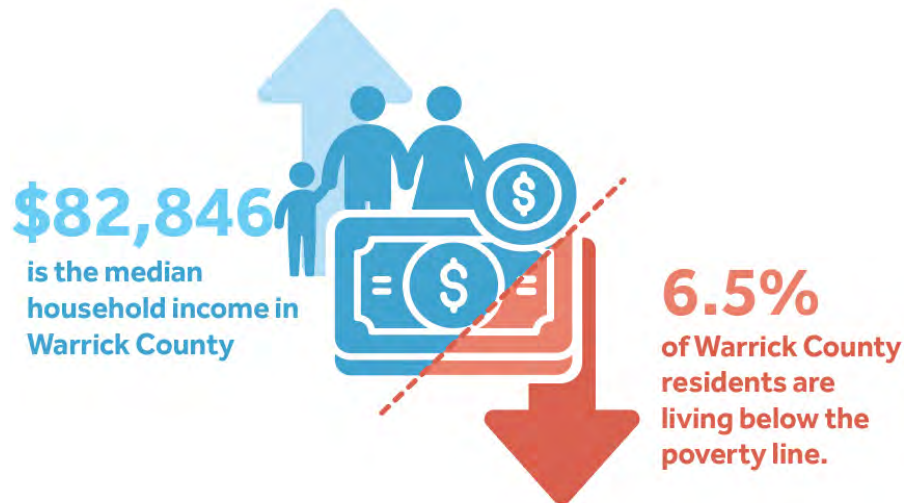
Educational Attainment



Source: US Census Bureau via ESRI, ESRI forecasts for 2022

INCOME AND POVERTY

The median household income in Warrick County is \$82,846 per year, which is the combined income for everyone living in a household. The median household incomes in Boonville (\$61,136) and Newburgh (\$77,329) are lower than the county's median. Household incomes are projected to increase by 15.9% by 2027 in Warrick County and 25% household income growth is expected in Boonville. When compared with peer counties, Warrick has a higher household income and a lower poverty than its neighbors. The overall poverty rate in Warrick County (6.5%) is nearly half of the national (12.5%) and statewide (12.45%) rates.



Median Household Income

1. Warrick County (\$82,846)
2. Newburgh (\$77,329)
3. Posey County (\$75,184)
4. United States (\$72,414)
5. Indiana (\$62,624)
6. Boonville (\$61,136)
7. Vanderburgh County (\$55,507)
8. Henderson County (\$54,715)

Poverty Rate

1. Henderson County (18.68%)
2. Vanderburgh County (15.09%)
3. United States (12.51%)
4. Indiana (12.45%)
5. Boonville (12.32%)
6. Posey County (10.87%)
7. Newburgh (7%)
8. Warrick County (6.51%)

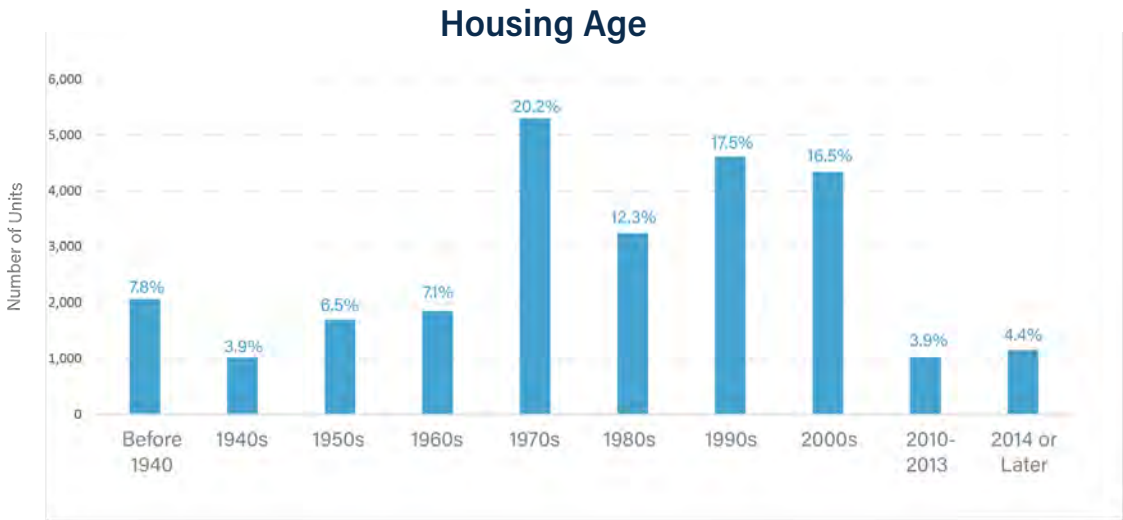
HOUSING

HOUSING COSTS

Warrick County has a median home value of \$173,900, with 43% of homes valued between \$100,000 and \$199,99 and 40% of homes valued at \$200,000 or higher. When compared with neighboring counties, Warrick has the highest home median home value. Warrick County's median monthly rental rate (\$895 per month) is also higher than in neighboring counties and higher than the statewide median (\$667). Boonville and Newburgh's median home value and monthly rental rates are both lower than the Warrick medians.

HOUSING AGE

The majority of Warrick County housing (67%) was built between 1970 and 2009. Since then, housing development has slowed. This trend is consistent with neighboring counties. Boonville and Newburgh have older housing stocks than the overall county. About 25% of Boonville's housing units were built prior to 1940, and 26% of Newburgh's housing units were built prior to 1960.



Source: US Census Bureau via ESRI: ESRI forecasts for 2022. American Community Survey (2010 5-Year Estimates) DP04.

Median Home Value

- 1. Warrick County (\$173,900)
- 2. Newburgh (\$168,900)
- 3. Posey County (\$150,900)
- 4. Vanderburgh County (\$136,100)
- 5. Henderson County (\$133,200)
- 6. Boonville (\$103,100)

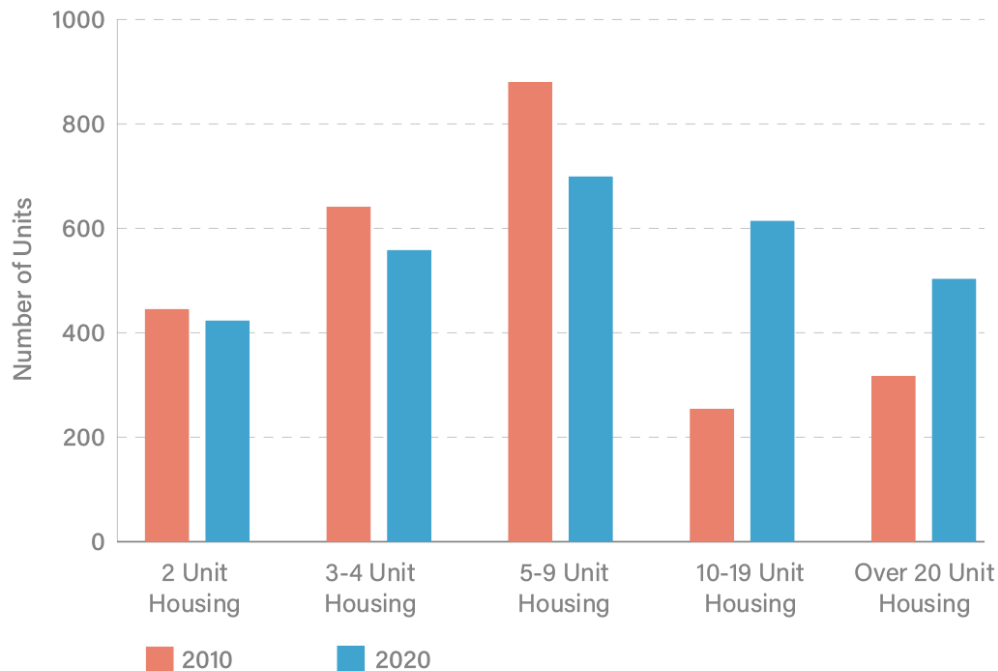
Median Monthly Rent

- 1. United States (\$929)
- 2. Warrick County (\$895)
- 3. Indiana (\$667)
- 4. Newburgh (\$638)
- 5. Vanderburgh County (\$624)
- 6. Henderson County (\$547)
- 7. Boonville (\$512)
- 8. Posey County (\$507)

HOUSING TYPES

Warrick County's housing stock is largely composed of owner-occupied units (75%), with about 19% of those being occupied by renters and 6% vacant. These rates have been consistent from 2010 to 2022 and are projected to remain so over the next five years. About 82% of homes in Warrick County are single family, 10% are multi-family, and 5% are mobile homes. Newburgh and Boonville have greater housing diversity than the county's average, with higher rates of multi-family housing and mobile homes. While the overall count of multi-family residences in Warrick County increased between 2010 and 2020, the supply of smaller multifamily housing options, such as two or six-unit developments, has decreased over that time, with a rise in larger apartment complexes.

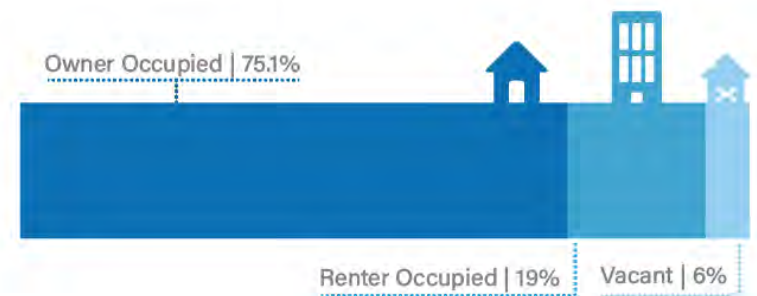
**Change in Multi-Family Housing Stock
(2010-2020)**



Percent of Single-Family Housing

1. Posey County (82.6%)
2. Warrick County (80.9%)
3. Newburgh (73.8%)
4. Boonville (73.3%)
5. Vanderburgh County (69.8%)
6. Henderson County (69%)

Occupancy Rates



Source: US Census Bureau via ESRI: ACS Housing Profile Report American Community Survey (2010, 2020), ACS Housing Summary Report (2020 5-Year Estimates).

WORKFORCE

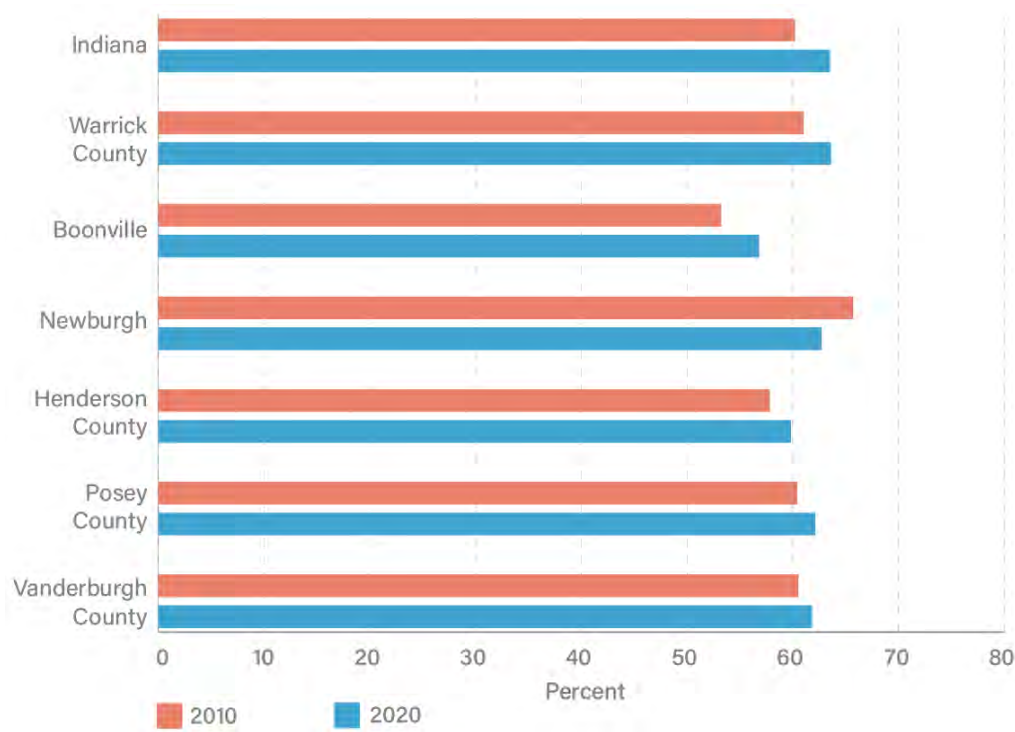
WORKFORCE GROWTH

About 63.6% of Warrick County’s residents over 15 years of age are in the workforce, which is consistent with trends both statewide and within neighboring counties. From 2010 to 2022, Warrick County’s workforce grew by 2.6% and, within the county, Boonville’s workforce saw 3.6% growth during this period while Newburgh experienced a 3% decline. In the region, Warrick County’s workforce grew more than in neighboring counties, but is still below the state average for 2010-2020 (3.3%).

Adult Population in Work Force

- 1. Warrick County (63.6%)
- 2. Indiana (63.5%)
- 3. Newburgh (62.7%)
- 4. Posey County (62.1%)
- 5. Vanderburgh County (61.8%)
- 6. Henderson County (59.8%)
- 7. Boonville (56.8%)

Change in Adult Population in the Work Force
(2010-2020)



Source: US Census Bureau via ESRI: Civilian Labor Force Report (ESRI 2022 forecasts; 2010 5-Year Estimates)

COUNTY-WIDE JOB SECTORS

Warrick County's entire workforce is earning a total of \$740,744,842 per year in wages, with the service industry leading in employment and total wages earned. When looking at individual earnings, the manufacturing industry has the highest average annual wage per employee at \$76,672. Warrick County's information sector is experiencing low employment and wages. This sector includes jobs like broadcasting, information technology, computing, telecommunications, library jobs. The annual average wage is \$15,360 for the industry and employees just 16 people. In neighboring counties, annual wages for information jobs range from \$26,000 - \$57,000.

Job Sectors

	Annual Average Employment	Total Annual Wages	Annual Average Wages Per Employee
Service-providing	10,303	466,869,567	45,313
Goods-producing	3,934	273,875,275	69,620
Education and health services	3,890	209,582,566	53,873
Manufacturing	2,587	198,355,703	76,672
Trade, transportation, and utilities	2,675	112,643,531	42,114
Construction	1,167	65,262,999	55,904
Professional and business services	1,098	61,908,497	56,370
Financial activities	706	40,988,896	58,044
Leisure and hospitality	1,343	24,142,438	17,983
Other services	549	16,940,673	30,871
Natural resources and mining	179	10,256,573	57,193
Information	42	662,966	15,630
Total	14,237	\$740,744,842	\$52,030

BOONVILLE AND NEWBURGH EMPLOYMENT

Boonville and Newburgh residents experienced a decline in employment opportunities between 2010 and 2022, especially within certain sectors. The number of adults employed in Booneville dropped by 0.8%, with noticeable declines in the construction industry (-65.5%); transportation, warehousing, and utilizes (-25%); and the financing, real estate, and insurance industries (37.3%). There was also a 15% decline in employment for educational services, healthcare, and social assistance. In Newburgh, overall employment rose by 4.9%, however, employment in two industries disappeared entirely: technology and a category of natural resource jobs in agriculture, forestry, fishing, hunting, mining.

Boonville and Newburgh Employment (2010-2022)

	Boonville			Newburgh		
	2010	2022	Percent Change	2010	2022	Percent Change
Agriculture, forestry, fishing and hunting, and mining	14	32	128.6%	-	44	-
Construction	206	71	-65.5%	136	127	-6.6%
Manufacturing	327	489	49.5%	206	149	-27.7%
Wholesale trade	125	133	6.4%	66	-	-100.0%
Retail trade	415	423	1.9%	223	378	69.5%
Transportation and warehousing, and utilities	247	185	-25.1%	173	88	-49.1%
Information	27	44	63.0%	91	-	-100.0%
Finance and insurance, and real estate and rental and leasing	134	84	-37.3%	89	187	110.1%
Professional, scientific, and management, and administrative and waste management services	244	289	18.4%	153	195	27.5%
Educational services, and health care and social assistance	704	598	-15.1%	330	416	26.1%
Arts, entertainment, and recreation, and accommodation and food services	194	199	2.6%	206	81	-60.7%
Public administration	66	122	84.8%	43	40	-7.0%
Other services	198	209	5.6%	52	150	188.5%
Total Workers	2,901	2,878	-0.8%	1,768	1,855	4.9%

Source: US Census Bureau via ESRI: Civilian Labor Force Report (ESRI 2022 forecasts; 2010 5-Year Estimates). Bureau of Labor Statistics (2020).

COMMUTING

Only 37.5% of Warrick’s working population is employed within the county, with 57.5% commuting out of the county (likely Vanderburgh County) and 5% commuting out of the state (likely Kentucky). Work commutes in Warrick County are largely made by automobile, with 84.5% of workers driving alone to work and 7.6% of workers carpooling to work. On average, the commute time for Warrick County residents is 24.5 minutes.

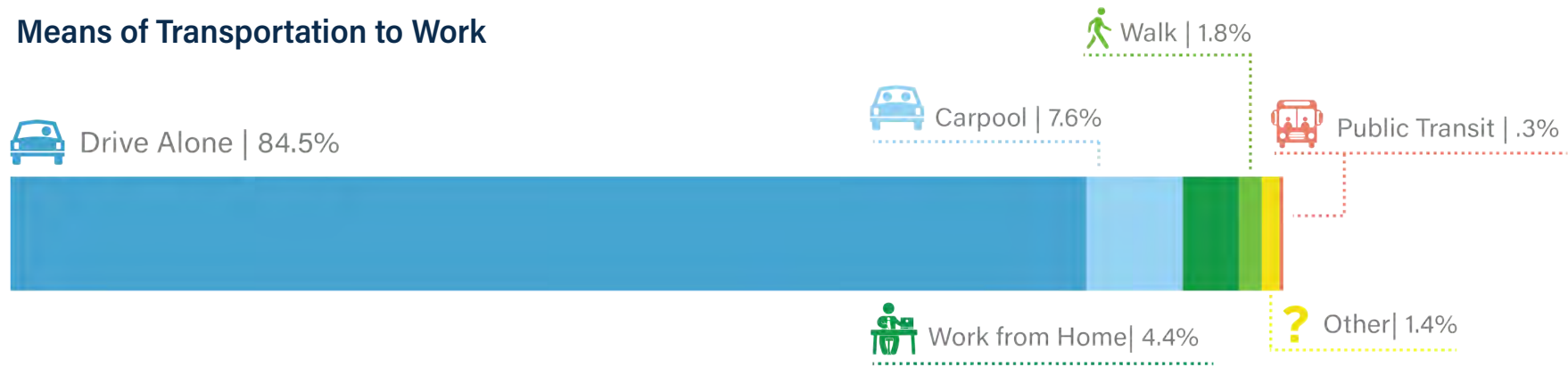
Mean Commute Time

- 1. Warrick County (24.5)
- 2. Posey County (22.7)
- 3. Henderson County (22.2)
- 4. Vanderburgh County (19.8)
- 5. Boonville (19.6)
- 6. Newburgh (19.5)

Employment in County of Residence

- 1. Vanderburgh County (83.4%)
- 2. Henderson County (66%)
- 3. Boonville (60.4%)
- 4. Warrick County (37.5%)
- 5. Newburgh (30.6%)
- 6. Posey County (29.9%)

Means of Transportation to Work



Source: US Census Bureau via ESRI: American Community Survey (2020 5-Year Estimates).

PHYSICAL CONDITIONS

OVERVIEW

This section provides an overview of Warrick County's existing physical conditions. By understanding both the natural and built features that shape the community, planners and county officials will be better prepared to identify the current assets and future needs of the county. To achieve this, this section provides a review of Warrick County's existing land use, zoning districts, flood zones, and transportation network. The county's zoning jurisdiction does not include any land within incorporated towns of Boonville, Newburg, and Chandler. However, the development and physical conditions within these towns influence what happens in the county, and therefore, they are considered in the larger context of understanding the existing conditions within the county.



Photo credit: Alex Morgan

HIGHLIGHTS

- Warrick County is home to a variety of land uses, including vast agricultural lands, suburban communities in the southwest region, towns and cities that serve as cultural hubs, and abundant natural areas.
- Warrick County's greatest natural hazard is flooding and development is already minimal in flood-prone areas.
- Warrick County's existing parks and trails offer residents access to recreational opportunities like camping, fishing, boating, swimming, hiking, walking, and biking. Playgrounds and an amphitheater are also available to the community.
- The majority of Warrick County's most heavily-trafficked roads are concentrated in the southwest portion of the county, connecting people to places like Chandler, Boonville, Newburgh, and the neighborhoods and businesses in between them.
- Most of the bus service in Warrick County is operated by the Warrick Area Transit System (WATS) but the Metropolitan Evansville Transit System (METS) provides connections in Warrick County to routes in Evansville.
- Bus service and bike and pedestrian infrastructure are generally concentrated in urbanized areas in and around Boonville, Chandler, and Newburgh.

LAND USE

Warrick County is home to five incorporated towns and cities: Boonville, Chandler, Newburgh, Lynnville, Elberfeld, and Tennyson. Boonville is located at the center of the county and is home to considerable residential and commercial development both within the city and emanating out towards the rest of the county. The most intensely developed portion of the county is in the southwest region, where local and state roads connect Newburgh, Chandler, and Boonville. In the nexus between these three communities lay several suburban residential neighborhoods, shopping destinations, parks, schools, and other community amenities.

I-64 runs along the northern part of the county and intersects with I-69 along Warrick County's western boundary. Currently, agricultural and forested areas line much of the interstate. Near interstate exits, the types of development range in scale from automobile services, such as gas stations, to medical uses, such as Deaconess Gateway Hospital. Located off of I-64, Lynnville is largely composed of single-family residential homes but is also home to a variety of community facilities and small-scale commercial spaces. Elberfeld is located near the interchange of I-65 and I-64. Similar to Lynnville, the town is predominately composed of single-family residential and is home to a park and some commercial spaces. On the eastern end of the county, Tennyson is a smaller community primarily consisting of residential development.

Throughout the county, farmlands and forested areas occupy much of the expanse between Warrick County's incorporated areas.

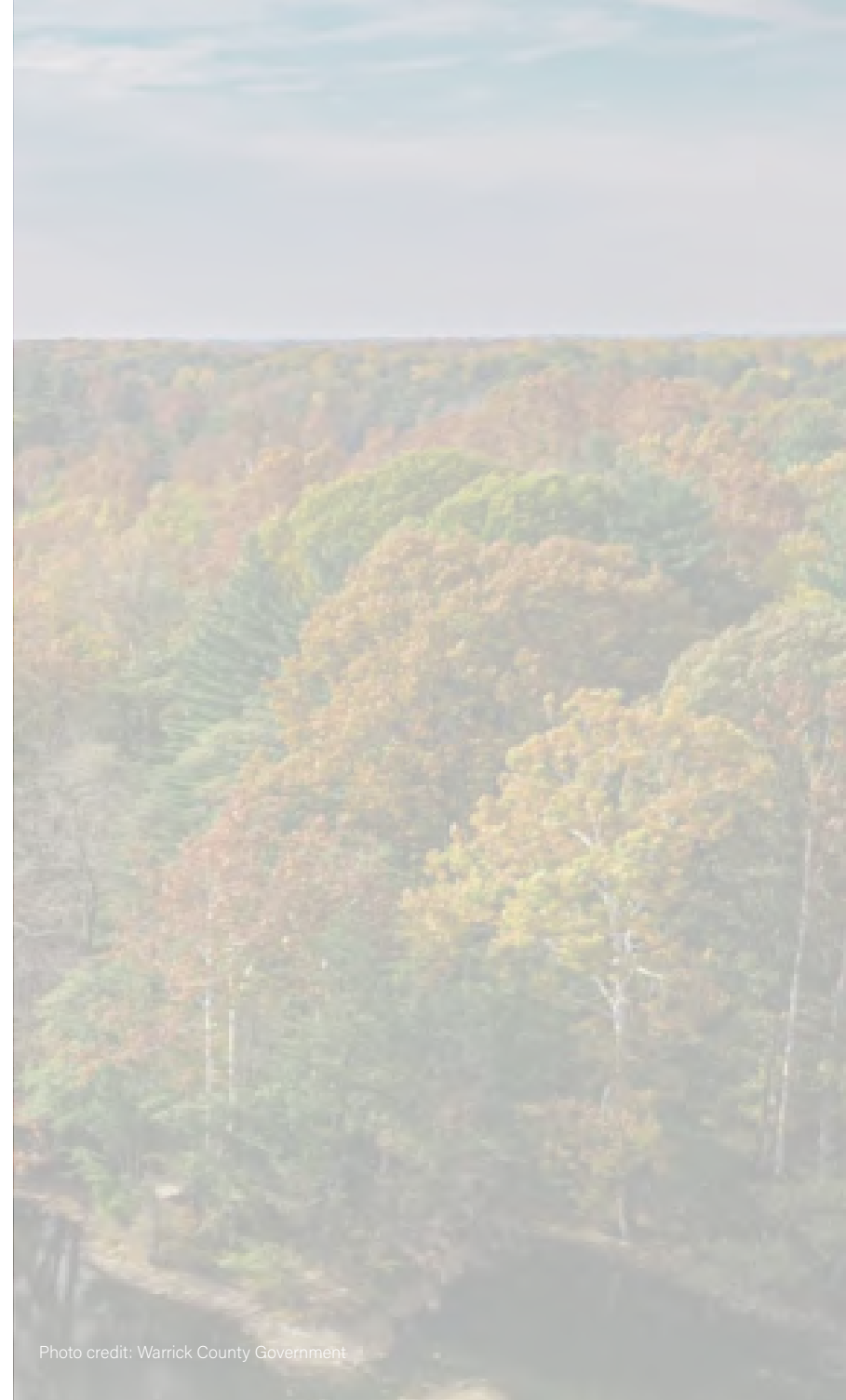


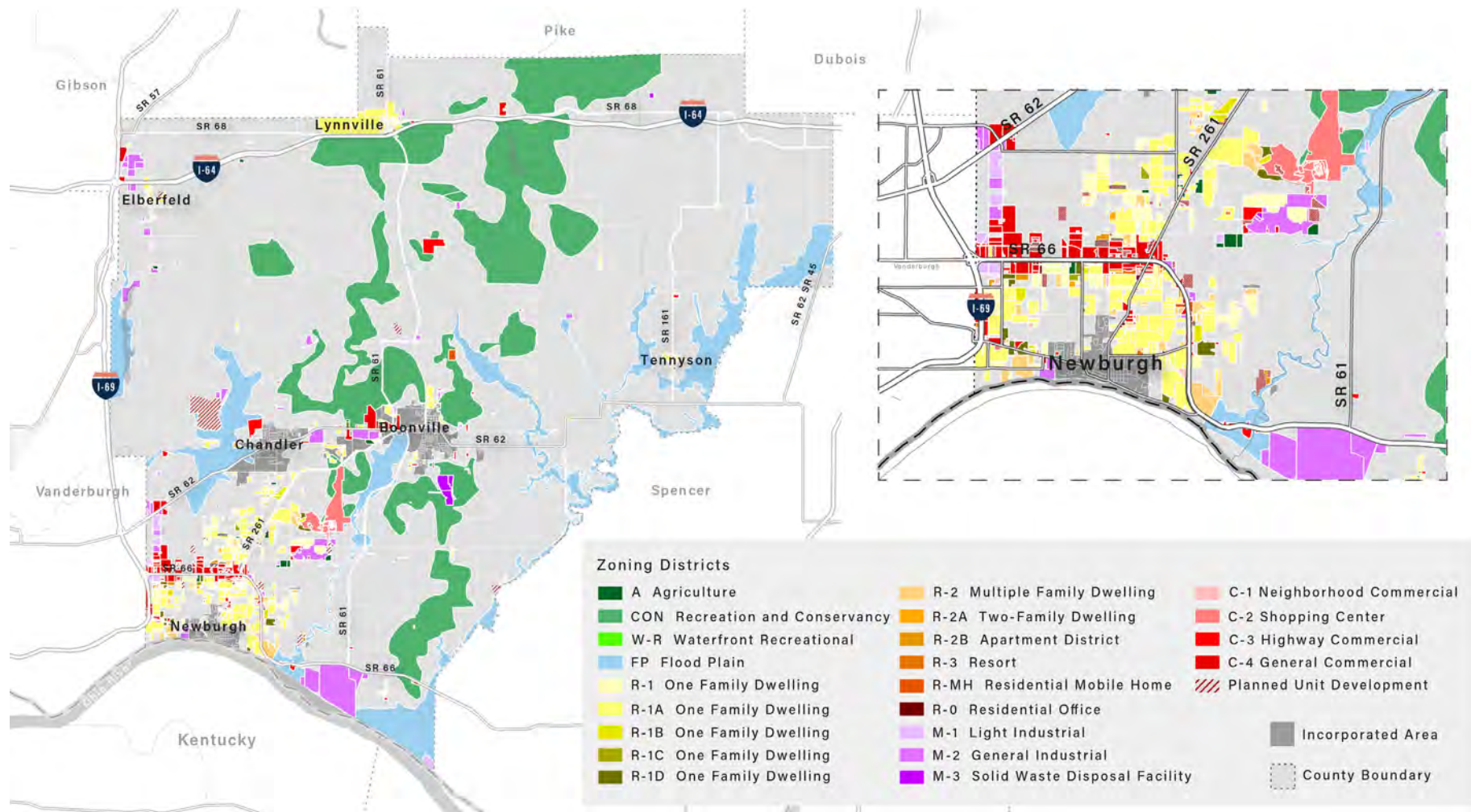
Photo credit: Warrick County Government

ZONING

Warrick County currently uses 23 different zoning districts, which are grouped into five categories: districts, residential, commercial, waterfront, and industrial. The current Comprehensive Zoning Ordinance also permits planned unit developments (PUDs), which are also identified on the zoning map. The county does not have zoning

jurisdiction for any parcels within Newburgh, Boonville, and Chandler are not, however, the county does have jurisdiction overland in Elberfeld, Lynnville, and Tennyson as well as the unincorporated areas within the county. The following pages include a full listing of each zone district and a brief summary of its purpose.

Warrick County Zoning Map



DISTRICTS

Flood Plain (FP). Flood-prone areas and areas within the 100-year flood plain and floodway.

Recreation and Conservancy (Con). Natural lands and recreational uses, such as forests, hunting/fishing lodges, and watershed protection.

Agriculture (A). Agricultural uses, such as livestock farming, plant nurseries, field crops, and agricultural storage, as well as farmsteads and single-family houses on larger lots.

RESIDENTIAL DISTRICTS

One-Family Dwelling (R-1, R-1A, R-1B, R-1C, R-1D). Single-family dwellings at various densities.

Multiple Family Dwelling (R-2). A maximum of four dwelling units per property.

Two-Family Dwelling (R-2A). A maximum of two dwellings units per property.

Apartments District (R-2B). Town houses and apartment buildings.

Resort (R-3). Resort-style or master planned development with uses that range from nursing homes to amusement parks.

Residential Office (R-0). Multi-family homes of up to four units per property, religious institutions, and accessory uses and structures.

Mobile Home (R-MH). Mobile home parks.

COMMERCIAL DISTRICTS

Neighborhood Commercial (C-1). Professional offices, personal services, and retail services that support nearby residential neighborhoods.

Shopping Center (C-2). Specialized types of service business and commercial enterprises that are higher intensity, such as hotels, bowling alleys, or supermarkets.

Highway Commercial (C-3). Highway-oriented business uses, such as automobile services or pawn shops.

General Commercial (C-4). Commercial uses that require large tracts of land in highly accessible locations, such as wholesale warehouses, welding supply store, or trade schools.

WATERFRONT

Waterfront Recreational (W-R). Recreational and commercial facilities that pertain to water-based activities, such as boat docks, yacht clubs, or fishing supply stores.

Waterfront Industrial (W-I). Industrial and commercial facilities that pertain or require proximity to water, such as yacht clubs, marine warehouses, or commercial fishing boats.

INDUSTRIAL

Light Industrial (M-1). Less intense industrial uses.

General Industrial (M-2). Higher-intensity and larger-scale industrial uses.

Solid Waste Disposal Facility (M-3). Solid waste disposal facilities.

PLANNED UNIT DEVELOPMENT

Planned Unit Development (PUD). Unique developments that set specific uses and development standards for each specific development.

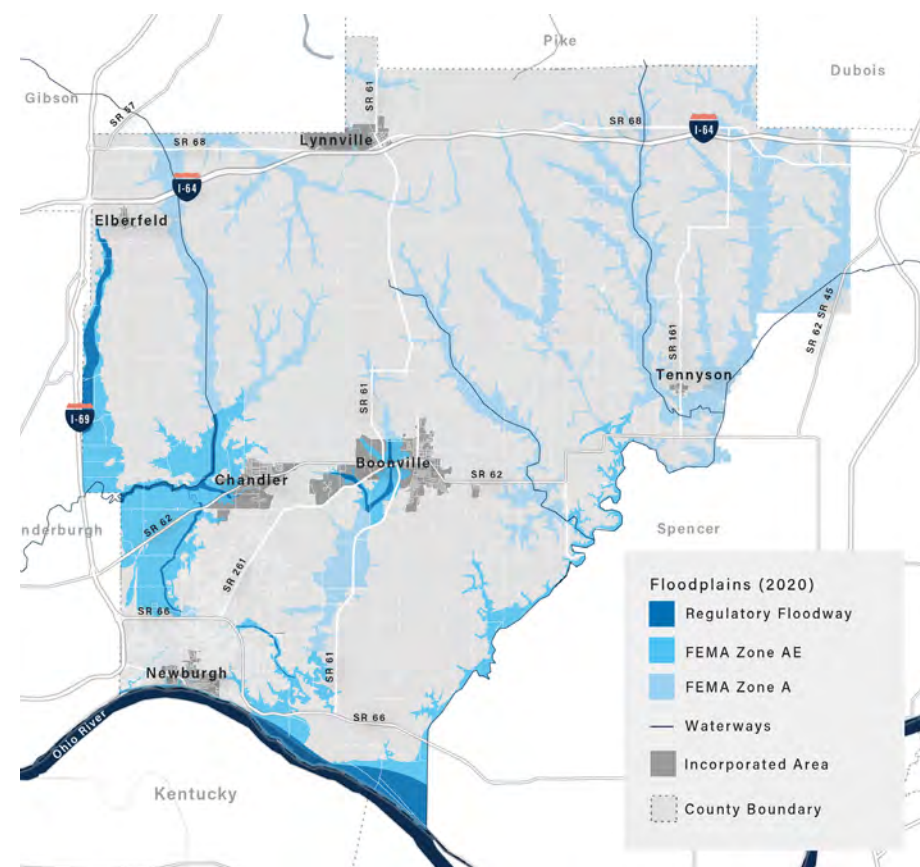


Ohio River
Photo credit: Alex Morgan

FLOOD ZONES

The areas of Warrick County that have the greatest flood risk are located along the Ohio River and I-69 as well as areas in and around Boonville and Chandler. Much of the land that would be affected by floods along the Ohio River or I-69 are used as agricultural land but there is some existing industrial development in these areas. Much of the land near Chandler and Boonville that is within the flood plain is currently occupied by residential homes. The majority of the flood plain that is within FEMA Zone AE (also known as the 100-Year Floodplain) is already in Warrick County's "Flood Plain" zone, which provides additional development standards for structures in this zone. Some areas in FEMA Zone A are covered by the County's Flood Plain zone.

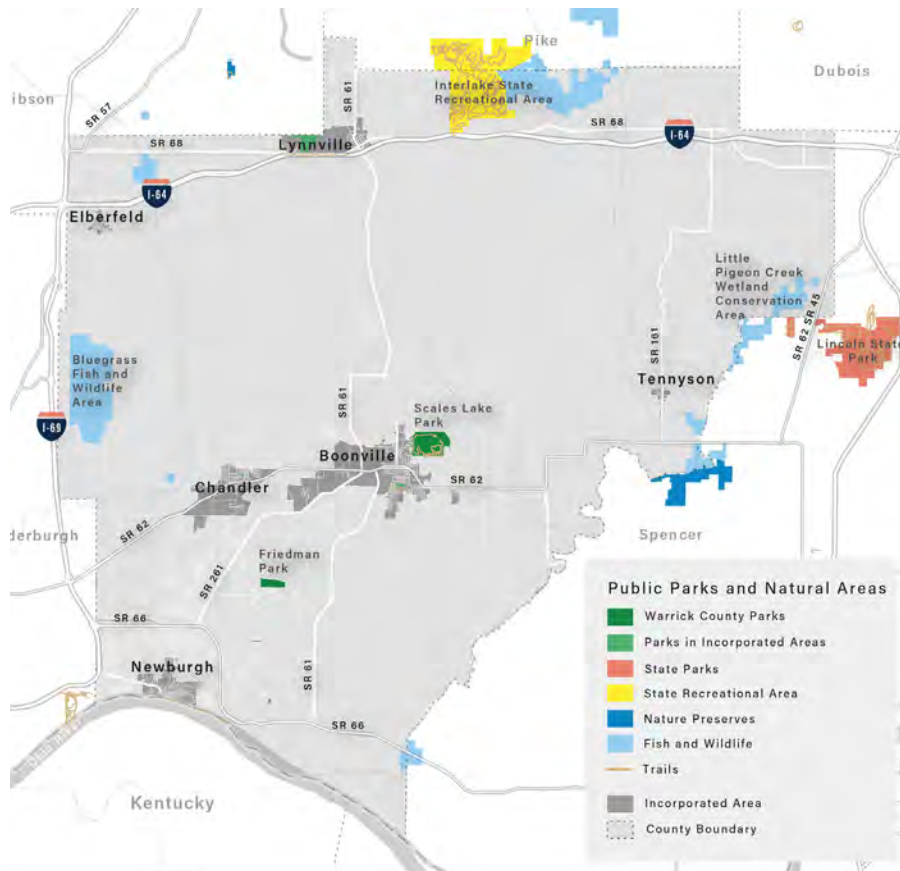
Warrick County Floodplains



PUBLIC PARKS, NATURAL AREAS, AND TRAILS

Warrick County residents are currently able to visit a variety of different recreational opportunities within and closely nearby Warrick County. Within the county, there are two parks that are currently managed by the Warrick County Parks Department; these include Friedman Park and Scales Lake Park. At 180 acres, Friedman Park offers a picnic pavilion, biking and walking trails, playgrounds, and an amphitheater. Northeast of Boonville, Scales Lake Park features a 66-acre lake where visitors can enjoy camping, fishing, boating, swimming, and hiking. In addition to these county-level parks, there are several other neighborhood parks and baseball parks within the incorporated areas.

Warrick County Parks, Trails, and Natural Areas



Currently, Tennyson is the only incorporated area that does not have its own public park. State-owned lands throughout the county offer additional natural areas and recreational options, including off-road vehicle driving, fishing, and boating. Directly outside of Warrick County, Lincoln State Park also offers boating, camping, swimming, hiking, and an amphitheater.



Friedman Park Photo credit: Warrick County Parks and Recreation



Scales Lake Park Photo credit: Warrick County Parks and Recreation

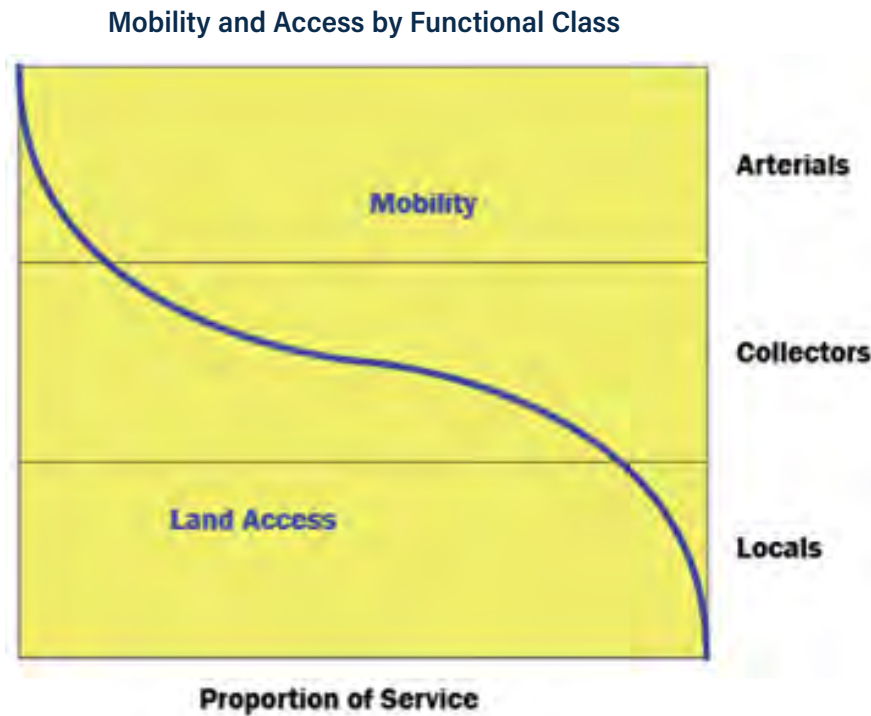
ROADWAY NETWORK

Every road in Warrick County serves a unique purpose, from moving people and goods across the county and beyond, to providing access to residences, schools, places of employment, and other destinations within the county. The roadways can best be described in terms of functional classification, which refers to the process by which streets and roads are categorized according to their function within the transportation system. Roadways serve two primary travel needs: access to/egress from specific locations and mobility. Mobility is the ability to travel freely to a destination in a given amount of time. Access is the ability to travel to various destinations within a given amount of time. While most roads in the network provide some combination of access and mobility, a roadway's functional classification indicates its primary purpose. The Indiana Department of Transportation (INDOT)

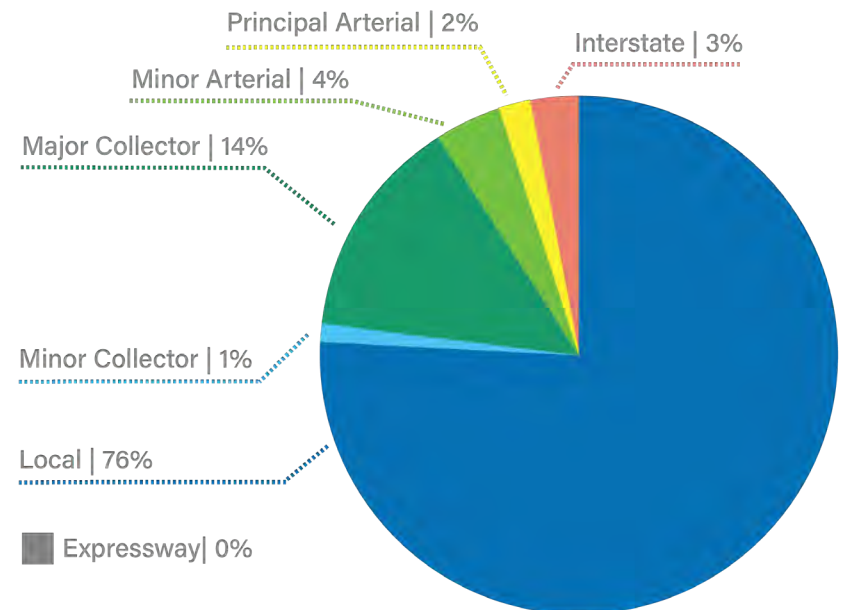
classifies roadways into the following seven types, from highest level of functional classification to lowest:

- Interstate
- Freeway/Expressway
- Principal Arterial
- Minor Arterial
- Major Collector
- Minor Collector
- Local

The chart below displays these functional classes by percentage of the total 1,083-mile roadway network in Warrick County. Each classification is described in greater detail on the following page.



Roadway Network by Functional Classification



FUNCTIONAL CLASSIFICATION

Interstate Highways

Interstate highways are characterized by high traveling speeds, limited access, and the greatest capacity for traffic volumes. Interstate highways are divided and have at least two lanes of traffic in each direction. Warrick County is served by two interstate highways, Interstate 64 (I-64) and Interstate 69 (I-69), which comprise just three percent of the total road network in the County. In northern Warrick County, I-64 spans the length county from east to west and carries up to 17,500 vehicles per day. The north-south I-69 corridor is primarily located in the adjacent Vanderburgh County to the west, with less

than two miles of the interstate located in southwest Warrick County. I-69 provides a link between Warrick County and Evansville, as well as a connection south to Henderson County via the US 41 Twin Bridges. A future I-69 crossing located to the east of the Twin Bridges is under development and expected to be complete by 2031.

Freeways & Expressways

Freeways and expressways look and function much like interstate highways, with separation or physical barrier between directional traffic and access limited to on- and off-ramp locations or a very limited number of at-grade intersections. Similar to interstate highways, these roadways are designed to maximize mobility over access and do not directly serve adjacent land uses. There are no freeways or expressways located in Warrick County.

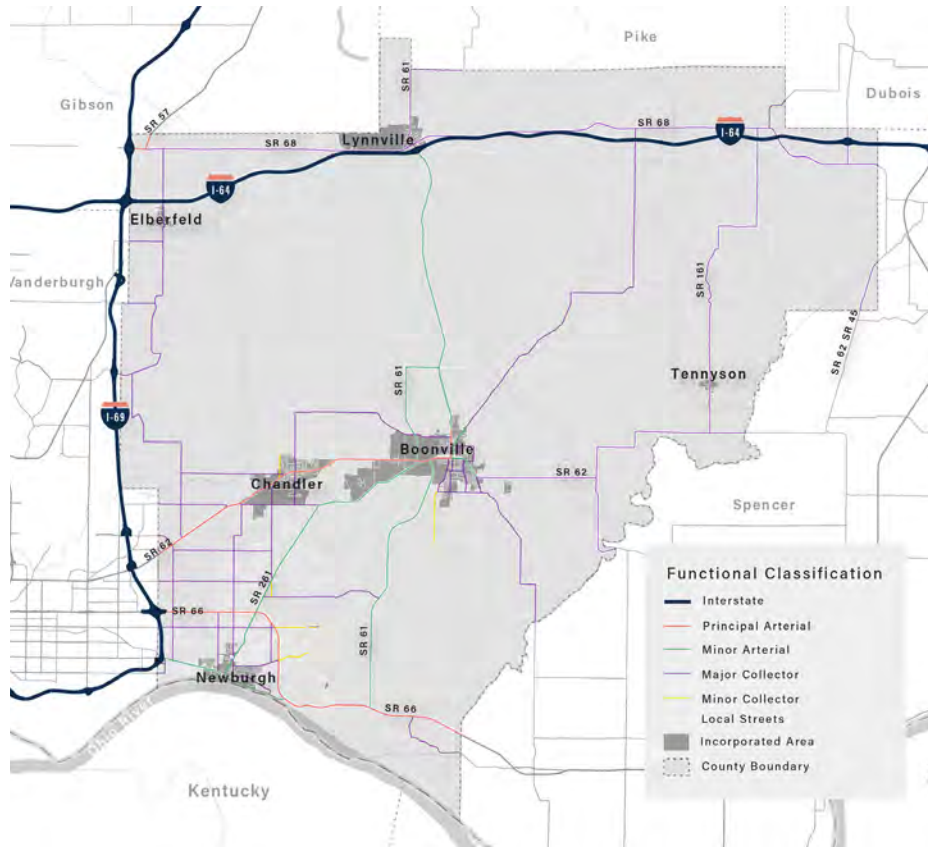
Principal Arterials

Principal arterials are designed to serve high-volume traffic movements for statewide travel while connecting major destinations within urban areas. In an urbanized area like the Evansville metropolitan area, principal arterials generally radiate outward from the urban center to connect residents and visitors to the central business district, major activity centers, and outlying residential areas. Principal arterials should generally be designed to connect to major traffic generators and carry multiple lanes of traffic with minimal access points. Two principal arterials service Warrick County, State Route 62 and State Route 66. State Route 62 connects Evansville to Chandler and Boonville while State Route 66 provides a link from Evansville to Newburgh, Yankeetown, and additional communities in adjacent Spencer County. The 25 miles of principal arterials in Warrick County represent just two percent of the total roadway network.

Minor Arterials

Minor arterials generally connect city to city in rural areas but can serve to connect principal arterials to denser urban road networks within urban areas. These roads are designed to serve trips of moderate length at a slightly lower volume than principal arterials. Minor arterials are characterized by lower travel speeds than interstate

Warrick County Roadway Classification





Downtown Newburgh
Photo credit: Alex Morgan

highways and principal arterials and are generally two to four lanes wide. In Warrick County, the 39 miles of minor arterials (4% of the roadway network) generally serve as links between municipalities. These include State Route 662 between Evansville and Newburgh, State Route 261 between Newburgh and Boonville, and State Route 61, which connects Lynnville, Boonville, and the Warrick Power Plant on the Ohio River.

Major & Minor Collectors

Collector roads serve a critical role in the transportation network by gathering traffic from local roads and funneling them to the arterial network. In rural areas, collectors provide connections between cities and towns. In urban areas, collectors provide links between neighborhoods and to higher class arterials. Collector roads are characterized by moderate to low speeds, lower traffic volumes than arterial roadways, and greater access to adjacent parcels and land uses. In Warrick County, collectors make up 15% of the roadway network, with the majority of these being major collectors. Examples of collector roadways in Warrick County include Ash Iron Rd (SR 161), County Rd 850 W, County Rd 725 W, East Baseline Rd, Epworth Rd, Outer Lincoln Ave, St John Rd, State Route 62 east of Boonville, and State Route 68 parallel to I-64.

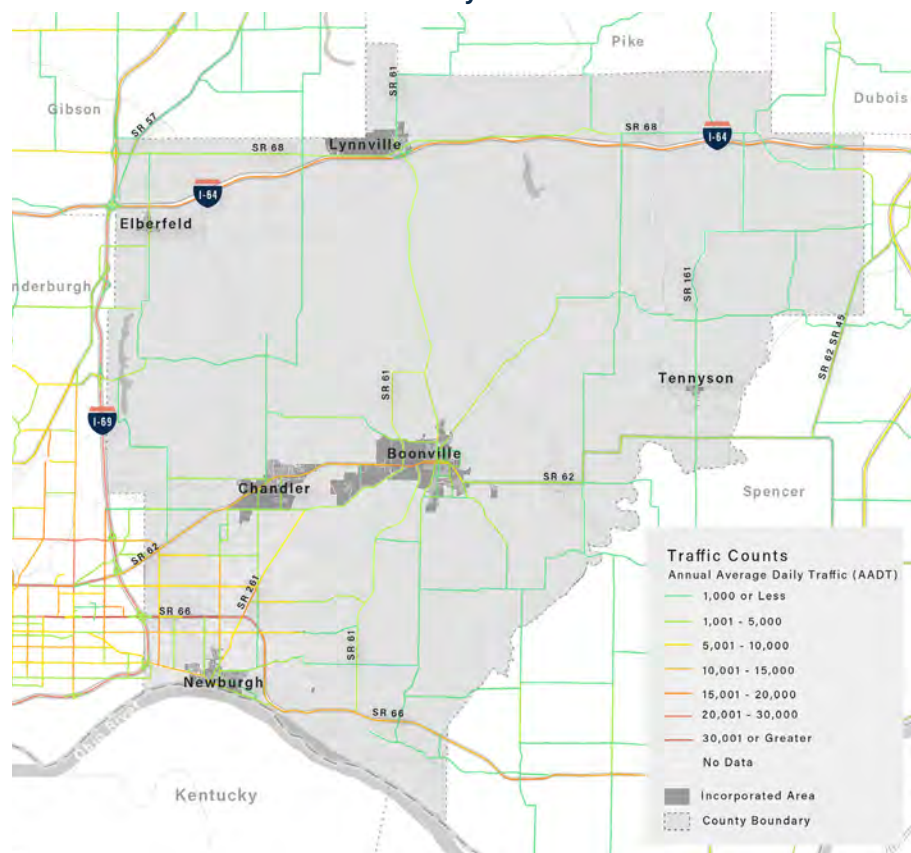
Local Roads

All other public roads and streets form the local road network. Generally designed for short-distance travel, local roads are characterized by maximum access to adjacent properties, low travel speeds, and typically one travel lane in each direction. As shown in Figure 2, local roads make up more than 75% of total roadway network mileage in Warrick County.

TRAFFIC COUNTS

INDOT, Warrick County, and other local agencies count traffic volumes as a measure of activity along a given road or at a specific intersection. Traffic volumes are typically measured in annual average daily traffic (AADT), which is the average number of vehicles passing a given location or “screenline” along a roadway. These traffic counts can be used to measure roadway’s significance within the roadway network; evaluate its level of service; compare historic or year-over-year changes in traffic; project future traffic volumes based on historic growth, planned development, and anticipated future growth; and assess a roadway’s capacity for road diets and other reconfigurations to improve safety and better support pedestrian, bicycle, and transit modes.

Warrick County Traffic Counts



According to INDOT's Traffic Count Database System (TCBS), the Lloyd Expressway (State Route 66) has the highest AADT of any roadway in Warrick County, carrying an estimated average of 43,848 vehicles per day just east of the Vanderburgh County line. This is nearly twice the volume of I-69 between Lloyd Expressway and State Route 62. Table 1 lists the ten urban and rural roadways with the highest AADT locations in Warrick County. For some major roadways, INDOT has collected count data at multiple locations. For example there are 30 count locations along State Route 62 and 29 along State Route 61. The table below only includes a roadway's highest count location (within the urban and rural categories, if applicable).

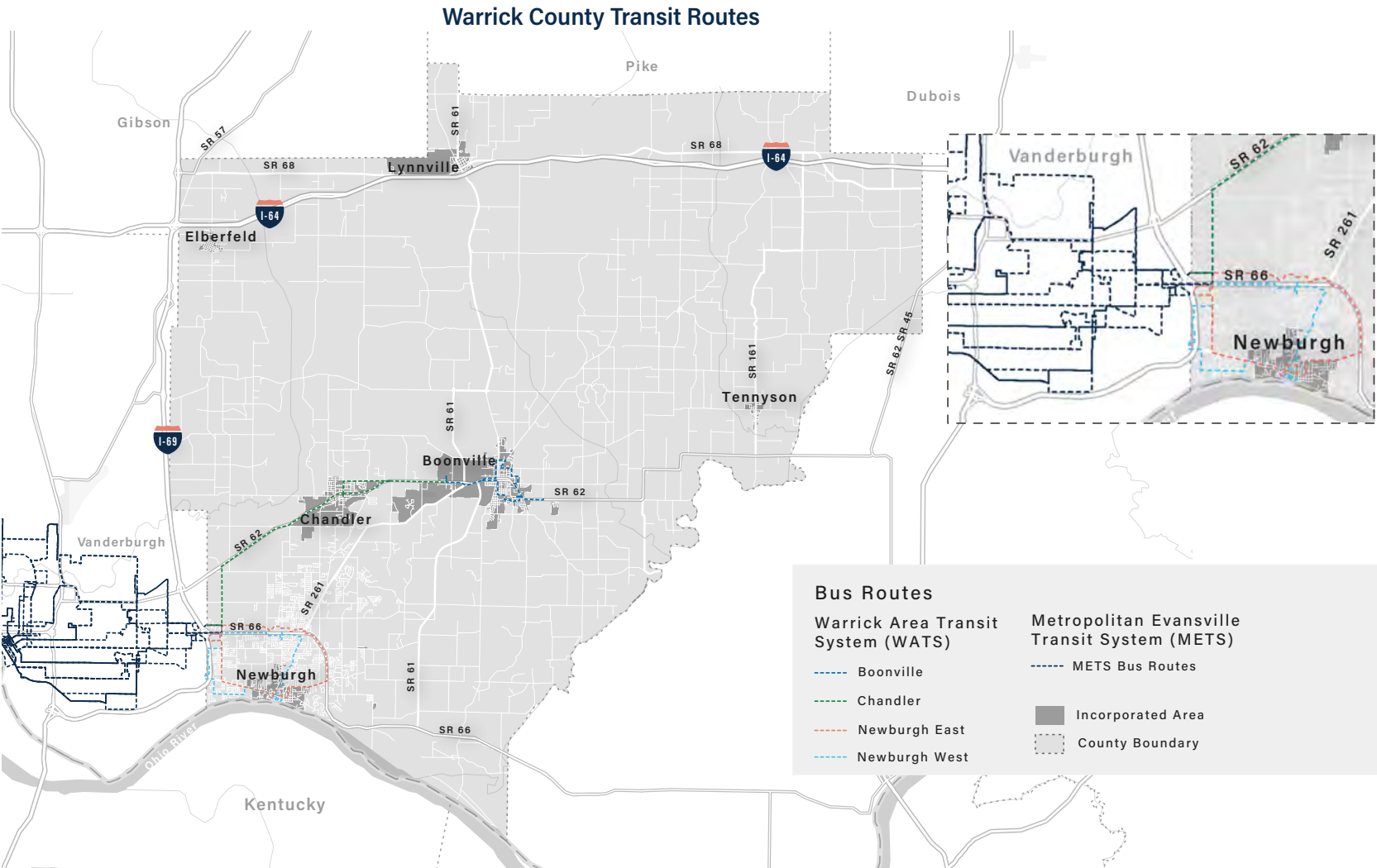
Highest Urban and Rural AADT Roadways in Warrick County

Roadway Name	Count Location	Functional Classification	AADT	Most Recent Count Year
Urban Count Locations				
Lloyd Expressway (SR 62)	0.5 miles east of Vanderburgh County line	Principal Arterial	43,848	2021
I-69	0.5 miles north of SR 662	Interstate	24,614	2021
State Route 61	East of SR 62	Principal Arterial	19,978	2021
State Route 62	East of SR 61	Principal Arterial	19,631	2021
State Route 261	North of SR 66	Minor Arterial	18,225	2021
Epworth Rd	South of SR 66	Major Collector	18,125	2022
State Route 662	0.18 miles east of Vanderburgh County line	Minor Arterial	15,098	2021
Bell Rd	South of Bell Oaks Rd	Major Collector	13,882	2021
Jefferson St	South of SR 66	Minor Arterial	10,000	2022
Lincoln Ave	West of Frame Rd	Major Collector	7,656	2022
Rural Count Locations				
I-64	1 mile east of I-69	Interstate	16,855	2021
State Route 62	2.92 miles east of Vanderburgh County Line	Principal Arterial	14,656	2022
State Route 66	East of French Island Trail	Principal Arterial	13,516	2021
Lynch Rd	West of SR 62	Major Collector	10,846	2021
Oak Grove Rd	East of Epworth Rd	Major Collector	8,541	2022
S Vann Rd	0.2 miles east of SR 261	Major Collector	4,943	2022
Telephone Rd	0.2 miles east of CR 1050 W	Major Collector	4,234	2022
State Route 61	East of New Harmony Rd	Minor Arterial	4,148	2021
State Route 68	East of Gibson County line	Principal Arterial	3,594	2021
State Route 161	0.33 miles north of I-64	Major Collector	2,918	2021

TRANSIT SERVICES

Transit services in Warrick County are provided by the Warrick Area Transit System (WATS). WATS operates three fixed routes with one-hour headways: the Chandler Newburgh East Route, the Newburgh West Route, and the Boonville Route. WATS also provides door-to-

door service for in-town trips, in-county trips, county-to-county trips, and school-related trips. The Chandler Newburgh East Route and Newburgh West Route offer transfer to the Metropolitan Evansville Transit System (METS) at the Stahl Rd stop west of Epworth Rd.

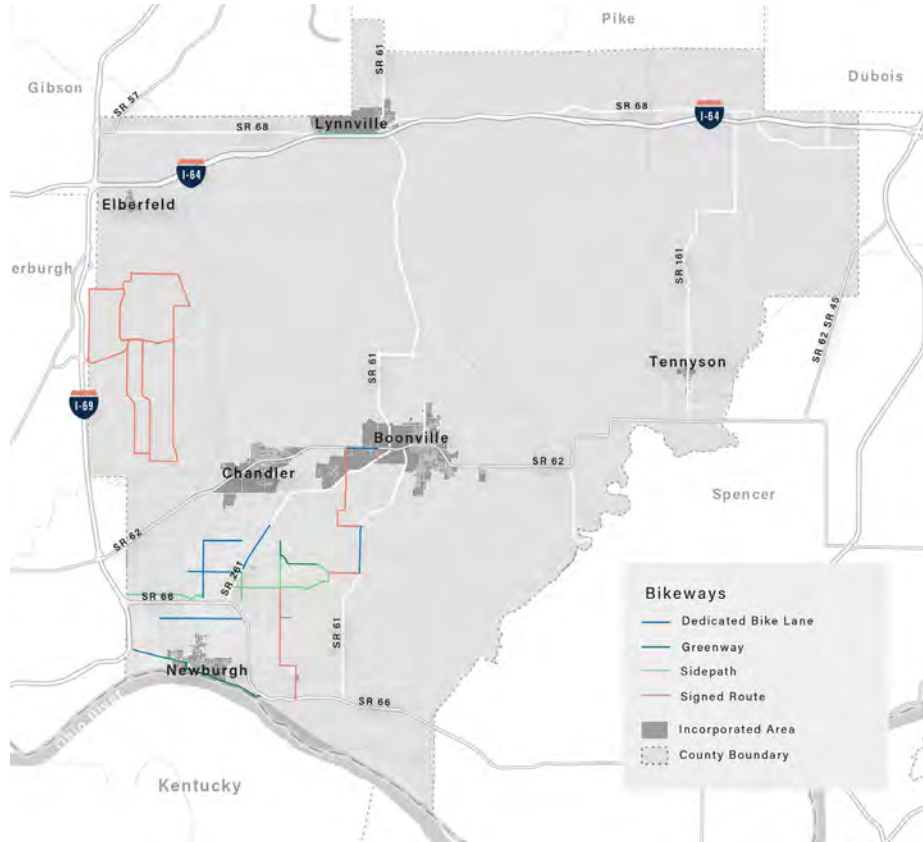


BICYCLE AND PEDESTRIAN FACILITIES

Sidewalks, trails, and on-street bikeways like bike lanes and signed bike routes are integral components of the transportation network in Warrick County. These facilities are generally limited to urbanized areas in and around Boonville, Chandler, and Newburgh. There are approximately 5.5 miles of greenways and sidepaths located throughout the county, including the Rivertown Trail in Newburgh, the Tecumseh Trail in Lynnville, and the Warrick Wellness Trail along Stahl Rd. The 4.5 miles of dedicated bike lanes in Warrick County provide additional connections between trails, residential neighborhoods,

and activity centers. These facilities can be found on various arterial and collector roadways in unincorporated Warrick County, including Lincoln Ave, Bell Rd, Oak Grove Rd, State Route 261, and State Route 662. Signed bike routes are located in rural areas east of Newburgh, south of Boonville, and northwest of Chandler. While the routes near Newburgh and Boonville provide regional connections between communities, the signed routes near Chandler are loop routes and intended primarily for recreational purposes.

Warrick County Bikeways



APPENDIX B:

PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT

- Overview | p.B1
- Steering Committee | p.B2
- Public Survey | p.B4
- Youth Engagement | p.B16
- Public Meetings and Events | p.B18
- Stakeholder Focus Groups | p.B20
- Interactive Display | p.B21
- Meetings in a Box | p.B21

PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT

OVERVIEW

Throughout the 12-month comprehensive planning process, an estimated 880 people shared their input between ten different engagement efforts. Community insight was foundational to the development of Warrick County's comprehensive plan not only to help steer the plan toward strategies that meet local needs, but also because each person has a unique perspective on their town's, city's or neighborhood's needs. Included in Appendix B is a review of how the public and stakeholders were engaged and what they shared about the future of the county.

Public Engagement Strategies



STEERING COMMITTEE

MEETING 1: VISIONING AND EXISTING CONDITIONS

MEETING 2: DRAFT VISION, GOALS, AND STRATEGIES

MEETING 3: FUTURE LAND USE MAP

MEETING 4: DRAFT PLAN REVIEW



PUBLIC SURVEY



YOUTH ENGAGEMENT



PUBLIC MEETINGS AND EVENTS

MEETING 1: VISIONING WORKSHOP AT FRIEDMAN PARK

MEETING 2: DRAFT PLAN CONCEPTS AT FRIEDMAN PARK

MEETING 3: DRAFT PLAN CONCEPTS AT COUNTY FAIR



STAKEHOLDER FOCUS GROUPS

MEETING 1: VISIONING SESSION

MEETING 2: DRAFT PLAN REVIEW



INTERACTIVE DISPLAY



MEETINGS IN A BOX



STEERING COMMITTEE

ABOUT THE STEERING COMMITTEE

A steering committee of 16 local stakeholders met four times throughout the planning process to help guide the plan and engage the broader community. This committee included a mix of county staff and elected officials, representatives from local governments, local real estate and development professionals, and representatives from community organizations. By having this group of well-informed people who have diverse interests and knowledge about the county, the final comprehensive plan is better able to respond to the wide range of issues that the community wants to see addressed in the next 20 years. Included in the next two pages are brief summaries of each meeting and a full listing of the steering committee members.

Steering Committee Members

Sara Adams, Town of Tennyson
Molly Barnhill, Area Plan Commission Staff
Katelyn Cron, Area Plan Commission Staff
Bryan Flowers, Warrick County Public Schools
Greg Folz, Woodward Realty
Doris Horn, Area Plan Commission
Mike Moesner, Farm Bureau
Jim Morely, Morley Corp.
Amanda Mosiman, Purdue Extension
Terry Phillippe, County Commissioner
Steve Roelle, Economic Development
Dan Saylor, County Commissioner
Joe Schitter, Parks Department
Sherrie Sherman, Chamber of Commerce
Stacey Tevault, Town of Lynnville
Jeff Valiant, Town of Elberfeld

MEETING 1: VISIONING AND EXISTING CONDITIONS

For the first meeting, steering committee members were introduced to the planning process and their role as steering committee members. Attendees were also brought up to speed on the current plan progress, which included the major findings from the Existing Conditions Report.

To begin the visioning process, attendees were asked to participate in a group activity to identify Warrick County's existing assets and future challenges or opportunities. By doing this, the steering committee was able to hear from each other about the big ideas and potential challenges that should be addressed in the comprehensive plan.

A few key ideas from this session include:

- The county's population is growing and new housing is being constructed, so managing that growth responsibly is important to the community.
- Warrick County has rich recreational and natural resources that should be emphasized in the coming years.
- The area near the I-69 and I-64 interchange should be utilized for industrial development.
- Explore solutions to reclaim mine lands.

MEETING 2: DRAFT VISION, GOALS, AND STRATEGIES

Following the release of the public survey, the steering committee met to discuss the promotion of the survey, the steps for progressing other community engagement efforts, and the draft of the vision statement, goals, and strategies.

Committee members were each given a worksheet with the draft plan components so they could revise the draft and provide additional ideas. This activity was completed during the meeting and discussion was held on what should change in the draft.

The committee also discussed the next community engagement events and outreach, especially the topics that should be discussed in upcoming stakeholder focus groups. Ultimately, six different focus groups were decided upon: Land Use and Housing, Transportation, Utilities, Business Owners, Quality of Life, and Economic Development.

MEETING 3: FUTURE LAND USE MAP

During the third steering committee meeting, attendees participated in a group activity to begin developing the future land use map, which will help inform land use and development decisions.

Steering committee members were presented with a draft of the future land use map and the group made revisions to the map. During this meeting, the most heavily discussed topics included:

- Where agricultural lands should be preserved and where future residential development should be located.
- How development on former mine lands should be managed.
- The most strategic locations for future industrial development.



MEETING 4: DRAFT PLAN REVIEW

The final steering committee meeting included a review of the full draft plan, with specific attention given to the future land use map and the action steps that support the plan strategies.

During this discussion, the idea of a general growth area on the future land use map was developed, which would allow public officials to have more situational discretion to approve the types of development in specific areas where many different land uses could be suitable.

Additional changes were made to the Land Use and Housing section of the plan so that it better reflects the top priorities of the county.





PUBLIC SURVEY

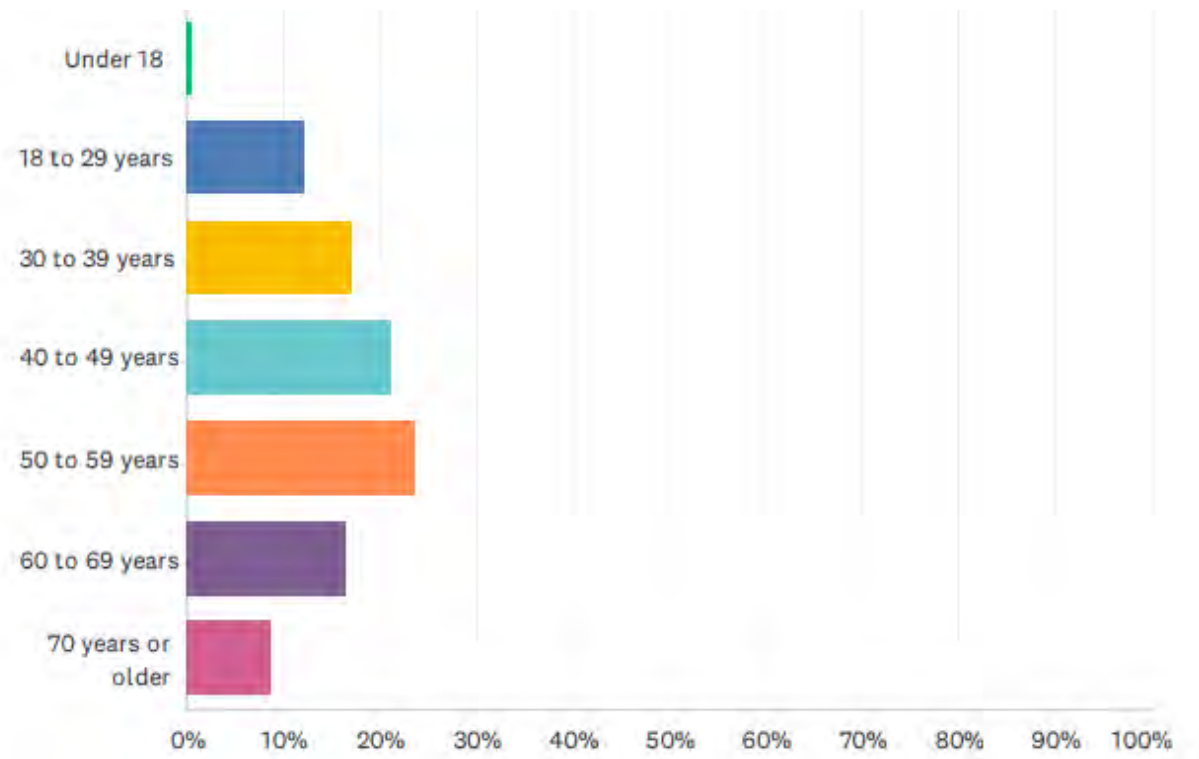
ABOUT THE SURVEY

In order to reach a wide range of community members, a public survey was released both online and via mail. The online survey was completed by 440 people and the mailed survey, which was sent to a sample of 200 addresses, was completed by 11 people. When considering the county's overall population, the total number of responses (451) is a statistically valid representation of the population. While Section 3 of the plan document includes a high-level summary of the most relevant survey questions, this section includes a complete inventory of each question asked with a summary of the responses received. Where open-ended questions are asked, quotes from a sample of respondents are used.

Q1: Where do you live?

ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Boonville	29.79%	140
Bullocktown	0.43%	2
Chandler	7.23%	34
Dayville	0.21%	1
Eby	0.43%	2
Elberfeld	5.96%	28
Folsomville	0.64%	3
Greenbrier	0.21%	1
Heilman	0.00%	0
Lynnville	6.60%	31
Newburgh	27.45%	129
Paradise	4.26%	20
Pelzer	0.21%	1
Rolling Acres	0.21%	1
Selvin	0.85%	4
Tennyson	1.91%	9
Victoria	0.43%	2
Wheatonville	0.43%	2
Yankeetown	1.49%	7
I live in Warrick County, but do not live in any of the above communities.	8.94%	42
I live in Indiana, but not in Warrick County.	1.91%	9
I do not live in Indiana.	0.43%	2
TOTAL		470

Q2: What is your age?





PUBLIC SURVEY

Q3: If you live in Warrick County, what do you like about living here?

I like living in rural Northern Warrick County with with lots of access to outdoor activities, plenty of green space, new paved trail from town to school, and easy access to Evansville.

The Warrick co trails and the castle school district

I like that I can be in the country and still not a far drive from town. I like all the parks that WChas. I also like that Mainstream Internet is offered to the rural community, and utilities in my area are affordable.

Friendly, small town with all the amenities of being in a large city. The new trail system offers a safe outlet to runners/walkers with several starting options. The school systems are second to none without having to search for private schools.

Riverfront, trails, history, Friedman Park, safe neighborhoods, decent amount of amenities.

I love that there is a lot available here. Parks, lakes, rivers, convenience and still rural feel!

I am fortunate that I live close to work, schools, shopping , etc.

Small-town living. Farming community. Community involvement and support.

Q4: If you live in Warrick County, what do you not like about living here?

Not a lot of retail options, not many public golf courses, lack of mixed use space.

Lynnville needs a grocery with fresh fruits and vegetables year round. Better high speed internet through a competitive market.

no sidewalks!

Sadly run down or abandoned properties are unkempt or unsafe. Are there ordinances on the books to address this?

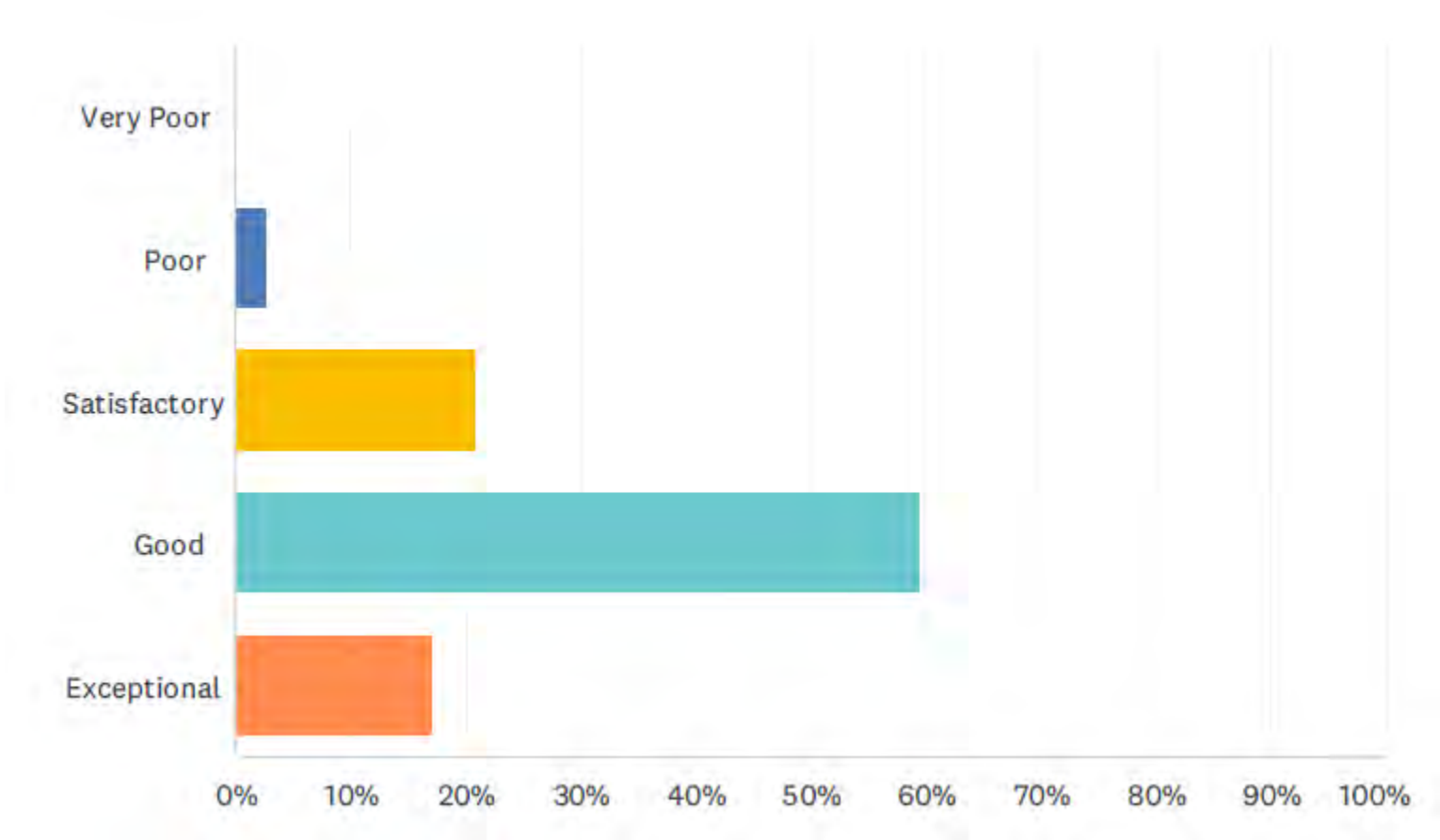
I see tons of suburb growth that is making Warrick county overcrowded and will eventually shove people out of the area. People move to this area for the trees and wildlife, however in the last 5 years these areas are being replaced with housing. This causes a ripple effect in our schools and utilities, our roads and neighborhoods.

I'm on a septic system, would rather have sewer. Would also like more dining options close to home. Small grocery store would be nice.

Need LESS fast food and convenience stores and MORE actual restaurants and shops!

Wish there was more town events, wish a bike path could connect thru blue grass to N. Green River.

Q5: How would you rate the overall quality of life in Warrick County?





PUBLIC SURVEY

Q6: In your opinion, what are some of the biggest opportunities for Warrick County's future?

Small grocery in Lynnville Fast food at corner of 61 and Interstate 64. Small boutique type store on main st, a consignment store like sassy sunflower

Provide technical and skills training option for high school age students as alternative to college. Findings uses for huge areas of coal mine reclaimed ground. Supporting existing employers with the same opportunities as we do new ones.

Further developing it's riverfront, adding more industrial capacity that aligns with the coming I-69 bridge, leveraging the Gateway medical cluster with the downtown EVV cluster.

Better playgrounds in all communities, better road conditions.

Commercial growth in the SR66 corridor and northern extents of the county. Interconnection of walking/multi-use trails with Vanderburgh County.

We need to continue to develop the parks and trails to help connect the county's communities with these trails. Some of the roads are also in bad shape and could be improved by being resurfaced. I'd rather see county \$\$ go toward repaving vs. widening for no benefit.

Friedman Park and what it has to offer as far as bringing in groups or people to the Amphitheater.

Q7: In your opinion, what are some of the biggest challenges for Warrick County's future?

Housing for 55 and older and jobs. Sewer infrastructure to eliminate open ditch draining.

Jobs with the ability to work for the same company and raise a family for life.

The growth of Newburgh and the surrounding area. Traffic flow. Sewer systems.

Nothing for Young people to stay here to do and make a living is tough.

Too much housing growth will affect over population in our schools and resources. The senior housing has also become an issue with higher living costs and the fixed income resources not being enough.

Bad road conditions, poor parking options on the square, lack of good affordable apartments for rent.

Needing a place for high school kids to hangout that is cost effective for them, bowling alley, skate park, etc.

The subdivision roads and sidewalks are failing. Significant investment is needed to preserve our property values.

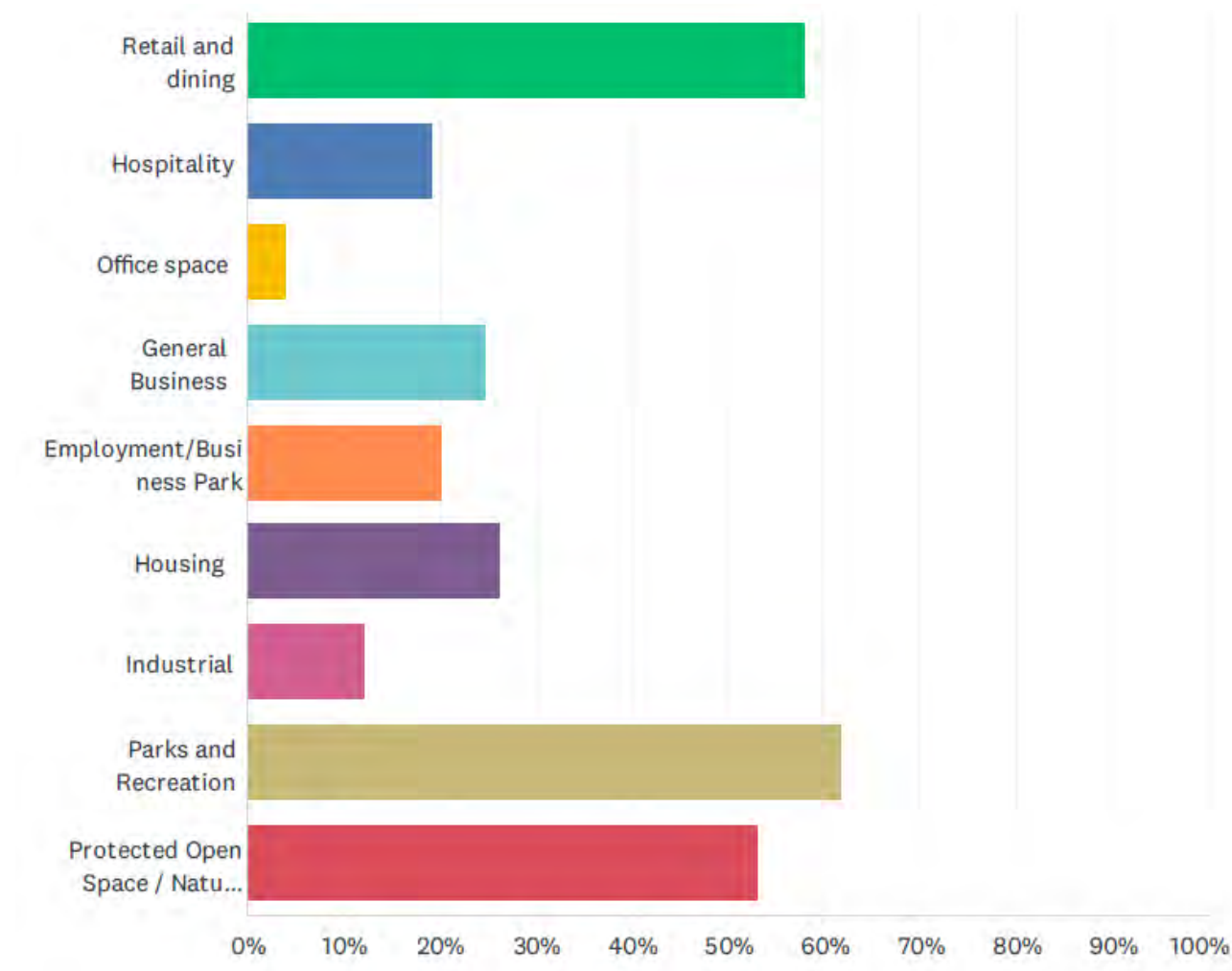
Q8: Of the issues listed below, please select up to five things that you think are most important to enhancing the quality of life in Warrick County?

ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
More parks and recreation programming	44.21%	206
More job opportunities	32.83%	153
Affordable housing options	31.97%	149
Beautification and visual appearance of the community	33.91%	158
Improved roadway conditions and connectivity	49.79%	232
Access to sidewalks and trails	34.98%	163
Reliable public infrastructure (streets and utilities)	37.12%	173
Better or more community spaces (libraries, community centers, etc.)	18.24%	85
Better or more public services (snow removal, trash pick-up, etc.)	16.95%	79
Public safety	24.25%	113
More entertainment options	34.98%	163
More retail and dining options	33.48%	156
Strong school system	47.21%	220
Better access to healthcare	7.30%	34
More higher education opportunities	10.52%	49
Programming and activities	15.88%	74
Total Respondents: 466		

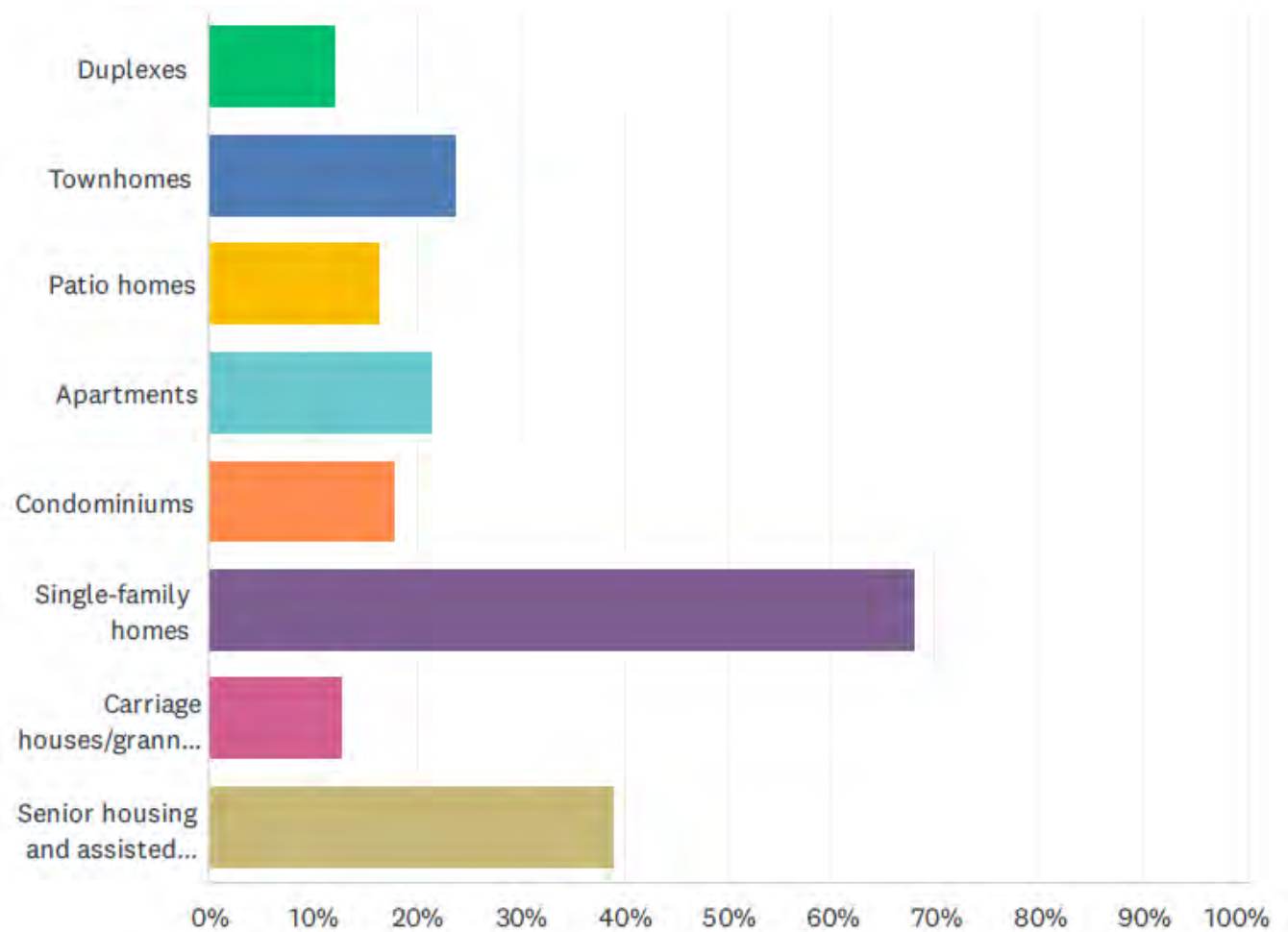


PUBLIC SURVEY

Q9: What types of development would you like to see more of in Warrick County? Check all that apply.



Q10: What types of housing options would you like to see more of in Warrick County?
Check all that apply.





PUBLIC SURVEY

Q11: What kinds of health and wellness options would you like to see more of in Warrick County?

ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Recreational opportunities	70.48%	308
Mobile health screenings and clinics	21.51%	94
Access to healthy food	55.15%	241
Health workshops and trainings	24.49%	107
Total Respondents: 437		

Q12: What types of transportation (pedestrian and/or vehicular) improvements are needed? Please be specific.

Continue to have a connected trail system where residents have the ability to walk, hike or bike between towns and restaurants. I would also like to have the ability to use golf carts or other small motorized vehicles. This will help with parking and encourage outdoor activities.

Better pedestrian crossings at high traffic intersections.

public transportation access to connect to employers, higher education, and health care providers for those without good transportation options.

Trail connectivity and possible roundabouts.

Trail on Oak Grove leading to the schools (Castle High, Castle Middle Schools and Elementary). Trail down Oak Grove east of Anderson. We see people walking and biking on the road because there is no sidewalk, trail or even a shoulder.

There needs to be a better public transportation system. Since finding workers is difficult we will need to find ways of transporting people with minimum help from people.

Sidewalks near schools where children walk, i.e. Sharon Rd. between S.R. 66 and Sharon Elementary.

Q13: What types of utility (including water, wastewater/stormwater, gas/electric, broadband) improvements are needed? Please be specific.

Affordable internet. Especially in rural areas.

Focus on the quality of access to high speed internet. Improvements are needed to wastewater management. Better drainage from roadways and managing ditches to eliminate flooding roadways. Continued improvement of water delivery systems to insure safe drinking water.

Sanitary Sewer Master planning with sewer extensions and lift stations for future development

I think we have great options for these with the exception of electricity. We only have one option and it is not fair.

More options that would lead to more affordable costs. Gas/ Electric, water, sewer, broadband. Costs are getting out of hand.

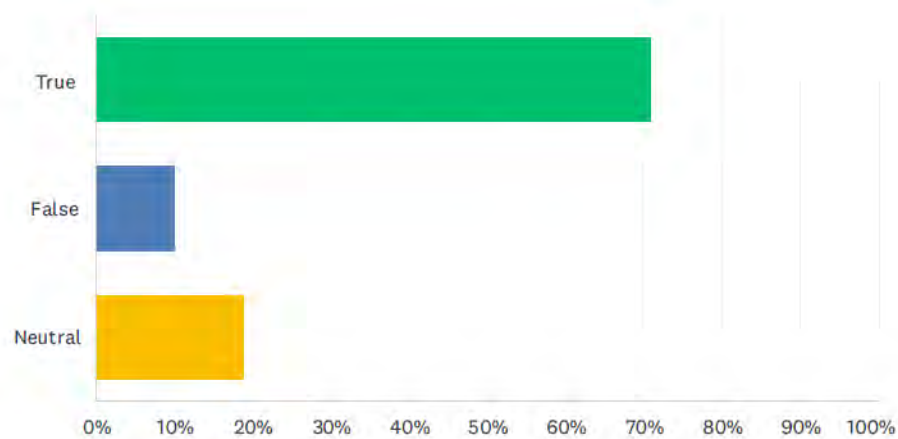
Fiber internet! The best my home can currently get is DSL. And an option for gas/electric other than Center Point would be a win!

People who live in more rural parts of the county don't have access to internet or have a very bad connection to the internet.

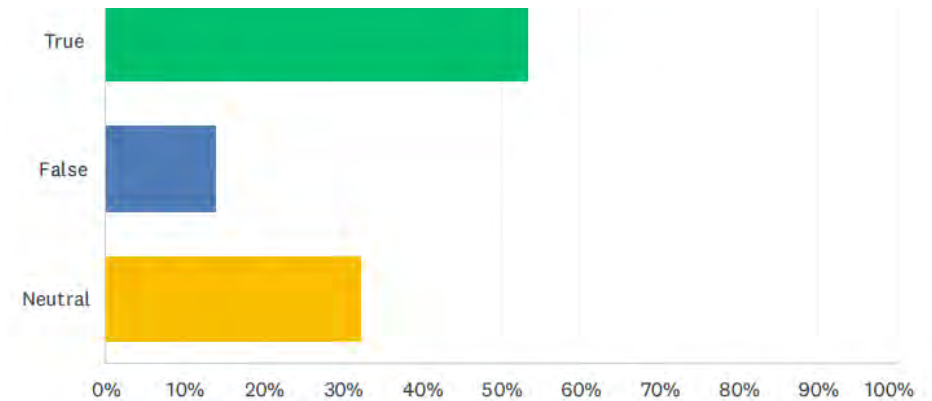


PUBLIC SURVEY

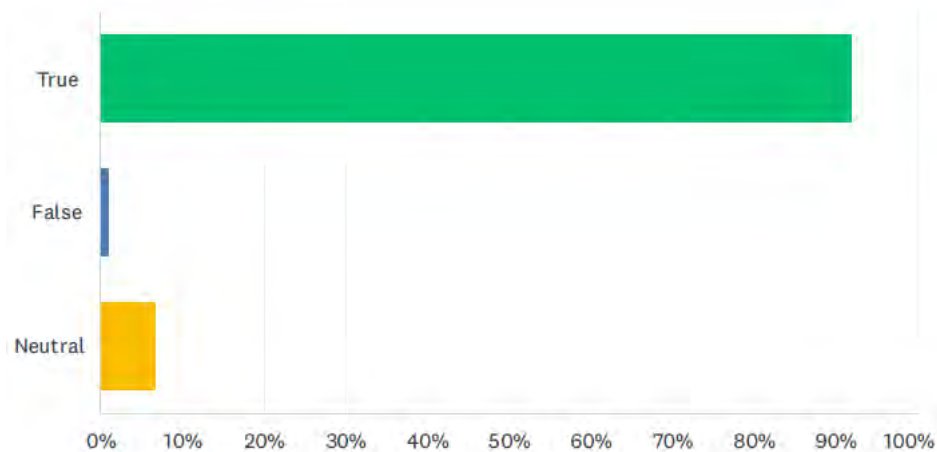
Q14: Warrick County should embrace growth.



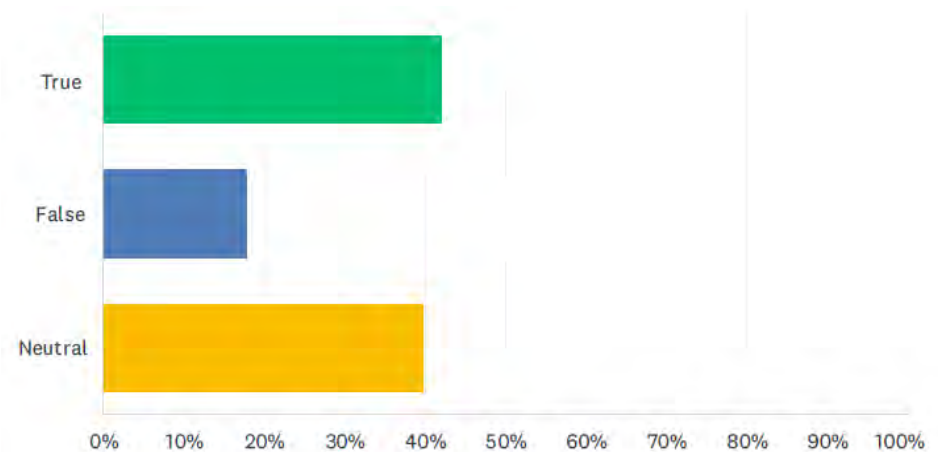
Q16: Warrick County should have more affordable housing options.



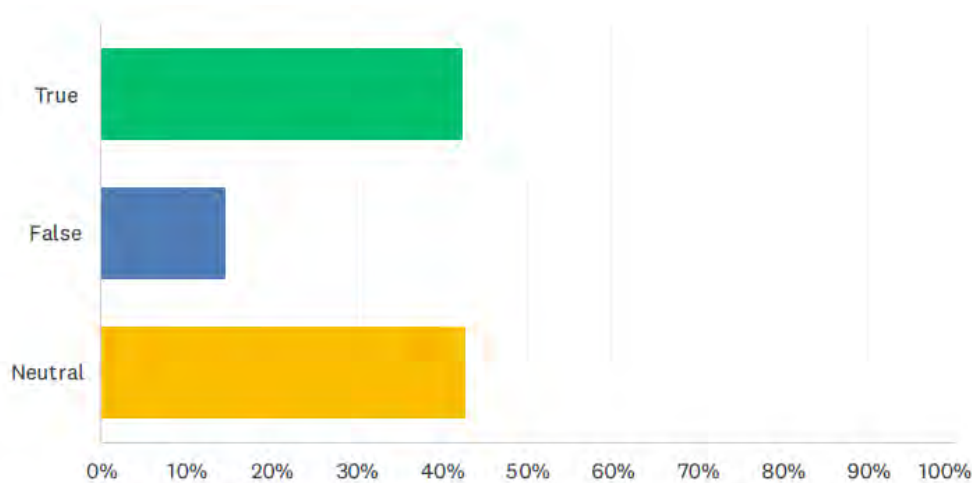
Q15: Warrick County should be proactive in managing the type and location of future development.



Q17: Warrick County should have a stronger public transit (bus) system.



Q18: Warrick County should have more community facilities, such as libraries or community centers.



Q19: Is there anything else you'd like to share?

I love this area. I grew up here, moved away, and came back to raise my own family.

We should embrace growth, but do it in a way to minimize suburban sprawl. Neighborhoods should be more pedestrian friendly with sidewalks and green space.

We should promote local, small business to maintain our charm. We should not wish to be like every other place.

Please more entertainment for kids and shopping other than east side Evansville.

The small town lifestyle is part of why many people love Warrick county. I'm afraid too much growth could lead to us being Evansville 2.0.

I often have a love/hate feeling for Warrick County. Please remember there are many who live in the Northern part of the county. And please, please never allow corporate farming to get a foothold in his county.

Scales Lake park is a true Gem. I would really like to see a bigger investment in the Mountainbike trail system and changing station.



High school and middle school students at Warrick County Public Schools were invited to share their thoughts on their favorite places in the county, what they want to see more of, and what their plans are for when they graduate high school. By directly asking young people about their experiences, the comprehensive plan can better address the issues that are important to the people who will lead this community in the years to come. In total, 286 students completed this activity.

[illegible]

A pie chart illustrating where respondents plan to live in 2025. The chart is divided into two segments: a large blue segment representing 'Move Away' at 81%, and a smaller green segment representing 'Live in Warrick Co.' at 19%.

Category	Percentage
Move Away	81%
Live in Warrick Co.	19%

If you could build anything in Warrick County, what would you build and why?

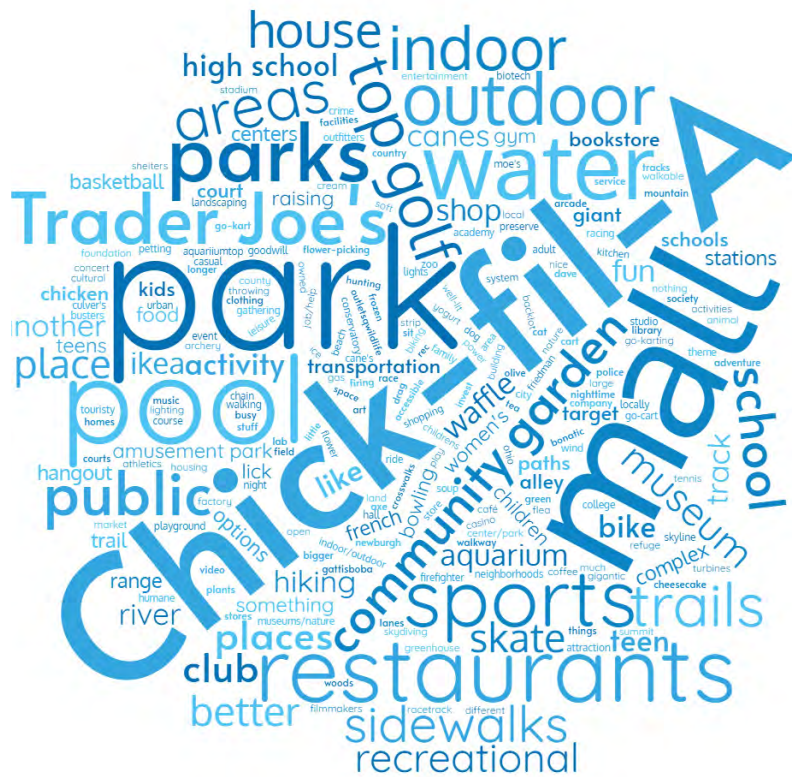
*"I would like to build an **accessible park with a community pool** to bring together the community in the summer time. Something that would bridge the gap between the disabled community and the rest of the community."*

*"a place people can go to **relax, play sports, swim,**
etc. We can also attach a better library to it."*

*“Another **place to get healthy things**. People can have the opportunity to get new foods at low prices.”*

*"A **large garden** in which volunteer community members can come together to create a flourishing garden that has herbs, food, and flowers. If the concept takes off, then more can be constructed throughout the community. This gives people who can't afford to eat healthy organic foods the chance to as well as encourages those that can to start doing so."*

*"...Also we need **a new high school**. Castle High is so old and out of date. We need a new performing arts center or wing for show choir and theater."*





PUBLIC MEETINGS AND EVENTS

ABOUT PUBLIC MEETINGS

In order to “meet people where they are,” the planning team organized and promoted a series of meetings that were hosted in combination with other community events. These meetings were intended to not only reach people who knew about the comprehensive plan, but to also connect with people who might not participate otherwise. By hosting these sessions at different stages in the planning process and at different types of events, people from different parts of the community were able to share their input.



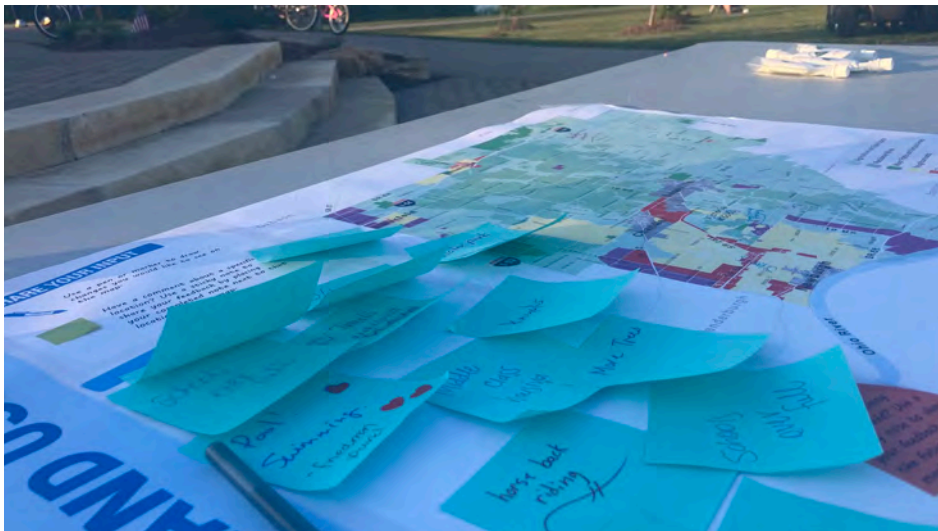
MEETING 1: FRIEDMAN PARK OPEN HOUSE

The first public event was hosted in April of 2023 as part of an open house for the Friedman Park Event Center. At the meeting, people were encouraged to stop by the workshop to share their big ideas for Warrick County's future. Because this was the first in-person event, the aim of the meeting was to focus on getting open-ended feedback from community members to aid in the development of the plan's vision statement, goals, and strategies. At this event, community members could share their ideas by writing on sticky notes and help draft the future land use map with a mapping activity. Roughly 40 people attended this event.



MEETING 2: FOOD TRUCK THURSDAYS

The second public event was hosted as part of the Food Truck Thursdays event at Friedman Park. While the public came out to enjoy local food and live music, they were also invited to share their input on the comprehensive plan. At this session, draft versions of the future land use map, transportation projects, vision statement, goals, and strategies were provided for people to respond to. In total, about 30 people participated.



MEETING 3: WARRICK COUNTY FAIR

A final public event was held in late July 2023 as part of Warrick County 4-H Fair. Fairgoers were encouraged to stop by the comprehensive plan booth and were asked to respond to a few specific questions about the plan, along with additional materials about the future land use plan, goals, and strategies. During this event, the roughly 20 people who visited the booth shared their input on how reclaimed mine lands should be used in the future and the types of housing they would like to see in Warrick County.





FOCUS GROUPS

ABOUT THE FOCUS GROUPS

Throughout the planning process, two different phases of focus groups were hosted in order to hear directly from individuals who were involved with and knowledgeable about six different topics relevant to the plan: land use and housing, transportation, utilities, business owners, economic development, and quality of life. In addition to other community engagement efforts, the focus groups offered more insight into specific issues the County wants to address and provided an opportunity to have more detailed discussions about how to solve those issues.

MEETING 1: VISIONING SESSIONS

At the first series of focus groups, 35 people attended six different focus group sessions to share their initial thoughts and ideas about the opportunities and challenges that Warrick County is facing. Below are some of the most significant challenges or ideas that were discussed:

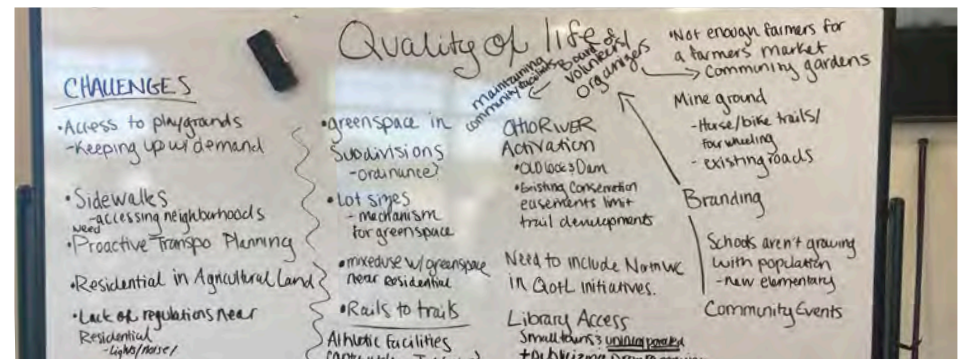
- Sidewalks are needed in neighborhoods and to connect residents with businesses and public amenities.
- More coordination is needed between the county's different utility services in order to plan and sustain growth.
- Mechanisms for green space and farmland conservation should be explored as new residential development continues.



MEETING 2: DRAFT PLAN REVIEW

Following the development of the draft plan, a second round of focus groups was hosted in order to reconvene previous attendees for a review of the draft plan components. 32 people attended these sessions and contributed to the following major discussions:

- Expanding the areas for residential growth on the future land use map.
- Establishing more opportunities for county and regional collaboration between different departments and agencies.





INTERACTIVE DISPLAY

In order to reach more community members towards the end of the planning process, an interactive display was developed that included the future land use map and the plan's goals and strategies. Community members were encouraged to visit the County Building to review the display and provide their feedback. By engaging with the board, people could suggest revisions to the future land use map, rate the importance of each strategy, and learn more about the comprehensive plan.



MEETING IN A BOX

In addition to the interactive display, a take-home version of a public meeting was developed so that different boards and commissions could follow the activity instructions and provide feedback during one of their regular meeting times. The PDF of the meeting materials was also provided on the plan website in order to be available to the broader community.



