



# City of Orrville Comprehensive Plan Update

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**E. G. & G., Inc.**

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# CHAPTER 1: INTRODUCTION



## PLANNING 101

### *What is a Comprehensive Plan?*

A comprehensive plan is like a toolbox – it provides a community with a well-considered, carefully studied array of tools with which to shape its future. As economic, social, and environmental conditions constantly change, a community needs to be able to adapt and respond to that change. A good comprehensive plan can help the community do just that. In Ohio, communities are permitted to adopt their own comprehensive plan, or may be part of a larger county plan, or both. In Orrville’s case, they are updating their existing municipal plan.

At its base, a comprehensive plan examines current conditions in a community in order to develop a clear picture of where the community is presently. This includes exploring the topics that work together to compromise a community’s quality of life, such as basic demographic conditions, land use and housing patterns, transportation networks and public transit, infrastructure, civic life, historic and cultural landmarks and sites, and the economy of the region, among many others. Once past and current patterns are understood, the community can then determine how it best wants to approach its future. Because no one has a crystal ball, the best comprehensive plans are those which allow for flexibility and change. For that reason, the plan does not attempt to predict the future, but rather, establishes policies and actions which can help the community shape its future. The best implementation framework is one which is specific enough to direct the community toward results but broad enough to allow for constant evolution in response to an ever-changing landscape.

Although comprehensive plans are primarily directed toward land use, with their top priority to provide the community with a clear strategy to use when making future land use decisions, it is important to keep in mind that land use directly and indirectly relates to many other aspects of municipal function. This is why a comprehensive plan encompasses so many elements. Land use impacts civic and social services, transit and road facilities, local environmental habitats and historic sites, and it has an interdependent relationship upon the local economy. For example, future land use can take into account the need to protect a local waterway by setting aside greenway or open space, or it can encourage the continued growth of a certain economic sector by providing adequate land.

Ultimately, comprehensive planning should be “value- driven.” First and foremost a comprehensive plan at any level should reflect the values of those it is aiming to serve. The more technical aspects of planning should be addressed but these should take a backseat to the over-arching goal of addressing questions concerning what aspects of the quality of life the community wishes to retain and enhance, what





the future aspirations of the community look like, and what steps the community is willing to take to make this happen.

### *How to use the Comprehensive Plan*

While Ohio does not currently permit the enactment of comprehensive plans into official law, the document should be used as a guide for municipal officials to use when making decisions about the development of the community, as provided for in the Ohio Revised Code, Section 713.02, Powers and duties of the Planning Commission (for municipal corporations).

The City of Orrville Comprehensive Plan will only be as valid as the vision that inspires and motivates it, and the policies, strategies and actions that will carry it out. The planning process as indicated within this report is crafted as a continuum – it starts with a vision and moves on to goals, objectives, and actions / strategies, each step building upon the previous one. The final prioritized list of projects should act as the community’s “to do” list, and in order for the community to effectively carry this out, the steps need to be clearly identified. In addition to including a program of action items with short-term, mid-term, and long-term steps as well as responsibilities and funding, a protocol for administering the plan, including updating and reviewing successful (or unsuccessful) projects, is also part of this effort. This ensures that the plan does sit on a shelf but remains a vibrant document that changes to the ever-evolving needs of the community.

As such, municipal elected officials, members of the Planning Commission, and residents each have a role to play in implementing and monitoring the plan.

### Municipal Officials

Elected municipal officials are the “face” of the Plan, and as the governing body with sole authority for approving projects, they hold the greatest amount of power. Hence, it is vitally important that elected officials stay involved and invested in the Plan as it evolves over time. Once the plan is adopted, it is recommended that in addition to monthly reports from Planning Commission regarding the status of various projects, municipal officials annually review what has been accomplished and set the following year’s priorities. Elected officials should ask the following questions when evaluating implementation efforts:

- ◆ Are priority projects being pursued in terms of obtaining funding, coordinating stakeholders, and moving forward?
- ◆ Has the Vision and Community Development Objectives been reviewed and updated, if necessary?
- ◆ Have the recommendations been reviewed and re-prioritized, if necessary?
- ◆ Has the Future Land Use Plan been reviewed for consistency with current codes and ordinances?
- ◆ Have existing codes and ordinances been reviewed to determine their consistency with the Vision outlined in the Comprehensive Plan?
- ◆ Are current codes and ordinances being enforced adequately to ensure their effectiveness?

These annual reviews and summary reports should be on file for public viewing and published as part of newsletters, mailers, and website updates.

### Planning Commission

The main role of the Planning Commission will be to monitor the plan’s progress and ensure that any new development that takes place fits in with the plan’s overall vision and goals. Their task will also be to analyze any new land uses to

## CHAPTER 1: INTRODUCTION



ensure that it adheres – at least in a general sense – to the Future Land Use Plan and overall vision for the community. The Planning Commission should develop a checklist which can be used when evaluating new projects. The checklist should include questions such as:

- ◆ Is the proposed development consistent with the Future Land Use Plan?
- ◆ Does the proposed development fit with the density and intended character of the surrounding area?
- ◆ Where and what type of landscaping or buffering is provided?
- ◆ How much traffic will be generated?
- ◆ How will the proposed development impact any neighboring sites?
- ◆ How will stormwater runoff be handled?
- ◆ How will this development affect the community or adjacent communities?
- ◆ Do the proposed sidewalks and streets fit with those contiguous to it?
- ◆ If the proposed development is in an historic area, does it fit with the prevailing architectural pattern and styles?

Planning Commission members should also take on the responsibility of ensuring that zoning and subdivision and land development ordinances are in line with the Comprehensive Plan. As part of these efforts, Planning Commission should prepare and submit monthly written reports to Orrville’s governing body that summarize actions taken on recent items and their relation to the Comprehensive Plan. The report should include an ongoing list of implementation activities, the upcoming planned implementation activities, and crucial issues that will, or may, impact the community.

### Residents

A common saying in the planning profession goes, “In our profession, a plan that everyone dislikes for different reasons is a success. A plan everyone dislikes for the same reason is a failure. And a plan that everyone likes for the same reason is an act of God,” attributed to Richard Carson, Pacific Northwest planner and writer. It is humorous, but there is a grain of truth to the fact that the best plan is one which is owned by the people. Although it may feel like elected officials and other municipal representatives wield much of the power in the community, the truth is that the ultimate success – or failure – of the Plan lies in the hands of the residents themselves. Community members must feel some ownership of the Plan, and that their views and interests are in some way represented and encapsulated by its recommendations. In this way, implementation can then be taken forward not only in an official context, but in a more organic, grassroots way, as local community and neighborhood organizations and groups use the vision and community development objectives as inspiration for their own efforts, and even begin implementing recommendations on their own. In other cases, individual residents – or groups of residents – can keep the Plan on the radar of local elected and municipal officials by asking about the status of implementation of priority projects, and so forth.

### *Previous Plan Review*

An important aspect of any comprehensive planning process – or any process that looks at the future – is to first examine what is on the ground now, and what has come before. As such, previous and current planning efforts have been thoroughly examined. Past identified needs were looked at to determine if recommended actions were implemented and the reasons why if they were not. Previous plans and studies were also closely studied for relevant information, data, trends, and overarching themes and vision statements. A summary of these plans is provided below:

### Orrville Comprehensive Plan (2001)

The purpose of this plan was to identify and guide desired growth through a well-thought set of land use and development plans and policies. Important issues identified by the plan included:





### *Housing*

- Future housing supply needs to accommodate a wide variety of housing options for all price points and types; i.e. residential development in the Northwest section of the City can provide “move up” opportunities for existing homeowners
- Housing stock in traditional neighborhoods is aging and the long-term viability of these areas as an affordable housing option may be in jeopardy

### *Transportation / Access*

- Gateways need to be preserved and maintained
- Traffic congestion and increased road maintenance due to high volumes of truck traffic on Route 57 should be mitigated
- Access to open space and parks needs to be improved in some neighborhoods, especially in the south
- Accessibility between the north and south sides of Orrville is poor due to limited crossings over rail lines
- Access to the Gradall site is through an established neighborhood creating incompatible land use relationships
- Connectivity between newer neighborhoods and the mature areas of the City is limited
- Pedestrian and bicycle access to activities in the northwest area of the City is poor

### *Infrastructure*

- Sanitary sewer needs extended to areas south of Orrville although topography and drainage basin boundaries make this difficult
- School buildings are outdated, and undersized, particularly the Junior High School. Recent growth has put a strain on Maple Street School
- Available industrial development sites with infrastructure are becoming scarce

Although the areas of housing, transportation and access, and infrastructure were not the only focus of the Plan, they were the areas with the most pressing issues (as identified above). In order to address these and other supplementary issues, three land use scenarios were developed: Status Quo, Accelerated Growth, and Full Build-Out. These scenarios were developed by examining building permit trends and calculating average densities using existing zoning codes, available developable land, and average household size. It is important to note that the three scenarios did not account for future annexation. A brief description of each scenario is listed below.

### *Status Quo*

- Overall, this scenario assumes that the population will expand by 950 persons, with a growth of approximately 10 percent, reaching a total 2009 population of 10,181
- This scenario envisions single-family residential development to continue at an average rate of 24 units per year (the current pace of development in 2001). In this scenario, it would take 50 years to saturate the existing land available and zoned for single family residential.
- Multi-family in this scenario was predicted to continue to grow at an average of 14 units per year. This would require 262 years of consistent development before reaching build-out for land zoned multi-family.
- Park standards indicate that 20 acres of neighborhood parks and 41 acres of community parks will be needed to support population under this scenario
- Finally, in terms of retail and commercial development, the status quo scenario predicts that 4.4 acres of retail space will be needed to support the population

### *Accelerated Growth Scenario*

- The accelerated growth scenario assumes a population increase of 2,000 people per decade



- This would result in a 2009 population of 11,231
- For single-family residential this scenario would create 800 additional housing units per decade, with 600 of these being single-family and 200 being multi-family
  - \* As such, 140 acres of land will be required to accommodate the 600 new single family homes at a rate of 4.3 units per acre
  - \* This scenario, then, leaves only 82 acres available for additional single-family residential development
  - \* Single-family residential in this scenario would reach full build out in less than 20 years
- For multi-family units, the total build-out time (for the 200 units) would be reduced to 140 years
- In this scenario, 22.5 acres of dedicated neighborhood parkland, 45 acres of community parkland would be needed to satisfy park standards
- An additional 4.9 acres of retail space would also be needed

### *Total Build-Out Scenario*

- The total build-out scenario was developed based on existing zoning and total amount of land available for development
- This scenario assumes a population of 9,680 that would double to 18,911 within a 10-year time frame (2009).
- As there was a total of 222 acres of zoned single-family undeveloped, this scenario calculates total build-out at 955 additional single-family homes
- The 503 acres of land available that is zoned for multi-family development would result in an additional 2,917 multi-family units

### Orrville Downtown Plan (2005)

This plan served as both a market study and a means to develop a comprehensive strategy for downtown revitalization for Orrville.

The comprehensive revitalization strategy contained recommendations to address streetscaping and design elements. Some of the more significant recommendations included implementing traffic calming and circulation measures such as delineating riding lanes for bicycles downtown, gating unguarded railroad crossings, and improving traffic signage. A wayfinding signage system to guide visitors and residents was also suggested, as well as more appropriate and more numerous lighting fixtures, especially near the rail line and Smith-Orr Homestead, as well as more decorative lighting at gateways and throughout downtown (such as lighting trees, spotlighting murals and artwork, etc.). Decorative pavement treatments, awnings and banners, and more seating areas, waste cans, and other amenities are also recommended as part of improving the downtown. In addition to creating a more pedestrian-friendly and bicycle-friendly space, the Downtown Plan also calls for enhancing open and green space through linking Orr Park to the downtown, developing the Smith-Orr homestead as heritage park, and developing pocket parks similar to Cornerstone Park.

The comprehensive revitalization strategy also examined parking and offered strategies for improvement. The plan found that there are a total of 757 parking spaces available, including 85 off-street public spaces adjacent to the downtown. The Plan recommended that spaces be clearly marked, and that the City should work with owners of private parking spaces to determine if sharing is feasible. Special parking should be reserved for business owners and employees, as well, so that more parking downtown is free for visitors. Signage is also recommended as an improvement strategy, and upgrades to City-owned parking such as the lot between the Railroad Museum and the Smith-Orr Homestead.

As a final piece to the comprehensive downtown revitalization strategy, the Plan offered a number of recommendations regarding historic buildings. This included suggestions for the development of design standards based on the Secretary of the Interior's Standards for Rehabilitation. It also recommended completing an inventory of downtown buildings,



undertaking a feasibility study to determine possible re-uses of vacant structures, establishing a façade improvement or building renovation grant program, enforcing local building codes, dressing up upper-story windows to detract from vacancy issues, and maximizing upper stories for residential and commercial opportunities.

The second piece of the Downtown Plan was the market analysis. The market analysis consisted of three parts: consumer surveys, merchant surveys, and a business inventory and cluster analysis. 485 consumer surveys were returned, yielding interesting results.

Identify reason for downtown visit

- 75%-post office
- 59%- banking
- 54%- library
- 44%- shopping
- 36%- gasoline sales or auto repair

Is parking an issue?

- 55%-yes
- 45%- no

What kinds of businesses are missing in the downtown?

- Family restaurant, upscale restaurant, clothing store, shoe store, and ice cream shop

### *Merchant Survey*

- Nearly half of the downtown businesses responded
- 45% have been in the business for more than 25 years
- Customer Base- baby boomers-40-65 years old
- Top five amenities that could be added to attract more people downtown: additional stores and services, additional and convenient parking, attractive stores, competitive pricing, and regular business hours

### *Business Inventory and Cluster Analysis*

- 109 buildings in downtown district that house 67 businesses
- 12 religious, non-profit, and institutional buildings or businesses
- 87% are more than 50 years old but not listed on National Register
- More service businesses than retail
- Plotting existing businesses on a map to graphically illustrate physical clusters is a useful tool for recruiting businesses
- Destination clusters are the best choice for Orrville, such as home furnishing destination or niche market

### *Niche Markets*

- Emerging destination home furnishings niche market
- Others include lighting outlet, kitchen/bath designer and cabinet maker or a window dressing vendor
- Work with Smuckers to refer visitors to downtown
- Attract tourists in local history
- Recreational tourists- Johnson Woods / bike trails
- Simply Ohio store could showcase Orrville businesses
- Schantz Pipe Organ could be a nucleus for a weekend destination
- Smith Dairy could open an ice cream store in the downtown
- Target weekenders

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## *Retention and Recruitment Strategies*

- Develop a variety of resources for training
- Consider size restrictions on big boxes or ban them entirely
- Include merchants in promotional events
- Develop a catalogue of downtown retail products
- Put together a solid business recruitment package
- Put together a recruitment team

## *Promotional Strategy and Branding Campaign*

- Create an identity for the downtown-develop a logo
- Branding-use a professional graphic artist
- Main Street Orrville should develop a website
- Cooperative or joint advertising by businesses
- Publicize local events
- Each promotion should focus on one specific target market
- Focus marketing efforts on specific groups
- Clean up and renovate properties
- Preserve all existing historically significant buildings

## Traffic Study-SR 57

- East Paradise Street is used by trucks to access JLG Industries-an issue with residents
- SR 57 is operating at a Level Of Service (LOS) C as defined by Ohio Department of Transportation (ODOT)
- Congestion between Market Street and Mineral Springs Street-uncoordinated traffic signals, difficult truck turning movements, on-street parking
- Greatest delays were on Market Street and Orr Street
- Areas of concern-intersections with SR 57-narrow streets and tight turning radii
  - o Market Street
  - o High Street
  - o Orr Street
  - o East Paradise Street
  - o East Water Street
  - o Chestnut Street
  - o Church Street
- 151 accidents along SR 57 between Church Road and Back Massillon Road from 1/2004 to 12/2006-rear end accidents most common
  - o Highest number of occurrences at SR 57 and Chestnut Street, Orr Street, and Collins Blvd
  - o Orr Street is highest amount of accidents

## Pine Street Extension Alternative (\$1,743,000)

- Construct missing portion of East Pine Street from SR 57 to Walnut Street where it connects to the existing portion of Pine Street at the Pine Street and Walnut Street under the Walnut Street Railroad Overpass. The new section of Pine Street would be constructed with the W&LE siding to remain in place with a concrete railroad at grade crossing constructed from the western edge of SR 57 through new Pine Street and across Walnut Street
- Construct a new road across the western side of the JLG parking lot to connect East Pine Street to East Chestnut Street
- Install traffic calming measures on East Chestnut Street



- Install a traffic signal at SR 57 and Pine Street  
Modify pavement markings on SR 57

### High Street Extension Alternative (\$1,793,000)

- Extends High Street eastward from the High Street and Mill Street intersection to Orr Street
- Increases the turning radii of all four corners of SR 57 and High street intersection
- Elimination of the SR 57 and Orr Street intersection by constructing a curb and sidewalk along the east side of SR 57
- Removes traffic signal at SR 57 and Orr Street intersection
- Vacates Orr Street right of way from SR 57 to Walnut Street
- Constructs a cul-de-sac at the new east end of Orr Street
- Restripe SR 57

### *What has been Implemented?*

Table 1 in Appendix 2 depicts the Comprehensive Plan's recommendations and their status as implemented, ongoing, or not implemented. If not implemented, reasoning for why is given. As the Figure illustrates, 29 out of 45 recommendations have been implemented and / or are ongoing; only 16 have not been implemented or begun in some manner.

Table 2 in Appendix 2 depicts the Downtown Plan's recommendations and their status as implemented, ongoing, or not implemented. If not implemented, reasoning for why is given. As the Figure illustrates, 64 out of 76 recommendations have been implemented and / or are ongoing; only 12 have not been implemented. In most cases, the reason for the lack of implementation of a project was simply economic – only a certain amount of funding was available, and projects had to be prioritized. Many of those projects not implemented are those which the City and associated groups view as lower priorities.

## CHAPTER 2: COMMUNITY SNAPSHOT

To better understand the needs and issues within the City of Orrville the existing conditions of the City must be documented, and analyzed. This chapter will be an extensive assessment of how Orrville was formed and what the City looks like today. Key community facilities are shown on *Map 2.1: Existing Land Use*.

By collecting background information, key demographic and socio-economic trends can be identified. A review of plan elements will also be included in this chapter which include land use, city services, community facilities and services, economic development, historic resources and transportation.

Key historical resources that played a role in the development of Orrville will first be examined. As the City has a rich history, historical resources can be capitalized upon for future economic growth. The beginnings of Orrville can be traced back to 1814 when James Taggart Jr. staked out 160 acres in Baughman Township that he was given as a veteran of the Revolutionary War. Other early settlers include the Horst, Brenneman, and Seas families.

There was much interest in the extension of the railroad through the area in the 1850's. Orrville was directly in line between Wooster and Massillon, which were both early railroad towns in the 1800s. Judge Smith Orr, the founder of Orrville, was instrumental in bringing the railroad to the City and promised the Ohio and Pennsylvania Railroad that he would construct a water tank, saw mill, and furnish free wood for fuel and ties for the tracks if the railroad was brought into the area.

In 1860, the first census was taken and the population was 500 and in 1864, Orrville became a village. In 1888 its population was 1,441. The greatest population spurt came between 1900 and 1910 when the census showed a count of 3,066. These ten years also marked the period of greatest centralization of railroad activities. By 1940, Orrville had grown to 4,484 and in 1950, became a city with 5,150 people. In 1960, the count stood at 6,511; in 1970, the population was 7,408; in 1990 the population was 7,712. Since 1990, Orrville's population has grown to 8,380 an increase of 8.7 percent (2001 Orrville Comprehensive Plan).

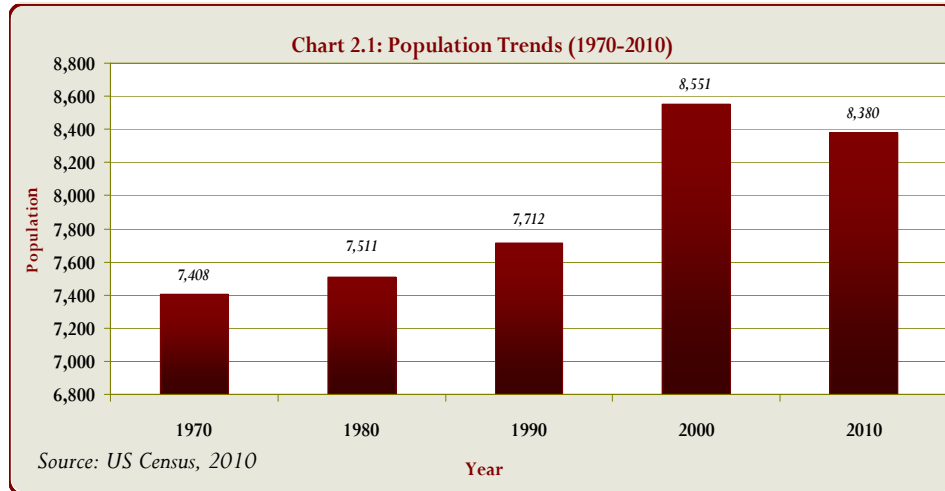
Gradually the railroad has been supplanted as the key factor in the city's economy by many industries. Drawn by a good labor market and prime location near the Akron/Canton and Cleveland metropolitan areas, new industry has located in Orrville since the end of World War II. The Orrville Industrial park has been developed and is home to several industries. Orrville proudly boasts of a "diversified" industrial base, manufacturing everything from jams, jellies, and ice cream to pipe organs and castings for the aerospace and automotive industries (2001 Orrville Comprehensive Plan).





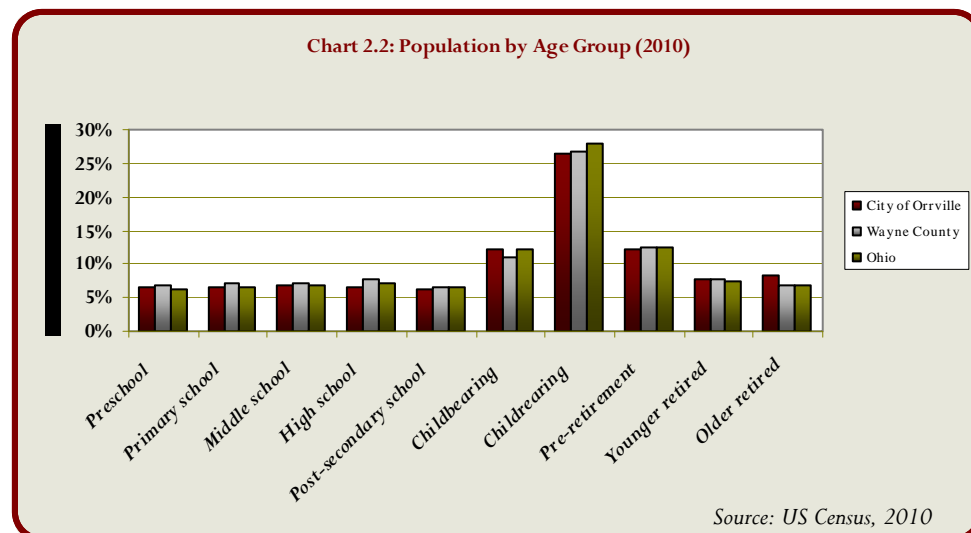
## POPULATION

People desire to live in Orrville as shown by population numbers provided by the US Census and illustrated on *Chart 2.1: Population Trends (1970-2010)*. The population of the City of Orrville has steadily increased from 1970 to 2000. During the recent Census completed in 2010, the population of Orrville did drop slightly with a decrease in 171 people, which is only a total of a two (2) percent decrease.



## AGE DISTRIBUTION

Within the City of Orrville more residents are in the Childrearing age (35-54 age group) than any other group as displayed on *Chart 2.2: Population by Age Group (2010)*. This group represents the younger “baby boomers” and is generally well established, having a high percentage of homeowners, high incomes, and older children. The next two largest groups are the childbearing and pre-retirement groups. Childbearing (25-34) individuals are those that are in the point in their life where they begin careers, marry, and have children. Pre-retirement (55-64) individuals, which also makes up a good portion of the older “baby boomers,” are those that are in a transitional phase with older children moving out but not yet at retirement. This group is also usually well established. As the “boomer” generation ages and heads into the next phases of life, the City of Orrville will have to prepare for associated issues, such as an older population on a fixed income with associated health and social service needs. The chart also illustrates the City of Orrville is similar to the County and the State in age distribution.



## CHAPTER 2: COMMUNITY OVERVIEW



### EMPLOYMENT AND INCOME

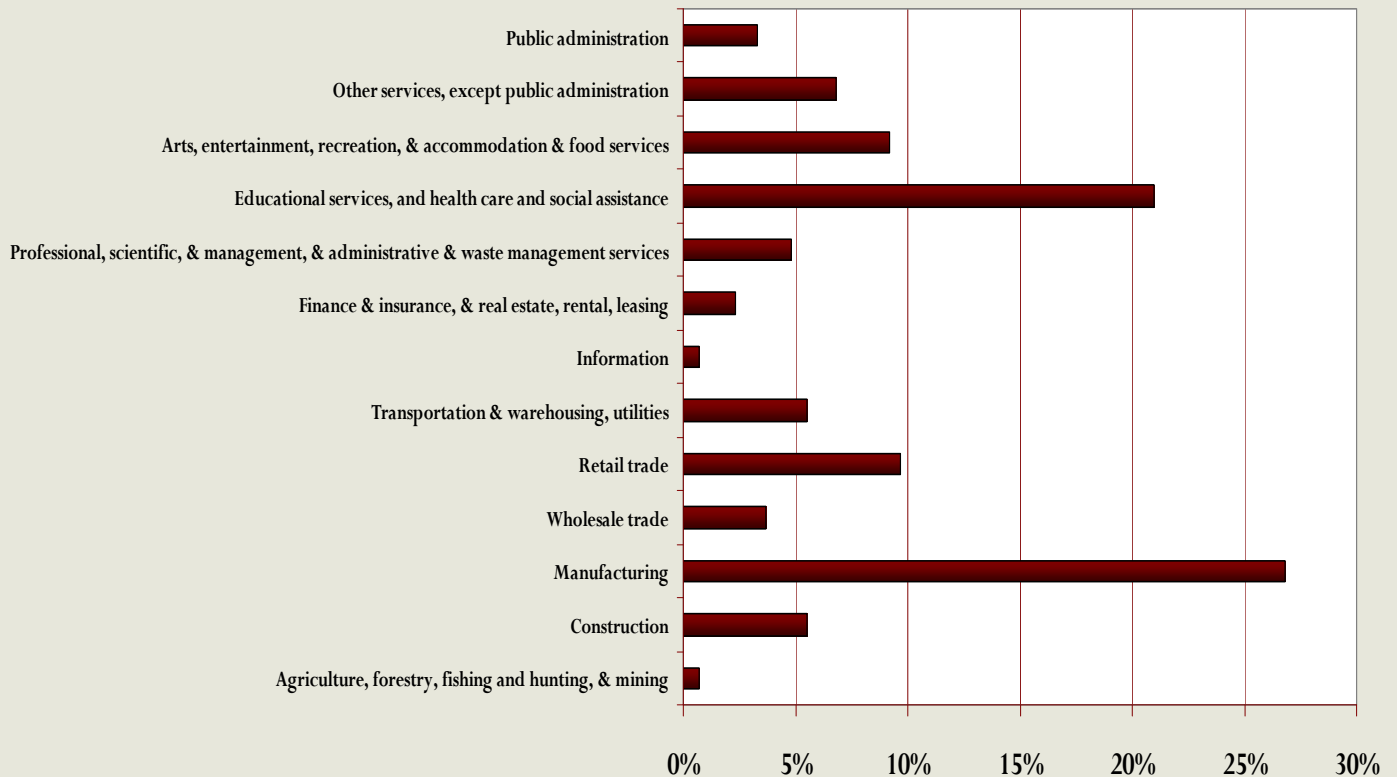
*Table 2.1: Employment Status (2010)* shows the employment status of all persons 16 years of age and over that are employed or unemployed. Orrville had almost 68 percent of residents in the labor force, compared to 65 percent in Ohio and 67 percent in Wayne County. Unemployed persons within the City of Orrville in 2010 is also lower than the state, at 4.3 percent compared to 5.2 percent.

	<b>City of Orrville</b>	<b>Wayne County</b>	<b>Ohio</b>
<b>In labor force</b>	67.7%	67.2%	65.0%
<b>Employed</b>	63.5%	63.1%	59.7%
<b>Unemployed</b>	4.3%	4.0%	5.2%
<b>Not in labor force</b>	32.3%	32.8%	35.0%

Source: US Census, 2010

Within the City of Orrville residents are employed in various different industries. Over 25 percent of residents are employed in manufacturing and 21 percent are employed in educational services and health care and social assistance as displayed on *Chart 2.3: Orrville Employment (2010)*. The large amount of residents employed in manufacturing can be contributed to the many company headquarters that are located within the City limits.

**Chart 2.3: Orrville Industry (2010)**



Source: US Census, 2010





Orrville’s median income is slightly less than the surrounding municipalities, Wayne County, and the state of Ohio as illustrated on *Table 2.2: Median Income (2010)*. Median household income is the income of people living in the same household but may not necessarily be family members. Median family household is the income of people living together that are related.

Table 2.2: Median Income (2010)		
	Median Household Income	Median Family Income
City of Orrville	\$42,050	\$56,373
Greene Township	\$47,950	\$59,778
Baughman Township	\$46,768	\$54,063
Wayne County	\$48,474	\$59,394
Ohio	\$47,144	\$59,208

Source: US Census, 2010

HOUSING

There are a total of 3,690 housing units in the City of Orrville. Of those 90.4 percent are occupied and 9.6 percent are vacant. Of the housing units that are occupied, more than half (63.3%) are owner-occupied. The rest are renter-occupied (36.7%). This is generally reflective of the trend in Wayne County, although in Wayne the vacancy rate is slightly lower; there are 45,847 housing units, with 93 percent of those occupied and 7 percent vacant. Of those, 73 percent are owner-occupied and 27 percent are occupied by renters, which is a slightly higher rate of owner-occupation than Orrville. For Ohio in general, there are 4,603,435 housing units, with 89.8 percent being occupied and 10.2 percent being vacant. Of the occupied units, 67.6 percent are owner-occupied and 32.4 percent are renter occupied. This reflects that both Wayne County and Orrville enjoy a lower vacancy rate than the state overall, though Orrville and Ohio in general have higher rates of rentals than Wayne County.

Most of the City’s population lives in households, for a total of 98.7 percent of the total population. *Table 2.3: Households (2010)* shows the breakdown of general housing characteristics as compared with Wayne County and Ohio.

Table 2.3: Households (2010)			
	Orville	Wayne Co.	Ohio
Total Households	3,337	42, 638	4,603,435
Average household size	2.48	2.61	2.44
Family households with children under 18	29.2%	29.7%	28.1%

Source: US Census, 2010

## CHAPTER 2: COMMUNITY OVERVIEW



### CITY SERVICES

#### *Form of Government*

The City of Orrville operates under a council-mayor form of government. The mayor is elected for a 4 year term. The mayor is required to attend Council meetings, but has no vote; however the mayor can veto any ordinance or resolution passed by Council. The President of Council is to serve as mayor if the mayor can not perform his or her duties.

City council is comprised of a Council President and seven members that hold legislative powers. The Council President can only vote if there is a tie. As there are four wards within the City, each member represents a ward and three members are elected at large.

Council meetings are held on the first and third Mondays every month (except in August) at 7:30 PM in the municipal building.

The City has several boards and commissions as shown on *Table 2.4: Boards and Commissions in the City of Orrville*.

**Table 2.4: Boards and Commissions in the City of Orrville**

Name	Members	Term	Purpose
<b>Public Utility Board</b>	Five members-appointed by the Mayor, approved by Council	5 years	Responsible for operation and maintenance to the electric, water, and sewer utilities
<b>Civil Service Commission</b>	Three members-appointed by the Mayor	6 years	Adopts rules regarding the selection, promotion, demotion, discipline and removal of employees
<b>Planning Commission</b>	Five members-appointed by the Mayor and Safety-Service Director	5 years	Reviews new development plans and requests for alley or street vacations, lot replatting, and zoning amendments
<b>Board of Zoning Appeals</b>	Five members appointed by the Mayor, approved by Council. Sixth member is the Safety-Service Director.	3 years	Reviews all appeals from zoning ordinance decisions, as well as denials of zoning certificates or conditional zoning certificates
<b>Shade Tree Commission</b>	Four members appointed by the Mayor, Safety-Service Director is the 5th member	3 years	Establishes rules for the planting, care, pruning, and removal of street trees
<b>Boards of Control</b>	General Board- Mayor, Safety-Service Director, Finance Director Utilities Board of Control-Mayor, Utilities Director, Finance Director		Consider and award contracts
<b>Volunteer Fireman's Dependency Fund Board</b>	Five members: 2 elected by Council, 2 elected by the Fire Department, and one elected by the other 4 members	1 year	Reviews and processes all claims for benefits for surviving spouse and children of volunteer firefighters killed in the line of duty
<b>Design Review Board</b>	Seven members-appointed by Mayor, approved by Council	3 years	Reviews any new construction, alterations, or demolition to property within the Design Review area

Source: City of Orrville, 2010



## CHAPTER 2: COMMUNITY OVERVIEW

The City is also comprised of various departments that have specific duties assigned to them. These departments include the Safety-Service Department, Public Utilities Department, Finance Department, and Law Department. The City employs a total of 142 full-time employees and 38 members of the City's volunteer fire department.

### *Safety and Service Department*

#### Police Department

The City of Orrville Police Department has a total of 14 full time officers and 1 part time officer with a service area of 6.13 square miles, all within the City limits. All officers must complete a 16 week field training program. Officers can live anywhere within the state of Ohio, as there are no City residency requirements. All officers are also required annually to select training courses that they are interested in such as drug interdiction, criminal investigation, firearms, etc. Officers must also:

- Qualify annually with all department issued firearms
- Certify with a Taser
- Certify on operating a breath testing device
- Certify on the use of Pepper Spray
- Complete National Incident Management System (NIMS) requirements based on their rank
- Certified on the use of L.E.A.D.S



*City of Orrville Municipal Building, 2011*

The department is funded through the general fund. Most of the crime that occurs includes criminal mischief, theft, assault, OVI, domestic violence, and disorderly conduct.

The department owns seven police cruisers and one unmarked vehicle that are in good to very good condition.

The department is very involved in the community and sponsors several community events and programs :

- Shop with a Cop program
- Neighborhood Watch
- Cops n' Kids
- Crime prevention cards
- Vacation Check Program

Currently the police department facilities are in good condition and there is no need for new or expanded buildings or facilities. A replacement schedule for equipment and vehicles has been established and is updated annually. The department currently is trying to establish a K-9 unit for 2012.

#### Fire Department

The City of Orrville's Fire Department (OFD) can trace its roots back to 1855. Today the fire department has a full-time chief, 37 volunteers, 12 vehicles, and two stations. Volunteers are paid per call based on pay category and level of certification. Certifications include 16 certified firefighters, 3 certified paramedics, and 19 certified EMT's. The total service area of OFD is 15 square miles and includes the City of Orrville and the four adjoining townships; Baughman, Green, East Union, and Sugar Creek. Service to these municipalities is on a contract basis. The department can also aid any location within the continental United States if need be.

OFD is funded by the City of Orrville through the general fund and grants. The department is permitted to charge for EMS calls. The revenue generated from this is split 50/50 between the general fund and OFD. The general fund

## CHAPTER 2: COMMUNITY OVERVIEW



amount is used to pay for EMS major purchases, such as vehicles and equipment. The OFD amount is used to pay for EMS small purchases, such as turn-out gear and training. The department does receive an EMS grant of \$2,500 a year.

Orrville Fire Station #1 is located at 223 North Vine Street and Fire Station #2 is located at 777 North Crown Hill Road. Station #2 is newly renovated with a three bay garage and conference room.

In 2010, the department responded to a total of 629 calls. Of those calls 462 were EMS related and 167 were fire calls.

The department is very involved within the community as they participate in many community events and programs. They host the annual 4<sup>th</sup> of July Celebration in Orrville, participate in fire prevention assemblies in local schools, fire extinguisher training classes, fire station tours, preschool and head start education programs and the Christmas Food Drive held in conjunction with the Salvation Army.

The department is in the process of currently making facility maintenance and upgrades. Vehicles are replaced on a 20-25 year schedule. In 2012, squad #61 will be replaced.

### Street Department

The Street Department is a very busy department as they are responsible for over 75 miles of roadway and oversee the streets, parks, pool, and cemetery divisions. Other responsibilities include:

- Recycling
- Compost Center
- Mosquito control
- Herbicide control
- Fall leaf pickup
- Christmas tree pickup
- Planting, trimming, and removal of trees
- Ice and snow removal
- Street maintenance
- Storm sewer lines
- Traffic lights
- Animal control
- Vehicle and equipment maintenance of all City vehicles

The Compost Center, which is available to Orrville residents only, accepts tree trimmings, brush, grass clippings and leaves. Composted material is also available for free to residents who would like to take the material to use. Leaf mulch and wood chips are also available to residents.

Ice and snow removal is done on a priority basis with the schedule made available on the City's website. After three inches of snow have accumulated on roadways, there are certain streets that cars are prohibited from parking. The list of these streets is also available on the City's website.



*City of Orrville Fire Department, 2011*



*Recycling within the City of Orrville  
Steering Committee Photo 2011)*



*Crown Hill Cemetery, 2011*

### Cemetery Division

Two cemeteries are operated by the City; Orr Cemetery and Crown Hill Cemetery. Orr Cemetery is located at North Mill Street and East Church Street. Crown Hill Cemetery is located at Crown Hill Road and West High Street.

### Parks Division

The City of Orrville is home to numerous parks that provide recreational amenities to its residents. The biggest park is Orr Park, which is approximately 40 acres on West High Street and contains the following amenities:

- 2 softball fields (Mizer Field & the back diamond)
- 1 baseball field (Brenneman Field)
- 3 little league fields (located along Ella Street)
- Outdoor swimming pool
- 4 tennis courts
- 3 basketball courts
- 1 single pavilion
- 5 double pavilions
- 2 rental halls (Schmid Hall and Heller Hall)
- Rehm Performing Arts Pavilion

The park is open from 6 am to 12 midnight.

The outdoor swimming pool is open in the summer from June to August. Admission is \$4 for adults and \$3 for children. Season passes are available, in 2012 the cost was \$80 for resident families, \$120 for non-resident families, \$40 for resident single and \$60 for non-resident single. Residents are classified as those who are living or working in Orrville or have a member of the immediate family living or working in Orrville (mother, father, minor children). The pool offers swimming lessons at different skill sets during the week.

In the summer, the park hosts live entertainment once a week in the evenings at the Rehm Pavilion as well as several family movie nights.

Schmid Hall is located within Orr Park and can be rented by residents for \$80 and non-residents for \$120. The hall has a capacity of 160 people with a kitchen and two rest rooms. Heller Hall is also located within the park and has a capacity of 100 people and can be rented by residents for \$50 and non-residents for \$75. The hall has a kitchenette, one rest room, and picnic tables. It is only available to rent from Memorial Day to Labor Day.

The Orrville Walking Trail and Wetlands Complex on North Ella Street is part of Orr Park and includes 28 acres with several walking loops, a pond, and dog park.

Other parks within the City limits include Gailey Park and three neighborhood playgrounds. Gailey Park is located off of Wayne Street



*Rehm Pavilion, (Steering Committee Photo, 2011)*

## CHAPTER 2: COMMUNITY OVERVIEW



and is 4 acres in size with the following recreational amenities:

- Restrooms
- Playground equipment
- Pavilion Shelter that seats 30-40 people (can be rented at \$30 a day for residents and \$45 a day for non-residents)

The neighborhood parks are located on North Mill Street, Lenore Street, and Foxfire Square.

There is also a park located at Beaver and Sassafras Streets, that includes a playground. Future plans include a pavilion, ball and soccer fields, and walking trail, however lack of funding is an issue.

### Orrville Planning and Community Development Department

Orrville's Planning and Community Development Department is in charge of administering the zoning ordinance and subdivision and land development ordinance (SALDO) for the City. There are eleven (11) zoning districts within the City as illustrated in *Table 2.5: City of Orrville Zoning District*.

Within the zoning ordinance there are also provisions for a Design Review District. The goal of the district is to maintain and enhance the distinctive and/or aesthetic character, diversity and interest of the City. The district is located along South Main Street between Chestnut Street and Church Street and Market Street between Mill Street and Sterling Avenue. Within the Design Review District, the Design Review Board reviews any proposed new construction, reconstruction, alterations, and demolition to property.

The City of Orrville Subdivision and Land Development Ordinance (SALDO) regulates the following:

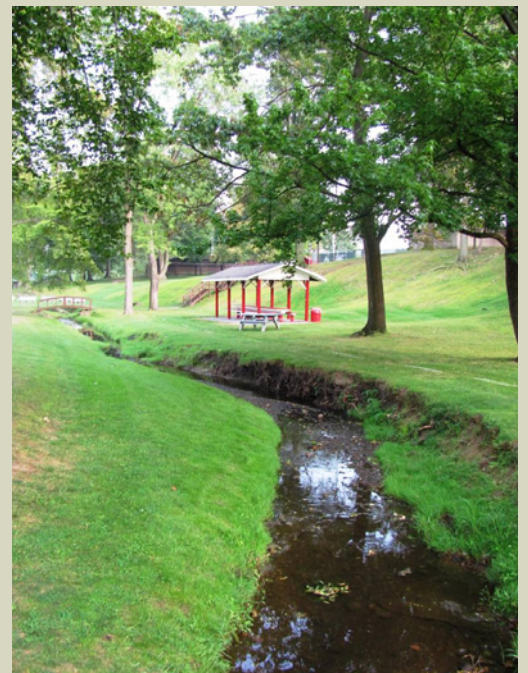
- Administration, Enforcement, and Penalties
- Procedure for Subdivision Approval
- Plan and Plat Specifications
- Subdivision Requirements
- Variances
- Improvement Standards and Specifications

### *Orrville Public Utilities Department*

The City of Orrville operates its own not-for-profit public utilities that include electric, water, and waste water. Each utility operates independently of each other and the City. Orrville is one of only a few communities in Ohio that operates its own electric generating plant, which is a big advantage for the City.



*Gailey Park, 2011*



*Orr Park, 2011*



**Table 2.5: City of Orrville Zoning Districts**

Zoning District	Purpose
R-1: Residential District	Permits low density residential development in areas adjacent to the built-up portions of the community
R-2: Residential District	Permits medium density residential development
R-3: Residential District	Permits high density residential development
R-4: Residential District	Permits two-family, row-house, and garden apartment development at densities up to the thirty (30) residential units per acre
C-1: Office District	Provides for office buildings for business, industry, and nonprofits for general office uses and professional services
C-2: Local Commercial District	Provides for uses to accommodate the sale of convenience retail goods and personal services
C-3: Intensive Commercial District	Provide for uses in addition to those specified in the C-1 and C-2 district and provide service and sales in support of the primary business activities in each community
C-4: Highway Service District	Provide for commercial establishments offering accommodations, supplies, and services to local as well as through automobile and truck traffic
CBDD– Central Business Development District	Established to realize ordered development in the intensely built-up area delineated as the Central Business District
I-1: Light Industrial	Purpose is to provide for and accommodate light industrial uses in the fields of repair, storage, manufacturing, processing, wholesaling, and distribution
I-2: Heavy Industrial	Provide for and accommodate light and heavy industrial uses in the fields of repair, storage, manufacturing, processing, wholesaling distribution and disposal

## CHAPTER 2: COMMUNITY OVERVIEW



### Electric Service

The City of Orrville Electric Department serves approximately 7,100 customers covering approximately 125 square miles in Eastern Wayne County that includes the City of Orrville, and portions of Marshallville, Easton, Dalton, and Kidron. The City generates and distributes their own electric power. The department employs a total of 55 people. The entire system is comprised of an electric generating plant, transmission lines and distribution lines. The system is in good condition and has sufficient capacity to serve additional growth especially with the recent closure of Ross Sandcasting, which was the second largest electric user in the City. The Electric Department also has made investments in additional generation projects including hydro, state of the art coal and natural gas plants to supplement long-term needs. Wind and solar resources are also being evaluated.



*City of Orrville Power Plant  
(Steering Committee Photo, 2011)*

The electric service offers several different rate packages based on the type of usage. These include residential, general service small, general service medium, general service large, and industrial uses.

Orrville is a member of the Efficiency Smart program which offers services and assistance to residential, commercial, and industrial customers to lower power consumption by installing energy efficient equipment and systems.

### Water Service

The water service department serves approximately 8,550 within the City limits. The area includes 3,250 connections made up of 2,900 residential accounts and 350 commercial and industrial accounts. Connection to the system is mandatory. The primary water source is underground aquifers accessed by eleven wells that are divided into four separate well fields. The wells produced 590 million gallons of water in 2010. According to the 2010 Orrville Water Quality Report, appropriate measures have been implemented to minimize potential contamination to the wells.

In 1997, a new \$13 million facility was built and has the capacity to meet demand based on projected 20 year growth. The distribution system includes approximately 61 miles of water mains ranging in size from 4 to 16 inches, 2 booster stations, and 5 water storage facilities totaling approximately 2,550,000 gallons.

### Wastewater Service

The current wastewater plant was built in 1951 with upgrades made in 1967 and 1989. The system serves a population of 8,500 and consists of over 42 miles of underground pipe ranging in size from 8 to 42 inches. The system is not a combined storm/sanitary system and there is sufficient capacity for additional growth. The system does however receive additional flows during extended and heavy rain periods. Excess flow is stored in one of three equalization basins for treatment at a later time. After treatment and thickening of solids, sludges are applied to City and privately owned agricultural fields.

Recently, several pieces of equipment were replaced. The department has a total of 9 full time employees, 7 of which are certified operators, one maintenance person and one clerical person.

Rates vary depending on usage; there are four different schedules; residential, commercial/industrial (small), commercial/industrial (large), and food processors. Connection to the system is mandatory.





### Telecommunications

Orrville owns and operates a municipal telecommunication system that includes wireless internet, and high speed fiber optic based internet. The fiber optic system is available to commercial, industrial, and institutional customers throughout most of Orrville. Service is provided on a contract/lease basis. Cost varies based on user. In addition, private companies such as Armstrong provide internet service to the City.

### *Finance Department*

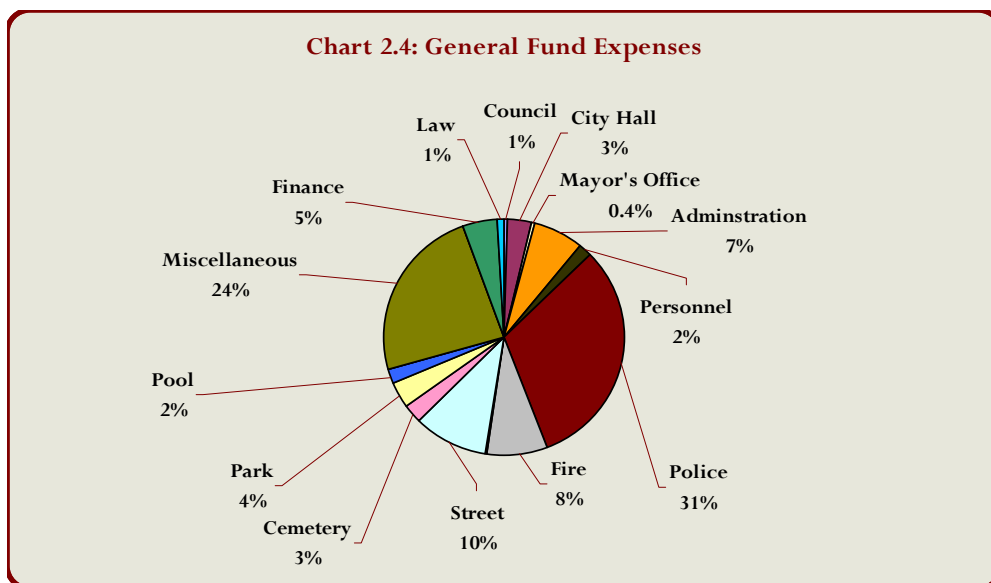
The Finance Department is in charge of the administration of the financial affairs of the City and is required to complete the following:

- Submit estimates for the budget
- Disburse all monies and control all expenditures
- Maintain a general accounting system
- Submit a statement of receipts and disbursements at least monthly to the Mayor
- Complete a financial statement and report
- Receive and record all fees and revenues due to the City
- Control all public funds
- Control all investments and invested funds of the City
- Attend all Council and Public Utilities Board meetings

The 2010 budget for the City of Orrville was as follows:

- General Fund- \$6,365,115
- Wastewater Utility- \$2,713,500
- Electric Utility- \$29,335,200
- Water Utility- \$4,900,350

As displayed on *Chart 2.4: General Fund Expenditures* the police department is one of the most expensive departments within the City. Miscellaneous general fund accounts are the second highest expense to the City and include the shade tree program, senior citizens transportation, health department, general fund reimbursements, debt service, and transfers. The street department is the third highest expense.



## CHAPTER 2: COMMUNITY OVERVIEW



### *Law Department*

The law department is overseen by the Director of Law who is appointed by the Mayor and approved by Council. The director serves as legal counsel to the City.

## COMMUNITY FACILITIES AND SERVICES

### *Education*

#### Public Education

The City of Orrville includes the Orrville Public School system of approximately 1,750 students. The system consists of three schools; Orrville High School (9-12), Orrville Middle School (5-8), and Orrville Elementary School (K-4). The district consists of a staff of approximately 250, with 155 full time and 55 part time, not including coaches.

In February 2010, the School District opened a multi-purpose building near the Orrville High School and in May of 2010 the new 88,000 square foot Orrville Elementary School opened. Currently, a new high school is being built and is expected to be open for the 2013-2014 school year. All of the schools will be on one campus. Parts of the old high school will be demolished and the rest renovated. The gymnasium will be part of the renovation and the auditorium will be renovated into a performing arts center.

The multi-purpose building was funded entirely by private money through a fundraising campaign. Facilities include two gyms, weight room, tennis/volleyball courts, cardio workout equipment and batting cages. The building is not open to the public, but it can be reserved for use by community groups and organizations when not in use for school purposes.

The school district is involved in the Ohio Improvement Process and has a three year plan in place for curriculum, assessment, and climate/conditions. The school is currently rated as excellent. The schools have recently focused technology into the curriculum with teachers using SmartBoards, LCD Projectors, video streaming, document cameras, video cameras, and digital cameras.

Athletic programs include cheerleading, football, cross country, volleyball, soccer, wrestling, basketball, baseball, softball, tennis, and track.

#### *Other Educational Facilities*

#### University of Akron-Wayne College

Wayne College, a satellite campus of the University of Akron is located



*Orrville Middle School, 2011*



*Orrville Elementary School  
(Steering Committee Photo, 2011)*



*The University of Akron and Wayne College, 2011*



*Orrville Public Library, 2011*



*Aultman-Orrville Community Hospital,  
(Steering Committee Photo, 2011)*

in the City of Orrville on 160 acres. In the fall of 2010, the college enrolled a total of 2,496 students. The campus employs 31 full-time faculty members. Of the students enrolled at the college, 70 percent are from Wayne County, 20 percent from Medina County, and 10 percent from Holmes and other counties.

The campus includes a library, several computer labs, classroom and laboratory space, offices for faculty members and staff, auditorium, and a gymnasium. General bachelor's degree classes are offered to those attending Wayne College who plan on eventually attending the Akron Campus. The University also collaborates with the Orrville School District to offer post-secondary education classes. This program allows qualified seniors to obtain college credits by taking college level classes during their last year of high school.

### City of Orrville Public Library

The City of Orrville Public Library is located at 230 North Main Street, and is open throughout the week as well as Saturday. The library has a staff of 30 people, with 22 part-time and 8 full-time. You do not have to be a resident of Orrville to use the library, however you do have to be a resident of Ohio. Recently the library was awarded four out of five stars by the Library Journal Star Ratings and was also rated number two in its category (communities with a population of up to 10,000) by the Hennen's American Public Library Ratings.

The library is a School District library that is operated by the Orrville Board of Education, and contains more than 73,000 books, magazines, CDs, DVDs, and activity kits, as well as 17 public internet computers. The library is funded through the Public Library Fund, which consists of a percentage of the total tax revenue received by the State. The library also has two local property tax levies: 0.75 mill levy which is renewable every five years and a 0.95 mill continuing levy.

Many different services are offered to different age groups at the library. For children, the library offers a learning station, story time, summer reading program, adult and teen programs, family programs, and computer classes.

### Health

#### Aultman Orrville Community Hospital

The Aultman Orrville Community Hospital, a not for profit hospital, is located at 832 South Main Street and has a total of 25 beds. In 2010, the hospital had 250 employees and 125 medical staff with \$24,000,000 in total operating revenues. Departments at the hospital include emergency room, medical surgical, intensive care, clinical laboratory, birth center, imaging services, sleep lab, surgery associates, women's health, center for pain management, and rehabilitation services.

## CHAPTER 2: COMMUNITY OVERVIEW



In 2010, Aultman-Orrville served 28,886 people through programs, community outreach, activities and services.

Future plans include to grow the women's health and general surgery services, collaborate with hospitals for electronic transfer of medication information, and expediting transfers for those requiring a higher level of care.

The hospital offers transportation services for patients from their homes to the hospital or offices of its medical staff within a 50 mile radius. Requests are to be made 24 hours in advance.

In order to remain a community hospital, strengthen existing services and continue to invest in new equipment and technology, Dunlap became a subsidiary of the Canton based Aultman Hospital in 2011.

### ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

The City of Orrville has a very diverse economy with many successful businesses located within the Central Business District and many large industries located throughout the City. Some of the most well known industries are shown in *Table 2.6: Industries within the City of Orrville.*

**Table 2.6: Major Industries within the City of Orrville**

Name	Type
J.M. Smucker	Largest jam and jelly processing plant in the world
J.L.G.	Production of material handlers
Quality Castings Company	Producers of gray iron and ductile iron castings
Smith Dairy Products Company	Produces milk, ice cream, cottage cheese, sour cream, iced tea, juices, dips and punches
Will-Burt Company	Production of telescoping masts for emergency lighting
Bekaert	Producers of flat and special-shaped wire
Orrvilon	Supplier of extrusions and fabrication and machining processes
Scott's	Producer of lawn and garden fertilizers
Venture Products	Manufacturer of commercial/industrial tractors
Moog Flo-Tork	Manufacturer of hydraulic and pneumatic rack and pinion rotary actuators
Schantz Organ Company	Largest pipe organ company in the world
Gerdau Ameristeel	Produces high quality cold finished bars
Ferro	Global supplier of technology based materials for a broad range of manufacturers
Refcotec	Manufacturers coatings, adhesives, mortars, partings, and binders
Orrville Chick Hatchery	Chick hatchery
Land-O-Lakes	Purina feed plant



*Main Street (Steering Committee Photo, 2011)*



*Orrville Industrial Park  
(Steering Committee Photo, 2011)*



*Orrville Business Park, 2011*

### *Downtown/Uptown / Around Town*

The City of Orrville has a downtown / uptown district that includes approximately 65 commercial businesses. Within this area, there are popular businesses and destinations, such as Brown's Furniture, Runion's Furniture, the Post Office and City Hall. The Downtown Plan completed in 2005 stated that there are a total of 109 buildings in the downtown district which house a total of 67 businesses. Most of the buildings are owned by local residents and over half are owner-occupied. Many of the buildings are over 50 years old but are not listed on the National Register. In addition, most of the buildings are more service oriented than retail.

The downtown has been improved over the years with several projects. In the 1970s many business owners invested in façade renovations. In the 1990s the City received a CDBG Downtown Revitalization Grant to construct new sidewalks, new curbs, and street and parking lot resurfacing. Façade improvements were funded as well and many businesses received matching grants to improve buildings. In 1997 the City received funding from the Ohio Department of Transportation to rebuild State Route 57 (Main Street). The City also continued to improve the downtown with additional streetscape improvements, such as new benches, trash containers, streetlights, and planters. The City received a CDBG Tier I Planning Grant in 2004 from the Ohio Department of Development to develop a downtown development plan, market strategy and promotion plan, design review guidelines, and building and infrastructure conditions surveys. The City was also named a Community Reinvestment Area in 2004 by the Ohio Department of Development. In 2005, Orrville became a Main Street Community through the Ohio Main Street Program.

### *Industrial Parks*

Two industrial parks are located within the City of Orrville, the Orrville Industrial Park and the Orrville Business and Technology Park.

#### **Orrville Industrial Park**

The Orrville Industrial Park is located on Collins Drive and is completely occupied with the exception of one (1) site. Currently the park is home to the following businesses:

- Bekaert Corp
- Will Burt
- PFI Displays
- Refcotec
- Orrville Chick Hatchery
- Land-O-Lakes
- Gerdau
- Wholesome Pets
- Precision Molding

## CHAPTER 2: COMMUNITY OVERVIEW



### Orrville Business and Technology Park

The City purchased 80 acres in 2007 at the end of Dairy Lane to build the Orrville Business and Technology Park with shovel-ready sites in order to attract new industry. The City received an infrastructure grant for \$640,000 to pave roadways and to install sanitary sewer, water, storm sewers, and electric. There are 5 lots that range in size from three acres to 16 acres. Currently one site is occupied by Orrvilon and Venture Products is currently under construction. There is a total of 43 acres remaining for development.

### *Economic Development Incentives*

One of the reasons the City has been so successful in keeping and attracting business is because of the many incentives they offer, such as Enterprise Zones, the Orrville Job Creation Tax Credit, the Utility Connection Fee Credits, and the Economic Development Electric Rate.

### Enterprise Zones

The City of Orrville Council approves enterprise zones for specified areas within the City in order to attract businesses and create jobs. Special tax incentives can be offered in the form of property tax exemptions or eligible project assets if businesses agree to complete capital improvements and create new jobs within the City.

### Orrville Job Creation Tax Credit

In order to qualify for the Job Creation Tax Credit the business/industry has to receive a credit from the State of Ohio as well. The refundable credit is based on a percentage of the new local income taxes withheld from employees who are newly hired. Orrville City Council has to approve the tax credit.

### Utility Connection Fee Credits

The Orrville Department of Utilities will waive the connection fee to connect to the water and sewerage service for new eligible business/industry.

### Economic Development Electric Rate

As the City of Orrville owns its own electric system they are able to offer a cheaper electric cost in order to enhance economic development within the City. The rate is a ten percent reduction in new load electricity cost for two (2) years for new eligible businesses/industry.

### Community Reinvestment Area

A Community Reinvestment Area (CRA) is an area where property owners can receive tax incentives for completing property improvements, such as renovating existing buildings or constructing new ones. The Orrville City Council has to approve these areas.

### Fiber Optic Connection

The Orrville Utilities Department will extend fiber optic line to new eligible businesses/industries at no cost to the property owner.



### *Economic Development Agencies*

#### The Office of Orrville Economic Development

In 2003 the Office of Orrville Economic Development was formed to market the City to industries looking for a place to expand. The Office is a partnership between Orrville Utilities, City of Orrville, Orrville Area Chamber of Commerce, and the Orrville Area Development Foundation. Since its inception, the department has been successful in getting over 15 industrial and commercial companies to locate in Orrville, many of which are still in operation today. The department has also managed the development of the Orrville Business and Technology Park.

The Orrville Office of Economic Development has a close working relationship with the Wayne County Economic Development Council (WEDC) and the Ohio Department of Development. The Mayor and Manager sit on the WEDC board and most business attraction projects are partnerships between Orrville and WEDC.

In addition, the Office has a Strategic Plan in place. The Strategic Plan aims to improve the economic condition of the City of Orrville through marketing and a business recruitment / retention program. Several goals are outlined in the plan, which include:

- Leverage Growth Opportunities from Existing Businesses
- Promote New Business Attraction
- Connect and Engage Business, Government and Service Providers in the Economic Development Effort
- Provide for Competitive Product Offerings that Promote, Not Inhibit Growth Opportunities

#### The Wayne Economic Development Council

The Wayne Economic Development Council (WEDC) is the lead economic development agency for Wayne County. As such the Council is responsible for attracting new businesses to the County and retaining those that are already located within the County. WEDC will help firms with:

- Site Selection Analysis
- Labor Market Analysis
- Financial Contacts
- Job-Training Assistance
- Custom Research
- Build-to Suit/Design-Build Coordination
- Building Information
- Access to Regulatory Authorities
- Employee Recruitment Assistance
- Coordination of State and Local Assistance
- One-Stop Convenience
- Business retention and expansion
- Business recruitment
- Entrepreneurship and business productivity
- Technology acceleration
- Marketing
- Community development and capacity building
- Competitiveness best practices and benchmarking
- Strategic programs and policies

## CHAPTER 2: COMMUNITY OVERVIEW



### TRANSPORTATION

Orrville is well served by numerous transportation routes that either travel through the City or are in close proximity. The City also has other modes of transportation available to residents and businesses as well, such as railroad and air. The City is within District 3 of the Ohio Department of Transportation (Ohio DOT). District 3 serves several counties; Ashland, Crawford, Erie, Huron, Lorain, Medina, Richland, and Wayne. The district maintains 4,150 miles of roads and inspects 1,419 bridges every year (Ohio DOT, 2011).

#### Roadways

One of the major roadways located within Orrville is State Route (SR) 57, which also serves as Main Street through the downtown area of the City. SR 57 travels North/South through the City and provides links to major roadways, such as US Route 30 and Interstate 76. The average daily traffic (ADT) on SR 57 between Church Road and Back Massillon Road is between 9,010 and 10,090 vehicles daily. Of that, 12 percent is truck traffic.

Regional roadways include SR 585 which provides a connection between Orrville and Wooster, the Wayne County Seat and US Route 30 which provides a connection to I-77. Orrville also maintains a 75 mile network of local roads.

#### Parking

Within Orrville's downtown business district there are 5 parking lots, as well as numerous on-street parking spaces. The following is a list of spaces available:

- City Lot A— 82 spaces
- City Lot B— 45 spaces
- City Lot C— 46 spaces
- City Lot D-
- City Lot E- 31 spaces
- Market Street (overpass to Main Street)— 19 spaces
- Market Street (Main Street to Depot Street)- 48 spaces
- N. Main Street (Market to Church)- 20 spaces
- W. Water Street (N Main to N Vine)- 13 spaces

#### Railroad

The history of Orrville revolves around the railroad so it is of no surprise that it still to this day plays a pivotal role in the success and vitality of the City. Two major railroads are located within the City's



*SR 57 and Main Street  
(Steering Committee Photo, 2011)*



*Railroad Crossing in Orrville  
(Steering Committee Photo, 2011)*





## CHAPTER 2: COMMUNITY OVERVIEW

boundaries, Wheeling and Lake Erie and Norfolk-Southern. Approximately five to ten trains a day travel through Orrville. The trains stop daily at Smuckers, as well as a newer lumber company that has lumber brought in on the railroad. Crossings can be found at the following locations:

- South Main (2)
- North Main (1)
- South Walnut under overpass (2)
- Schrock Road (2)
- South Crown Hill (2)
- North Vine (1)
- West High (1)
- West Market (1)
- South Elm Extension (1)
- Collins Boulevard in Industrial Park #1 (1)

### *Air*

Orrville is in close proximity to several local airports:

- Wayne County Airport- 6 miles from Orrville, one runway measuring approximately 5,200 feet
- Wadsworth Municipal Airport- 13 miles from Orrville, two runways measuring 3,4000 feet and 2,300 feet respectively

Major airports are also not far from Orrville with the Cleveland Hopkins Airport approximately 50 miles and the Akron-Canton Airport 25 miles.

### *Pedestrian*

#### Sidewalk Program

The City of Orrville has instituted a sidewalk policy that states that it is the owner's responsibility to keep sidewalks clean and in good condition. The City also has a program, in place since 1997, that permits the City to bill residents for performing repairs on their sidewalks, as well as constructing new sidewalks.

The program establishes where sidewalks will be constructed based on a point system:

1. The need to connect areas with existing sidewalks in order to provide safe walkways for pedestrian traffic between these areas (6 points)
2. The street's proximity to schools, business districts, apartment complexes, or senior citizen housing (5 points)
3. The topography of the street (hills, curves) as they relate to safety of pedestrians walking in the street (4 points)
4. Citizens in the area have petitioned for the sidewalks to be installed (3 points)
5. The street is an arterial or collector street (2 points)
6. To eliminate the necessity of busing school children (1 point)



*City of Orrville Sidewalks, 2011*

Those streets that receive 13 points or above will have sidewalks constructed within two years. Those receiving a rating

## CHAPTER 2: COMMUNITY OVERVIEW



of 11-12 points will have sidewalks constructed within five years and those with ratings below 10 will not have sidewalks installed but will be re-rated each year to determine if anything has changed.

Currently the City is finalizing Phase 3 of the sidewalk program and construction of new sidewalks are underway. Phase 4 sidewalks have not been identified yet but will most likely be identified in 2013.

This program is very important in promoting health, safety and connectivity for Orrville citizens. Keeping city neighborhoods, businesses and social and recreation sites connected through sidewalks, which are in good condition allow pedestrians to move throughout the City much easier.

### *Trails*

Currently the Rails to Trails of Wayne County (RTWC) is in the process of developing a bike trail from Orrville to Clinton. Portions of property has been purchased from Norfolk Southern Railroad that would take a trail from Orrville, to Marshallville, and to Clinton. Currently, the RTWC is in the process of raising funds to construct the trail. A trailhead would be established in Orrville but there are no definite locations at this time. The total cost of the project is estimated at 2 million dollars.

### Public Transit

The City of Orrville offers van transportation for senior citizens (60 years and older) to locations within Orrville and Wooster. The Wooster Express is a door-to-door route that runs on Tuesdays and Fridays to Buehlers in Orrville, bank, and pharmacy. The route operates from 10 AM to 12 PM. On the first Monday of the month, a route is provided to Wooster. This route runs from 10 AM to 5 PM.

## EXISTING LAND USE

Existing land use for the City of Orrville was derived from the comprehensive plan completed in 2000 with updates made based on Steering Committee comment. Existing land use is shown on *Map 2.1: Existing Land Use* and on *Table 2.7: Existing Land Use in City of Orrville*. Orrville consists mainly of Single Family Residential uses. There is also a significant amount of farmland within the City. Industrial uses also make up a good portion of the City due to the industrial parks and numerous other industries that make their home in Orrville.

**Table 2.7: Existing Land Use in the City of Orrville**

Category	Percentage of Total (land area)
Single Family Residential	28%
Agriculture	21%
Industrial	16%
Vacant Undeveloped	11%
Public/Institutional	9%
Multi-Family Residential	4%
Vacant Industrial	4%
Parks/Recreation	3%
Commercial	3%
Railroad	1%



### Residential

While land within Orrville is classified mainly as single family residential, there is some multi-family residential uses as well. Most of the single-family neighborhoods are primarily established neighborhoods. The following are a list of neighborhoods located within Orrville:

#### Harvest Hills

Harvest Hills is located off of Back Massillon Road and consists of mid-range priced, single-family homes. More phases had been approved for development; however, the land has since been sold to a local farmer and the land is currently being farmed.

#### Heritage Blackberry

This is a condominium development located off of Crown Hill Road that is still under construction. Several additional phases have also been approved for higher priced, single-family homes. The proposed plans call for access of Rohrer Road and a connection to Viking Avenue.

#### Strawbridge

Strawbridge is located off Hostetler Road and is a condominium development with the potential for more homes as there is vacant land north of the development.

#### Orchard Glen

This development consists of low-priced, single-family homes that were developed by Woda using housing tax credits. Units are rentals for 15 years and then can be sold.

#### Ellendale

Ellendale is one of the oldest developments in Orrville and consists of higher priced, single-family homes located south of Hostetler Road. There are vacant lots available.

#### Marsh Ridge

This development consists of higher-priced, single-family homes located off of Paradise Road. This development has been slow to develop. More phases have been proposed with connections to Chippewa Road and West Market Street.

#### Hilltop / Foxfire Apartments

Hilltop and Foxfire apartments are a rental community that has recently been purchased and significant rehabilitation is currently underway of the existing buildings. The apartments are located off of Market and Church Streets.



*Ellendale (Mackin Photo, 2011)*

## CHAPTER 2: COMMUNITY OVERVIEW



### Paradise Glen

Paradise Glen is located on Paradise road and consists of a small condominium development. There is no room for subsequent phases.

### Crown Hill Development

Crown Hill is located off of Andover Road and is an age-restricted condominium development. There are no more phases planned at this time.

### Hemlock Trail

Single-family homes of mid-range value are located in Hemlock Trail. Several lots are available. This development is accessed by South Elm Street.

### Orchard Grove

Orchard Grove is located on South Elm Street and consists of low-priced, single family homes that were built with housing tax credits. The units were sold to income-qualified buyers.

### Homestead Pointe

Consists of high-priced, single-family homes that are in a cluster subdivision. This development is adjacent to the OrrVilla retirement community.

### South End Neighborhoods

The south end neighborhoods are the traditional neighborhoods that have a mix of residential uses and have some of the oldest housing units within the City.

### Agriculture

Agriculture uses can be found in the northern portion of the City off of Back Massillon Road and near the University of Akron-Wayne College and the Orrville Industrial Parks. These farms are actively being farmed.

### Industrial

Most of the City's industrial uses are concentrated in two industrial parks that are discussed on pages 2-16 and 2-17. Other industrial uses can be found along N. Main Street (Smuckers), in the downtown district (Smith Dairy), along Pine Street and the railroad tracks.



*South End Neighborhoods (Mackin Photo, 2011)*



### COMMUNITY ORGANIZATIONS

#### *Orrville Area Chamber of Commerce*

The Orrville Area Chamber of Commerce is a business resource for Orrville and the surrounding area. The mission of the chamber is as follows “The Orrville Area Chamber of Commerce strives to strengthen, promote, and inspire community while preserving and enhancing the quality of life for those that live, work, and visit the area.”

The Chamber holds numerous events each year such as a golf outing, community yard sale, and a breakfast before business series. The Chamber currently has 269 members.

The chamber also operates the Leadership Orrville program, which meets 10 months out of the year on the first Wednesday of each month. In the morning, activities focus on Franklin Covey’s Four Roles of Leadership. In the afternoon, field trips occur throughout the City to discuss various topics, such as government, economic development, education, etc.

#### *Orrville Area Boys and Girls Club*

The Orrville Area Boys and Girls Club (OABGC) is located at 820 N Ella Street and provides before and after school childcare. OABGC was founded in 1971 by Mr. Ray Ziegman, and received its charter in March of 1972. There are currently 1,200 members from seven (7) different counties. A membership fee is required to join OABGC. Transportation is available to students attending the morning program. Breakfast is also available. In the afternoon the OABGC will transport children from school to the Club where they can get a snack and dinner. They also can get help with homework and participate in various other activities.

The club also offers various activities such as flag football, volleyball, co-ed soccer, and football camp.

#### *Orrville Railroad Heritage Society*

The Orrville Railroad Heritage Society is a non-profit 501(3)c with approximately 260 members that promote the preservation of railroad heritage in Ohio. In 1982, the society purchased and restored an old station and tower as well as began to operate passenger excursion trains. The excursions include fall foliage rides and rides with Santa. The depot is open the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Saturday from noon to 4 PM, April through November. The Society in 1989 also bought a caboose and relocated it near the depot and tower. The Society has also restored numerous passenger cars and a diesel locomotive.



*Orrville Train Station, 2011*

## CHAPTER 2: COMMUNITY OVERVIEW



### *Main Street Orrville*

Main Street Orrville is an Ohio Main Street Program that is accredited by the National Trust Main Street Center. Main Street Orrville's goal is to create a sustainable Orrville through renovation, innovation, communication, and participation. A 12 member volunteer board of directors runs Main Street Orrville and meets monthly. The executive director is also on the board.

The Main Street program operates the following programs:

- Bloomin' Orrville- 240 hanging baskets, 33 street plants, and north and south welcome signs along Main Street that are funded through donations from citizens and businesses.
- EntreprenOrrville Center for Business Innovation (ECBI)- goal is to develop Wayne County into a model community for entrepreneurial development. The center will assist entrepreneurs take their businesses ideas into reality as well as help existing businesses overcome any challenges
- Downtown signage grant program

The Main Street program also sponsors the following programs:

- Orrville Rib and Music festival- joint venture between Main Street Orrville and Orrville Lions Club
- Orrville Farmer's Market- held every Thursday from 3-6 PM on Depot Street
- Paint the Town Pink Ladies Night Out
- Brown Bag Drama Series
- A Walk Through Orrville's Past
- Candlelight Church Tour
- Third Thursdays

### *Heartland Education Community*

The Heartland Education Community is a group that was formed in 1991 to improve education within Orrville. The group is made up of volunteers from the community that includes educators, city officials, parents, businesses, students, and school administrators. The group is made possible through contributions from local businesses and individuals.

In 2005, National City donated its former bank building to the group, who then renovated it as a community center on Main Street named Heartland Point. At the building, several learning opportunities are available, such as knitting, playgroups, bridge, watercolor painting, theater games, bead necklaces, and others. A community room can be rented at Heartland Point that holds 50-75 people and a loft is also



*Hanging baskets along Orrville's Main Street, 2011*



*Heartland Point  
(Steering Committee Photo, 2011)*



## CHAPTER 2: COMMUNITY OVERVIEW

available that can accommodate 12-16 people. A café is also located in the building that serves breakfast, lunch, and various snacks.

The Heartland Education Community focuses on the following efforts:

- Character Education and Citizenship
- Connecting Learning to Life
- Technology
- School Facilities Plan
- Continuous Improvement Planning and Staff Development
- Community Education Programs
- Communication
- Awards and Special Recognition

The group also publishes a newspaper titled OrrViews which details information about the community to and from the people of the school district. The paper is distributed free every other week.

### *Orrville High School Alumni*

Orrville High School has an alumni association that is very active with the following mission:

- Support the strategic plan of the Orrville City Schools
- Preserve historical records and memorabilia
- Maintain an alumni database
- Provide channels of communication about alumni and between alumni, students, faculty and staff
- Coordinate events that serve to connect and engage the alumni of Orrville High School

The Alumni Association plans class reunions every five years as well as various other events.

### *Orrville YMCA*

The Orrville YMCA is located on Smucker Road. Total membership is approximately 2,500 of which 1,500 members reside in Orrville. Facilities at the YMCA include two indoor pools (kids play pool and Olympic size swimming pool), multi-purpose room, child-care rooms, fitness rooms, and administrative offices. Specific programs offered include swimming lessons, competitive swimming program, water aerobics classes, fitness training programs, aerobic dance classes, pre-school child care programs, and senior citizen programs. A multi-purpose room is available for rental for groups or individuals for service club meetings, wedding receptions, parties, and community meetings.

A new child-care wing was completed in 2012 to accommodate 70 or more children, including an expanded exercise room, which should be open in 2012. Within five years, there are plans to add a third pool for warm-water therapy.



*Orrville YMCA, 2011*

## CHAPTER 2: COMMUNITY OVERVIEW



### *Orrville Bicycling Club*

The Orrville Bicycling Club's main goal is to promote and facilitate a fun and healthy lifestyle for all ages through cycling. The club holds regular weekly rides throughout the summer and in the winter meets at the Orrville Cycling and Fitness bike shop to ride indoors.

### *Rails to Trails of Wayne County*

Rails to Trails of Wayne County is a non-profit organization made up of local citizens who are promoting the use of trails for bicycling, walking, horseback riding, etc. The goal of the non-profit organization is dedicated to the promotion, development, and conversion of un-used railroad and greenway corridors into multi-purpose, non-motorized, public paths.

The organization has been involved in the development of the following trails within Wayne County:

- County Line Trail (6.8 miles completed, 13 miles yet to be developed)
- Overton Trail
- Funk Trail
- Killbuck Wildlife Trail (completed-3.7 miles)
- Ohio Erie Trail
- Sippo Valley Trail (completed-2.5 miles)

Currently the organization is in the process of developing a trail from Orrville to Marshallville and eventually to Clinton. The trail will begin near the industrial park in the northern end of the City. There are plans to also extend the trail into Orrville and develop a trailhead somewhere near the central business district.

### *Orrville Historical Society*

The Orrville Historical Society was formed to preserve and share Orrville's history. The Society is a non-profit organization with the following mission statement:

*"To collect, preserve and display objects of historical importance to the city of Orrville in order to promote interest in and to educate the public about the significant contributions of the Orrville community."*

The society holds open houses the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Saturday at the Orrville Historical Museum located at 142 Depot Street. The society also owns and rents the Smith Orr Homestead at 365 W. Market Street, which serves as a museum.

### *Orrville Area Development Foundation*

The Orrville Area Development Foundation works in partnership with the Orrville Area Chamber of Commerce, City of Orrville, Office of Orrville Industrial Development and Main Street Orrville on economic issues. The foundation holds lunch series on topics pertaining to the local economy and current events.



*Smith Orr Homestead (Steering Committee Photo, 2011)*



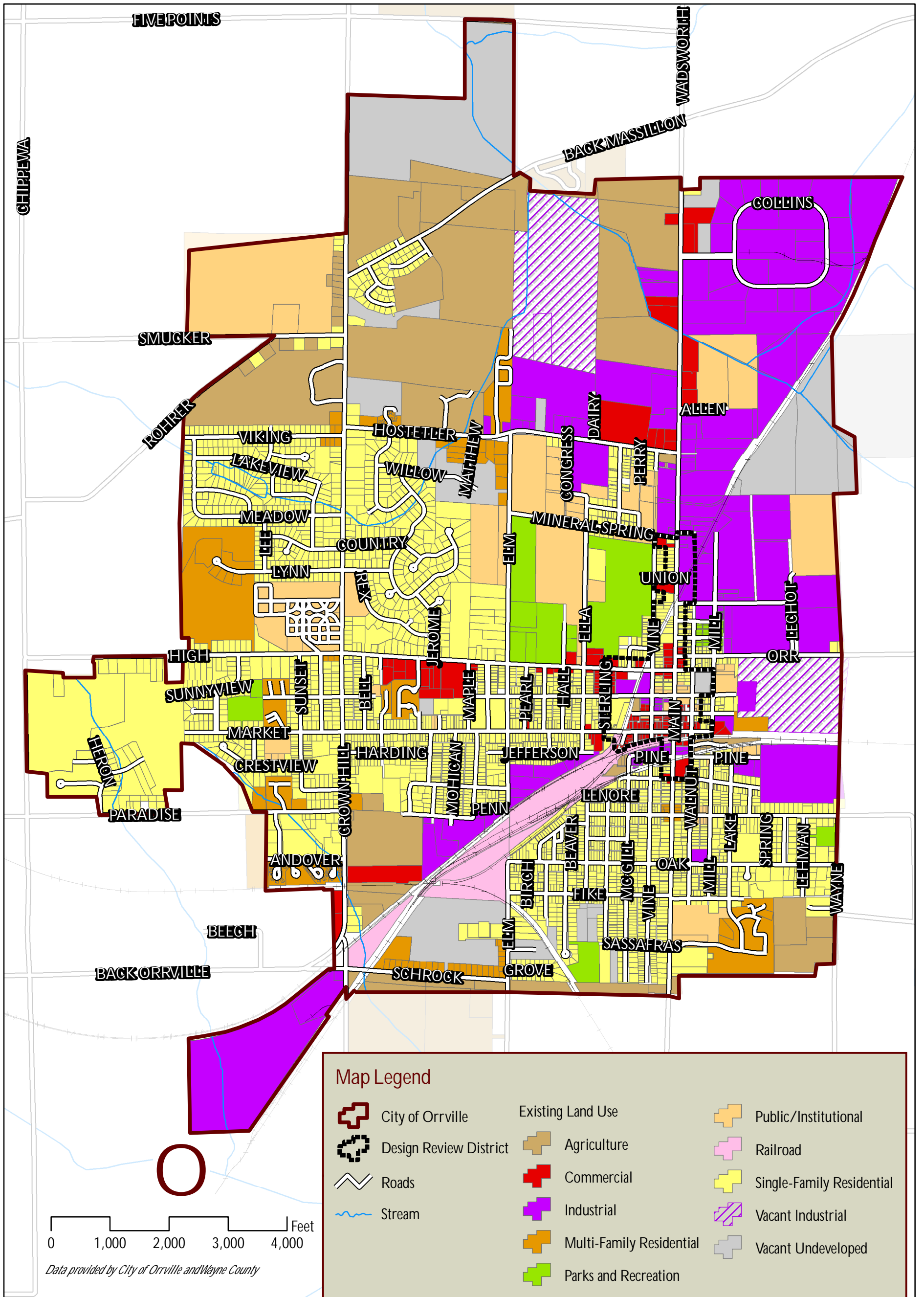


### *Orrville's faith community*

Orrville has a strong religious presence and a large number of churches from various denominations are located within its boundaries. The Orrville Ministerial Association (OMA) is comprised of a number of churches within Orrville and meets once a month. The association prays before City Council and Board of Education meetings as well as holds community events such as Community Good Friday and Thanksgiving services and Church in the Park.

*The Community Overview was summarized from the following sources:*

- City of Orrville website (<http://www.orrville.com>)
- US Census 2010
- Orrville City Schools website (<http://www.orrville.k12.oh.us>)
- The University of Akron– Wayne College website (<http://www.wayne.uakron.edu>)
- Orrville Public Library website (<http://www.orrville.lib.oh.us>)
- Dunlap Community Hospital website (<http://www.dunlaphospital.org>)
- The Office of Orrville Economic Development website (<http://www.orrvilledevelopment.com>)
- Ohio Department of Transportation website (<http://www.dot.state.oh.us>)
- Rails to Trails of Wayne County website (<http://www.waynecountytrails.org>)
- Orrville Area Chamber of Commerce website (<http://www.orrvillechamber.com>)
- Orrville Area Boys and Girls Club website (<http://www.oabgc.org>)
- Orrville Railroad Heritage Society website (<http://www.orrvillerailroad.com>)
- Orrville High School Alumni website (<http://www.orrvillealumni.com>)
- Main Street Orrville website (<http://www.mainstreetorrville.org>)
- Heartland Education Community website (<http://www.heartlandorrville.com>)
- Orrville YMCA website (<http://www.orrville-dalton-ymca.org>)
- Orrville Cycling Club website (<http://www.orrvillecycling.com>)
- Orrville Historical Society website (<http://www.orrvillehistory.org>)
- Orrville Truck Route Preliminary Engineering Study, 2011
- City of Orrville Comprehensive Plan, 2001
- City of Orrville Downtown Plan, 2005



City of Orrville Comprehensive Plan Update

Map 2.1: Existing Land Use Map



December 2012

## CHAPTER 3: NEEDS ASSESSMENT

The most effective Comprehensive Plans are driven by real issues. Therefore, this section will include the overall Vision of the City of Orrville and a summary of priority issues and identified assets and challenges. The Needs Assessment is a culmination of input received from the public involvement process and will help set the stage for the Action Plan.

Public involvement is key to any planning process. Without hearing the concerns of the residents of Orrville, the planning process can not realize its full potential. The public involvement process for the City of Orrville was transparent and inclusive from the beginning. Residents and stakeholders were asked what they liked about their community, what they would change, and if they wanted to be involved. When the public is involved from the beginning, they are more likely to be invested throughout the entire process. Hopefully this type of public involvement will leave the City with not only a plan for action but a community that is ready and willing to implement the plan.





### PLAN MOBILIZATION

#### Steering Committee

The Steering Committee met monthly to help guide the process, identify key stakeholders, review plan documents, and prioritize needs and recommendations. The committee consisted of city staff, council members, business owners, residents, church leaders, City of Orrville School District representatives, and key economic development agencies.

#### Surveys

In order to gather additional information from residents (including those that may not be able to attend the public meetings), a web based resident survey was prepared. The survey was designed to gather information that is similar to other public outreach efforts. The survey was available online on the Chamber's website and the results were incorporated with public meeting survey results.

#### Stakeholder Interviews

In order to further determine needs and opportunities key stakeholders were contacted. The local knowledge of these stakeholders enabled them to provide valuable insight into the planning process. The stakeholders included a cross-section of constituents such as business owners, residents, members of civic/social organizations, and political officials.

In addition to the identified stakeholders, separate interviews were conducted with City service providers such as the fire, police, water and sewer authorities, etc. to gather information specific to the community services provided to City residents.

#### Public Meetings

Public meetings are crucial in gaining insight into how residents, business owners, and others feel about their community. In order to gain as much input as possible two public meetings were held within the City of Orrville. A summary of both public meetings can be found in Appendix 3.

#### Public Meeting #1

At the beginning of the process an open house was held to introduce the Comprehensive Plan update to the public. The meeting was designed to gather information from those living and working in Orrville regarding the City's major assets, challenges and opportunities. The information gathered at this meeting helped in formulating the issues that were used to build the Comprehensive Plan. Approximately 20 people attended the open house.



*City of Orrville Public Meeting 2011*

## CHAPTER 3: NEEDS ASSESSMENT



### Public Meeting #2

A final open house was held in July of 2012 to provide an opportunity for residents to visit various stations to comment on recommendations that have been drafted based on feedback gathered through the public outreach efforts over the past year. Meeting attendees were asked to place dots next to the recommendations that they felt were a priority for implementation in each community development objective. Attendees were also asked to complete a survey, which asked what the highest priorities should be out of all the recommendations. A total of 48 people attended the open house.

The City of Orrville and the Chamber of Commerce also partnered together to sponsor a Breakfast Before Business event in order to receive as much public participation as possible on the draft recommendations. Breakfast Before Business events are held by the Chamber throughout the year to inform business owners in Orrville and the surrounding area of ongoing events and issues that may be of interest. A total of 18 people attended the Breakfast Before Business event and the same format was used to obtain feedback as the final open house.



*Public Meeting #2, 2012*

### Focus Groups

A total of six meetings were held with three stakeholder groups to specifically discuss identified issues and related recommendations. The initial meeting was used to discuss the issues, their relevance to the City and / or particular neighborhood and preliminary ways they could be addressed. Recommendations were then presented for discussion at a follow up meeting. The three focus group meetings that were held included youth, housing, and economic development. A summary of all the focus group meetings can be found in Appendix 4.

### Youth Focus Group

The Youth Focus Group consisted of approximately 15 students from Orrville High School that are members of the Principal's Leadership Group. The participants were a mix of sophomores, juniors, and seniors. The students participated in three different exercises. The first exercise asked students to list their favorite place to live, why they want to live there, and how it is similar to Orrville. The second exercise consisted of the students drawing a map of Orrville that included all the places that are important to them, that they visit or have special meaning. On the map they were also asked to identify places that are attractive and those that are unattractive. The third exercise focused on identifying improvements within the City of Orrville.



*Youth Focus Group Meeting, 2011*

### Housing Focus Group

The housing focus group consisted of local realtors, developers, apartment building owners, Wayne County staff, and City of Orrville staff. A roundtable discussion was held to better understand the types of development desired in Orrville, what some of the concerns are in terms of existing and new housing, and how the City can attract more people



to live within its boundaries.

### Economic Development Focus Group

The economic development focus group consisted of developers, business owners, economic development agencies, and City staff. A roundtable discussion was held to determine what the strengths are of the City in terms of attracting new business, retaining existing business and what the challenges are that the City faces in the future. The focus group attendees discussed how business owners can take advantage of the many people that work within Orrville during the day but don't live in the City.

### VISION STATEMENT

Every community needs a vision. A vision gives the citizens and elected officials something to strive towards. The key is to revisit that vision regularly to ensure that it is still an accurate reflection of the City and what it wants to become. This vision was developed by City Staff in 2009 and adopted in 2010 to help in the re-branding of Orrville efforts.

The City of Orrville's distinctive quality of life is exemplified by its sense of Community, Faith, Educational Opportunities and Pride. Orrville will be the centerpiece for Wayne County and the State of Ohio. It's greatest resource is and will continue to be our people. We will come together in an active partnership to foster academic, cultural and economic opportunities to cultivate a safe, vibrant and healthy community for our citizens and organizations.

### COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT OBJECTIVES

The community development objectives will guide plan development and are specific to a priority areas of focus. These areas of focus were identified during public outreach and are a reflection of public input received throughout the process. The objectives are shown on [Table 3.1: Community Development Objectives](#).



**Table 3.1: Community Development Objectives (CDOs)**

<b>CDO 1: Allow for growth and expansion while preserving natural and historic features.</b>
<b>CDO 2: Expand revitalization efforts to address vacant and underutilized sites within the business district and commercial corridors.</b>
<b>CDO 3: Create healthy and vibrant neighborhoods.</b>
<b>CDO 4: Offer community amenities that meet the expectations of current and future residents.</b>
<b>CDO 5: Improve mobility by enhancing pedestrian and bicycle circulation and connections.</b>
<b>CDO 6: Promote Orrville’s small town character and increase community pride.</b>

**ASSETS AND CHALLENGES**

Assets and challenges were first identified by the Steering Committee and then through the public involvement process. The Steering Committee was asked to take pictures throughout the Orrville of what they considered the primary assets and the biggest challenges. After the Committee completed the exercise the pictures were then used in the public meetings to help identify any additional assets or challenges.

Assets are typically those elements that contribute to the quality of life of a community. They help create a distinct sense of place and can be used as a foundation on which to build positive economic growth. Assets can also act as major attractions for visitors or potential new residents. Assets are those qualities that you want to see maintained, protected, and used as catalysts for future planning.

Challenges are those elements that are the opposite of assets. They present a threat to a community. They can negatively influence a resident or visitor’s experience in a community. Challenges may or may not have an obvious solution, but it is important to identify them regardless of their complexity. Challenges can be anything from a structure to a service.



## ASSETS

- Zoning and SALDO regulations
- Existing open space
- Historic district
- Annexation opportunities
- Land available for growth
- Design Review Area



*Open Space that the City has preserved  
(Mackin Photo, 2011)*

## CHALLENGES

- Outdated regulations in Zoning Ordinance
- No provisions for open space regulations in cluster developments
- Buffering and landscaping standards
- Stormwater regulations
- Marcellus and Utica Shale drilling

### **CDO 1: Allow for growth and expansion while preserving natural and historic features.**

In order for the City of Orrville to achieve its vision discussed earlier in this chapter, it will be essential that all policies and regulations of the City be compatible with the plan. Therefore, the zoning ordinance and subdivision and land development ordinance were reviewed for consistency with the plan.

#### Zoning

Overall, the zoning ordinance has many useful provisions which will help Orrville achieve its vision for the future. However, the Ordinance's main issue is the organization: chapters are not arranged in any specific order and often jump around. In addition, items which should be handled at the same time within one chapter are often broken up into multiple pieces, resulting in a disjointed ordinance which could easily confuse a potential applicant. This could potentially slow down the development process and in some cases, discourage development all together. In general, the definitions are broad and slightly outdated. There also are no zoning classifications for parks, community facilities, schools, and hospitals

#### Parking

The parking requirements are overly excessive and should be re-examined. Shared parking provisions should also be considered, particularly in the central business district and adjacent commercial neighborhoods – in many ordinances, there are incentives provisions, such as increased density allowances, for shared parking, and also provisions that allow flexibility for traditional historic buildings which may not have room for off-street parking.

#### Signs

The sign regulations in the various commercial districts also seem more restrictive than needed.

#### Open Space

There are no provisions for open space in cluster development regulations. For multi-family developments, it is typical to see some type of requirement regarding the grouping and spacing of townhomes, patio homes, or garden apartment complexes.

#### Residential Districts

The residential districts within the zoning ordinance were examined in great detail as housing is a major concern of the City. The R-2 district only permits single family residential and 2-family units. However, other uses for consideration that are appropriate and are low impact include attached single-family units such as town homes, patio homes,



## CHAPTER 3: NEEDS ASSESSMENT



as well as home occupations, daycares, and group homes. The R-3 district is virtually the same as R-2, expect for a minor difference in lot size. There are also several provisions in R-3 that require a minimal living area per family and limiting multi-family to certain percentages, which seems to be overly restrictive. A review of the zoning map illustrates that the R-3 and R-4 districts are both very small. The City should consider modifying these two zoning districts to reflect the City's future vision.

### Commercial Districts

As for the commercial districts, the C-1 Office District permitted uses are not very specific and encompass vague uses. The C-2 Local Commercial district does not allow for a broad range and mix of uses considering its proximate location to the CBD. Apartments over businesses, town homes, and other multi-family residential, businesses and office uses should be permitted to encourage flexibility and minimize vacancies. The C-4 Highway Service District also has a very limited set of uses and is a very small area, which does not allow for natural expansion or growth. This district is meant to allow for automobile-oriented uses which are not appropriate in the more traditional neighborhood business districts, yet this district is so small it could not possibly contain very many uses of this type. North Main Street should be considered for commercial uses, as there is a need for more land to be developed commercially.

### *Subdivision and Land Development Ordinance (SALDO)*

Several improvements are also needed in the Subdivision and Land Development Ordinance (SALDO). Buffering and landscaping standards should be improved, such as parking lot landscaping, landscaping for large-scale developments, and riparian buffer standards. Additional restrictions on excessive grading and provisions to ensure natural features are preserved should also be included. Provisions for cluster developments that supplement the zoning provisions should be included, such as the application, review process and maintenance provisions for open space and common areas. Lastly, updated stormwater regulations such as best management practices (BMP's) should be included.

### *Design Review Area (DRA)*

Historic preservation is a priority for the City, therefore the City has developed a Design Review Area (DRA) in the Central Business Development District. This area provides for the preservation of buildings, structures, areas, places, and other objects having a special historical, community, or aesthetic interest or value. Design Guidelines have been adopted for the DRA and a Design Review Board currently reviews any proposed new construction, reconstruction, alteration, and demolition. The Board's approval must be secured before any work begins by property owners. While this is a great asset to the City in preserving the downtown character, the current geographic area needs to be extended to include other important properties. Areas to consider include North Main Street and West High Street.

### *Annexation*

The City is fortunate in that it does have room to grow. In the northern section of the City there is undeveloped land that is currently zoned residential near Crown Hill Road and Back Massillon Road. There is also the possibility for annexation of land into the City. Annexation is the process in which land in one municipality becomes part of another and has occurred in the past when landowners have asked to be annexed. In the last nine years, there have been two annexations— one industrial property and one residential subdivision. There has been discussion that if the Orrville Business and Technology Park becomes completely occupied, the City will then consider building a third industrial park north of the Orrville Industrial Park off of North Main Street. If this occurs, land will then have to be annexed from Baughman Township.

### *Drilling*

Another land use issue that will be critical to Orrville is the Marcellus and Utica Shale drilling that has recently become popular in Eastern Ohio. While Orrville itself may not be home to drilling, the City could see impacts in other areas, such as housing, economic development, and transportation. It will be important to balance any new drilling and its impacts with the future growth of the City.



## ASSETS

- Commitment to downtown revitalization
- Cooperation among businesses
- Demand for new commercial businesses
- Enterprise Zone and Community Reinvestment Area
- Historic district designation
- Longtime business owners
- Main street designation
- Regular pedestrian and automotive traffic downtown



*Beautification efforts in the downtown  
(Steering Committee Photo, 2011)*



*Restored buildings in the downtown  
(Mackin Photo, 2011)*

## CDO 2: Expand revitalization efforts to address vacant and underutilized sites within the business district and commercial corridors

The City's commercial and retail development is focused in the downtown and along High Street and North Main. Orrville is situated in an ideal geographic location as it within a reasonable driving distance to Akron, Canton and Cleveland. There are many benefits to doing business in Orrville, from the Community Reinvestment Area, Enterprise Zone, Main Street designation, cooperative local government, and municipal electric utility. Orrville has seen increased industrial growth in the recent years due to these benefits, but now wishes to capitalize on more commercial and retail development.

### *Downtown Vacancies*

The first issue the City needs to address is the vacancies in the downtown. The City has been designated as a Main Street community and as such has been able to receive grant money to undertake numerous projects to beautify the streetscape. As the downtown has had a facelift, it is now time to focus on finding tenants for buildings within the downtown. Another issue with the downtown is that some of the buildings are deteriorated to the extent that significant rehabilitation would be needed. A concern is the lack of unique stores or restaurants to attract shoppers. As the City is home to many industries with several thousand employees, there is a potential market that is being under-utilized. It would seem that employees of local industries are not aware or not supportive of the local businesses. Local businesses should market their goods and services to these employees and be creative in offering incentives to shop at their business. All of these issues should be addressed in order to finish the revitalization of the downtown. There has been some headway with the recent purchase and renovation of several buildings on Main Street by Orrville Redevelopment LLC. There are plans to open these buildings for businesses on the lower floor and residential on the upper floors.

### *2005 Downtown Plan Recommendations*

Previous plans were reviewed to ensure this comprehensive plan will not simply re-invent the wheel. While numerous recommendations have been implemented, there are several that have not. Those specific to the downtown include developing a branding and marketing strategy for the downtown, which should also include developing a logo. It was also recommended in the 2005 Downtown Plan that the City and other organizations, such as Main Street Orrville capitalize on a niche market and conduct a feasibility study of the vacant buildings in the downtown. It has been suggested by the

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public that a niche market could include an “art district” with shops, galleries, community theater, coffee shop, musicians, and performances. The overall goal should be to make Orrville a destination.

### *Variety of Shopping Choices*

While the commercial corridors of High Street and North Main Street have many different businesses, it has been voiced by the public that they would like to see additional shopping and restaurant choices. An issue for Orrville is that in order to attract big box retailers or major chain restaurants, the population has to support it. As Orrville has a smaller population, it is more than likely that they will be unable to justify the need for these types of businesses. Another issue is the poor appearance and condition of shopping centers, which is not a good way to attract new businesses. There has been some interest in additional commercial development along North Main Street, however the current zoning is in conflict with this and should be re-visited. To help attract businesses, the Enterprise Zone program and Community Reinvestment Area program should be considered for expansion.



## CHALLENGES

- Deteriorated properties require significant rehabilitation
- Empty buildings in commercial areas
- Finding tenants for downtown businesses
- Lack of unique stores and restaurants



*Vacant commercial plaza  
(Steering Committee Photo, 2011)*



*Deteriorated buildings  
(Steering Committee Photo, 2011)*



## ASSETS

- Family oriented community
- Quiet and safe neighborhoods
- New residential growth
- Great school district
- New ownership and renovation of rental properties
- Renovation with new retail on first floor and rental apartments on upper floors



*New housing growth  
(Steering Committee Photo, 2011)*



*Established neighborhood  
(Steering Committee Photo, 2011)*

## CDO 3: Create vibrant neighborhoods

Orrville is known as a very close-knit, family oriented community. As such many residents have lived in Orrville for generations raising their families. For someone looking for a place to live, Orrville offers many amenities, such as a great school system, numerous park and recreation opportunities, quiet and safe neighborhoods, walkability, and is close to larger cities, such as Cleveland, Akron, and Canton.

### *Housing Diversity*

While many people have been living in the City for a long time, it has been difficult in recent years to attract new residents. One of the main reasons is the lack of housing diversity. There is not a lot of moderately priced new homes and homes for young professionals. As there are many industries in Orrville that employ different levels of professionals, these types of homes are desired. While Orrville is home to many beautiful old homes, they are expensive to remodel and maintain. There is room for housing growth in Orrville. There are several developments that are in the planning stages that have not been fully developed and there is vacant land available that could be potentially developed as residential in the future.

### *Rental Market*

The rental market in Orrville is also a concern. Many of the rentals that do exist in Orrville have property maintenance issues and are not the types of rentals that young professionals or families are looking for. The City is in need of more high quality, well managed apartment communities. The good news is that two apartment complexes are under new management and are undergoing renovations.

### *Downtown Activity*

Housing issues within Orrville are also tied into the success of the downtown. Many people do not want to live in an area that does not have shops and activity in the downtown, especially after 5 PM. There has been some movement on this front with the recent renovation of some buildings downtown with retail on the first floor and rental apartments upstairs.

### *Property Maintenance*

Property maintenance is challenge in certain neighborhoods within Orrville, specifically those on the south end of town. While some people are simply letting their homes go, others can not afford to maintain their home. In the past the City has worked with Wayne County and the CHIP program to help homeowners upgrade their homes. This type of work should be re-visited as housing

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maintenance is still an issue. The City should also consider more incentives for new housing, renovation programs for existing housing, energy efficiency programs, and special financing programs.

The City does offer the Community Reinvestment Area (CRA) program, which provides tax exemptions to property owners making improvements to their property. A possibility to improve housing would be to extend the boundaries of the CRA to include more of the City's housing stock.

The City has expressed interest in a façade program for homeowners in specific areas, such as South Main Street or West Market. However, a lot of the grants available for this type of program are income dependent and most of the homeowners in this area may not qualify.

### *Blighted Housing*

While property maintenance is the biggest concern in the City of Orrville, there are also vacant, abandoned or blighted homes that compromise the vitality of neighborhoods throughout Orrville. Recently Ohio settled with five large mortgage servicers over foreclosure abuses, fraud, and deceptive mortgage practices. The settlement received will be used in the Moving Ohio Forward grant program, which will provide grant money to counties throughout Ohio to demolish blighted, vacant, or abandoned homes. Wayne County will receive a total of \$426,204. The grant funds may not be used to purchase property, but presents an opportunity for Orrville to demolish homes that are having a detrimental effect on existing, established neighborhoods.



## CHALLENGES

- Property maintenance
- Lack of moderately priced new homes
- Southside neighborhood
- Not a lot of housing diversity for young professionals
- Downtown
- No incentives for new housing
- Older homes are expensive to maintain
- Lack of rentals
- Vacant, abandoned, or blighted properties



*Older homes with maintenance issues  
(Steering Committee Photo, 2011)*



*Lack of diversity in rental units  
(Steering Committee Photo, 2011)*



ASSETS

- City administration
- Municipal Power Plant
- Active Volunteer Fire Department
- Full-time police force
- Availability of utilities
- Orr and Gailey Park
- Orr Pool
- Thursday night concerts at Rehm Pavilion
- Schmid Hall
- Movies in Orr Park
- Orrville Firefighters Association Softball Tournament

**CDO 4: Offer community amenities that meet the expectations of current and future residents.**

The City of Orrville provides its residents with excellent community facilities. The City administration is very active and well-staffed and takes a proactive approach to managing growth and re-development in the City, as well as revitalization of the downtown core.

*Parks and Recreation*

One of the major community facilities that the City offers to its residents is its' park system. In order to better understand how Orrville's recreation options compare with other municipalities, an assessment of parkland within the City was analyzed and measured against guidelines suggested by the National Recreation and Park Association (NRPA) as shown on Table 3.2 and Table 3.3. For reference purposes, Orrville's population was 8,380 according to the 2010 US Census.

A neighborhood park is the basic unit of a park system and serves the recreational and social focus of the neighborhood. Facilities could include intense recreational activities such as fields, courts, play equipment and picnic areas. The City of Orrville has 5 neighborhood parks for a total of 12.5 acres; Gailey, Lenore Street, Foxfire Park-Hilltop, North Mill Street, and Beaver Street. This is in the range of the 8-16 acres recommended by the NRPA. Most of the neighborhoods are well served by these neighborhood parks, however the public has stated that they would like to see additional parkland in the northern part of the City.

**Table 3.2: NPRA Standards for parks**

Type of Park	NPRA Guideline per population	Existing Acres	Need
Neighborhood	1-2 acres per 1,000	12.5	8-16
Community	5-8 acres per 1,000	89	40-64

**Table 3.3: NPRA Standards for facilities**

Activity/Facility	NPRA Guideline: 1 facility/# persons	Existing	Need
Baseball	5,000	1	1
Softball / Little League	5,000	5	1
Basketball Courts	15,000	3	1
Football / Soccer Fields	15,000	0	0
Tennis Courts	2,000	4	4
Volleyball Courts	5,000	1	1
Swimming Pools	20,000	1	0

A community park serves a broader purpose than the neighborhood park and is usually between 30 to 50 acres. Orr Park would be classified as a community park as it is approximately 48 acres and serves the entire City of Orrville and not just a specific neighborhood. The Orrville Walking Trail and Wetlands Complex would also be classified as a community park as it is approximately 41 acres. Orrville meets the recommended range of that the NPRA guidelines for community parks.

Orrville is meeting the standards for recreation facilities. The main concern is the outdated equipment in all the parks. There are plans for a pavilion, ball and soccer fields, and walking trail at the Beaver Street Park, however, funding is an issue.

As new development occurs, it will be important that recreation is available to these new residents. Therefore, the City should consider adopting a mandatory dedication/fee-in-lieu of

## CHAPTER 3: NEEDS ASSESSMENT



ordinance. This ordinance would require subdivisions above a certain threshold to provide either property or fees to the municipality. The property or fees would be used to meet the recreational demands of the new residents of the subdivision.

### *Fire Department*

The fire department is very active and engaged, which is an asset as most volunteer fire departments struggle with members. Needs of the Orrville VFD include new gear and training of personnel. A concern is the invoicing collection rate for EMS calls was only at 48 percent in 2011 and is expected to continue to decline. Another concern is that Station #1 was built in 1964 and is too small, has no storage capabilities, and has chronic maintenance issues. An additional challenge to the department is that a staff person is needed to assist the Chief.

### *Service Department*

Due to the larger size of the City, the Service Department has many miles of roads to maintain, as well as equipment, parks, and storm sewers. The department has a lot of equipment which is aged, but is still in good working order. There are pieces that should be replaced, however. Another concern is the roof of the service department building should be repaired or replaced. The older streets and storm sewers require continuous repair/replacement. To continue to provide current levels of service, additional staff, equipment and funding may be needed. The service department also maintains the parks and has a need for more enclosed, locked storage areas for parks equipment. Additionally, the pool house and rest room buildings need repaired, the pool deck needs caulked, and most the ball fields fences need replaced.

### *Utilities*

The City's Utilities Department provides water service, wastewater service, power, and telecommunications to residents. All the systems have been upgraded and have the capacity to meet future growth. The availability of these services has helped in keeping current businesses and industry and attract new business to locate in Orrville. One concern of the Department is the mandates from EPA regarding the Power Plant that could affect the sustainability of the plant.

The public has voiced their concern regarding the many utility wires in the downtown and how this has negatively affected the beautification efforts underway. There have been strides made to bury some of these lines underground and this type of work should continue.

## CHALLENGES

- Lack of park in North end of the City
- No regulations in land use ordinances regarding recreation requirements for new developments
- Maintenance of existing parks
- Outdated playground equipment
- Lack of funding for Beaver Street Park
- Maintenance issues at Fire Station #1
- Lack of staff person to assist Fire Chief
- Replacement of street department equipment
- EPA Mandates
- Utility wires



*Outdated playground equipment at Mill Street Park  
(Mackin Photo 2011)*



## ASSETS

- Limited traffic congestion
- Sidewalks
- Geographic location
- Walk ability
- Railroad
- Rails to Trails



*Sidewalks in commercial area of the City  
(Mackin Photo, 2011)*



*Sidewalks ready for future growth  
(Mackin Photo, 2011)*

### **CDO 5: Improve mobility by enhancing vehicular, pedestrian and bicycle circulation and connections.**

The City's transportation network and close proximity to major transportation routes is a definite asset. Most of the major transportation concerns from the last Comprehensive Plan have been implemented or are in the process of being implemented, specifically the large amount of truck traffic along SR 57. This has been addressed with the Truck Route project, which is currently in the design phase and the loop road near Smuckers campus. Construction of the loop road will begin in 2012 and construction of the truck route is scheduled for 2013.

#### *Pedestrian Network*

The sidewalk network within the City is a great asset for pedestrians. Most of the City has sidewalks in place due to the sidewalk policy, which is described in **Chapter 2: Community Overview**. The public has stated, however, that they would like to see sidewalks in the industrial parks, which would enable employees to walk during their lunch hour. Additionally there are no sidewalks along North Main Street in the industrial area or the Meadow Lane area. The City is also lacking bike lanes and walking trails. One of the issues with providing bike lanes is the lack of shoulder on most roadways in the City. However, there could be more of an effort made in signing the local roads as Share-the-Road so that bicyclists feel more safe. Currently, there is no bike parking in the downtown and this should be something that the City considers in order to attract bicyclists in to town. This will be especially important when the trail from Orrville to Clinton is developed. Currently, funds are being raised for construction and when built this will meet the need for more walking trails in the City. A partnership to be explored includes the Rails-to-Trails group, the City, and Smuckers, as the proposed bike route through the City of Orrville still needs to be finalized.

#### *Railroad*

The railroad is a potential asset for companies that are in need of rail capabilities. Currently no companies use the railroad, except for Smuckers. This is a tremendous marketing opportunity to companies wishing to re-locate where rail is available.

A challenge, however, is that the South end of the City is not connected to the rest of the City due to the railroad. It has been voiced by many residents that they would like to see additional crossings, such as an Elm Street crossing or a pedestrian walk-way over the railroad. However, this would be a huge cost and require extensive coordination with the railroad.



# CHAPTER 3: NEEDS ASSESSMENT



## Road Network

The City maintains several local roadways. Roads that are in poor condition include Viking, Lakeview, Cloverridge, and Brookwood Court. Council has made re-paving streets a priority and Viking, Brookwood, and Cloverridge will be repaired and re-paved in 2012. In 2013, Council will look at other roads in the City that need repaired. In addition, road connections have been raised as an issue as some residential neighborhoods lack connections between other neighborhoods such as Willow Way and Matthew Drive.

## Parking

Parking is another issue discussed by many people. Some residents feel that there is not enough parking, especially if the vacant downtown buildings become occupied. Others feel that there is more than enough parking and people just don't want to walk to the different lots. A parking study was completed in 2009 by Main Street Orrville's Design Committee. For one week the team recorded the usage of Orrville's public parking lots and on-street parking. Data was collected three times each day. Data is shown on [Table 3.4: Parking Lot Availability](#).

Results from the parking study showed that the most popular parking spots are those that are on-street. However, there are many spaces available in the various City lots. Therefore, it does not seem that the availability of parking is an issue but rather the location of spots. Perhaps a more aggressive marketing campaign should take place. The Downtown Plan completed in 2005 recommended an education program be developed with parking brochures and maps identifying public parking spaces and lots. To date this has not been completed. If this were to be developed it may illustrate to people that there is indeed enough parking in the City.

## Public Transportation

Another transportation concern voiced by the public is the lack of public transportation in Orrville. While there is a van that offers transportation to locations within Orrville and Wooster, it is only for senior citizens. Disabled individuals can use the van by request. Orrville should advertise this more clearly so that it is known throughout the City.

## CHALLENGES

- Road maintenance
- Truck traffic
- Perception of lack of parking
- Railroad crossing
- Lack of road connections
- No bike lanes
- Lack of walking trails
- No sidewalks in industrial areas
- Bike parking downtown
- No public transportation



*Lack of sidewalks in Orrville Industrial Park  
(Steering Committee Photo, 2011)*

**Table 3.4: Parking Lot Availability**

	Total number of parking spaces	Average number available at any time
City Lot A	82	23
City Lot B	45	21
City Lot C	46	28
City Lot D	NA	Minimal usage
City Lot E	31	19
Market Street	19	Regular turnover
Market Street	48	27
N Main Street	20	Regular turnover
W Water Street	13	9
N. Vine Street	15	NA



### ASSETS

- Chamber of Commerce
- Main Street Orrville
- Heartland Point
- University of Akron Wayne College
- Boys and Girls Club
- YMCA
- Rails to Trails
- Aultman Orrville Community Hospital
- Orrville Public Library
- Orrville School District
- Church community



*Orrville YMCA  
(Steering Committee Photo, 2011)*



*Heartland Point  
(Steering Committee Photo, 2011)*

### **CDO 6: Promote Orrville’s small town character and increase community pride.**

Orrville is home to many wonderful organizations that are helping to achieve the vision of the City. Main Street Orrville’s (MSO) mission is to create a sustainable and vibrant downtown district. The organization has many different programs that it is currently working on to revitalize the downtown. The organization also has started the EntreprenOrrville Center for Business Innovation, which is aimed at helping small business owners. A concern is that funding will be an issue in the future. Also, a concern is that several of the downtown initiatives that were recommended in the 2005 Downtown Plan have not yet been completed as discussed on Page 3-8 and 3-9.

#### *Communication*

The City, Chamber, MSO and Economic Development Department are all working to make Orrville a good choice for businesses to locate. Orrville Economic Development also currently partners with Wayne County Economic Development Council on projects. A concern of the public is there does not seem to be one organization trying to make Orrville a destination. The public would like to see the various organizations work together in revitalizing and promoting the City. There also seems to be a lack of communication about revitalization efforts between various groups and a lack of coordination of volunteers.

#### *Promotion*

One of the keys in getting residents and visitors into downtown is community events. While Orrville does host some events there should be more events held throughout the year to attract people into the City. Current events that are held in Orrville, as well as future events, need to be promoted throughout the region. A citywide marketing plan should also be considered to attract visitors into the City.

#### *Akron Wayne College*

Education is a key priority within the City of Orrville, as witnessed by the transformation of the Orrville school campus and the excellent rating it has received as well as the public library. The start of a higher education can also be obtained in Orrville with the presence of the University of Akron Wayne College. While it is great that the City has a college within its boundaries, more efforts need to be made to include the College in community happenings. The College is a huge asset, not only in ideas but with volunteers as well, in the form of student projects.

## CHAPTER 3: NEEDS ASSESSMENT

### *Community Organizations*

There are other great organizations within the City of Orrville that provide services to residents, such as the Orrville Area Boys and Girls Club, Heartland Education Community, Orrville Historical Society, Aultman Orrville Community Hospital, and the YMCA. All of these organizations make efforts to partner to better the community. Areas of concern for the Boys and Girls club is the lack of funding from the state for the after school program. Heartland Education Community would like to explore the possibility of the City providing snow removal for sidewalks in the vicinity of Heartland Point. A Historical Society concern is the aging buildings with small rooms that do not allow for large gatherings.

There could be a potential partnership between the City and YMCA as the YMCA would like to develop a new park with ballfields and trails on the 5-6 acres next to their building. The YMCA is a great asset to the community and provides many recreation and social programs that the City can not afford to provide.



### CHALLENGES

- Coordination of volunteers
- Lack of communication and coordination between organizations
- Lack of funding at the Boys and Girls Club
- Snow removal at Heartland Point
- Historical society aging buildings
- Lack of community events downtown
- Promotion of downtown



*Orrville Historical Society  
(Steering Committee Photo, 2011)*

## CHAPTER 4: ACTION PLAN

At its core, a comprehensive plan is a blueprint for revitalization. Therefore this chapter will focus on recommendations and detailed strategies that were created to fulfill the following vision for the City:

The City of Orrville's distinctive quality of life is exemplified by its sense of Community, Faith, Educational Opportunities and Pride. Orrville will be the centerpiece for Wayne County and the State of Ohio. It's greatest resource is and will continue to be our people. We will come together in an active partnership to foster academic, cultural and economic opportunities to cultivate a safe, vibrant and healthy community for our citizens and organizations.

The basis for the recommendations comes from **Chapter 3: Needs Assessment**. In that chapter the issues throughout the community were identified. The issues were categorized under six elements, which were then developed into the Community Development Objectives for the plan. Each Community Development Objective has several recommendations that are categorized into high, medium, or low priorities. Priorities were determined by City officials, Steering Committee members, and the public.

This chapter also includes *Map 4.1: Future Land Use* and *Map 4.2: Investment Areas*. Future development decisions should be guided by the concepts and strategies included in these two maps. The future land use map reflects the desired vision of the area and should be a guide to any ordinance updates. The investment area map details specific areas where the City should devote resources in order to achieve the vision of the plan.

High priority projects are those that the City should tackle first as they were determined to be the most important during the planning process. Medium priority projects are those that should be implemented after the high priority projects, and the low priority projects are those that while being identified as needed, are not as important and therefore should only be implemented after all other priorities and as funding permits.

At the end of this chapter the entire list of projects are included in an implementation matrix that notes responsible parties, potential partners, opinion of probable cost, and potential funding sources.





## HIGH PRIORITY RECOMMENDATIONS

- Update the Zoning Ordinance
- Update the Subdivision and Land Development Ordinance
- Register with the ODNR to be notified of natural gas drilling

## LOW PRIORITY RECOMMENDATIONS

- Place Ohio Historical Markers at key locations throughout the downtown



*Ohio Historical Marker in Wooster, Ohio  
(Ohio Historical Society Photo, 2012)*

## CDO 1: Allow for growth and expansion while preserving natural and historic features.

**Action Step: Update the Zoning Ordinance to implement the City’s vision and be consistent with the comprehensive plan’s goals and objectives**

The basis for updating the Orrville Zoning Ordinance should be the future land use plan. *Map 4.1: Future Land Use* provides Orrville officials with a map to help the City undertake a comprehensive zoning update that is consistent with the Comprehensive Plan. The current ordinance was reviewed and the following recommendations are offered for consideration:

### Organization

One of the main issues of the ordinance is the lack of organization. A simple organization structure of the ordinance could include the following chapters:

- ◆ Title, Purpose, and other introductory text
- ◆ Definition of Terms
- ◆ Zoning District Regulations (including uses and dimensional requirements)
- ◆ General Regulations for All Uses (this would include parking, landscaping, signage, and stormwater issues, among other items)
- ◆ Supplemental Regulations (this would include conditional use regulations as well as many of the separate chapters on satellite stations, oil and gas wells, etc.)
- ◆ Special Regulations (this should include the design review district, cluster development standards, and PUD regulations)
- ◆ Administration and Enforcement (All items regarding zoning officer, ZHB, amendment, and so forth)
- ◆ Nonconforming Uses
- ◆ Zoning Map

### Content

- ◆ In *Section 1101: Purpose, Title* there should be a citation of the Ohio enabling statute / law.
- ◆ The definitions in *Section 1102: Definitions* should be re-visited as they need to be either simplified or clarified. Also, definitions should not include regulatory language; those types of regulations should be moved to supplemental regulations.
- ◆ There are also many regulations in *Section 1103: Regulations for All Districts* that should not be in the zoning ordinance but in the SALDO. Examples include site plan review, approval of plats, and landscaping plan.
- ◆ In *Section 1107: Parking* several parking requirements for specific uses



should be re-examined, such as health facilities, art galleries, libraries, museums, shopping centers, and retail stores and services. Shared parking provisions should also be considered in the CBD and commercial areas. Incentives could be provided and could include allowing businesses to have parking within a certain distance or to count on-street parking as part of the parking requirement.

- ◆ Only wall and projecting signs are permitted in the business districts in *Section 1109: Signs*, which is restrictive because traditional business district typically have hanging signs, awning signs, window signs, etc. A greater variety of sign types would allow for more flexibility and creativity and improve the overall appearance. The size, flashing, lighting, and lettering of signs however should be controlled to protect the integrity of the commercial districts. Sign distances in the C-1 and C-4 districts seem to be strict. Non-conforming signs only have 90 days before they are considered a vacancy. This is not a long time and the commonly used standard is 6 months. Extending this time frame would help protect those who may need to take a leave of absence from their business, or who are searching for a new tenant. A contingent for establishments that are vacant due to sale / lease could be written into the ordinance, however.
- ◆ Satellite dishes, adult entertainment uses, wireless communications facilities, outdoor furnaces, and oil and gas among others, should all be incorporated into a supplemental regulations chapter.
- ◆ There are no provisions for open space in *Section 1124: Cluster Development* which is atypical for cluster developments. Regulations detailing how the open space will be used (passive or active, trails or paths, playgrounds) should be included. Regulations concerning the maintenance of open space should also be included. This section, like others elsewhere in the Ordinance, has some regulations which fall into the category of SALDO.

### Districts

The City of Orrville has 11 zoning districts, many of which are extremely similar in nature. This can be cumbersome for potential developers and landowners. Consideration should be given to consolidating districts to simplify the ordinance, as shown on *Map 4.1: Future Land Use*. There are also many important uses that are overlooked in the districts and are not permitted by right.

- ◆ Recreational facilities - including private facilities, public facilities, parks, playgrounds, indoor and outdoor facilities.
- ◆ Institutional uses such as churches, community centers, libraries, fire departments, social clubs or lodges, medical facilities such as hospitals or veterinary clinics.
- ◆ Group residential facilities, including group homes, skilled nursing facilities, assisted living facilities, and personal care homes.
- ◆ Kennels and / or dog daycares, child / adult daycare facilities.

Other issues in the district section include:

- ◆ R-1 only permits single-family residential by right. Churches, schools, parks, recreational facilities should also be considered for by right permission.
- ◆ R-2 only permits single family residential and 2-family units. Other uses for consideration which are low impact but appropriate (in addition to churches, schools, parks, and recreation as in R-1), would be attached single-family units such as townhomes, patio homes, as well as home occupations, daycares, and group homes.
- ◆ R-3 is virtually the same as R-2 except for a minor difference in lot size (11,250 square feet for R-2 versus 10,000 square feet for R-3)
- ◆ There are also several provisions in R-3 (and other districts where multi-family is permitted) requiring a “minimum living floor area per family” and limiting multi-family to certain percentages (in the case of R-3, 30%) of a subdivision, which seems overly restrictive and may in fact violate Fair Housing Act and “fair share doctrine standards.”
- ◆ It is also worth pointing out that on the Zoning Map, the R-3 and R-4 districts (the only districts where multi-family is permitted by right) are both very small – it is important to keep in mind that a zoning district must allow for reasonable accommodation and growth or expansion of a use, particularly if that is the only district where a use is



permitted by right.

- ◆ C-1 Office District permitted uses are not very specific and encompass vague, open to interpretation categories such as “administrative or executive” office uses. There are also several regulations which are supplementary to these uses which contain vague language, such as uses having a “minimal effect on the safety of vehicles and pedestrians.” Much of the language for this district is too open and broad.
- ◆ C-2 Local Commercial district should allow for a broader range and mix of uses considering its proximate location to the CBD – apartments over businesses, townhomes and other multi-family residential, and more types of businesses and office uses should be permitted to encourage flexibility and minimize vacancies because of too much “red tape”.
- ◆ C-4 Highway Service District also has a very limited set of uses, and looking at the Zoning Map, it is concerning that it is such a small area. This district is meant to allow for automobile-oriented uses which are not appropriate in the more traditional neighborhood business districts, yet this district is so small it could not possibly contain very many uses of this type.

### **Action Step: Update the Subdivision and Land Development Ordinance (SALDO) to include best management practices for the protection of natural resources and open space.**

The buffering and landscaping standards in the SALDO need to be strengthened to protect the City’s appearance and natural areas. Parking lot landscaping requirements should include requirements regarding landscaped islands, naturalized stormwater drainage basins, and native plants (tall grasses) at entrance and exit driveways. Separate requirements for residential parking lots (for multi-family units) and non-residential (commercial) requirements should also be developed. Categories based on intensity of use (classes) can also be part of these parameters. Landscaping standards should also be developed for large-scale developments, such as the PUD, cluster developments, shopping centers, industrial parks, or office complexes. Riparian buffer standards should also be considered to protect streams and wetlands. Lastly, general landscaping standards that complement existing zoning screening requirements, including best management practices (BMP) standards for stormwater such as rain gardens, rain barrels, green roofs, natural planting beds to help absorb drainage, and so forth should be considered.

Other requirements for consideration include:

- ◆ Additional restrictions on excessive grading and development on steep slopes are needed.
- ◆ Provisions to ensure that natural features (such as mature woodlands, wetlands, streams, meadows, and other important wildlife habitat areas) are preserved to the greatest extent possible.
- ◆ Updated stormwater regulations, including the incorporation of suggested local, state, and national best management practices (BMP’s), such as:
  - Grassed swales
  - Infiltration basins/ trenches
  - Permeable surfaces such as porous asphalt, gravel, or interlocking concrete
  - Bioretention (rain gardens)
  - Vegetated filter strips / stormwater wetlands
  - Wet ponds
- ◆ Provisions that supplement the zoning provisions for cluster development, such as standards for applications and the application and review process and maintenance provisions for open space and common areas.

### **Action Step: Register with the Ohio Department of Natural Resources in order to be notified of natural gas drilling**

Natural gas drilling has been on the rise in the eastern part of the United States now that horizontal drilling technology has made it easier to get the gas out of the ground. Most of the drilling has recently occurred in Pennsylvania and is now

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moving west to Ohio.

Drilling is currently occurring in two different formations; Marcellus and Utica shale. Marcellus is organic shale that is found 6,000-8,000 feet underground. Utica is found below Marcellus Shale and is thicker and more geographically extensive. While most of the drilling activity in the Utica shale is occurring in eastern Ohio and has not yet reached Wayne County, it could be a possibility in the future. Therefore, it is important that Orrville is prepared for any drilling that may occur.

Orrville should register with the Ohio Department of Natural Resources-Division of Oil and Gas Management to be notified of any permit that has been submitted for drilling within the City limits. This will enable the City to be involved in pre-site review meetings. The City should designate one key person to be the contact, as well as a fire/EMS representative. The local inspector should also be contacted so he/she is aware that the City would like to be involved. Inspectors for Orrville would be located in the North region office. The representative appointed by the City should also be familiar with the Best Management Practices (BMP) Manual, as this will be useful during the pre-site review meetings.



*Gas well drilling, 2010*

### **Action Step: Partner with the Ohio Historical Society to place Ohio Historical Markers at key locations throughout the downtown historic district**

The City of Orrville's downtown district was designated as Historic District on the National Register in 2010. The Ohio Historical Markers program is an educational tool that can inform residents and visitors of the significant history in Ohio, in this case Orrville and its historic structures (<http://www.ohiohistory.org/resource/oahsm/markers.html>). To date there are no historical markers located in the downtown district. According to the National Register of Historic Places nomination form, which was completed for the designation of the historic district, there are several buildings that could be considered for a historical marker. The markers can be a vital component of the downtown revitalization efforts underway and also bring public attention to the importance of preserving the existing buildings in the downtown.

As Main Street Orrville (MSO) worked to get the downtown designated as a historic district it only makes sense for the organization to work with the Ohio Historical Markers Program and the Ohio Historical Society to submit an application for markers. The markers are a costly endeavor so MSO should partner with the Orrville Historical Society to determine which structures should be considered for a marker. A prioritized list should then be developed.





## HIGH PRIORITY RECOMMENDATIONS

- Pursue various niche markets
- Re-zone North Main Street
- Recruit stores and restaurants to Orrville
- Update the economic development brochure

## MEDIUM PRIORITY RECOMMENDATIONS

- Regularly update the City's website
- Provide incentives to the owners of identified vacant and/or underutilized sites



City of Orrville website, 2012

## CDO 2: Expand revitalization efforts to address vacant and underutilized sites within the business district and commercial corridors

### Action Step: Implement the recommendation of the Orrville Downtown Plan to pursue various niche markets

The Downtown Plan completed in 2005 detailed several recommendations aimed at making Orrville home to various niche markets. To date, some of these recommendations have been completed. The recommendations that have not been implemented should be re-visited as they could potentially help in the marketing of Orrville and the revitalization of downtown buildings.

- ◆ *Market Orrville as a destination for home furnishings*  
The plan calls for marketing Orrville as a destination for those renovating an existing home or to developers building new homes. Currently, there are two furniture stores and a country store are located in Orrville. There are also antique and floor stores nearby. It is recommended that businesses, which compliment these existing uses, such as lighting stores, kitchen/bath designers, cabinet makers, etc. be recruited to Orrville.
- ◆ *Create a cross-promotional strategy that refers visitors from regional attractions to the downtown*  
The plan recommends that the City and MSO work with the JM Smuckers Store and Cafe to create a cross-promotional strategy that refers visitors and others to downtown Orrville. Other regional attractions, in close proximity to Orrville, that the City and MSO should work with are P. Graham Dunn, Lehmans, Shisler's Cheese House, and Gerber Chicken.
- ◆ *Attract tourists interested in local history*  
The historical assets, such as the Railroad Heritage Society, Smith-Orr Homestead, and Orrville Historical Society, should be venues for living history events. This could potentially bring in more visitors to Orrville, especially on the weekends.
- ◆ *Draw upon Orrville's location in the Amish Country*  
Visitors to Amish Country should be made aware of the attractions in Orrville, such as the historical assets and furniture stores.
- ◆ *Marketing to local AAA clubs, travel agents, regional magazines, etc*  
The City should market to local AAA clubs, travel agents, regional magazines and others to attract additional weekend visitors.

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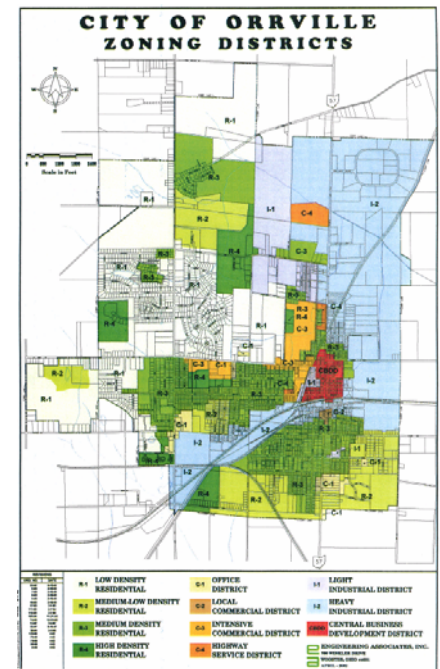


### Action Step: Re-zone portions of Main Street to allow for a mix of development

Currently North Main Street is zoned mostly Heavy Industrial (I-2) with a few parcels zoned Highway Service District (C-4) and Intensive Commercial District (C-3). As the Heavy Industrial district does not allow commercial uses, several of the parcels have been rezoned to Highway Service or Intensive Commercial due to increased commercial growth. Therefore, in order to stop this type of spot zoning it is recommended that a flex district be created along N Main Street that allows for both light industrial and commercial uses.

South Main Street is zoned as five different districts; Medium-Low Density Residential (R-2) Medium-Density Residential (R-3), Office (C-1), Local Commercial (C-2), and Light Industrial (I-1). This creates much confusion as there has been issues with residential properties that are zoned industrial or residential properties wishing to develop into commercial but are zoned as residential. A mixed use district should be created along South Main Street that allows for a mixture of residential and commercial uses.

These potential districts are shown on *Map 4.1: Future Land Use*. As North Main Street has seen an increase in development it has also been designated as a future commercial / light industrial growth area on *Map 4.2: Investment Areas*.



*City of Orrville Zoning Map*

### Action Step: Recruit stores and restaurants to Orrville

The board and staff of Main Street Orrville should get together and discuss new businesses that they have seen in other towns. They should then visit these stores and talk with the owners about what it would take to get that store in Orrville. This strategy is occurring in the nearby town of Wooster and has helped to fill vacant buildings and bring in unique new businesses in the downtown district. It is important to note that the stores and restaurants need to be sited appropriately as what is happening in Wooster may not be an appropriate fit for Orrville.

### Action Step: Update the existing Orrville brochure that provides information on the various economic development organizations (i.e. Chamber, Main Street, etc.); detailing their roles, responsibilities, and contact information

The Orrville Area Chamber of Commerce has developed a brochure that details the roles of the Chamber, Main Street Orrville (MSO), Office of Industrial Development (OID), and the Orrville Area Development Foundation (OADF). This brochure should be updated annually and made available on each organization's website, as well as social networking sites. The brochure should also be made available at each organization's office location and distributed throughout the region to developers and business owners.

While a brochure is a great way to reach people, new technologies are now available that should also be considered. These new technologies include websites, QR codes, and apps for smart phones.

### Action Step: Regularly update the City's website to include current information related to the revitalization efforts and the various economic development organizations

As many people receive their information from the internet, it is very important for the City to update their website on a regular basis. The website can also be a marketing tool by advertising all the things to see and do in Orrville.



While the City does have a website there are some additional “pages” that could be added.

- ◆ Community Calendar- The City does have a link to a community calendar on its website, however it is for Wayne County and not specifically for the City. A calendar should be created just for Orrville that lists all the upcoming events and meetings within the City. This should also include other community events held by the School District, Wayne College, and other local organizations.
- ◆ Volunteer Opportunities- Solicit volunteers to help with various events such as clean up days, serve on various boards/committees, etc.
- ◆ List of attractions/businesses and real estate opportunities

As there are other organizations or departments that are more suited to include this on their website, it is important to encourage those organizations to update their websites as well. All organizations should provide links to each other on their webpage.

The City should also consider undertaking a complete overhaul of their current website to make it more user-friendly. While there is a lot of great information provided on the website, some of it is not well organized. There are links on both sides of the main page, as well as the top that are for the same information. A resource for the City to update their website could be utilizing Orrville high school students or college students at Akron-Wayne College for a class project.

**Action Step: Provide incentives to the owners of identified vacant and/or underutilized sites to revitalize their properties**

There are many sites that are vacant and underutilized that were determined to be key priorities for the City. It is important to publicize the many incentives available within the City to help in revitalization of these properties. The City should work with the owners of vacant and underutilized sites to make use of the Community Reinvestment Area, Enterprise Zone, and Orrville Job Creation Tax Credit. The City should also provide marketing and promotion assistance for prospective tenants and assistance with small business loans/grants available through the County and State. Areas of focus are shown as Commercial Investment Areas on *Map 4.2: Investment Areas*.



## CDO 3: Create vibrant neighborhoods

**Action Step: Utilize the Moving Ohio Forward grant program to demolish vacant, abandoned, or blighted homes, specifically in the south end neighborhoods.**

In the fall of 2012, the City of Orrville will receive Moving Ohio Forward grant monies to demolish vacant, abandoned, or blighted homes. Wayne County is hoping to continue this program with a revolving loan fund, which will bring in additional funds to eliminate more blighted properties in the future. The City should target any future demolitions in the south end neighborhood as it has been determined during the planning process that this area has the most problematic housing in Orrville. The homes should be identified during the development of the neighborhood revitalization plan mentioned in Action Step 8.

The grant program defines vacant homes as property that is currently unoccupied for at least 90 days but was previously used for residential purposes within the past 50 years. Abandoned homes are those that mortgage or tax foreclosure proceedings have been initiated, no payments have been made by the property owner for at least 90 days, and the property has been vacant for at least 90 days. Blighted areas are areas that at least seventy percent of the parcels are blighted and impair the sound growth of the political subdivision, retard the provision of housing accommodations, constitute an economic or social liability, or are a menace to the public health, safety, morals, or welfare in their present condition and use.

**Action Step: Promote the success of the Orrville City Schools to attract new families into the City**

The Orrville City Schools have recently been ranked excellent by the Ohio Department of Education. The school district should provide this information and other important statistics to local realtors and newspapers. The City should publicize this information on their webpage, as well as on the Economic Development, Main Street, and Chamber's websites as potential new residents utilize these pages.

**Action Step: Establish a low interest loan or grant program for homeowners for exterior renovations**

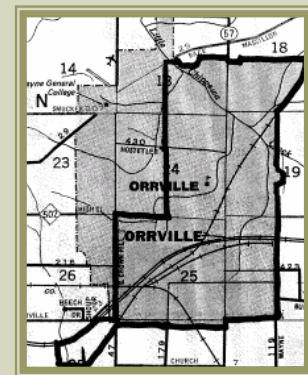
Property maintenance is an issue within Orrville. The City should work with local businesses and banks to contribute to a revolving loan fund. This would provide assistance to homeowners in specific

### HIGH PRIORITY RECOMMENDATIONS

- Promote the success of the Orrville City Schools
- Utilize the Moving Ohio Forward grant program

### MEDIUM PRIORITY RECOMMENDATIONS

- Establish a low interest loan or grant program for homeowners
- Expand the boundaries of the Community Reinvestment Area



- Amend the guidelines of the Community Reinvestment Area
- Publicize programs that provide assistance to homeowners
- Develop a neighborhood revitalization plan for the south end neighborhood
- Create a housing roundtable

### LOW PRIORITY RECOMMENDATIONS

- Create a Property Maintenance Committee
- Consider enacting a rental ordinance
- Expand the historic district boundaries along South Main Street



areas, such as the southern portion of the City, to make improvements to their homes. Criteria would have to be developed that specifies homeowner eligibility requirements, eligible improvements, and terms of the loan or grant, and a committee should be formed to oversee the program.

There are several ways this type of program could be funded. Many Cities within Ohio have similar programs and use their Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) entitlement monies. The City of Orrville is not an entitlement City, but is an acquired City. This means that Wayne County administers the program for the City. The City typically uses the money for road resurfacings or sidewalk installation. The City should explore how they can use this money to start a property maintenance program aimed at the southern portion of the City.

Other options include soliciting the many businesses and industries within the City that could provide seed money to begin this type of program. The money received by business and industry could be used to begin the program or to specifically help their employees.

Local banks should also be approached as they are required through the Community Reinvestment Act (CRA) to help meet the credit needs of the entire community. The City should approach branch managers of banks within Orrville to see if they would be willing to help fund a low interest loan or grant program.

Lastly, the City should consider designating a specific amount of money each year from the general fund to contribute to the program.

### **Action Step: Expand the boundaries of the Community Reinvestment Area to encourage more property owners to improve their homes**

Currently, the Community Reinvestment Area (CRA) includes the southern portion of the City only. The CRA provides property owners tax incentives for completing property improvements, such as renovating existing buildings or constructing new ones. The CRA should be extended to include all of Orrville to allow more people to utilize the tax benefits and improve their homes.

### **Action Step: Amend the guidelines of the Community Reinvestment Area to include new construction in order to attract desired development**

Currently the CRA guidelines in Orrville are only for property owners making improvements to existing homes. The City should consider amending these guidelines to allow the CRA to be used for new construction. This could spur new housing development within the Future Residential Growth Areas shown on *Map 4.2: Investment Areas*.

### **Action Step: Publicize programs that provide assistance to homeowners**

There are many programs available to home-owners in Orrville to help improve their homes, however many residents are not aware of these programs. The Community Reinvestment Area (CRA) program is currently not listed on the City website. The City typically sends an application to residents once they apply for a building permit; however there are many residents that may want to undertake a project but are worried about the cost of completing such a project. Perhaps if they were aware of the tax incentives available they would be more willing to make improvements.

There are also many other programs or loan options for low-income residents that the City should publicize on their website, in City Hall, in the Library, and in local newspapers. These include:

- ◆ Home Weatherization Program- no-cost energy assistance program to help increase energy efficiency in homes and

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reduce costs. This program is administrated by Community Action-Wayne/Medina Counties located in Wooster.

- ◆ Wayne County Habitat ReStore (<http://www.waynehabitat.org/Restore.html>) -The Habitat store is a discounted building materials resale center that sells building materials, tools, appliances, and lawn and garden items. All of the proceeds go to construction of new homes in Wayne County for families in need.
- ◆ Habitat for Humanity in Wayne County- non-profit that builds affordable housing for those in need. They have built two homes in the last 10 years in Orrville.
- ◆ Federal Housing Administration (FHA) Loan Program- The FHA offers low interest loans to qualified buyers. They also offer loans to buy homes and fix them up with all the costs included in one loan. There is also help for seniors and to make homes more energy efficient.
- ◆ Community Housing Improvement Program (CHIP) - this program provides grants to communities to undertake housing-related activities. Wayne County has formed a project review committee that determines a target area within the County that is determined on low-to-moderate persons. This area is then targeted for improvements and the program is publicized in the community. Orrville has been a targeted community in the past.



*Wayne County Habitat ReStore (Wayne County Habitat for Humanity Photo, 2012)*

The City should also work with First National Bank, Commercial and Savings Bank, First Merit Bank, PNC Bank, and Wayne County Community Federal Credit Union to publicize loan options that are available as many first-time home buyers and low-income buyers do not know where to begin looking. Purchase with renovation loans would be helpful for the aging housing stock in the older portions of the City, especially in the south side of the City. Purchase with renovation loans are helpful for those that wish to begin renovation immediately after closing on the purchase of a new home.

### **Action Step: Develop a neighborhood revitalization plan for the south end neighborhood**

As most of the housing issues are located within the south end neighborhood, as shown on *Map 4.2: Investment Areas*, it only makes sense for the City to invest in this neighborhood to improve the quality of life. While housing may be the main issue in this neighborhood there are other underlying issues that are affecting the condition of the neighborhood as well. Therefore, the City should target one capital improvement project annually, such as park renovations or street reconstruction, to illustrate to the community that they are serious about investing into the neighborhood and improving conditions. The neighborhood revitalization plan should include a prioritized list of projects, along with the cost of each.

### **Action Step: Create a housing roundtable, comprised of City officials, local developers and realtors, to discuss housing issues and potential opportunities**

As part of the comprehensive planning process a housing focus group was held to learn more about the housing issues and what can be done to address them. This group consisted of key players in the housing market in Orrville, and it is important that the dialogue stay open between these players and they continue to meet on a regular basis. This group could work together to improve the housing community and address issues, such as dilapidated homes, attracting new development, and helping those that cannot afford home improvements or housing.



### **Action Step: Create a Property Maintenance Committee that can work with elderly and low-income property owners in violation to determine suitable solutions**

Property maintenance is a concern in specific neighborhoods in Orrville and many property owners do not have the means to address the violation. Therefore, a property maintenance committee should be formed to work with elderly and low-income property owners on ways to address their violation and bring the property up to code. Options include waiving or reducing fines if the problem is addressed or connecting property owners with local contractors willing to provide services at a reduced fee. Volunteers could also be utilized, such as the church community, to help with projects, such as lawn maintenance or painting. Volunteers could be solicited by having a page on the City website as mentioned earlier on page 4-7.

A database should be developed of every reported code violation. This will allow for these violations to be visually tracked and provide a means to quickly identify trends and neighborhoods which may be in decline.

### **Action Step: Consider enacting a rental ordinance to require annual inspections of rental properties**

The City does not have a rental ordinance in place. As the condition of rentals is an issue in the City it is important for the City to consider enacting an ordinance as this is one of the best ways to address the issue. The ordinance should include a requirement for annual inspections so the City can accurately track rental properties and their condition. If a violation is found during the inspection, the City and property owner should develop a remediation plan that identifies the actions needed to address the violation. The ordinance should also include language that allows the City to revoke a rental permit if a certain number of violations are reported within a determined period of time. As the cost of this type of program could be quite large, the City should consider contracting inspection of properties to an outside firm instead of hiring new staff.

A cost savings option for the City would be to share an inspector with a neighboring community, such as Wooster and Medina. The City should meet with these communities to determine their interest.

### **Action Step: Expand the historic district boundaries along South Main Street south to the municipal boundary**

South Main Street is home to many historical homes that have the potential to be listed on the National Register of Historical Places. If a building is listed on the National Register of Historic Places; is located in a registered historic district; is certified by Ohio's Preservation Officer as being of historic significance to the district; or is listed as a historic landmark by a certified local government, then the building is eligible for tax credits. The tax credit provides 25 percent of the qualified rehabilitation expenditures for historic rehabilitation projects. The tax credits are funded through the Ohio Historic Preservation Tax Credit Program.

The existing historic district should be extended along South Main Street from the intersection of Market Street to the municipal boundary as shown on *Map 4.2: Investment Areas*.



### **CDO 4: Offer community amenities that meet the expectations of current and future residents.**

#### **Action Step: Complete a Parks and Recreation Plan**

There is a need within the City to determine the highest and best uses of the current recreation facilities. There are concerns regarding the need for improvements at Beaver Street Park due to access issues, lack of sewerage, and security concerns as well as the feasibility of opening an additional park in the south side neighborhood that is more safe and accessible with utilities available. Lenore Street Park is also an issue as it has been closed due to petroleum contamination from an adjacent bulk plant. This park needs to be re-evaluated as the neighborhood demographics have since changed and the facilities at the park may not be appropriate anymore. There are many maintenance issues within Orr Park that also need to be addressed. Therefore it is recommended that a comprehensive park and recreation plan be completed. The plan would identify needs specifically in terms of recreation facilities and programs and identify methods to meet those needs.

The plan would include three phases; inventory and analysis, community needs assessment, and an action plan. The existing inventory and community needs assessment completed for the Comprehensive Plan Update can be used as a starting point for the comprehensive park and recreation plan. As part of this plan, playground safety audits should be performed as outdated play equipment is a concern. The audits should be conducted by a Certified Playground Safety Inspector (CPSI) who is certified by the National Recreation and Park Association. The audit will inform the City about the safety of the playgrounds as compared to the national standard of care for each playground, and will include a report of all safety concerns as well as recommendations on how to address the issues.

Also part of the plan should include an extensive public involvement strategy, such as surveys and neighborhood meetings, to determine exactly what they community would like to see in terms of recreation.

#### **Action Step: Adopt a mandatory dedication / fee-in-lieu of ordinance in order to provide additional recreation facilities for new residents**

One of the issues with recreation that was discovered during the

#### HIGH PRIORITY RECOMMENDATIONS

- Complete a Parks and Recreation Plan
- Adopt a mandatory dedication / fee-in-lieu of ordinance

#### MEDIUM PRIORITY RECOMMENDATIONS

- Designate the Beaver Street Park as open space with a walking trail
- Determine interest from neighboring municipalities to form a Council of Governments (COG)



*Beaver Street Park, 2012*

#### LOW PRIORITY RECOMMENDATIONS

- Conduct a feasibility study to update fire station #1





planning process is the lack of a park in the northern portion of the City where new development has occurred in the past few years. Therefore, it is essential that the City of Orrville adopt a mandatory dedication/fee-in-lieu of ordinance to require subdivisions to provide property or fees to Orrville to meet the recreational demands associated with the new residents of the subdivision.

The City should determine how many acres of public parkland/open space they want to provide for residents. For instance, the National Park and Recreation Association guidelines call for 1-2 acres of neighborhood parks for every 1,000 residents. If the City were to use the standard of 1 acre, then the formula in the ordinance would be as follows:

- ◆ Example- 100 unit subdivision would be required to dedicate 0.25 acres to parkland
  - 100 units X 2.51 (Census Median Household Size) = 251 new residents
  - 251 new residents /1,000 residents X 1 acre = 0.25 acres

There can also be different requirements for multi-family units. If land dedication is not possible then a monetary contribution should then be required, which is based on fair market value of the total amount of acreage that should have been dedicated for recreation purposes.

**Action Step: Designate the Beaver Street Park as open space with a walking trail that respects the natural environment.**

The Beaver Street Park is located in the southern portion of the City and is within the targeted housing improvement area. A Master Site Plan was completed in 1995 that recommended a pavilion, baseball field, soccer field, basketball court, bike racks, public restrooms, and walking trail. However, the recommendations should be revisited since the plan was developed over fifteen years ago. The neighborhood's demographics have changed and the need for active recreation, such as ball fields is not necessary. Other issues that make implementation of the Master Site Plan unlikely are the lack of access, security concerns, and no sewerage connection for public restrooms. Therefore, the park would be better suited for passive recreation. Reinvestment should be limited to planting trees, installing benches, and developing a gravel walking trail along the perimeter of the park. As access is an issue it should be limited to pedestrians only and pathways and signage installed on Beaver Street and Sassafras Street. In order to enhance security, usage of the park should be limited to daylight hours only.



*Beaver Street Park, 2012*

The City should also consider forming a group consisting of residents near the park, such as the Beaver Park Care Committee, that would meet regularly with the Safety Service Department to discuss needs and opportunities and to help install and maintain future improvements at the park. This group could also help care for and keep an eye on the park and report any suspicious behavior at the park to the police.

**Action Step: Determine interest from neighboring municipalities to form a Council of Governments (COG)**

A COG is an entity that serves a region (usually multiple municipalities but it can also be on a County level). The COG's responsibilities can vary depending on the needs of the communities it serves, but some examples include joint purchasing and formalized agreements to share equipment. Sharing equipment could help the City with the issues they

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have with their Service Department and the need for new equipment. The COG could also be utilized to discuss any natural gas drilling occurring in the area and how the municipalities should prepare for it. The City should contact surrounding municipalities to determine if there is a regional interest in developing a COG.

### **Action Step: Conduct a feasibility study to update fire station #1**

As a concern of the Orrville VFD is the condition of Station #1. Issues with the building include the lack of storage, size of the building, and chronic maintenance issues. The City should conduct a feasibility study to determine the costs of updating the station. The study should prioritize which repairs should be made first and provide a cost for each.



*Orrville Station 1, 2011*



## HIGH PRIORITY RECOMMENDATIONS

- Partner with Rails to Trails of Wayne County to locate a trailhead in or near the downtown
- Install bicycle racks throughout the City
- Develop a program that publicizes available parking areas

## MEDIUM PRIORITY RECOMMENDATIONS

- Install share the road signs for bicycle traffic
- Develop a bicycle connection plan



*Bike Route Sign, 2012*

## LOW PRIORITY RECOMMENDATIONS

- Develop a pedestrian network in the Orrville Industrial Park and Orrville Business Park

### CDO 5: Improve mobility by enhancing vehicular, pedestrian and bicycle circulation and connections

#### Action Step: Partner with Rails to Trails of Wayne County to locate a trailhead in or near the downtown

Rails-to-Trails of Wayne County is in the process of developing a trail from Orville to Marshallville and eventually to Clinton. The trail will begin in the northern portion of the City near the industrial park. Rails-to-Trails would also like to extend the trail south into Orrville and develop a trailhead in the heart of the City, as shown on *Map 4.2: Investment Areas*. The City should be actively involved in this process as a trailhead near the downtown could be a huge economic boost to the revitalization efforts already ongoing.

#### Action Step: Install bicycle racks throughout the City

The City should install bicycle racks at every municipally owned building and/or place, as well as other important destinations (Heartland Point, Boys and Girls Club, etc). The City should also work with local businesses to install bicycle racks for those that are in need of bicycle parking.

#### Action Step: Develop a program that publicizes available parking areas in the downtown business district

An ongoing problem in the central business district is the perception that there is a lack of public parking in the downtown. However, a parking study done by Main Street Orrville (MSO) has shown that this is not the case. The main issue seems to be the lack of knowledge of existing City parking lots. The City and MSO should work together to create a smart phone application that details the location of lots, garages, and on street parking. An online map should also be created of all parking and this map should be posted on the City's website, as well as all other organizations and businesses in the downtown district.

#### Action Step: Install share the road signs for bicycle traffic along approved roadways

Orrville has a very active bicycle community; therefore every effort should be made to make the roadways safe for them to travel. Ideally, a bike lane on major roadways would be the best option; however the lack of shoulder and right-of-way poses a problem. Therefore, share the road signs should be installed along major roadways in Orrville to alert motorists of the presence of cyclists. Bike safe grates should also be installed on any roadway bicyclists will be utilizing.



### **Action Step: Develop a bicyclist connection plan**

Orrville should consider the development of a bicyclist connection plan that includes a network of roads that are suitable for bicyclists to travel around and through the City. The City should consider working with neighboring townships, such as Green and Baughman Townships, to develop a multi-municipal connection plan. The network would be a shared roadway network and not specific bicycle lanes.

In the plan bike routes would be developed that would connect specific destinations. Bike route signs would be posted and would identify specific destinations. The bike routes should be posted online and advertised throughout the region. Not only would this provide an alternative mode of transportation for residents, but could also act as an economic generator by bringing cyclists into the community and showcasing assets each community has to offer. This is also a great way to get more residents outside and exercising and improving the overall health of the community.

### **Action Step: Develop a pedestrian network in the Orrville Industrial Park and Orrville Business Park**

Through the public outreach efforts associated with the Comprehensive Plan Update, the lack of sidewalks in both of the industrial parks was discussed. Residents and employees would like to see sidewalks so they can walk during their lunch hour as walking on the roadway can pose safety concerns with the large amount of truck traffic going in and out of the parks. A cost effective option is to develop a pedestrian pathway, instead of sidewalks, that consists of gravel or asphalt. Gravel is the cheapest option; however drainage and the amount of traffic that will utilize the trail will have to be taken into consideration when the trail is in the design stages. The general location of the pathways is shown on *Map 4.2: Investment Areas*.

There is currently an existing gravel pedestrian path at Jarrett Logistics and Pack Ship USA that could potentially be connected to the proposed paths at the industrial parks.



## HIGH PRIORITY RECOMMENDATIONS

- Develop a citywide marketing program
- Form a special events committee
- Improvement communication, collaboration, and cooperation between various organizations
- Work with local media outlets on achieving monthly coverage/exposure



*OrrViews (Steering Committee Photo, 2011)*

## MEDIUM PRIORITY RECOMMENDATIONS

- Continue the community clean up day program
- Develop a public art program
- Extend Bloomin' Orrville
- Develop a Youth Board

## LOW PRIORITY RECOMMENDATIONS

- Construct kiosks at key locations
- Form a town and gown committee with Wayne-Akron College
- Partner with MSO to make the farmer's market more accessible

## CDO 6: Promote Orrville's small town character and increase community pride.

### Action Step: Develop a citywide marketing program that promotes the City's assets and attracts visitors to the downtown

- ◆ *Work with local business to create tourist packages*  
 Within close proximity to Orrville are many regional attractions such as the Smuckers Company Store and Café and Amish Country, which attract several thousands of visitors each year. The City should work with local businesses to provide coupons in local AAA booklets, which could be placed at these regional attractions. The City should also work with local tourist agencies such as the Wayne County Convention and Visitors Bureau and the Holmes County Chamber of Commerce to encourage bus tours visiting Amish Country and Smuckers to make stops in Orrville.
- ◆ *Implement an Orrville Passport Program that rewards people for purchasing products or services in Orrville*  
 An Orrville Passport Program would allow people to take the passport to businesses in the City to obtain stamps when they purchase a product or service. After all the stamps were obtained, then the person would be entered into a drawing for prizes. Local businesses could be solicited to donate items for the prizes.
- ◆ *Encourage local businesses to participate in discount programs*  
 A great way for local businesses to get exposure is for them to participate in programs like Groupon and Living Social. Groupon and Living Social send daily e-mails to thousands of subscribers featuring a discount for local business. Local businesses can visit [www.groupon.com](http://www.groupon.com) and [www.livingsocial.com](http://www.livingsocial.com) to learn how to participate in either of these programs.
- ◆ *Start a Cash Mob*  
 The purpose of a cash mob is to support local business and the overall community by getting a large number of people to patronize a store on a certain day. It is a great way to get people into Orrville's downtown. Cash mobs have occurred throughout the Country, with a local example in Chargin Falls, Ohio. People were asked to show up on a specific day and spend at least \$20 at a local hardware store that has been in business since 1857. To advertise the cash mob, emails were sent and it

## CHAPTER 4: ACTION PLAN



was posted on social media sites, such as Facebook. This could be a monthly event in Orrville with different businesses each month. The Huntingdon, New York Chamber of Commerce has used cash mobs monthly to help support local business and bring attention to the area.

- ◆ *Promote Small Business Saturday*  
Small business Saturday is held the Saturday after Thanksgiving. It was created by American Express to encourage shoppers to patronize small, local businesses. The Orrville Chamber of Commerce and Main Street Orrville should help local businesses promote Small Business Saturday. More information can be found on the website <http://www.smallbusinesssaturday.com>
- ◆ *Encourage businesses to offer discounts to employees of industries in Orrville and students at Wayne College on certain days*  
In order to capitalize on the many people that work in and visit the City but don't necessarily live in the City, business owners should offer discounts on certain days for Orrville industries and Wayne College. Main Street Orrville and the Chamber of Commerce should work with the businesses that wish to participate in the program, the many industries located in the City and the college to advertise the discount program.
- ◆ *Promote downtown businesses/attractions at festivals/events in the region*  
A great way for the City to gain additional exposure is by promoting the downtown at festivals and events in the region, such as the Wayne County Fair.

### **Action Step: Form a special events programming committee to determine what types of events would get more people into the downtown**

Currently, the events in the City consist of the annual 4<sup>th</sup> of July celebration, Rib and Music Fest, Home for the Holidays, Farmers Market, and 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursdays. While these are great events and bring a lot of people into the City there is a need for weekly events to attract as many visitors as possible. Weekend events should be considered as well as people have more time to attend. There should also be one big event that is held annually during a specific month so people are aware and make plans every year to come to Orrville. A committee should be formed to meet monthly to discuss events in other locations and their applicability to Orrville. The committee should also network with other Main Street programs on how to program and plan successful events. Events should be publicized across the region, not just in Wayne County as well as locally using the vacant storefronts in the downtown.



*4th of July Festival (Steering Committee Photo, 2011)*

During the youth focus group it was mentioned that the students would like to see an event in the summer similar to Home for the Holidays. The students really enjoy the tours of different businesses and thought perhaps an event could be held in the summer to include tours of landscaping and flower gardens throughout the City.

It is also recommended that Home for the Holidays could also be expanded to include a light-up night for the entire City and a holiday contest in each neighborhood.



### **Action Step: Continue to improve communication, collaboration, and cooperation between various organizations**

There are many different organizations within Orrville that play a role in the continued success of the City in terms of attracting and retaining new business and industry. However, many of the public feel that these organizations do not always communicate their ideas and work together for the greater good. Therefore, it is recommended that all the organizations meet quarterly to discuss projects and share ideas. The organizations should also meet with Council on a semi-annual basis to discuss the various projects underway.

### **Action Step: Work with local media outlets on achieving monthly coverage/exposure of what's happening in Orrville**

Residents who participated in the planning process have stated that the events that occur in Orrville are not always well publicized to existing residents or to those living in the region. Events should be publicized in all local newspapers, as well as in regional newspapers such as the Akron Beacon Journal, Canton Repository, and Cleveland Plain Dealer. Facebook and Twitter should also be used. Events could also be publicized at Orrville High School as they run announcements concerning community events on Fridays.

### **Action Step: Continue the community clean up day program**

One of the programs in the City that should be continued on an annual basis is the clean up day. Clean up days should be organized in neighborhoods throughout the City and the City should sponsor an event along Main Street to reward volunteers for their work. Part of this clean up program could be a yard contest where prizes are awarded for the best yard in each different neighborhood. The Earth Science Club at the Orrville City Schools would be a great asset for volunteers during the community clean up event.

### **Action Step: Develop a public art program to improve the attractiveness of the City**

One potential way to beautify the City is to select locations for art installations such as blank walls, vacant buildings, key intersections, and gateways. An example of such art is located on the Smith Dairy building downtown. A pilot project should be started and include local artists, art teachers, professors, and local designers who work together to determine a suitable location and type of art work to be created. Focus should be on specific commercial areas, such as the Central Business District, the High Street, and Hostetler Road commercial areas.

### **Action Step: Extend the Bloomin' Orrville program further into the community**

The Bloomin' Orrville program is a wildly successful beautification effort that Main Street Orrville started in 2005. Approximately 240 hanging baskets with petunias and 33 street planters are installed throughout the main streets of Orrville. The program is funded through businesses as well as donations in the Orrville area. The program has expanded throughout the years as donations have allowed. Areas that should be considered for future expansion efforts include:

- ◆ Intersection of Main Street and Chestnut Street to municipal boundary
- ◆ Past Sterling Avenue on Market Street
- ◆ High Street



*Bloomin' Orrville hanging basket, 2011*

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### Action Step: Develop a Youth Board

A Youth Board is a great way for City Council to get the youth involved in the community. During the planning process, the youth were involved and shared concerns and ideas and provided valuable input that is often missed. A Youth Board would be an advisory board to Council that would discuss problems and needs in the community and promote youth involvement in community affairs.

### Action Step: Construct kiosks at key locations that offer a map of downtown Orrville and local attractions to direct visitors

As the Aultman Orrville Community Hospital and the University of Akron Wayne College are both located in Orrville, there is an opportunity for the businesses and attractions in the City to capitalize on these visitors. Kiosks should be placed at the hospital and college that show the local businesses and attractions on a map. Other locations for kiosks include the two industrial parks. Virtual kiosks, QR codes, and Apps should also be considered as well.

### Action Step: Form a Town and Gown committee with Wayne-Akron College

Town and Gown committees have been successful in many college towns in offering a forum for the municipality and the college to discuss issues that pertain to both entities. In this particular case, the committee should include representatives from the College, City, Main Street Orrville, Chamber, and Office of Industrial Development. Issues to be discussed should include community relations, economic activities, charitable/volunteer programs, and academic outreach.

### Action Step: Partner with Main Street Orrville to make the farmer's market more accessible

While the farmer's market is an excellent event for the City, the location may pose problems to potential visitors. A more prominent location should be considered closer to the Main Street as it may attract more people. Another issue with Farmer's Market is the time. It is currently held from 3:00 PM-6:00 PM. This does not allow a lot of the people that work in the downtown to patronize the market. Main Street Orrville should consider hosting lunchtime hours as well as evening or weekend hours.

The Farmer's Market should be publicized and promoted through a "buy local" campaign using brochures that are distributed to local employers, schools, and at events. Lastly, business owners should be encouraged to stay open later if the farmer's market is held in the evening.



*Orrville farmer's market (Orrville MSO Photo, 2012)*

During the Farmer's Market, other events should also be occurring at the same time. An example would be live music. Also a kid's corner would be a great addition to the Farmer's Market, such as face painting, art work, and garden/flower planting.

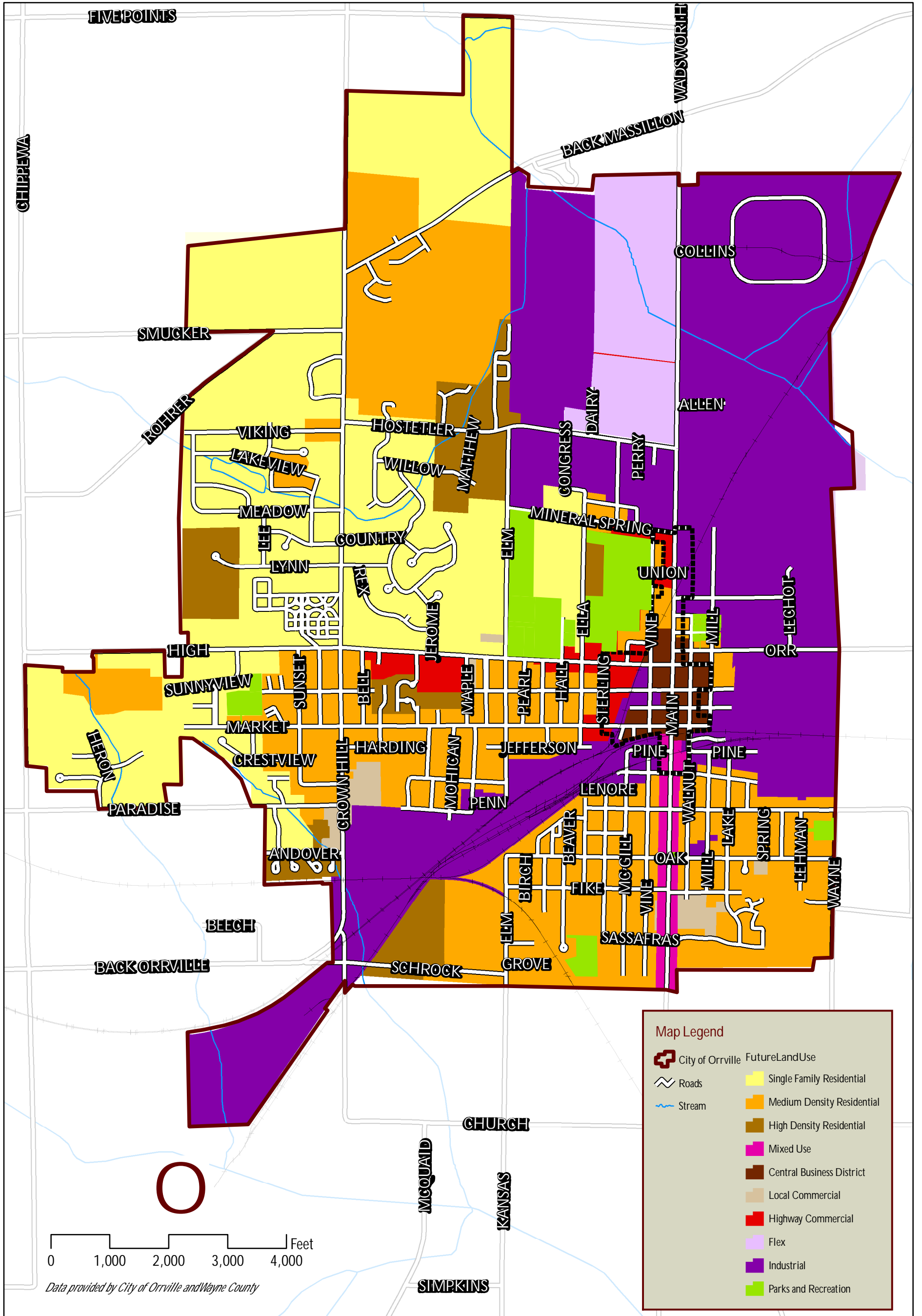


Recommendation	Priority	Reference page #	Responsible Party	Potential Partners	Estimated Costs	Funding Sources
<b>Objective 1: Allow for growth and expansion while preserving natural and historic features</b>						
Update the Zoning Ordinance to implement the City's vision and be consistent with the comprehensive plan's goals and objectives	High	4-2	City of Orrville	N/A	\$20,000-\$30,000	General Fund
Update the Subdivision and Land Development Ordinance to include best management practices for the protection of natural resources and open space	High	4-4	City of Orrville	N/A	\$20,000-\$30,000	General Fund
Register with the Ohio Department of Natural Resources to be notified of natural gas drilling	High	4-4	City of Orrville	ODNR	N/A	N/A
Partner with the Ohio Historical Society to place Ohio Historical Markers at key locations throughout the downtown historic district	Low	4-5	City of Orrville	MSO, Ohio Historical Society, Orrville Historical Society	\$1,800-\$2,200 per sign	Ohio Historical Markers Grant Program (receive \$750 to help defray total cost)
<b>Objective 2: Expand revitalization efforts to address vacant and underutilized sites within the business district and commercial corridors</b>						
Implement the recommendation of the Orrville Downtown Plan to pursue niche markets	High	4-6	MSO	City of Orrville, Railroad Heritage Society, Orrville Historical Society, Smuckers, Wayne County Convention and Visitors Bureau	Dependent on the specific activities	Ohio Department of Development; local donations
Re-zone portions of Main Street to allow for a mix of development	High	4-7	City of Orrville	N/A	Staff time	N/A
Recruit stores and restaurants to Orrville	High	4-7	MSO	Other main street organizations in the region	Staff time	N/A
Update the brochure that provides information on the various economic development organizations detailing their roles, responsibilities, and contact information	High	4-7	Orrville Area Chamber of Commerce	City of Orrville, MSO, OID, OADF	Staff time	N/A
Regularly update the City's website to include current information related to the revitalization efforts and the various economic development organizations	Medium	4-7	City of Orrville	Orrville High School; University of Akron-Wayne College	Staff time; no cost if students are utilized	N/A
Provide incentives to the owners of identified vacant and/or underutilized sites to revitalize their properties	Medium	4-8	City of Orrville	OID	Staff time	N/A

Recommendation	Priority	Reference page #	Responsible Party	Potential Partners	Estimated Costs	Funding Sources
<b>Objective 3: Create vibrant neighborhoods</b>						
Utilize the Moving Ohio Forward grant program to demolish vacant, abandoned, or blighted homes, specifically in the south end neighborhoods.	High	4-9	City of Orrville	Wayne County	Staff time	N/A
Promote the success of the Orrville City Schools to attract new families into the City	High	4-9	Orrville City Schools	City of Orrville, MSO, Orrville Chamber of Commerce, Realtors	Staff time	N/A
Establish a low interest loan or grant program for homeowners for exterior renovations	Medium	4-9	City of Orrville	Local business, industry, and banks	Dependent on scope of program	CDBG, local businesses and industry, banks, general fund
Expand the boundaries of the Community Reinvestment Area to encourage more property owners to improve their homes	Medium	4-10	City of Orrville	Ohio Department of Development	Staff time	N/A
Amend the guidelines of the Community Reinvestment Area to include new construction in order to attract desired development	Medium	4-10	City of Orrville	Ohio Department of Development	Staff time	N/A
Publicize programs that provide assistance to homeowners	Medium	4-10	City of Orrville	Local banks	Staff time	N/A
Develop a neighborhood revitalization plan for the south end neighborhood	Medium	4-11	City of Orrville	Wayne County Planning Department; local residents	Staff time	N/A
Create a housing roundtable, comprised of City officials, local developers, and realtors to discuss housing issues and potential opportunities	Medium	4-11	City of Orrville	Wayne County Planning Department	Staff time	N/A
Create a Property Maintenance Committee that can work with elderly and low-income property owners in violation to determine suitable solutions	Low	4-12	City of Orrville	Volunteers, church community	Staff time	N/A
Consider enacting a rental ordinance to require annual inspections of rental properties	Low	4-12	City of Orrville	Wayne County Planning Department	Staff person to complete inspections or contract to a company (fees can cover part of the cost)	N/A
Expand the historic district boundaries along South Main Street south to the municipal boundary	Low	4-12	City of Orrville	MSO, Orrville Historical Society, Ohio Historic Preservation Office	\$10,000-\$15,000 (consultant fees)	N/A
<b>Objective 4: Offer community amenities that meet the expectations of current and future residents</b>						
Complete a Parks and Recreation Plan	High	4-13	City of Orrville	N/A	Park and Recreation Plan-\$20,000-\$25,000 Playground audit-\$1,500-\$3,000 per playground dependent on size	General Fund
Adopt a mandatory dedication / fee-in-lieu of ordinance in order to provide additional recreation facilities for new residents	High	4-13	City of Orrville	N/A	Staff time	N/A
Designate the Beaver Street Park as open space with a walking trail that respects the natural environment	Medium	4-14	City of Orrville	N/A	1/4 mile walking trail along perimeter of park -\$15,000 <i>These costs are dependent on the public works department completing the work and not publically bid</i>	ODNR-Nature Works and Land and Water Conservation Fund
Determine interest from neighboring municipalities to form a Council of Governments (COG)	Medium	4-14	City of Orrville	Baughman Township, Green Township	Staff time	N/A
Conduct a feasibility study to update fire station #1	Low	4-15	City of Orrville	Orrville Volunteer Fire Department	Dependent on scope of project	ODNR-Volunteer Fire Assistance Program; Ohio Fire Chief's Association

\*CDBG- Community Development Block Grant, MSO- Main Street Orrville, ODNR-Ohio Department of Natural Resources, ODT- Ohio Department of Transportation, OID- Office of Industrial Development, OADF- Orrville Area Development Foundation

Recommendation	Priority	Reference page #	Responsible Party	Potential Partners	Estimated Costs	Funding Sources
<b>Objective 5: Improve mobility by enhancing vehicular, pedestrian and bicycle circulation and connections</b>						
Partner with Rails to Trails of Wayne County to locate a trailhead in or near the downtown	High	4-16	Rails to Trails of Wayne County	City of Orrville, MSO	\$24,000- parking for 20 vehicles, small pavilion/shelter, informational kiosk, signage, trash receptacle, gate on trail <i>These costs are dependent on the public works department completing the work and not publically bid</i>	ODNR-Recreational Trails Program
Install bicycle racks throughout the City	High	4-16	City of Orrville	MSO, local businesses	\$500 each	ODOT-Transportation Enhancement Program, General Fund
Develop a program that publicize available parking areas in the downtown business district	High	4-16	City of Orrville	MSO	\$3,000-\$5,000	General Fund
Install share the road signs for bicycle traffic along approved roadways	Medium	4-16	City of Orrville	ODOT	Share the road signs-\$175 Bike grates-\$420	ODOT-Transportation Enhancement Program, Congestion Mitigation Air Quality, Surface Transportation Program
Develop a bicycle connection plan	Medium	4-17	City of Orrville	ODOT	\$15,000-\$20,000	General Fund
Develop a pedestrian network in the Orrville Industrial Park and Orrville Business Park	Low	4-17	City of Orrville	Local industry located in the parks	\$12 a linear foot for an 8' wide crushed aggregate trail <i>These costs are dependent on the public works department completing the work and not publically bid</i>	ODNR-Recreational Trails Program
<b>Objective 6: Promote Orrville's small town character and increase community pride</b>						
Develop a citywide marketing program that promotes the City's assets and attracts visitors to the downtown	High	4-18	MSO	City of Orrville, Orrville Area Chamber of Commerce, Wayne County Convention and Visitors Bureau, Holmes County Chamber of Commerce, Wayne College, local businesses	Staff time	N/A
Form a special events programming committee to determine what types of events would get more people into the downtown	High	4-19	MSO	City of Orrville, other main street organizations	Staff time	N/A
Improve communication, collaboration, and cooperation between various organizations	High	4-20	City of Orrville	MSO, Orrville Area Chamber of Commerce	Staff time	N/A
Work with local media outlets on achieving monthly coverage/exposure of what's happening in Orrville	High	4-20	City of Orrville	MSO, Orrville Area Chamber of Commerce, local newspapers	Staff time	N/A
Continue the community clean up day program	Medium	4-20	City of Orrville	Local non-profit and community organizations	Volunteer time, cost for prizes	Donations for prizes
Develop a public art program to improve the attractiveness of the City	Medium	4-20	City of Orrville	MSO	Dependent on size of mural and artist	N/A
Extend the Bloomin' Orrville Program further into the community	Medium	4-20	MSO	City of Orrville	Approximately \$50 a basket for the season	Donations
Develop a Youth Board	Medium	4-21	City of Orrville	Orrville Area Schools	Staff time	N/A
Construct kiosks at key locations that offer a map of downtown Orrville and local attractions to visitors	Low	4-21	MSO	Aultman Orrville Hospital, University of Akron-Wayne College	\$3,000-\$5,000 per kiosk	Local business and industry sponsors
Form a town and gown committee with Wayne-Akron College	Low	4-21	City of Orrville	University of Akron-Wayne College	Staff time	N/A
Partner with Main Street Orrville to make the farmer's market more accessible	Low	4-21	MSO	City of Orrville	Staff time	N/A

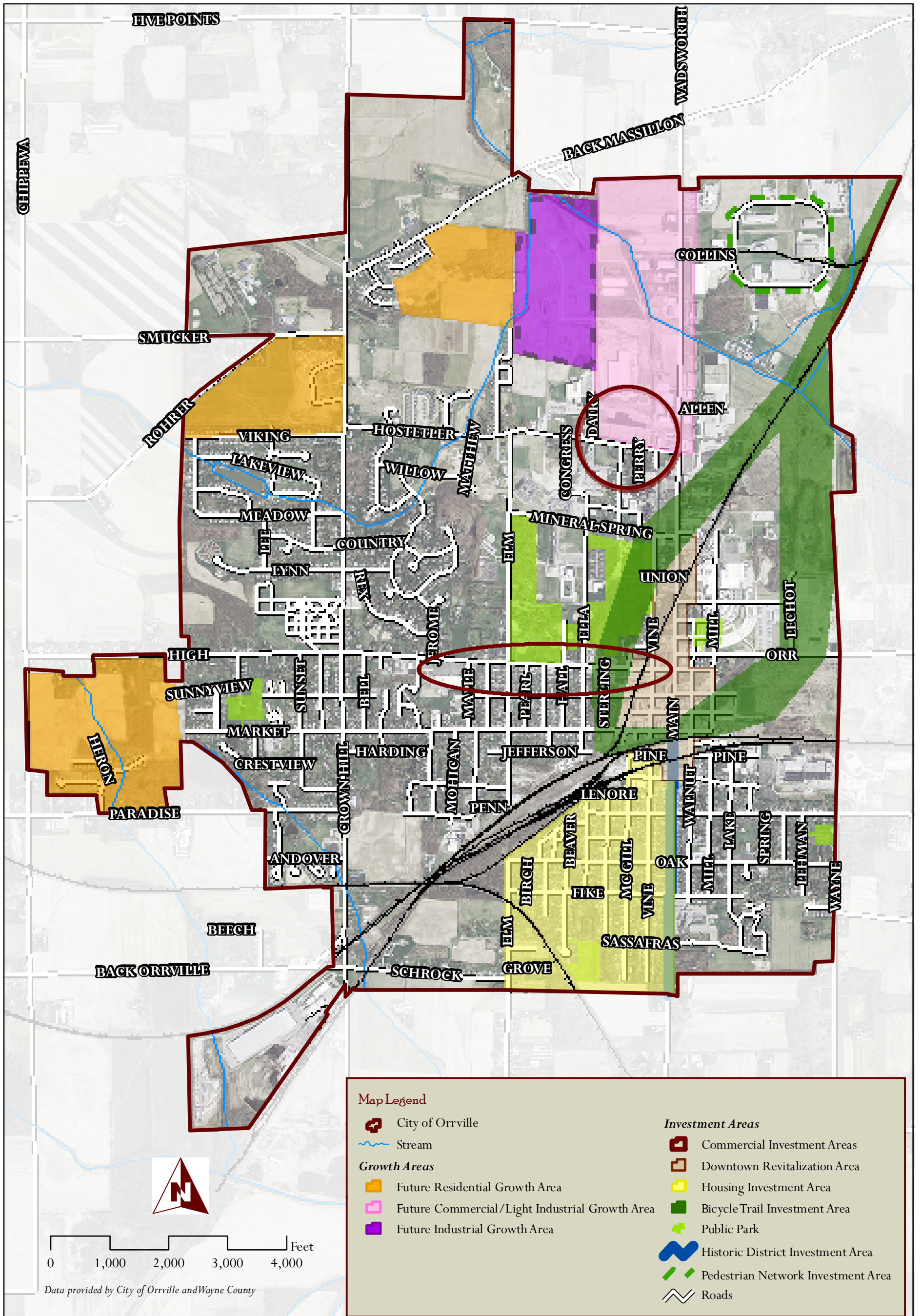


City of Orrville Comprehensive Plan Update

Map 4.1: Future Land Use Map



December 2012



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Table 1: Implementation of the City of Orrville Comprehensive Plan, 2001

Plan Element	Recommendation	Implemented			If no, why not?
		Yes	No	Currently Underway	
<i>Land Use</i>	Encourage the continued use of the neighborhood schools		X		Schools have moved to a campus setting with three grade-specific buildings centrally located in town.
	Limit future incompatible relationships between industrial and residential areas	X		X	Had been implementing this for years; however, we have several examples of industries surrounded by residential properties still in the community
	Identify a specialty focus for the downtown area		X		Although work has been done on a subsequent downtown plan, a successful focus or branding strategy for the downtown has not yet occurred. This is an area where Main Street Orrville continues to work upon.
	Dedicate city owned property as parkland-especially in southern section	X		X	The Beaver Street park plan has been developed and it does contain one piece of playground equipment. More development is needed for this to be a functioning neighborhood park.
	Promote dual use of school property for park and recreation purposes		X		The Orrville Elementary School does have a moderately sized playground with new play equipment but we have not capitalized on promoting that as a dual use for park land/play area.
	Focus future development to the north	X		X	Most new development over the last several years in Orrville has been concentrated to the north.
	Ensure that land dedicated for park and open space as part of future developments is suitable		X		We have no land set aside for future development of parks and to date, our subdivision regulations do not require land to be set aside within new housing developments.
	Limit the amount of annexation that occurs	X			Annexations have occurred when those landowners have asked to be annexed for City services. There has been two annexations in the last nine years - one industrial property and one residential subdivision.
	Update Zoning and Subdivision and Land Development Regulations	X		X	This has happened as issues have arisen. There has not been a total revision of our existing zoning and subdivision regulations other than the adoption of the Downtown Design Review Ordinances in 2005.
	<i>Economic Development</i>	Identify future industrial sites	X		
Establish a marketing strategy that promotes the downtown shops and activities as part of the Amish country experience			X		This is also something that Main Street Orrville has been working on over the last several years and continues to do so.
Continue to build upon the Downtown-Uptown concept; signage, additional events, media, word of mouth			X		At one time an initiative of the Chamber, this "Uptown-Downtown" concept to unite the downtown with the other commercial areas of Orrville has not really been used since Main Street Orrville was established in 2004. It may be something to revisit.
Maintain a network of sidewalks/paths to encourage people to walk to and from the retail areas		X		X	City Council developed the Citywide Sidewalk Policy (almost 20 years ago now) and we are continuing to phase in sidewalks on existing streets. We are just finalizing new sidewalks in Phase 3 and will begin engineering for Phase 4 in the next year or so.
Provide additional access points to the industrial areas		X		X	
Identify truck corridors and routes that service the industrial areas.		X		X	This implementation strategy and the next have lead to the Truck Route project, which is currently being funded with Federal Highway dollars to alleviate truck traffic along SR 57. This project is entering into the design phase. Also, we are working with ODOD on funding for a "loop road" near the Smucker's campus to help with transportation issues in that area. Construction on that project will likely be Spring 2012.
Identify neighborhoods that are on the verge of deterioration and invest capital into them to prevent dilapidation		X		X	We have done this on a small scale working with the Wayne County Commissioners and the CHIP grant to help LMI homeowners to upgrade their homes. We also used Neighborhood Stabilization dollars to rehab two homes that were in declining neighborhoods. As housing seems to still be an issue, I would like to explore other funding sources to deal with these issues.
Adopt BOCA National Building Codes			X		This was not completed due to the cost and manpower needed to adopt the BOCA Code. It is even more unlikely to adopt that now as we have adjusted positions and the Service Department now handles the inspections for our zoning department.

Plan Element	Recommendation	Implemented			If no, why not?
		Yes	No	Currently Underway	
<i>Transportation</i>	Extend Smucker Road				This may or may not happen depending upon development. It is possible for this road to be extended; however, with a new subdivision built off of Hostetler Road and Industrial Park #2 to the east, I don't know how feasible this is.
	Extend Market Street west to Chippewa Road			X	This is proposed with the Marsh Ridge subdivision in a later phase. However, this subdivision began selling lots right as the economy started to slide and it is uncertain when more phases will be developed.
	Extend North Elm Street to the Back Massillon Road				Again, this may or may not happen depending upon development. It is possible for this road to be extended; however, it may depend upon how lots are split with in Industrial Park #2.
	Provide Elm Street connection over railroad tracks				Cost and coordination with the railroad are the biggest issues here. Although, I think there is value in revisiting this if the transportation issues warrant it. Potential funding could be obtained should we keep this as a priority in our comp plan.
	Extend Lehman and Sassafras to connect to Burkhart Road		X		A residential development, Homestead Point, off of Wayne Street, has made this connection impossible.
	Extend Schrock Road to the east providing an additional connection SR 57				Again, this may or may not happen depending upon development. At this time, I believe it is still possible for the road to be extended.
	Complete a trip generation study to determine the origin and destination of vehicles traveling on SR 57 (truck traffic)	X			This has been done in conjunction with the Truck Route project.
	Designate and develop a dedicated truck route to provide back access into the industrial park and the Gradall site	X		X	This will be done in conjunction with the construction of the Truck Route project.
	Conduct a pedestrian/bikeway circulation study		X		I don't believe this has been done. It would be nice to revisit because there is the planned bike trail on the abandoned railway to Clinton.
	Provide linkages for pedestrians between the southern part of town and newly developed areas and across the railroad tracks				I don't think this has been done either and am not sure what they are referring to as we have sidewalks.
	Identify pedestrian connections over Railroad tracks		X		Again this comes down to cost and coordination with the railroad. Also, I think as the number of trains have reduced over the years this is becoming less of an issue.
	Use roadway shoulders as pathways		X		This also has not been done but should be revisited for bike paths through town to the bike trail.
	Implement a co-use bike and buggy trail			X	Working with Rails to Trails on bike trail to Clinton - I don't believe a dual-use trail is their intent as there probably isn't much Amish travelers from Orrville to Clinton. They do have a dual-use trail in Holmes County.
	Re-examine street width to promote neighborhood oriented development patterns		X		We have made no adjustment in our subdivision regulations for Traditional Neighborhood Design as developers and homebuyers alike seemed to not be interested.
	Reduce lane width along roads that do not have need for high speed traffic		X		Has not been done.
	Advocate planting of street trees along planting strips at edge of roadway	X		X	We are a Tree City USA community and we make it a priority to maintain and add street trees to our community.
Construct landscaped median along roads	X		X	We are a Tree City USA community and we make it a priority to maintain and add street trees to our community.	
Incorporate street lighting into design		X		While we require street lights in new subdivisions, we do not specify what type and do not have design standards for lighting.	
Enforce access management along major thoroughfares	X		X	We do monitor and consider access management especially along SR 57.	



Plan Element	Recommendation	Implemented			
		Yes	No	Currently Underway	
					<i>If no, why not?</i>
<i>Parks and Recreation</i>	Access to Orr Park needs to be addressed-access from south is limited due to railroad-need to designate walking paths/trails		X		It appears this is referring to a pedestrian crossing over the railroad. Again, I think this less of an issue that in years past and it all comes down to cost and railroad coordination.
	Identify additional park locations throughout the community (junior high school and south end of Beaver Street)	X			Since the 2001 Comp Plan, we have identified and somewhat developed the Beaver Street Park. We are also developing a dog park in the under-utilized Blackwell Williams park land off of Ella Street. ODNR is funding this through grants and it should be completed in Fall 2011. Additional park land may also need to be identified for future use.
	Investment be put into the existing school facilities		X		Major investment has been put into three new school buildings over the last 8 or 9 years.
<i>Utilities</i>	Electric service should be extended to those areas identified for future growth (area south of Orr St/ Burton City Road, South Elm Street, area near Crown Hill Cemetery, area near Wayne College-see Figure 6.5)	X			Areas have been served.
	System of burying existing lines should be explored			X	In the process of burying lines in the downtown area. All new developments since 2001 have been underground.
	Water wells are located outside of City limits; City has little control over development around the wells. Work with landowners and local jurisdictions in areas around wellfields.	X			An EPA Source Water Protection plan has been developed. It has 3 phases, identify wellhead protection areas (completed 2001), identify potential pollution source inventories (completed 2002) and develop protection strategy (completed 2008).
	Replace water mains where they are deteriorating	X			
	Water service should be extended to serve future growth areas (in northern portion of City, south of Back Massillon Road, near Wayne College, Rohrer Road, near Crown Hill Cemetery, near Orr Cemetery-see Figure 6.6)			X	All areas have been served except for those in the west. This is a former industrial site.
	Extend sanitary sewer lines to the north to accommodate future growth (near Wayne College, north of Back Massillon Road, South of Back Massillon Roadnear the Crown Hill Cemetery, near Orr Cemetery-see Figure 6.7)			X	All areas have been served except for those in the west. This is a former industrial site.

Table 2: Implementation of the City of Orrville Downtown Plan, 2005

Plan Element	Recommendation	Implemented			
		Yes	No	Currently Underway	
<i>Vehicular Traffic Calming and Circulation</i>	Dress up emergency vehicle overpass with planters, banners, or decorative light poles		X		Was not seen as a priority for our FY05 and FY07 CDBG DT Revitalization Program; could be a potential project in future
	Better alley signage- signage and pavement markings (Savings Bank on Main Street and by the Post Office and Church Street)		X		Was not seen as a priority for our FY05 and FY07 CDBG DT Revitalization Program; could be a potential project in future
	Better delineation of appropriate riding lanes for bicycles downtown		X		Should be done in conjunction with locating bike trail thru the City to reach bike trail to Clinton.
	Consider gating unguarded crossings or becoming a Quiet Zone so trains are not required to blow their whistles in towns at gated crossings		X		Was not seen as a priority for our FY05 and FY07 CDBG DT Revitalization Program; less of issue as there are fewer trains.
<i>Signage</i>	Establish a wayfinding signage system (directional, identification, street signs, historic markers, parking, free-standing kiosks, trail markers, districts)	X			Completed signage scheme in FY05 CDBG DT Revit.
	Establish a downtown signage system (detailed recs in plan)	X			Completed signage scheme in FY05 CDBG DT Revit.
	Gateway signage	X			Completed signage scheme in FY05 CDBG DT Revit.
	Directional signage	X			Completed signage scheme in FY05 CDBG DT Revit.
	Identify parking areas	X			Completed signage scheme in FY05 CDBG DT Revit.
	Signs identifying key points of interest	X			Completed signage scheme in FY05 CDBG DT Revit.
<i>Lighting</i>	Purchase and install more historic light fixtures, especially near the railroad and Smith-Orr Homestead	X			Completed add'l lighting along West Market Street as part of FY05 CDBG DT. Revit.
	Light trees and outline buildings for holidays and summer events		X		Has not been done; most tree pits are outfitted with electricity
	Light gateway and directional signage	X			Completed signage scheme in FY05 CDBG DT Revit.
	Spotlight murals or other works of art		X		Was not seen as a priority for our FY05 and FY07 CDBG DT Revitalization Program; could be a potential project in future
	Decorate the downtown		X		Should be an initiative of Main Street Orrville
	Light interior and exterior signs at businesses	X			Some businesses have installed external lighting to illuminate their signage.
	Make the wiring in alley ways and pedestrian connections to rear building entrances more attractive			X	Orrville Utilities is working on some projects this fall to clean up power lines in Railroad Alley and behind the Johnson's Hardware building.

Plan Element	Recommendation	Implemented			Why Not?
		Yes	No	Currently Underway	
<i>Street Furniture and Landscaping</i>	Add seating areas, waste cans, and other amenities at strategic locations	X		X	Has been done and MSO was working on a development plan for the addition of more amenities.
	Make sure plantings do not block lines of sight for vehicles or pedestrians	X			This continues to be done.
	Regular maintenance program for trash cans and flowers	X			MSO handles the maintenance of the Downtown Flower Program and the City empties all downtown trash cans each Friday AM.
	Install Awnings	X			Some businesses have added awnings to their buildings; most with grant dollars during our FY05 and FY07 CDBG DT Revit.
	Place informational kiosks or sign boards in strategic locations downtown		X		This was not included in our signage scheme but we could add those in in the future.
	Use banners throughout the downtown	X		X	We are looking at purchasing additional banner arms for the decorative light poles on Market Street this fall.
	Supplement volunteer clean-ups with a paid cleaning crew		X		This is an initiative that MSO should explore, perhaps with a SID
	Remove and/or replace dead trees in tree lawns	X		X	The City continues to maintain, remove, and replace street trees as needed.
	Consider updating traffic signals		X		This was not chosen as a priority project for our two downtown projects. This could be worked into a future project.
<i>Pavement Treatment</i>	Consider stamping the pavement on side streets to imitate old brick		X		This was not chosen as a priority project for our two downtown projects. This could be worked into a future project.
	Decorative brick pavers are another option		X		This was not chosen as a priority project for our two downtown projects. This could be worked into a future project.
	Stamp-crete can be used on sidewalks	X			Stamp-crete was used in FY05 to replace aging bricks at Veterans Park near Depot Street.
	Special pavement treatment for crosswalks and parking lots		X		This was not chosen as a priority project for our two downtown projects because we were a little concerned about a potential tripping hazard with different pavement treatments. It could be revisited.
	Incorporate the Main Street Orrville logo or City seal also centerpiece at one of the major intersections in the pavement		X		This was not chosen as a priority project for our two downtown projects. This could be worked into a future project.
<i>Sidewalks and Pedestrian Traffic</i>	Maintain sidewalks	X		X	The City continues to maintain the downtown sidewalks as needed.
	Pursue CDBG Tier II funding to install ADA compliant ramps at crosswalks and other access points	X			Although we did not seek Tier II funding specifically for ADA ramps, as we have completed resurfacing projects in the downtown, the ramps have been re-constructed to meet the current regulations.
	Maintain existing crosswalk signals	X			This has been done.
	Pedestrian walkways linking municipal and other parking lots		X		This was not chosen as a priority project for our two downtown projects. This could be worked into a future project.
	Define gathering spaces and pedestrian pathways through the use of sidewalks, greenery, and street furniture	X			This has been done somewhat but can be continued for more impact in the downtown.
	Encourage sidewalk cleaning	X			This is another focus that Main Street should continue to pursue.
	Maintain adequate pedestrian space	X			This has been done.

Plan Element	Recommendation	Implemented			Why Not?
		Yes	No	Currently Underway	
<i>Greenspace</i>	Link Orr Park to the downtown (offer a discount at downtown merchants with proof of attendance at an Orr Park event or hold multi-location events, such as community scavenger hunts)		X		This has not been done but could be an initiative for MSO.
	Develop the Smith-Orr homestead as a local history site and heritage park			X	The Orrville Historical Society has made great strides in utilizing the Smith Orr Homestead for events but there is definitely potential for more.
	Orr Cemetery-should be incorporated into event planning and directional signage systems		X		This has not been done but should be incorporated in future signage projects.
	Redevelopment of the Penzoil Property should include landscaped community gathering space		X		This property has been purchased by an adjoining property owner and is now green space, which is a vast improvement to the dilapidated building.
	Develop more pocket parks like Cornerstone Park on the corner of Vine and W. Market Streets		X		No more plans have been developed for downtown pocket parks.
	Obtain a refurbished railroad car		X		This was a hope of MSO to have a refurbished rail car in Cornerstone Park; not sure if this is a goal for them any longer.
	Additional greenspace at strategic points in the downtown		X		No more plans have been developed for additional downtown green space.
<i>Parking</i>	Clearly mark existing parking spaces	X		X	As parking lots and streets are resurfaced, parking spaces are also re-stripped
	Work with owners of private parking areas to determine if they can share their lots (funeral homes, churches, etc)	X			We do have some lot sharing going on now, but there could be more.
	Special parking lots should be reserved for owners and employees so they are not parking in prime spaces		X		MSO does encourage the downtown merchants and their employees to park on the outer fringes of downtown but it does bear repeating.
	Existing public parking lots should be upgraded	X		X	Lot A was resurfaced in FY05 and another lot will be resurfaced next year with CDBG Formula dollars.
	All parking lots should be property signed		X		This was done as part of our signage scheme.
	Develop an education program about parking-brochures and maps identifying public parking spaces and lots			X	This was an initiative that MSO had been working on and I am not sure if it has been completed to date.
	Time limits should be strictly enforced (especially near the post office-consider designating five spaces specifically for PO customers)		X		Time limits are parking lot are not strictly enforced unless there is a specific complaint.
<i>Design Standards</i>	Develop and adopt local design standards that are based on the Secretary of the Interior's Standards for Rehabilitation (requirement to receive CDBG Tier II Downtown Revitalization Grant funding)	X			This was completed in 2005.
	Establish a design review board	X			This was completed in 2005.
<i>Buildings and historic resources</i>	Consider setback requirements in downtown		X		There is no setback requirement in the downtown and most buildings are flush with the sidewalk. I do not think we would consider this for infill development.
	Conduct feasibility study of vacant buildings downtown		X		This has not been done but would certainly be beneficial as our vacancy rate has increased since the adoption of this downtown plan.
	Consider designating the entire downtown as a local historic district	X			MSO worked with a consultant and the downtown has been designated as a historic district by the National Register in 2010 or 2011
	Inventory the downtown buildings	X			This was done as part of our application process for the FY05 and FY07 downtown application as well as the 2010 nomination application to the National Register
	Design standards and minimum maintenance standards should be implemented	X			This was completed in 2005.

Plan Element	Recommendation	Implemented			Why Not?
		Yes	No	Currently Underway	
<i>Buildings and historic resources</i>	Establish a façade and building renovation program	X			This was done with CDBG grant dollars in 2006-2009. It may be possible in the future to apply for a 3rd round of CDBG dollars to re-establish this grant program
	Enforce local building codes	X			We continue to do this through our zoning code and the Wayne County Building Code.
	Market the Smith-Orr homestead, Orrville Historical Museum, and Railroad Museum as destinations		X		This has not been done but would need to be a joint project between MSO, the Railroad Heritage Society, and the Historical Society.
	Vacant upper floor windows should be dressed with curtains or other window treatments		X		This has not been done but could be an initiative for MSO.
	Look at rear entrances when assessing the overall aesthetics of downtown buildings			X	Until recently, little attention has been paid to the rear of the buildings but several building rehabs have focused attention on sprucing up rear entrances. We need to continue to encourage this.
	Maximize second floor opportunities for both residential and commercial uses		X		This has not yet been done but should be a priority.
<i>Niche Markets</i>	Work with Smuckers to refer visitors to downtown		X		This has not been done but need to priorities of MSO.
	Attract tourists in local history		X		This has not been done but need to priorities of MSO.
	Target weekenders		X		This has not been done but need to priorities of MSO.
<i>Retention &amp; Recruitment Strategies</i>	Include merchants in promotional events	X		X	MSO does have promotional events for downtown merchants. They could be expanded though.
	Develop a catalogue of downtown retail products		X		This has not been done. Another good initiative to MSO
	Put together a solid business recruitment package		X		This has not been done. Another good initiative to MSO. The City does have a CRA in place so there are some incentives available.
	Put together a recruitment team		X		This has been talked about by MSO but never completed. The City R&E visits are a good model for MSO to use.
<i>Promotional Strategy and Branding Campaign</i>	Create an identity for the downtown-develop a logo	X		X	This has been done but seems to be ever evolving. MSO needs to be put some focus on this initiative.
	Main Street Orrville should develop a website	X			This has been done; however, MSO needs to ensure it is kept up to date.
	Publicize local events	X			Between the Daily Record, OrrViews, and email lists, it is easy to publicize local events in Orrville.
	Focus marketing efforts on specific groups		X		This is another initiative for MSO.

## APPENDIX 3: PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT



### FIRST PUBLIC MEETING—DECEMBER 2011

The first public meeting was held on December 6, 2011. A total of seventeen people signed in at the meeting. The meeting was held in an open house format and provided an opportunity for attendees to identify assets, opportunities and challenges facing the City at various stations. The following are results of the station exercise and exit survey.

#### *Assets*

##### Economic Development

- ◆ Audrey's attic
- ◆ Senior ponchos
- ◆ Many employment options
- ◆ Local industry: Smith Dairy, Smuckers, Will-Burt, Schantz Organ Factory etc. that support local community

##### Community Amenities

- ◆ Character Counts Program
- ◆ Performing arts center/stage
- ◆ Very low crime rate
- ◆ Quiet town
- ◆ Passionate people
- ◆ Power plant
- ◆ Salvation Army (renovation of building)
- ◆ Religious community- 22 plus churches
- ◆ Armstrong Cable/Phone/Internet
- ◆ Very giving people- Support of each other and community efforts
- ◆ Financial institution options-First National and Wayne County Credit Union
- ◆ Community Organizations- Orrville Turning Point Coalition
- ◆ Green Community-Recycling

##### Transportation

- ◆ Walkable community

#### *Challenges*

##### Parks and Recreation

- ◆ Orr Park
  - ◆ Performing arts hill - can't enjoy as the middle part is too hilly, needs tiered
  - ◆ Outdated play equipment
  - ◆ Performances for young people
  - ◆ Publicize performances at park

##### Economic Development

- ◆ Promotion of City
- ◆ No restaurant downtown
- ◆ No computer related business
- ◆ No hotel



### Housing

- ◆ Need to get people to live here
- ◆ Maintenance of housing rentals on the Southside
- ◆ Property maintenance on Market Street
- ◆ Lack of housing diversity (medium-upper housing for younger professionals)
- ◆ Potential for residential development on Market Street
- ◆ No shelter for the homeless

### Community Facilities

- ◆ More involvement with Wayne College
- ◆ Bike parking downtown
- ◆ No weekend activities
- ◆ Nothing for 18-24 year olds to do
- ◆ City directional signs to small to read
- ◆ No senior citizen center
- ◆ More communication
- ◆ Need for coordination of all volunteers within the City
- ◆ Need welcome wagon for those new to the City

### Transportation

- ◆ Maintenance
  - ◆ Re-pave Crown hill road
  - ◆ Re-pave Middle spring road
  - ◆ Re-pave all City streets
- ◆ No bike paths
- ◆ Lack of road connections
- ◆ Lack of walking trails
- ◆ Transit
- ◆ No public transportation
- ◆ Senior citizen bus is limited and only for seniors
- ◆ Truck traffic
- ◆ Parking
- ◆ Lack of downtown parking
- ◆ If empty buildings get filled then there will be no parking for them

# APPENDIX 3: PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT



## EXIT SURVEY RESULTS

5 Completed at Public Meeting, 17 Completed on Chamber's website

### QUESTION 1: WHERE DO YOU LIVE AND / OR WORK?

	L	W
CITY OF ORRVILLE	19	15
OTHER	WORK-MEDINA, WAYNE COUNTY, RETIRED LIVE- GREENE, SUMMIT COUNTY	

### QUESTION 2: How did you find out about the project? Check all that apply.

Newspaper Article	0
TV	0
Website / Social Media	3 (email)
Flyer	0
Radio	0
Other	3 (email, City Council meeting)

### QUESTION 3: What are the three (3) things you like best about living or working here?

Answers
Small town community (5)
Close to larger cities but still living in small town
Schools (4)
People care about each other
Easy to get to and from places
Community pride and spirit (6)
Downtown cooperation among businesses
Excellent safety services
Diversity in small town
City, Chamber, and Economic Development working together to make Orrville a good choice for businesses to locate here
Clean and beautiful (2)
Own power source
Water is delicious
Great industrial base
Wonderful support from Smuckers
Buehlers
Outstanding parking system
Limited traffic congestion





## APPENDIX 3: PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT

QUESTION 4: What are the three (3) things you would most like to change?

Answers
Additional shopping downtown, fill downtown buildings (2)
Good restaurant (3)
Kids playing outside more
Road maintenance
Good old boy mentality
More moderate priced new homes (\$150,000-\$220,000 range)
System to help homeowners with maintenance issues. Be more proactive with complaint system.
Publicize incentives to bring new businesses to Orrville
More parking downtown (3)
More community events downtown
Consolidation (United Ways, YMCA, Chambers)
No building sites for new homes
Park in the northwest area of the City
Make West High Street from Main to Ella nicer
Gas fired power plant-not coal
Increase the number of executives that work here to live here- seek info from them as to what would make them live here
Shopping center at 57 & 30 with major home improvement store, clothing, etc

QUESTION 5: Do you have any comments on the DRAFT Project Vision and Objectives?

Overall people agreed with and liked the Vision and Objectives - some suggestions included:
Glad to see a plan for the City.

## APPENDIX 3: PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT



QUESTION 6: : If the City could spend money on ONE major project what should it be?

Answers
Economic Growth (2)
Put power/communication lines underground
Whatever it takes to keep our low electric utility bills
Invest in clean power (2)
Community center attached to high school that includes an indoor pool, exercise area, senior center gathering area
Housing (3)
Promoting the town with more than just cheerleading
Walking park in northwest corner of City
Roads ( Mineral Spring, Lakeview, Clover Ridge)
Economic Development
Retirement center for active seniors
Resurface Brookwood Court Area
Mid to upscale restaurant

QUESTION 7: What partnerships do you think the City should pursue to improve their ability to offer a high quality of life to their residents, businesses, workforce, students, and visitors?

Answers
Grant writing
Business friendly environment
New home construction incentive (tax break, utility discount)
City/YMCA/Wayne College
Industrial economic LLC's
Make Orrville a destination-Bring Main Street, Chamber, Railroad Society, Historical Society, City, etc together
Main Street Orrville and Smuckers



## APPENDIX 3: PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT

QUESTION 8: What obstacles may prevent the City from achieving the vision and objectives of the plan?

Answers
Economy
School district's reputation on achievement
Getting the community to buy into the plan
Special interests
Money
Only one North South Main Road
Funding priorities
Utilities near capacity
Low income/no income families
City council
Not enough mid-high level housing options to encourage working families to move to Orrville

QUESTION 9: Additional comments

Answers
Be careful of adding too much low income housing
Move out of the box thinking like sharing services to share money
Stop telling people everything is great and do something to create growth. Orrville has been the same size for

## APPENDIX 3: PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT



### FINAL PUBLIC MEETING—JULY 2012

The final public meeting was held on July 19, 2012. A total 48 people signed in at the meeting. The meeting was held in an open house format and provided an opportunity for residents to visit various stations to comment on draft recommendations. A Breakfast before Business meeting was also held on July 20, 2012 to solicit input from the business community on the recommendations as well. Meeting attendees were asked to prioritize recommendations and the input received from both meetings was then used in the final ranking of priorities by the City.

The following are results of the exit survey that was also distributed at the meeting:

1. Now that you have seen all of the recommendations and ranked your top two for each category, overall *which three recommendations* do you think should be **TOP PRIORITIES?**
  - Recruit unique stores and restaurants to Orrville (14)
  - Partner with Rails to Trails of Wayne County to locate a trailhead in or near the downtown (13)
  - Implement the recommendation of the downtown plan to pursue niche markets (1)
  - Utilize the Moving Ohio Forward grant program to demolish vacant, abandoned, or blighted homes, specifically in the south end neighborhoods (6)
  - Update the Zoning Ordinance to implement the City's vision and be consistent with the comprehensive plan's goals and objectives (5)
  - Promote the success of the Orrville City Schools to attract new families into the City (4)
  - Complete a Parks and Recreation Plan (4)
  - Develop a neighborhood revitalization plan for the south end neighborhood (3)
  - Re-zone North Main Street to allow for a mixed of light industrial and commercial development (2)
  - Develop a citywide marketing program that promotes the City's assets and attracts visitors to the downtown (2)
  - Create a housing roundtable, comprised of City officials, local developers, and realtors to discuss housing issues and potential opportunities (2)
  - Develop a youth board (2)
  - Explore the option of enacting a rental ordinance to require annual inspections of rental properties (2)
  - Regularly update the City's website to include current information related to the revitalization efforts and the various economic development organizations (2)
  - Update the Subdivision and Land Development Ordinance to include best management practices for the protection of natural resources and open space (2)
  - Construct kiosks at key locations that offer a map of downtown Orrville and local attractions to visitor (1)
  - Improve communication, collaboration, and cooperation between various organizations (1)
  - Develop a pedestrian network in the Orrville Industrial Park and Orrville Business Park (1)
  - Determine interest from neighboring municipalities to form a Council of Governments (COG) (1)
  - Expand the boundaries of the Community Reinvestment Area to encourage more property owners to improve their homes (1)
  - Create a Property Maintenance Committee that can work with elderly and low-income property owners in violation to determine suitable solutions (1)
  - Register with the Ohio Department of Natural Resources to be notified of natural gas drilling (1)
  - Amend the guidelines of the Community Reinvestment Area to include new construction in order to attract desired development (1)



## APPENDIX 3: PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT

- Form a special events programming committee to determine what types of events would get more people into the downtown (1)
2. Do you have any comments on the proposed **Investment Zones** and **Future Land Use Classifications**?
- Zones should be larger to encompass more of the city. The land should be used to invest in sustainable business complexes
  - No green space
  - Should both sides of 57 be mixed use
  - I support the zone change on North Main
  - Keep and maintain transparent information with community. Allow for frequent feedback as more specific plans are proposed.
  - Very important - should be the driver
  - Needs to get done
  - All good
  - I would not recommend bringing industry into downtown, but keep the downtown growing with business
  - We could certainly build south, north, and east of the city, especially south of the hospital.
  - Easy access from 57
  - Some of the farms look pretty shabby
  - I would like to see attention given to South Main residential areas with incentives to renovate historic homes
3. Do you have any additional **recommendations** that you would like to see addressed?
- Help young family get affordable housing
  - Encourage investors or home owners to maintain property or tear down devalued homes
  - Include interested citizens on any community planning panels
  - Promote growth in the retail consumer markets
  - Our big concern is attracting young people and their families to our beautiful little city
  - Landlords do not maintain properties and that makes Orrville less attractive to possible newcomers
  - Already a Wayne County Advisory Board in existence - should utilize that for town and gown committee
  - I would recommend trying to bring a hotel chain into Orrville to provide a place for visitors to stay
  - Orrville is a lovely city. I'm trying to think of one thing to change. Very hard. Maybe the traffic after the fireworks. I don't like that. Didn't come this year.
  - Continue to showcase Heartland Point as the premier meeting place in Orrville.
  - Attempt to draw new business to the old Hawkins Plaza. It seems like businesses do not last there very long.
  - Understanding of how our town is currently being marketed and communicated to potential residents is done
4. Please use the space below for any further comments, questions, or concerns.
- City's website really needs an overhaul. This is the "window" to the community and needs to visually reflect the image Orrville wants to project to attract new residents and businesses. Website and all city social media needs a plan and be given priority in the comp plan.

## APPENDIX 3: PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT



- The Chamber does an awesome job with community events such as Home for the Holidays.
- Marketing - we need to sell this city so more of our “employers” want to move to Orrville.
- We need to determine why people who work in Orrville choose not to live in Orrville. Those of us who live here do not know the reasons, only those who don’t live in Orrville can tell us.
- As Orrville grows, try to keep the family feel, and clean town.
- Involve Wayne College any way you can.
- Walking trail at Wayne

### ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND HOUSING FOCUS GROUP MEETINGS

Two economic development and housing focus group meetings were held to solicit input regarding economic development in the City of Orrville. Those in attendance included realtors, developers, and local business owners. A roundtable discussion was held during the first meetings and the comments received are summarized below. At the second meeting the draft recommendations were presented and the meeting attendees were asked to prioritize each of the recommendations. The results from that exercise were then used by the City in the final ranking of recommendations.

#### *Economic Development Focus Group-Meeting #1*

*What are some factors that attract business and industry to locate in Orrville?*

- ◆ Educated and trainable workforce
- ◆ Close to Akron, Canton and Cleveland
- ◆ Good transportation links
- ◆ Helpful and cooperative local government
- ◆ Available and affordable land
- ◆ Municipal electric utility
- ◆ Small town character
- ◆ Pleasant country setting
- ◆ Neat downtown district
- ◆ Business coaching—USDA funding

*What are some types of business and industry that are missing or needed in Orrville?*

- ◆ Anything that creates more jobs
- ◆ Name brand franchise restaurants
- ◆ Entertainment venues (movie theater)
- ◆ Recreation venues (skatepark)
- ◆ Barber shop

*What are some factors limiting business growth and economic development in Orrville?*

- ◆ Population; 8,500 is just not large enough to attract big box retail stores and/or name
- ◆ Poor appearance and conditions in some neighborhoods and shopping centers
- ◆ Employees of local industries not aware or supportive of local businesses
- ◆ Local businesses not marketing their goods and services very well to employees of local industries; need to get creative
- ◆ New media-big challenge to new business owners



- ◆ Need small business owners—not willing to invest

*What are some incentives that help to attract and grow business in Orrville?*

- ◆ Low utility costs (Orrville Power Company)
- ◆ Tax abatement (50% up to 12 years)
- ◆ Low interest micro-loans (Wayne Savings & Loan)
- ◆ Small business support services (i.e.; downtown entrepreneur in residence program)
- ◆ Helpful and cooperative city administration and chamber of commerce
- ◆ Special improvement district for the downtown

*What are some priorities for attracting and growing more business/industry in Orrville?*

- ◆ Keep Orrville Power Company operating (threatened by EPA regulation)
- ◆ Continue to work closely with local business and industry (city and chamber)
- ◆ Encourage private-sector reinvestment in neighborhoods and shopping areas
- ◆ Enforce property maintenance standards in neighborhoods and shopping centers
- ◆ Zone appropriate areas and locations for new commercial and industrial development
- ◆ Resolve concerns regarding truck traffic and congestion on North Main Street
- ◆ Market local business, goods and services more effectively and creatively to employees of local industry
- ◆ Hold events in the downtown to bring more people into the downtown to shop/visit

### *Housing Focus Group-Meeting #1*

*What do you tell prospective home buyers about the community when they are considering a home in Orrville?*

- ◆ Small town character
- ◆ Rural setting
- ◆ Family oriented community
- ◆ Quite and safe neighborhoods
- ◆ Good schools and athletic programs
- ◆ Quaint downtown district

*What is the housing demand currently in Orrville?*

- ◆ Young families
- ◆ Young professionals

*What are the major housing choices currently available in Orrville?*

- ◆ Single family homes for purchase
- ◆ Single family homes for rent
- ◆ Apartments for rent
- ◆ Not a lot of inventory for young professionals
- ◆ People want a nice downtown with things to do after 5 PM

*What housing development projects are currently underway in Orrville?*

- ◆ Renovation with new retail on first floor and new rental apartments upstairs
- ◆ Foxfire and Hilltop Apartments are under new management and are undergoing renovation

*What do you think could be done to make Orrville more attractive for housing development?*

## APPENDIX 3: PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT



- ◆ More shops and activity in the downtown district (“see Wooster”)
- ◆ More high quality, well managed apartment communities
- ◆ More housing diversity (choices and price range)
- ◆ Special financing programs (low interest loans) through local banks for purchase, renovation and maintenance of older and historic homes
- ◆ Tax abatement through city and county for purchase, renovation and maintenance of older and historic homes, perhaps new construction as well
- ◆ Incentives for new housing development and renovation near the downtown
- ◆ Overlay zoning for “new-urbanism” type housing development near downtown (Smuckers Property?)
- ◆ Community development corporation for buying and assembling land for new housing
- ◆ More and better information provided by City and Chamber of Commerce to local work force regarding local housing—HR departments at big companies
- ◆ Possible extension of CRA boundaries
- ◆ Older homes are too expensive to heat—City could work with homeowners on energy efficiency programs
- ◆ Taxes start when a building is built, not when they are bought-this is a state issue that needs addressed
- ◆ City should explore a revolving loan fund
- ◆ Target a specific street/neighborhood for improvements-start small
- ◆ Research First National Bank to determine if they have any housing programs
- ◆ City should buy older homes and fix then re-sale (Wooster, Medina)
- ◆ Empty buildings in the downtown-could the City buy and give free rent?

### *What should be the focus for housing development in Orrville?*

- ◆ Improved rentals
- ◆ More rentals-currently there is nothing available
- ◆ Make the downtown more of a place to visit for recreation/socialization





## YOUTH FOCUS GROUP MEETINGS

On February 2, 2012, a group of students at Orrville High School had an opportunity to provide their thoughts on the future of the City Orrville. The next generation of Orrville residents were asked what they felt should be the City’s priorities. The focus group consisted of 14 students representing grades 9-12, all of whom live in the City.

### *Favorite Place to Live Exercise*

*If you could live in any city/town where would it be?*

Most students responded that they would live in cities/towns close to Orrville, such as Wooster, Columbus, Cincinnati, Canton, Cleveland, and Huron. Other areas mentioned include New York City, Quebec City, Sydney, Pittsburgh, Boston, Myrtle Beach and Tennessee.

*Why would you live there?*

Most of the students responded that they would live there because there are lots of things to do, bigger opportunities, and more retail and employment options. Other reasons include sports teams, clean, close to home, availability of public transportation, lots of people with different cultures, and country feel with lots of acreage.

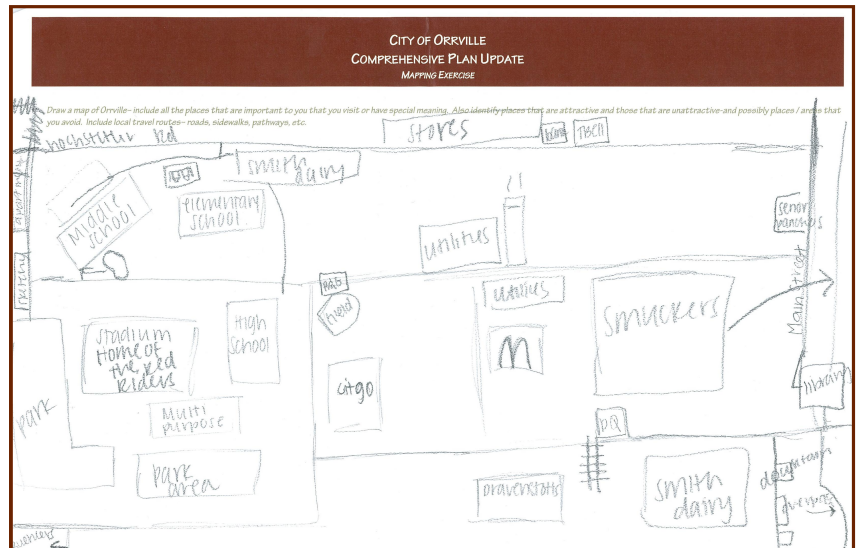
*Are there similarities between that place and Orrville?*

The similarities between most of the places that the students chose and Orrville was that they are small towns/cities that have community involvement and are dedicated to their sports teams. Other similarities include location and employment opportunities.

### *Mapping Exercise*

Students were asked to draw a map of Orrville and include all the places that are important to them or that they visit or have special meaning. Students were also asked to identify places that are attractive and those that are unattractive—and possibly places / areas that they avoid. Include local travel routes—roads, sidewalks, pathways, etc.

The majority of students drew the major industries (Smith Dairy, Smuckers), the school campus, library, restaurants (Senor Ponchos, Dairy Queen, McDonalds), Buehellers and Orrville Park. Other points of interest that are important to the students include:

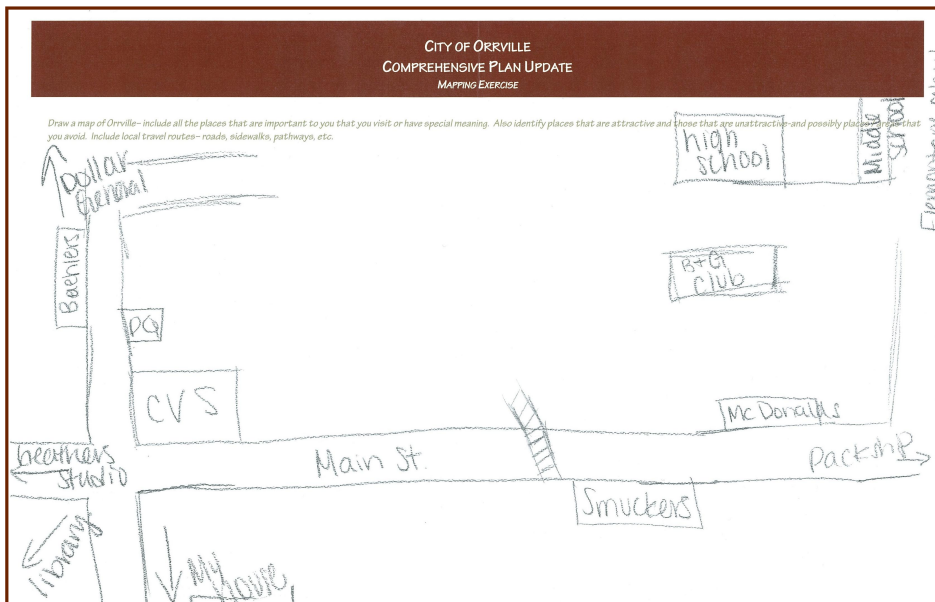


## APPENDIX 3: PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT



- Boys and Girls Club
- Heartland Place
- Churches
- Baseball fields
- Hospital
- YMCA
- Pool
- Painted bridge

Places that a lot of students mentioned that are unattractive include specific neighborhoods, such as the south side (Vine/McGill Streets) and Walnut Street. The students also find the commercial strip district on Hostellter unappealing.



### Planning Exercise

The students were broken up into two (2) groups, given a map of the City and asked to identify areas where they would like to see improvements. A snapshot of the maps are shown at the end of Appendix 3.

### Group One

The first group divided areas into two categories; areas that are good and areas that need improvement. Areas that are good include Orr Park, Dog Park, Walking Trail and Wetlands, Smuckers, School Campus, Industrial Park, Wayne College, YMCA, Downtown, Hospital, Library and Orrville Trucking and Grading. Areas that need improved include railroad crossings, Orr Park, bowling alley, housing on the south side and near downtown, and the commercial plaza on Hosteller.



### Group Two

The second group divided areas into two categories as well; areas that are of a concern and areas that need additional safety. Areas of concern include the commercial plaza on Hosteller, lack of a gateway coming into Orrville from the North, parking lot at the walking trail, roadway maintenance, and housing on the south side and on Hosteller. Police safety is identified as needed for the Oak Street area. Other comments include the school roads need maintained, movie theater is needed, and connections in residential areas need to be developed

## APPENDIX 3: PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT



### *Postcard from the Future*

The final youth focus group meeting was held on May 3, 2012. Students were asked to choose their top three priority projects and pretend they were writing to a friend who had not visited Orrville in ten years and had to describe to them what it looked like. The students were asked to use their imagination and describe the things they hope to see, using the top three priorities they had chosen. The postcards were scanned and are included at the end of Appendix 3.


# POSTCARD FROM THE FUTURE

## CITY OF ORRVILLE COMPREHENSIVE PLAN

IMAGINE THAT IT IS 10 YEARS IN THE FUTURE AND YOU ARE WRITING TO A FRIEND OR RELATIVE WHO DOESN'T LIVE IN ORRVILLE. YOU ARE DESCRIBING WHAT ORRVILLE LOOKS LIKE AND EXPLAINING ALL THE THINGS THERE ARE TO SEE AND DO.

Dear friend,

Orrville has become such a wonderful & thriving place! The old hostetter plaza has become quite the hotspot, with a chipotle, panera, starbucks, and menchies! There is always something <sup>good</sup> to eat. The downtown area is booming with loads of small boutiques and gift shops that draw in people from all around. The carnival is bigger and more popular than ever and the bowling alley has been remodeled. We have our movie theatre back, also! There are different festivals in downtown throughout the year, that are a blast. The high school looks amazing and all of the fields have been remade and fixed. The school is decorated in the lively orrville spirit. Many of the once bad neighborhoods have been fixed and it's is very hard to call any part of town a bad part now! Restaurants are popping up all over, we just got an olive garden, yummm. Rumor has that a mall could be coming in any day now! You really should come visit, but you may not want to ever leave again! Good talking to you! Hope to see you soon.

Much love 

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Dear Stewart,

You should come visit me in Orrville. It is a wonderful town! There is so much to see and do. If you're looking for something fun to do, we could go see a movie at our theater or go bowling. If you get hungry, we have lots of restaurants to eat at like Chipotle or Señor Panchos. We could get some new video games from Gamestop. If you want to exercise, we could go run with the dog at the dog park or go biking on our bike trails. We also have a lot of neat little stores downtown to go shopping at. There are many places to visit too like Smuckers or the depot museum. Hopefully you can come visit because I'm sure you would love Orrville.

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Dear Joel,

Orrville these days are really nice. The plaza has ~~more~~ so many businesses now. We have a chipotle, star bucks and even a video game store. The downtown is so nice, its filled with beautiful flowers and many people going in and out between stores. The bowling clip is really nice and it gives a good look to the town. if you ever get bored we can go watch a movie. I hope to see you around.

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Orrville has changed a lot since you have last been here. There are many new businesses that are doing really well and attracting people from our local area. There are also many different activities that you can partake in including, bowling, watching a movie, attending a nice restaurant, and even community "get togethers". Plus, the city looks as good as it ever has. The streets are bright and cheery even on cloudy days. Also there are no more run down buildings and areas making it very appealing to the people in the local area.



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Dear friend,

~~Dear friend,~~ Orrville has changed a lot in the past few years there's a lot of businesses now. The movie theater is great. The town looks very neat. There's a bunch of ~~restaurants~~ restaurants now, we have chopotle, wendy's, menchies, and a few others. Our high school is nice. ~~The~~ The park has more events there. The bowling alley is bigger and nicer. We have more cultural barber shops.

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IN ORRVILLE THINGS HAVE CHANGED SO MUCH. THERE'S NOW BIKE TRAILS, NEW EVENTS, A SKATE/BIKE PARK, NEW BUSINESS (SO MORE EMPLOYMENT OPTIONS FOR THE UNEMPLOYED! :)), A FARMERS MARKET, AND EVEN OUR OWN NATURAL WOOD PARKS. ORRVILLE HAS CHANGED FOR THE BETTER BUT HAS STILL MANAGED TO KEEP ITS SMALL TOWN PHYSIQUE AND UNIQUENESS ABOUT IT. OUR MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL HAVE HELPED TO KIND OF "RECREATE" A "NEW" ORRVILLE. A BOOMING TOWN THAT BRINGS BUSINESS BUT NOT TOO MUCH TO BECOME A HUGE CITY LIKE FAIRLAWN OR AKRON. IT STILL REVOLVES AROUND FAMILY, TRADITION, AND THE COMMUNITY.

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Dear friend

I would see a commercial plaza filled w/ businesses. Some of the first things I saw were healthy lunch spots that students + smuckers workers can go to on their break. There is a movie theater downtown (not very big) that gives kids a place to hangout. Also, the new + improved bowling alley looks great; clean and appealing. In the bowling ally there is also a restaurant incorporated that server delicious food. Orrville is still a small town but filled with ppl and business' to make it seem large. People in neighboring cities don't drive to canton or Wooster to do things, they come to Orrville. Moreover, monitored/Security at the Park bc it's a highlight of the town and used to be ruined by trashy inconsiderate people. Orrville has been restored to perfection. Come check it out!

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There are a variety of lunch and dinner spots. There is a sandwich place, menchie's, and a nice sit down restaurant. The commercial plaza on Hostetler Rd. holds most of the lunch/dinner spots. The flowers are still beautiful in the downtown area and have recently begun extending flowers outwards in other directions. The "grungy South-side" is turned around completely! The houses on the south side are well kept now-a-days. Kids in Orrville will frequently attend the movie theater, which sits in the commercial plaza on Hostetler. The Bowling Alley is now a beautiful brick building (and it no longer smells like smoke in there)! Lastly, Orrville advertises city events on TV, news papers, flyers, and even in school video announcements. Orrville is fabulous!

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Orrville now has its own movie theater again. Also the plaza has many new restaurants and new businesses. There is a new bookstore/coffee shop where people spend time reading and drinking coffee. Crime has gone down a lot in the sketchy areas of town. Also the roads around the school have improved. Kids spend more time in Orrville and less time in higher because of the many new businesses. Downtown has improved a lot and most of the buildings have been restored and updated.

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Dear Friends,

Orrville is a beautiful place. As you drive into town, the industrial park is bustling with industrial businesses. The car dealership is still present along with the pet spa that was now expanded. The commercial strip on Hostetler Rd. is full and customers visit regularly. There is a nice restaurant there and movie theater and people come as a destination not just passing through. As you travel down main st, the industrial buildings are still present and smuckers looks gorgeous. The schools are in prime condition. In downtown Orrville, the flowers are hung from the light poles and small town businesses filled the store fronts. Everything is well kept and looks great. The housing developments look welcoming. Orrville is a great place to live. Heartland print is also hosting events that many people attend. It is a great, busy, safe place to be.

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Now ~~to Orrville~~ people don't ask where Orrville is when I tell them where I'm from. We have the same small community, but so much more to be known for. I love that we have a movie theater again and other small communities ~~that~~ can come and have plenty of things to do. We have nicer sit down restaurants, where people like to go. This is a clean town and there are now a few more small businesses and more job opportunities. To go shopping we don't have to go to the next town over, we don't need to leave Orrville as much. The same small community and so much to do. The Boys and Girls Club is fixed up, it's a place where kids want to go now. ~~They don't~~ ~~like to go~~ The park is clean, and the water fountains are fixed and as close to sanitary as they'll ever be. Orrville is a community not just known because Smuckert is here, but now for the numerous opportunities and places to go with all kinds of things to do. The small town that has everything and so much more, a town people look forward to coming back to after college, and a town people want to raise their kids in.

XOXO,

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Dear friend,

Since you haven't been here in a while I thought I would update you on some changes in town. First of all, all of the vacant lots by Hestetter Rd. have been filled. We have a new bowling alley and a Applebees. In addition, we have numerous other smaller shops that are doing quite well. On the south end of town, new residences are being built and exist where Oak St. School used to be. The area has really turned around with the help of grants fixing up the outer appearance. Once the outer appearance was fixed, people started behaving more appropriately. In addition, the bowling alley has expanded and been renovated! With a modern, welcoming look, the alley is a hot spot on the weekends. Hope to see you soon.

Your friend,



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Dear friend,

It has been a long time since you have visited ORRVILLE so I am writing to you to describe all the changes that have taken place. First off the Orrville City Schools 'campus' was completed a few years ago and it has brought many opportunities to the students who attend. Also, the hosteler strip of empty buildings was finally ~~completely~~ filled and the ~~the~~ empty buildings that remained were taken down and replaced with flowers, grass and trees. ~~Last year~~ <sup>Also</sup> using revenue from holding sports tournaments in <sup>our</sup> multiple gyms and the rented ~~at~~ plaza buildings, a program to resurface the bowling alley and ~~select~~ other buildings is set to begin soon.

Sincerely,

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*Dear friend,* Over the past few years Orrville has greatly expanded. Our little town has really cleaned itself up. There are multiple budding businesses that continue to bring in revenue. When driving ~~down~~ up main street from the south, all of the flowers & landscaping makes our city look welcoming. Downtown Orrville has filled the empty buildings and the Historical Society has made the Depot into a fun restaurant. The empty plaza by the power plant now is occupied by several chain stores. The schools have been completed & the stadium now has turf. Each year multiple events draw people into our wonderful community. It certainly is an amazing place to live.

Sincerely,

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Orrville is safe place to live and raise a family. There are so many athletic events going on pretty much all year round, from boys & girls tennis, boys football, girls volleyball, softball, soccer, basketball, baseball and cheerleading. We have several summer events you wouldn't want to miss: 4th of July parade, The carnival, fireworks, swimming at the YMCA & Orr Park, and much more. We have built 3 new schools in the last 5 years, a brand new high school, new elementary and a middle school. We also have opened up several new businesses or renovated old buildings, such as Heartland Point, Expert T's, the new CVS building, Senior Panchos, Mrs. J's, Ming Hing, the new bank on main street etc... But all and all we are a city moving forward.

Yours truly,