



Your Home  **2030**
YOUR HUNTINGBURG
HUNTINGBURG COMPREHENSIVE PLAN

Adopted 04-14-20

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INTRODUCTION





Inside this Section:

What is Your Home Your Huntingburg?

How Was the Plan Developed?

Who Did We Reach?

Existing Conditions & Visioning Phase:

What Were the Key Takeaways?

How is the Plan Organized?

How to Successfully Implement the Plan

INTRODUCTION

What is Your Home Your Huntingburg?

Your Home Your Huntingburg is a comprehensive planning document which uses a community vision and set of goals to lay a foundation for Huntingburg's future for the next 10 years. This document will not only serve as a guide for future land use polices and development strategies, but will include specific programing used to strengthen targeted issues and improve quality of life for residents. This document includes an overarching vision, goals, and set of strategies that respond to changing demographics and markets while creating polices, which guide the city's future planning and development decisions.

The State of Indiana has also developed specific requirements, which ask for a set of minimum criteria a comprehensive plan must include (500 series of IC 33-7-4). Indiana code states that the plan should promote public health, safety, morals, convenience, order or general welfare for the sake of efficacy and economy in the process of development.

These elements include but are not limited to:

- A statement of objectives for future development of the jurisdiction;
- A statement of policy for the land use development of the jurisdiction; and
- A statement of policy for the development of public ways, public spaces, public lands, public structures, and public utilities.

This plan is split into three distinct sections that include introductory information, the vision and strategies, and an implementation plan, which includes action steps for the plans strategies. This beginning section is an overview of Huntingburg's current existing conditions, which includes; demographics, economic market conditions, utilities and infrastructure, transportation, parks and recreation, and community facilities.



Steering Committee 1: July 25, 2019



How Was the Plan Developed?

The Your Home Your Huntingburg Comprehensive Plan was developed over a number of months through steering committee meetings, focus groups sessions, public workshops and surveys, which all gave direction to and helped refine the vision for Huntingburg.

The process began with gathering and interpreting Huntingburg's existing conditions in order to create a base for determining future goals and strategies, helping explain where the city is at now. This included demographic data, market conditions, and physical conditions such as road and trail systems. This information can be found in Appendix A.

The second phase of this planning process involved working directly with community leaders, the steering committee, and the public to craft the plan's vision, goals and strategies that will shape the community's future. The meetings and input in this phase helped define the desired direction for Huntingburg's future.

Phase three was focused on creating an action plan that details how the community's goals and objectives will be implemented over the next 10 years, showing how Huntingburg can reach what is described in its vision.

Who Did We Reach?

Public input and outreach is critical for the success of any major community planning process, allowing city officials to better gauge the priorities and needs of residents in order to create a more comprehensive document. Multiple strategies were used during the planning process to engage the public and reach out to organizations and individuals for additional information, which would help refine the goals and objectives of the plan. A full summary of public engagement can be found in Appendix B, but highlights of different engagement strategies used during the planning process included:

- Steering Committee Meetings
- Focus Group Meetings
- Key Person Interviews
- Meeting in a Box
- Website and Social Media Outreach
- Public Surveys
- Public Workshops



Public Visioning Workshop: July 25, 2019

17
feedback
opportunities



Steering Committee #1: July 25, 2019

820
unique comments



Public Workshop : November 6, 2019

584
participants

Existing Conditions & Visioning Phase: What Were the Key Takeaways?

Huntingburg has several key of demographic and market conditions, which help it stand apart from other similar cities and towns in Indiana. Some of the demographic factors that make Huntingburg unique as compared to other communities are a young population (32.6 median age), high percentage of those with a Hispanic or Latino origin (24.1%), high percentage of renter-occupied housing (39.4%), a high amount of people commuting into the county (5,017 or 18.2% of total people employed in county) for work compared to those leaving (1,154), and lower than average education attainment rates (79.2% high school graduate or higher). These demographic indicators not only help describe the city's current conditions, but also help shape potential goals and the overall vision. A more complete demographic profile and overview can be found in the full Existing Conditions Reports referenced in Appendix A. Some of the potential impacts from these demographic statistics and trends that will influence the direction of the comprehensive plan are:

- Need to increase educational attainment levels through post-secondary opportunities
- Provide and expand services for Latino community
- Improve home ownership opportunities
- Continue to attract a skilled workforce
- Provide additional amenities for youth and young adults



60.6%
owner occupied housing units



\$48,984
median household income



27.3%
associate's degree or higher
(25 years old or older)



24.1%
population identifies as
Hispanic or Latino

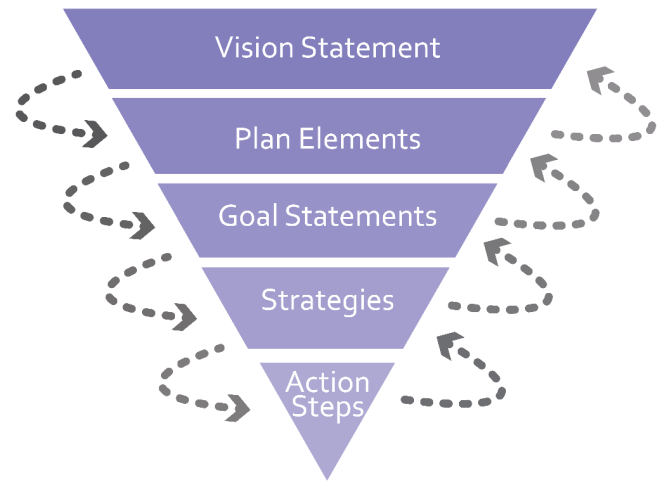


\$107,700
median home value

How is the Plan Organized?

This plan is split into three distinct sections that include introductory information, the vision and strategies, and an implementation plan, which includes action steps for the plans strategies. It is broken down as follows:

- An introductory chapter which describes the planning process, plan organization, and implementation overview, as well as highlights from the existing conditions analysis.
- A vision and strategies section for the plan which breaks down the four major themes that focus on the community's future, including descriptions for each strategy.
- An implementation plan, which outlines the action steps needed to complete the plan's goals and strategies. These action steps also describe different tools and resources that can be used and include potential partners and organizations that can help with strategy implementation



Plan Recommendation Structure

A **vision statement** is a forward-looking perspective meant to show a reflection of what the City of Huntingburg is desired to look like in the future. A vision statement should be broad and can be referenced for decision-making purposes when unanticipated changes occur.

The plan is divided into four **plan elements** with goals provided for each including:

1. Land Use & Housing
2. Transportation & Utilities
3. Economic Development & Tourism
4. Quality of Life.

Plan elements are an extension of the vision statement focusing on larger topics.

Like the vision statement, **goal statements** are intended to be broad and lofty - something to be achieved over the next twenty years. These statements provide a direction for particular topics or areas of focus within the plan.

Strategies are organized underneath each goal statement and further define what is desired to be achieved for particular goals. **Action steps** follow underneath each strategy to identify particular actions or implementation measures.

How to Successfully Implement the Plan

Successful execution of this plan relies on more than just City officials and staff working for its completion, as there are a number of other factors that contribute to its success. On top of community support, comprehensive plans rely on partnerships to help drive the goals and strategies laid out; these partnerships provide support, which helps finalize completion of projects directly related to the plan. A factor based off these partnerships that plays into successful plan implementation is assigning accountability for individual strategies and action steps. A successful comprehensive plan should not only assign specific tasks to different organizations, but find a way to hold those groups accountable throughout the process.

A final factor, which will lead to the successful implementation of the plan's goals and strategies lies in finding ways to measure success. The third chapter of this document includes an implementation plan that breaks down the action steps for each strategy and goal. The success of the implementation plan should be continually followed by the City through a set of metrics that are tracked by U.S. Census data, American Community Survey data, permitting data, and additional surveys of local businesses and residents. These measures can include the following:



Median Household Income



Total Population



Assessed Value



Increase in Number of Small Businesses



Increase in Building Permits Applied For



Educational Attainment



Higher Percentage in the Workforce

HUNTINGBURG'S VISION





Inside this Section:

Land Use & Housing
Transportation & Utilities
Economic Development & Tourism
Quality of Life

Vision Statement

A vision statement is a forward-looking perspective meant to show a reflection of what the City of Huntingburg is desired to look like in the future. A vision statement should be broad and can be referenced for decision-making purposes when unanticipated changes occur. The vision statement articulates the aspirational direction for the community and was developed with local feedback throughout the planning process.

Based on this collaborative feedback, the vision statement for the Your Home, Your Huntingburg Comprehensive Plan reads as follows:

“Huntingburg – A City Like No Other – is a welcoming, diverse, and connected community that is a prime location for cultural and recreational amenities, destinations, opportunity, and **a place people are proud to call HOME.”**



Goals

Similar to the vision statement, goals are intended to be broad and lofty - something to be achieved over the next twenty years. The plan is divided into four plan elements with goals provided for each; Land Use & Housing, Transportation & Utilities, Economic Development & Tourism, and Quality of Life. Specific recommendations and action steps are organized underneath each goal statement in the following section.



Land Use & Housing

Goal 1: Ensure redevelopment, new construction, and industrial growth is compatible with the long-term vision of the community.

Goal 2: Diversify and expand the existing housing stock.



Transportation & Utilities

Goal 3: Increase accessibility and connectivity to destinations both locally and regionally.

Goal 4: Invest in long-term infrastructure improvements that support high-quality service and growth.



Economic Development & Tourism

Goal 5: Create an environment in Huntingburg that facilitates the success of small and large businesses.

Goal 6: Continue to leverage Huntingburg as a prime destination.



Quality of Life

Goal 7: Increase access to exceptional parks and community facilities in Huntingburg.

Goal 8: Increase and support diverse cultures, activities, and programming for all ages and interests.

Land Use & Housing

What does this section include?

This section looks ahead at the future land use needs for Huntingburg, focusing on growth through new construction and redevelopment, which will fulfill the city's future residential, commercial, and industrial needs.

Key Items to Address

- Increase resident workforce through housing and career options
- Provide housing that fits current and future trends
- Define the future land use for Huntingburg
- Locate areas for possible annexation that fit with future need projections



Overarching Goals & Strategies

Goal 1: Ensure redevelopment, new construction, and industrial growth are compatible with the long-term vision of the community.

Goal 2: Diversify and expand the existing housing stock.

Huntingburg Future Land Use Plan

The Future Land Use Plan provides guidance to decision-makers when discussing land use changes such as a rezoning or map amendment. When applications or requests come before the Plan Commission or Board of Zoning Appeals, this future land use plan should be referenced. The Future Land Use Plan includes a Future Land Use Map, depicting appropriate land use patterns in the future as the City grows, and location criteria, specific conditions that should be considered during land use changes. The Future Land Use Map in this Comprehensive Plan is not a current Zoning Map or Land Use Map. If a property owner wishes to change what can be built on their property per the Zoning Ordinance, the Future Land Use Map will be used to indicate what that use of that property should be changed to if warranted.

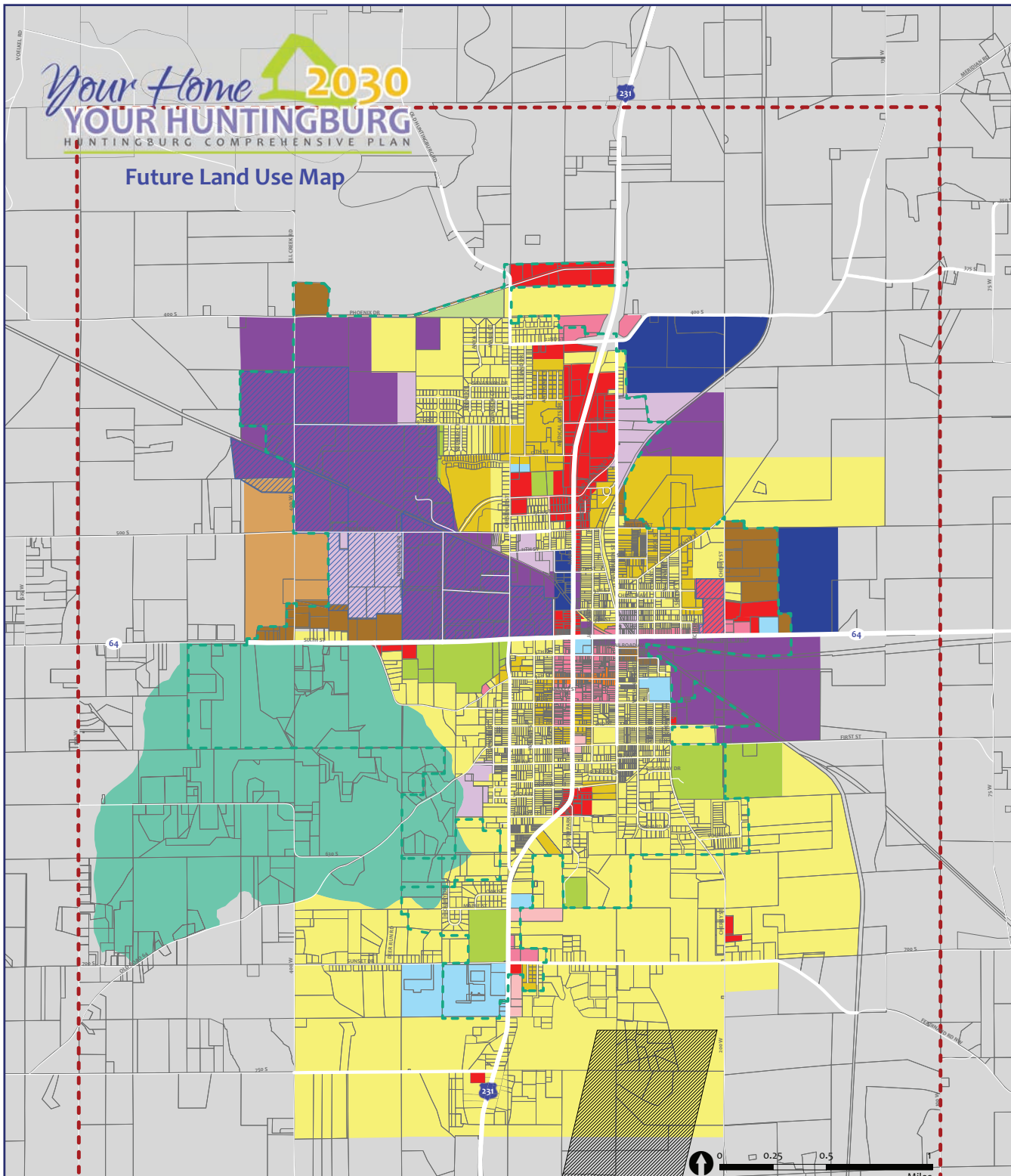
Future Land Use Map

When creating the Future Land Use Map, a build-out scenario was developed to accommodate additional growth and infill development. Areas outside of the City limits that were considered potential growth areas were also filled in to consider development pressures that might extend along major access points such as US 231 and State Road 64. The following methodology was used to determine the future land use map:



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Future Land Use Map



Legend

Street Centerlines	Neighborhood Commercial	Recreation	Institutional
City Limits	Light Commercial	Conservation	Low-Density Residential
TIF Districts	Heavy Commercial	Open Space	Moderate-Density Residential
2-Mile Fringe Boundary	Downtown Mixed-Use	Light Industrial	High-Density Residential
Aircraft Overlay	Mixed-Use	Heavy Industrial	Agriculture

Future Land Use Classifications

The Future Land Use Map on the previous page indicates where specific land use patterns are desired within the City of Huntingburg. The following provides a description of those identified land use patterns to further describe the intended character for each land use classification.

- **Neighborhood Commercial:** This district is intended to support uses that include small-scale retail, professional office, or service uses with limited square footage and business hours. These uses should not draw large amounts of traffic, requiring limited and shared parking. Pockets or small clusters of neighborhood commercial development is recommended and should be located at major intersections or roadways, and large neighborhoods. These uses should avoid strip-style commercial development and fit the character of the surrounding neighborhood.
- **Light Commercial:** This district is intended to allow for small to medium-scale general commercial that would typically include a wide variety of retail, commercial, service, entertainment, and eating establishments.
- **Heavy Commercial:** Typically described as “big box” retailers that require a large amount of square footage and generate numerous trips per day. Office development is also appropriate in this district. These types of uses are typically auto-dependent, requiring appropriate space for parking, travel, and access management to major corridors. Heavy Commercial should have adequate access to major roadways, and include appropriate buffers to less-intense uses.
- **Downtown Mixed-Use:** Development in the downtown mixed-use area should preserve the existing setbacks, character, and building continuation that exists today. The first floor of buildings should be reserved for retail and entertainment uses when possible. Upper floors should be reserved for residential and office uses when possible.
- **Mixed-Use:** The intent of a mixed-use district is to include a combination of uses, typically residential and non-residential uses, however uses such as retail, office, civic, and/or recreational activities are also desired. The mixture of uses can be confined to a single building, or multiple buildings on one lot. The layout and design of these uses should ultimately fit into its surrounding context and include appropriate buffering and transitions to less intense uses.
- **Recreation:** Recreational uses typically include a park, plaza, indoor/outdoor complex, open space, or natural setting that can range in amenities offered. These uses are typically appropriate in all districts, however impact on surrounding uses such as noise, lighting, and traffic should also be considered and planned for.



Neighborhood Commercial Example



Light Commercial Example



Heavy Commercial Example



Mixed-Use Example

- **Conservation:** Development that occurs in the conservation district should continue to be controlled in order to protect Huntingburg Lake from pollution or other conditions which may adversely affect the quality of the water or its use as a source for drinking water.
- **Open Space:** Land that is typically undeveloped and is either protected from future development or has natural features such as wooded areas or waterbodies..
- **Light Industrial:** This use typically refers to manufacturing, process, distribution and other related industrial activities, however it can include office buildings or employment centers that limit noise, smoke, dust, and odor. All light industrial uses should be visually appealing or campus-like to remove adverse impacts to adjacent property owners. Proper infrastructure should be in place to support this use.
- **Heavy Industrial:** This district allows intense industrial uses that produce light, smoke, dust, odor, and/or noise, and may contribute to an adverse impact on neighbors. Uses should be visually appealing, on large lots, with proper setbacks, transitions, and buffers to mitigate those impacts. Proper infrastructure should be in place to support this use.
- **Institutional:** Often referred to as civic, public, or semi-public uses that can range from government buildings, to public libraries, to communities centers, and provide a service or resource to the community. These types of uses are typically appropriate in all districts but should be reserved for areas of the City that are easily accessible (centrally-located, good transportation access, etc.).
- **Low-Density Residential:** This type of use should allow residential development between 1-3 dwelling units per acre and should be in close proximity to water and sanitary sewer infrastructure. Larger lot sizes are preferred in this category, including provision for open space and landscaping in larger subdivisions.
- **Moderate-Density Residential:** Residential district that allows up to six dwelling units per acre and should be in close proximity to water and sanitary sewer infrastructure. Two-family dwelling units or single-family attached units should be also considered in this district. Smaller lots should be accepted in this district, but should also include common open space with large subdivisions.
- **High-Density Residential:** Development occurring in this area should allow moderately dense residential units up to 12 units per acre depending on the density and type of adjacent uses. High-density development should consider if the structure is compatible in height, scale, and character to neighbors. This use is most acceptable in areas that have amenities within walking distance, reducing the number of vehicular trips needed.



Light Industrial Example



Low-Density Residential Example



Moderate-Density Residential Example



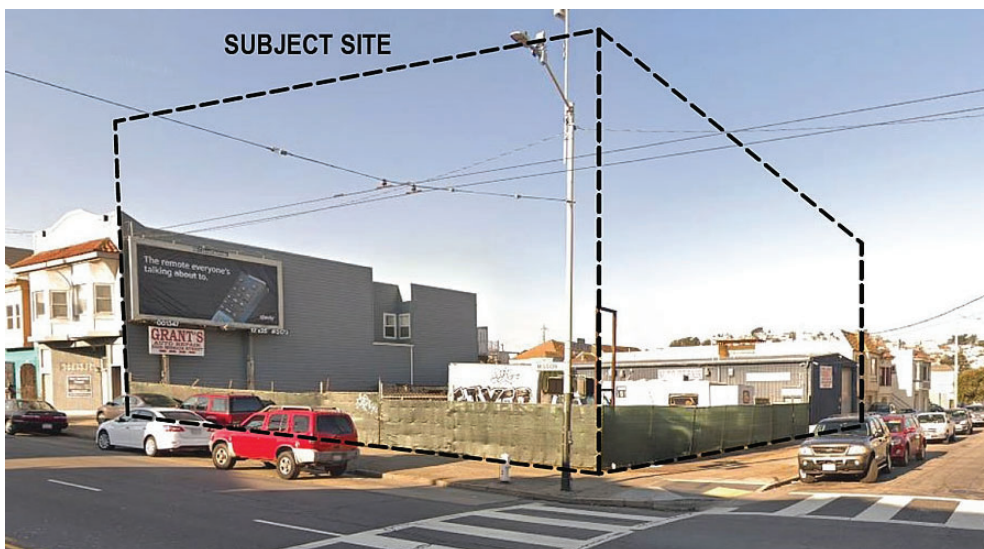
High-Density Residential Example

Location Criteria

The following location criteria will assist the Planning Commission, City Council, and Board of Zoning Appeals in future land use decisions and should be referenced along with the Future Land Use Map to determine if the proposed development aligns with the vision set forth in this plan.

All Development

- Any development should meet requirements outlined in the current zoning and subdivision control ordinances.
- All proposed development should comply with all national, state, and local rules and regulations regarding floodways and floodplains. Areas of steep slopes should be developed only with all appropriate engineering and architectural designs.
- Infill development should be encouraged.
- Land use and the intensity of those uses should be compatible or appropriately transition to adjacent uses if the adjacent use or intensity is appropriate, when possible.
- New development near areas of high activity should include streetscape amenities that accommodate all users; this could include sidewalks, crosswalks, street lighting, landscaping, benches, etc., where appropriate.
- Areas with significant vehicular traffic, or development that would increase significant traffic should include safety improvements for pedestrians and vehicles on the roadway.
- Access control methods should be used along major roadways or high-traffic areas.
- Uses that contribute to the quality of life for residents should be encouraged.
- The preservation of viable historic buildings and structures should be encouraged when possible.



Example of Infill Site

Residential

- Residential development that provides diverse housing types and price ranges should be encouraged within major subdivision development as well as city-wide.
- Age-in place development, senior living facilities, and accessory dwelling units (granny shacks) should be encouraged.
- "Greenfield" housing developments should be clustered together to serve as a neighborhood, discouraging the division of one acre lots from large tracks of land in areas reserved for higher densities.
- High-density residential development or subdivision development should have multiple entryways/exits and accommodate for the impact on nearby roadways.
- New subdivision development should encourage future roadway connectivity.
- Sidewalks or multi-use pathways should be encouraged between residential neighborhood developments.
- Buffers such as landscaping and/or fencing should be encouraged between low-density and high-density residential.
- Uses such as industrial and active agricultural uses that are developed after nearby residential should include adequate buffers or transitions.



Shared use path. Yaclt, WA



Mixed-use town center in a suburban area. Belmar, CO

Commercial/Industrial

- Development should gain access from a collector or arterial roadway.
- Development should minimize curb cuts on roadways and maintain a defined roadway edge with specific points for ingress/egress. Shared driveways with cross-development access should be required when possible.
- A common point of access should be required for mid to large-scale development that generate high volumes of traffic.
- Allow for the creation of mixed-use development that include both residential, commercial, office, open space, and civic uses.
- Small scale neighborhood commercial should be encouraged in appropriate locations within residential areas and have appropriate transitions and buffers.
- Industries that produce hazardous materials should have proper separation from public uses and residential areas.
- Industry should be encouraged in locations that do not create land use conflicts and are not visually intrusive, such as existing industrial parks or adjacent to existing industrial development.

Goal 1: Ensure redevelopment, new construction, and industrial growth are compatible with the long-term vision of the community.

1. Encourage uses in areas appropriate based on infrastructure, environmental constraints, and desired outcome.

As Huntingburg continues to grow its population, it will be important to focus new development in appropriate areas that can support the type of development. New development should be located strategically based off the existing conditions of the site and surrounding area, which can include environmental factors such as the existing floodplain, access to utilities and other pre-existing infrastructure. Planning for development with these items in mind will ultimately lead to developments with higher success rates, with less negative impacts to the city and residents.

Both Dubois County and the City have a strong industrial presence in the region, drawing in a sizeable workforce from outside the county. While continuing to strengthen this base with expanded industrial land uses would allow for more diversification and an increase in privately invested dollars, it could lead to industries having difficulties filling their required workforce. If an industry does wish to expand, special consideration should be given to new locations in regards to the surrounding land uses. Additionally, agricultural land in and near Huntingburg should be protected from encroaching development that may make traditional farming operations difficult to occur. While Right-to-Farm laws prevent nuisance law suits against farmers, it is important to understand the impact new development may have on farming operations.

Currently, the Mid-States Corridor is in the planning and feasibility study phase, and once complete, will influence the future of both Huntingburg and the surrounding county. Development generated from completion of the Mid-State Corridor can include areas outside city limits, but should also incentivize infill and redevelopment. Hotels and other hospitality uses should also be promoted, helping to support the Huntingburg Event and Community Center. Future land use plans should be altered once this plan is finalized in order to better capitalize on the possible implications and benefits it can bring to the community.

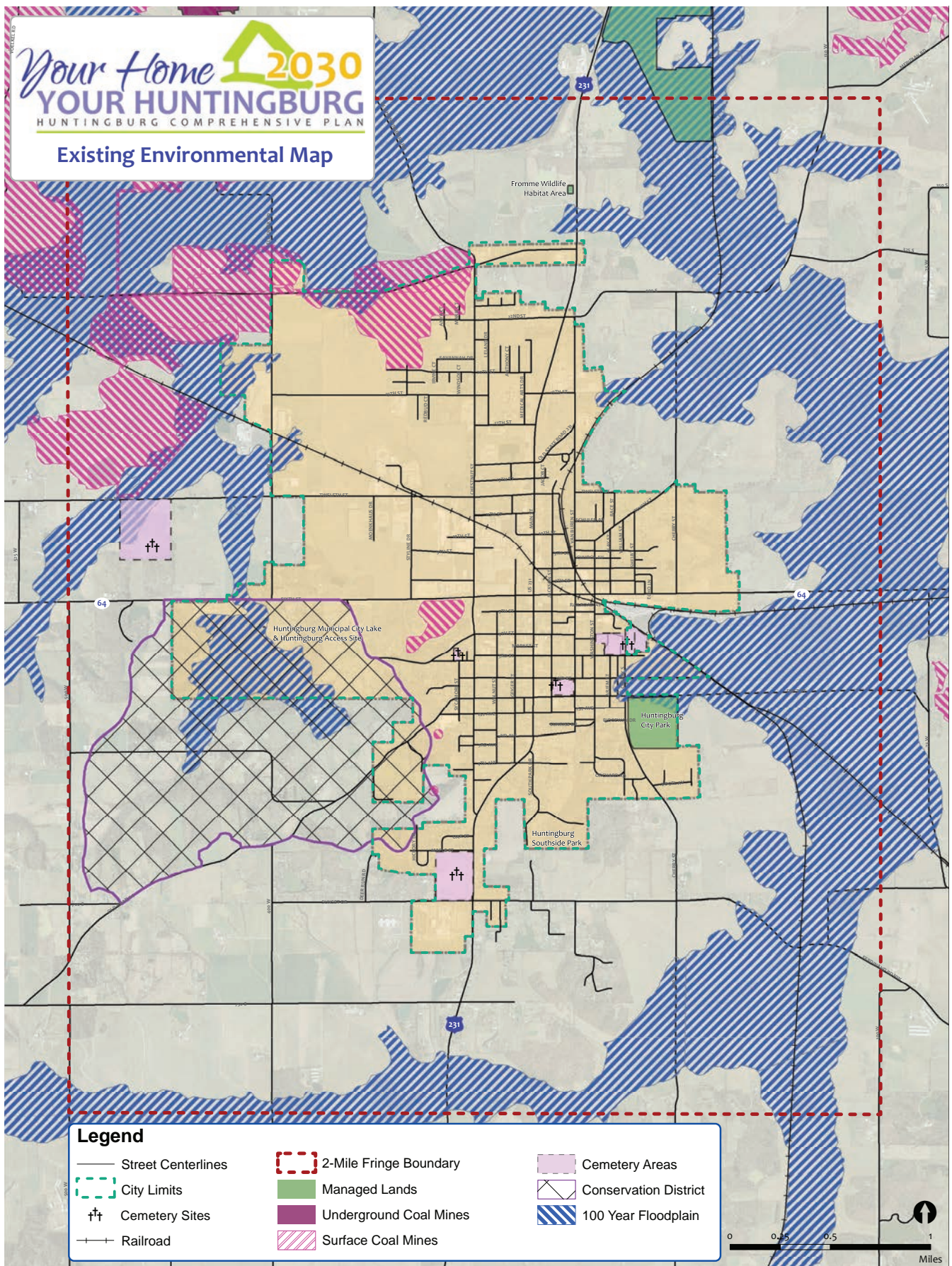
1.1.1 Identify and reserve areas for new industrial development.

1.1.2 Strategically grow City boundaries that are prime for development and can be feasibly served by infrastructure.

1.1.3 Once the route for the Mid-States Corridor is finalized, update the future land use plan to reflect appropriate future growth patterns.

1.1.4 Support the success of agricultural business and protect agricultural areas from encroaching development.

Existing Environmental Map



Legend

- | | | |
|----------------------|----------------------------|-------------------------|
| — Street Centerlines | --- 2-Mile Fringe Boundary | ■ Cemetery Areas |
| - - - City Limits | ■ Managed Lands | ▨ Conservation District |
| ⊕ Cemetery Sites | ■ Underground Coal Mines | ▨ 100 Year Floodplain |
| —+— Railroad | ▨ Surface Coal Mines | |

2. Update ordinances to accurately reflect the community's vision for the City.

As this document begins to influence changes in the community, steps should be taken to update the City's ordinances to more accurately reflect and align with the vision laid out by the Your Home Your Huntingburg Comprehensive Plan. Any ordinance that relates to zoning, development, or property beatification and upkeep should be amended alongside the plan, helping to enforce the strategies laid out in the document. These ordinances should then be reviewed annually to insure they are working as intended. On top of this, special considerations should be given on how to properly enforce the updated ordinances. Although they may be in place, without proper enforcement, the modifications made to the codes will have a difficult time becoming effective.

1.2.1 Update the Zoning Ordinance and Subdivision Control Ordinance.

1.2.2 Update ordinances focused on property maintenance.



Example subdivision



Blighted property

3. Actively promote the reuse and revitalization of abandoned buildings.

A shift many communities across Indiana and the Midwest are seeing is the push for revitalization of existing properties over new development. Abandoned or blighted properties can be an issue in any community, but careful management and redevelopment of them can lead to huge benefits at lower costs to the City. One of the large benefits to redeveloping an abandoned building is that the property is typically already connected to the needed utilities and infrastructure; this lessens the costs for the local municipality and may allow for additional monetary incentives for the property. An additional benefit from pushing for redevelopment over new development is the potential of infill. Communities with older downtowns may have abandoned buildings or empty lots, which take away from the areas aesthetics or economic viability. Infill development can begin revitalizing those properties and restoring the historic properties of the downtown.

Part of the City's efforts to support and push for the revitalization of abandoned buildings should include enforcing property and zoning codes. Even if there isn't someone currently occupying the building, that does not mean the property can be left alone. Proper maintenance of a building can keep it from affecting near-by property values and the overall aesthetics of the street. Huntingburg should also begin forming public-private partnerships that work to redevelop select properties in the City that may contribute to a negative perception of the street or neighborhood it resides on. These partnerships may involve the City offering incentives for redevelopment or even offering the property to the private organization free of charge, providing that the property is properly developed and maintained in the future.

Revitalization and reuse of vacant buildings should be focused along the 231 Corridor. Specifically, the vacant gas station and strip center near the railroad tracks and across from the grain elevators is an area of the City with the potential for revitalization. Other efforts may be focused in the downtown such as the former bank building, or full utilization of the upper floors of the Old National Bank Building.

1.3.1 Enforce property maintenance and zoning codes.

1.3.2 Create public-private partnerships to improve select properties that create a negative perception for the City.

Goal 2: Diversify and expand the existing housing stock.

1. Incentivize the availability of workforce/affordable housing.

Huntingburg is home to the largest employer in the county (OFS) and draws a large amount of workers from outside the City. Because the City is importing a large amount of workers there is an opportunity to capture them and continue to grow Huntingburg's population. Increasing housing stock can involve rehabilitating existing buildings or preparing areas for new development, either of which should involve the addition of affordable housing for new families, low-income and senior populations. Rehabilitation of buildings does not need to be a strictly municipal effort; local resources such as Habitat for Humanity and the state IHEDA Owner-Occupied Repair Program are in place to help provide affordable housing options. Habitat for Humanity of Dubois County has recently instated a new director and is currently looking for better ways to get involved in the community. Affordable housing options may be a key factor in influencing people to move into the area for work, and should be developed in locations that provide quick access to the jobs which drew new residents to the city to begin with.



Potential new residential construction

2.1.1 Prepare and identify undeveloped areas for the construction of new homes.

2.1.2 Support efforts to improve the condition of existing homes such as owner-occupied rehabilitation programs.

2.1.3 Work with partners such as Habitat for Humanity to provide homes and improvements for low-income and senior populations.



Habitat for Humanity site

2. Plan for housing the supports projected growth and housing preferences.

On top of developing housing to support and attract a larger workforce, Your Home Your Huntingburg also focuses on increasing the City's housing stock to support a growing population and meet the current market demands. Huntingburg has a high percentage of renters (39.4%) when compared to other similarly sized communities, which presents a need to move away from traditional housing development. Encouraging different housing options such as apartments or townhomes can help fulfill the increased demand for rental units, while affordable single-family units can bridge the gap for first time homebuyers. One way this can be approached is through the development review process, which would allow the City to allow higher density housing and increase the approval percentage of multi-family developments, or encouraging subdivision development that offers diversity in the housing types that are offered. In addition to these housing options, developing new housing and facilities for seniors will become increasingly important. Although the City currently has a younger population, there is still a sizable amount of those over the age of 65 who will begin moving to smaller, low-maintenance homes. This can be accounted for through housing types that allow aging in place, or low-maintenance communities designed for this age group (nursing homes, retirement communities, etc.). If there are no suitable properties within the City, annexation of adjacent land for new development that follows the future land use map is a possibility. The future land use map highlights areas of potential growth for new development; these are based on existing land use patterns, environmental constraints, and anticipated future demand. When the 2020 census has been completed, housing types should follow emerging trends that are represented in the new data set.

To ensure all housing units available in the City meet the standard for building and health codes, a renter's registration program should be created. Creating and enforcing building codes that help protect renters while working to maintain the quality of rented units should be an ongoing effort from the City. In addition to this, the program could help create a working list of all rented properties in the City and who manages them. This list could assist renters or the City when trying to contact a landlord or property manager of a specific property. Part of this program could also include providing education for both residents and landlords regarding leases and documentation, helping to prevent future issues between the two groups that may arise due to simple misunderstanding.

2.2.1 Monitor rental housing units to ensure landlords are meeting health and safety standards.

2.2.2 Encourage housing type options, including apartments, lofts, and townhomes.

2.2.3 Encourage diversity in single-family detached subdivisions and development.

2.2.4 Increase senior housing options such as age-in place development, assisted living, nursing homes, retirement communities, and low-maintenance homes.

2.2.5 Utilize statistical information released as part of the 2020 census to inform future housing needs.

2.2.6 Work with developers to annex new housing development just outside of City limits.

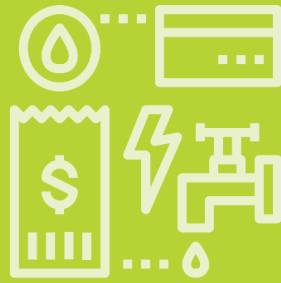
Transportation & Utilities

What does this section include?

As Huntingburg continues to grow, it will be of critical importance for both transportation and utilities infrastructure to be expanded in tandem. On top of improving roadway connections, this section covers trail and sidewalk expansions, maintaining affordable utilities, and managing stormwater.

Key Items to Address

- Improve local and regional transportation options and connectivity
- Continue to maintain the conditions of roadways, sidewalks, and trails
- Develop new plans that help the City manage assets, resources, and utilities
- Begin taking steps towards a more green and energy efficient Huntingburg



Overarching Goals & Strategies

Goal 3: Increase accessibility and connectivity to destinations both locally and regionally.

Goal 4: Invest in long-term infrastructure improvements that support high-quality service and growth.

Goal 3: Increase accessibility and connectivity to destinations both locally and regionally.

1. Improve regional and local transportation connectivity.

Improving regional and local transportation connectivity will need to occur on multiple levels. This includes improving economic linkages to major markets by actively participating (and supporting) the development of the Mid-States Corridor, and expansion efforts being undertaken by the Huntingburg Airport. Increasing the connections between neighbors and the locales that they visit is also of significant importance. Methods for increasing these connections can occur through the full build-out of existing trail systems, improving sidewalk connectivity to those trails, development of a regional trail system that connects communities, and expansion of existing on-demand transit systems.

3.1.1 Actively participate in the development of the potential Mid-States Corridor.

3.1.2 Plan for upgrades and new roadways to accommodate the Mid-States Corridor.

3.1.3 Encourage regional connectivity with the Dubois County Trail, connecting to Jasper, Ireland and Ferdinand.

3.1.4 Complete the missing segments of the Heritage Trail Loop, including the link along Styline Drive at Niehaus Memorial Park.

3.1.5 Invest in sidewalk connections and safety improvement to local schools, neighborhoods, and downtown.

3.1.6 Work with partners to expand the existing on-demand transit system.

3.1.7 Support efforts to expand the Huntingburg Airport.

3.1.8 Install bike racks at strategic locations throughout the City such as Southridge High School, Southridge Middle School, Huntingburg Elementary, parks, and downtown.

Mid-States Corridor Project

The purpose of the Mid-States Corridor project is to provide an improved transportation link between the US 231/SR 66 and I-69 corridor. The Mid-States Corridor Regional Development Authority (RDA) and the Indiana Department of Transportation (INDOT) are conducting the required Tier 1 Environmental Study for the Mid-States Corridor Project. The study will determine a preferred corridor. The RDA and INDOT initiated a study of the corridor under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA). The study is required for all federally-funded projects to assess environmental effects before making decisions concerning the construction of highways and other publicly-owned facilities. The Mid-States Corridor Tier 1 Environmental Impact Study Draft Purpose and Need Statement was published in August of 2019. This document states the policy framework, previous studies, needs assessment, public & agency input, and the project goals and performances measures. After the Federal Highway Administration issues the Record of Decision (ROD), the Tier 2 studies begin. These studies will include more detailed analyses and will determine specific impacts and mitigation.

Three public meetings were scheduled for February 2020 for the Mid-States Corridor Project, which examined the concept of an improved highway connection in southern Indiana to Owensboro, Kentucky. The meetings provided an update on the Tier 1 Environmental Impact Statement. The Mid-States Corridor study is a twelve-county study area that evaluates the improved highway connections and facility types. Three facility types were considered as preliminary alternatives: freeway, expressway, and super-2 arterial.

The Mid-States Corridor Project Team screened 28 preliminary alternatives on 10 different routes, considering impacts, costs and performance. Ten alternatives on five routes were presented and are advancing for a more detailed study as of February 2020. These five routes are highlighted on the following map. Major goals of the study are to increase accessibility to business markets, provide more efficient truck/freight travel, reduce crashes, and increase access to major rail and air intermodal centers. Key factors that were considered during the screening process include:

Impacts to both natural resources and the community were considered including:

- Natural environmental impacts
- Residential impacts
- Business impacts
- Managed land impacts
- Cultural resource impacts

Costs: Comparative preliminary construction costs were determined for alternatives. Costs consider facility type and terrain.

Performance of each preliminary alternative was evaluated against the core goals of the project, including:

- Increase accessibility to major business markets
- Provide more efficient truck/freight travel in Southern Indiana
- Reduce crashes in Southern Indiana
- Increase access to major rail and air intermodal centers

The Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) is expected to be published in the fall of 2020 and will identify a preferred corridor. A Record of Decision (ROD) is expected in summer of 2021. After a Tier 1 R Record of Decision, more detailed Tier 2 environmental studies will determine specific alignments and preferred alternatives within the selected Tier 1 corridor.

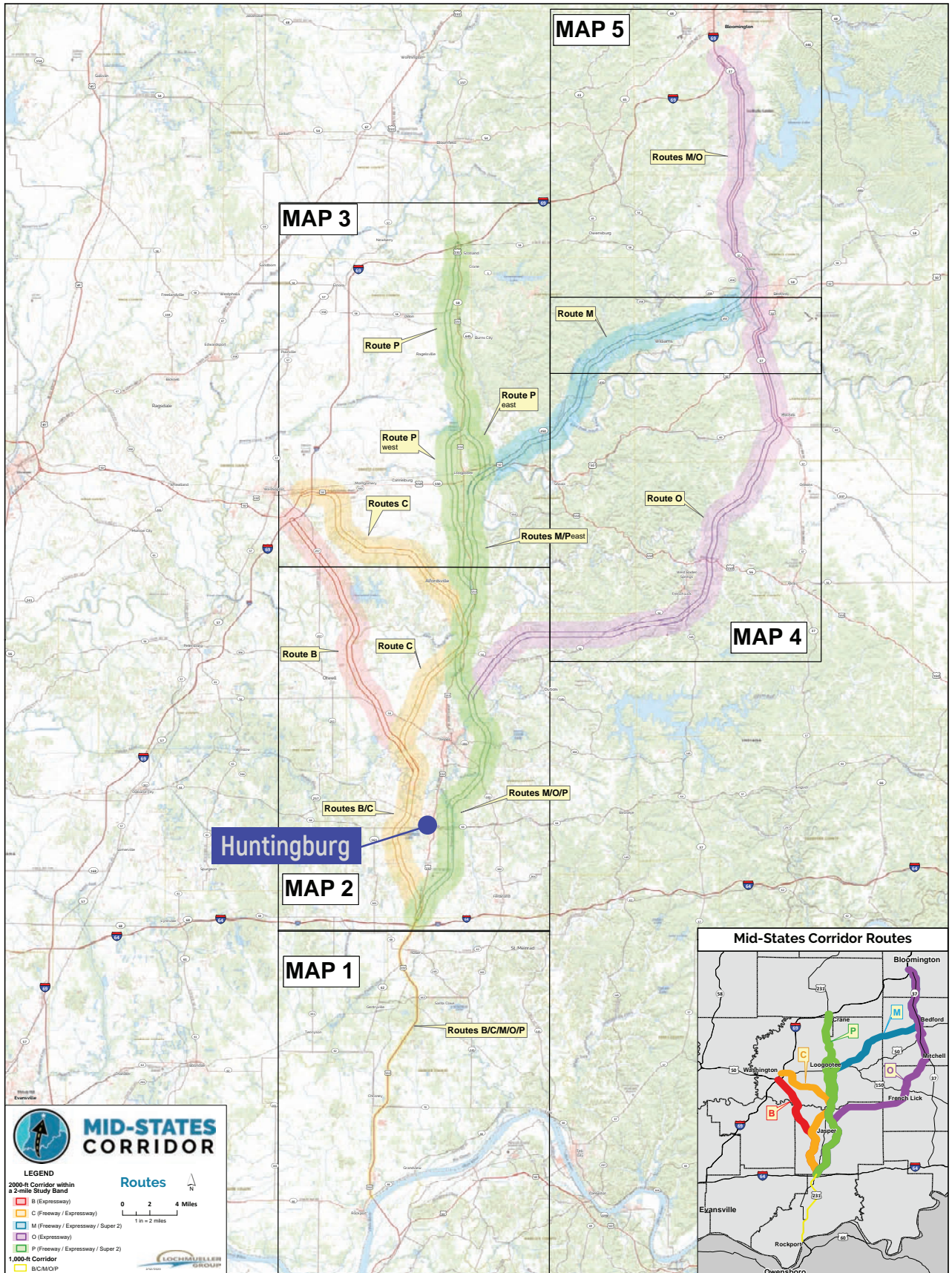
The full screening report is available at MidStatesCorridor.com.

Sources:

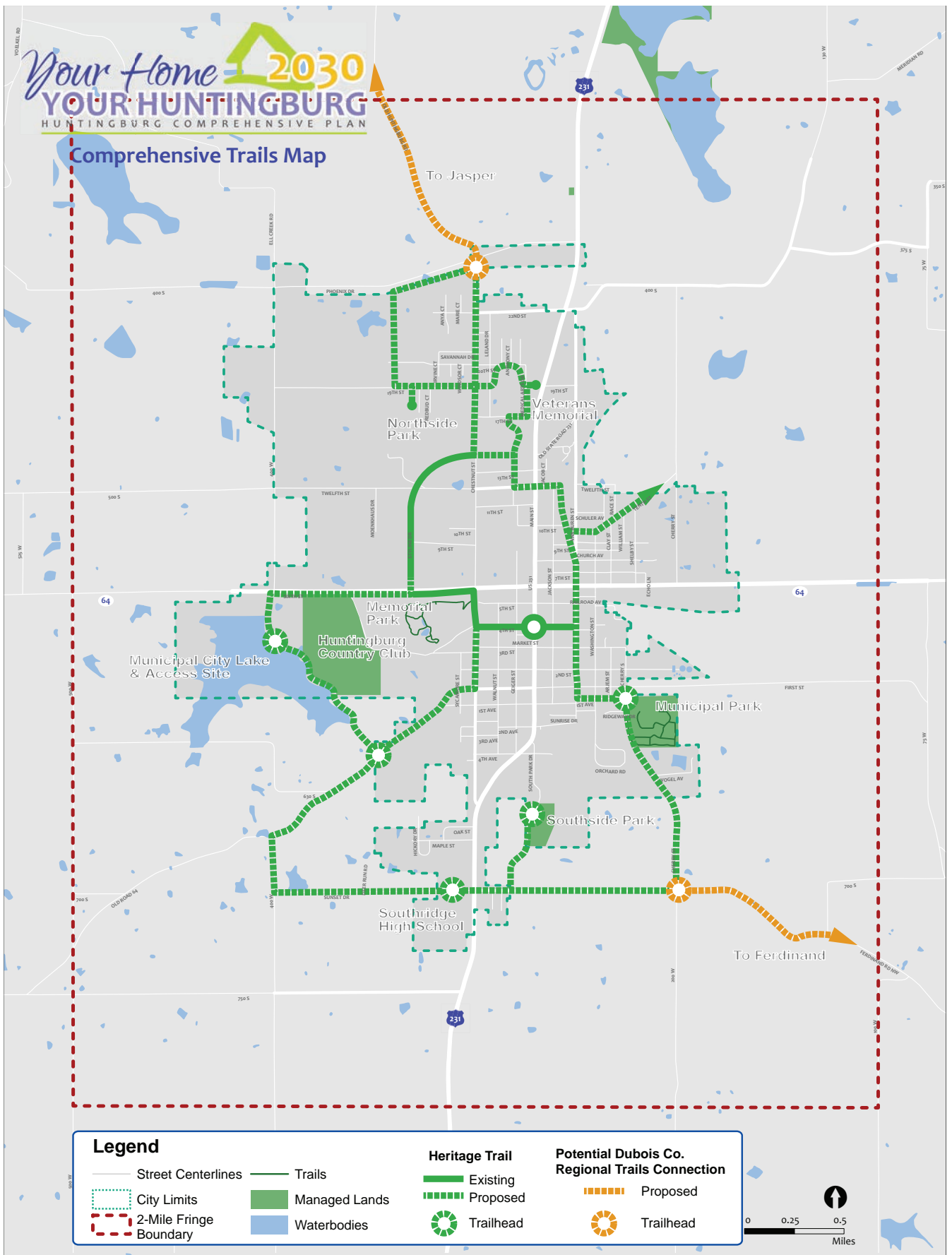
Mid-States Corridor project website: <https://midstatescorridor.com/>

Dubois County Free Press, article. "Mid-States Corridor process leaves residents in the lurch". February 21, 2020.

The Herald, article. "Officials reviewing city's updated comprehensive plan". February 27, 2020.



Comprehensive Trails Map



Legend		Heritage Trail	Potential Dubois Co. Regional Trails Connection
Street Centerlines	Trails	Existing	Proposed
City Limits	Managed Lands	Proposed	Trailhead
2-Mile Fringe Boundary	Waterbodies	Trailhead	



Typical Section Conditions for Pedestrian Connection Improvements



(A) RURAL CONDITION



(B) RESIDENTIAL CONDITION



(C) RAILROAD CONDITION

2. Develop and finalize policies for existing transportation assets.

Through a variety of means, the City of Huntingburg has made significant investments in its transportation infrastructure. This is especially true in the 4th Street Historic District where not only have significant capital projects been completed, but a renewed sense of community building and enthusiasm has taken hold. These capital and human investments must be protected and leveraged to continue momentum and support the next wave of development. Protection of existing transportation assets can occur through the implementation of truck routes, which accommodate commercial and/or industrial needs while respecting corridor limitations that restrict the ability of (or desire for) larger trucks from utilizing any particular corridor. An example of where a truck route might be considered is 4th Street, where paving materials do not allow for heavy loads, or a corridor where truck traffic is restricted to a singular route in order to minimize unwanted impacts to multiple streets.

The development of a thoroughfare plan that considers non-state highway (i.e. Sunset Drive, 1st Street, 22nd St. Phoenix Dr., etc.) linkages to the Mid-States Corridor which guides future development should be developed. The plan would outline the future typical section of the various corridors, and could consider additional developmental standards such as building materials, landscaping, lighting, traffic control, etc. such that development occurs in a controlled and desirable manner. This will allow for roadway improvements to be easily completed (by the City or private industry) when conditions warrant, without paying a premium to rectify uncontrolled development.

Additionally, in order to maximize recent investments in downtown Huntingburg, a "flex" policy that outlines the process, terms and conditions for opting out of parking in front of a particular storefront for additional pedestrian space should be developed. The "flex" policy needs to consider multiple items including, but not limited to: time of year, duration, fees, liability, etc. Once the "flex" policy is implemented, a corresponding adverse effect is loss of parking on 4th Street. Coupling this reality with the tightening of available on-street parking on a per business basis as additional business open, the City of Huntingburg will need to invest in additional parking adjacent to 4th Street. A parking study which identifies the required amounts of parking, locations of additional parking and methods for securing parking should be addressed as part of the study.

3.2.1 Prepare 4th Street Flex Policy and implement the 4th Street Flex Street Program.

3.2.2 Implement and update a Thoroughfare Plan.

3.2.3 Identify and mark designated Truck Routes.

3.2.4 Continue to expand on the downtown parking initiative with an updated downtown parking study and plan to support visitor attractions and businesses.

4th Street Flex Street Program Examples



Flex Program: No Flex

Typical street configuration with no flex program.



Flex Program: Scenario 1

Partial sidewalk flex to pavement indicator median guideline



Flex Program: Scenario 2

Full sidewalk flex to curb with parking converted to pedestrian access

3. Continue to maintain and provide a strong transportation system.

The ability to respond and secure competitive grant funds from the Indiana Department of Transportation, Indiana Office of Community of Rural Affairs, and Radius Indiana (to name a few) have been a cornerstone of Huntingburg's transformation of its transportation infrastructure. In order to ensure that the City is continuously ready to compete for and obtain funding grants, existing planning documents such as the City's asset management plan, need to be maintained and updated on a semi-annual basis. This effort could be coupled with the development of a "pathway to funding" plan that identifies funding opportunities and associated requirements for key long-term projects. The primary goal of this document is to identify larger capital projects that require funding assistance and ensure that the proper steps to obtain such funding are being completed. This would include a financing plan that outlines local funding requirements from the conceptualization phase through operations and maintenance of a completed project. The end result of the "pathway to funding" would be a glide path that allows for significant projects to be completed without taking away from everyday operational requirements of the City.

3.3.1 Annually update the asset management plan as required to procure Community Crossings Matching Grant Funds from INDOT.

3.3.2 Develop a pathway to funding for key projects to ensure necessary steps are being taken prior to applying for competitive funds from various agencies.

3.3.3 Maintain the condition and level of service for existing roadways and other transportation infrastructure.

Goal 4: Invest in long-term infrastructure improvements that support high-quality service and growth.

1. Continue to provide affordable utility services.

The City of Huntingburg's utility departments are noted for providing affordable and reliable services to Huntingburg's citizens. In order to maintain a high level of customer satisfaction, it is recommended that city utilities continue to update and utilize the City's GIS platform to identify efficiencies amongst departments. This will allow the city to identify areas where planned investments overlap and ensure that they occur at the same time such that expenses are minimized. Similarly, asset management plans for all city utilities should be developed such that the resiliency of the departments are maintained through the easy transfer of institutional knowledge amongst employees and new hires as department heads retire or otherwise move on. Unfunded mandates can strain budgets and cause needed maintenance work to be deferred. City utilities should complete projects currently in queue to address phosphorous removal limits and annually review risks associated with new rulemakings that could lead to unfunded mandates and incorporate them into planning initiatives.

Additionally, through a recent study connected by Commonwealth Engineers, it was discovered there was no capacity available for new connections to the wastewater treatment plant. The current capacity for the plant is 1.1 MGD, and the upgrade will allow 3.5 MGD, with a peak capacity of 9.5 MGD. Improvements to the wastewater treatment plant are recommended to occur immediately to allow for the continued growth and development of the City.

4.1.1 Implement recommended improvements to the wastewater treatment plant to increase capacity.

4.1.2 Continue to utilize GIS to develop tools that look for efficiencies amongst several departments. This tool can then determine what is the major item of work and lead department heads.

4.1.3 Develop an asset management plan in accordance with Indiana State Revolving Loan Fund as required to obtain low interest loans and address replacement cycles for end of life assets for electric, gas, sanitary sewer, and water.

4.1.4 Continue to update the electric and gas master plan that addresses infrastructure needs required to meet demands of future development.

4.1.5 Identify and track potential unfunded regulatory requirements for sanitary sewer and water.

2. Improve flooding and stormwater issues as growth continues in Huntingburg.

As part of the development of the comprehensive plan, concerns regarding the increased intensity of rainfall events and associated flooding were commonly voiced. In order to begin addressing deficiencies in existing stormwater infrastructure, the City should complete the detailed drainage (hydrologic and hydraulic) studies as recommended by the 2019 Stormwater Utility Study such that specific projects are identified. Once projects are identified, the City can utilize GIS platforms and asset management plans to determine if stormwater projects overlap with other departmental initiatives. In these instances, stormwater improvements can be added to these initiatives such that common costs can be shared; thus reducing the burden on all departments. Through the identification of individual projects, a pathway to funding can be developed similar to transportation projects as previously discussed in Goal #3.

4.2.1 Complete detailed hydrologic and hydraulic studies as recommended in the 2019 Stormwater Utility Study and identify specific projects and costs required to address flooding issues.

4.2.2 Identify which stormwater projects can be completed as part of other City projects and which projects are standalone.

4.2.3 Update project budgets and determine funding options/opportunities to complete identified stormwater projects.

3. Implement infrastructure and services that support an energy-efficient and environmentally-conscious community.

As energy costs continue to rise, opportunities for renewable energy should be explored. This includes exploring the opportunity to increase the use of renewable energy as well as identification of energy efficient retrofits and technologies that can be implemented. Similarly, the exploration of a city-wide recycling program could be explored; however, current market conditions for recyclable products may prohibit the implementation of such a program in the near term.

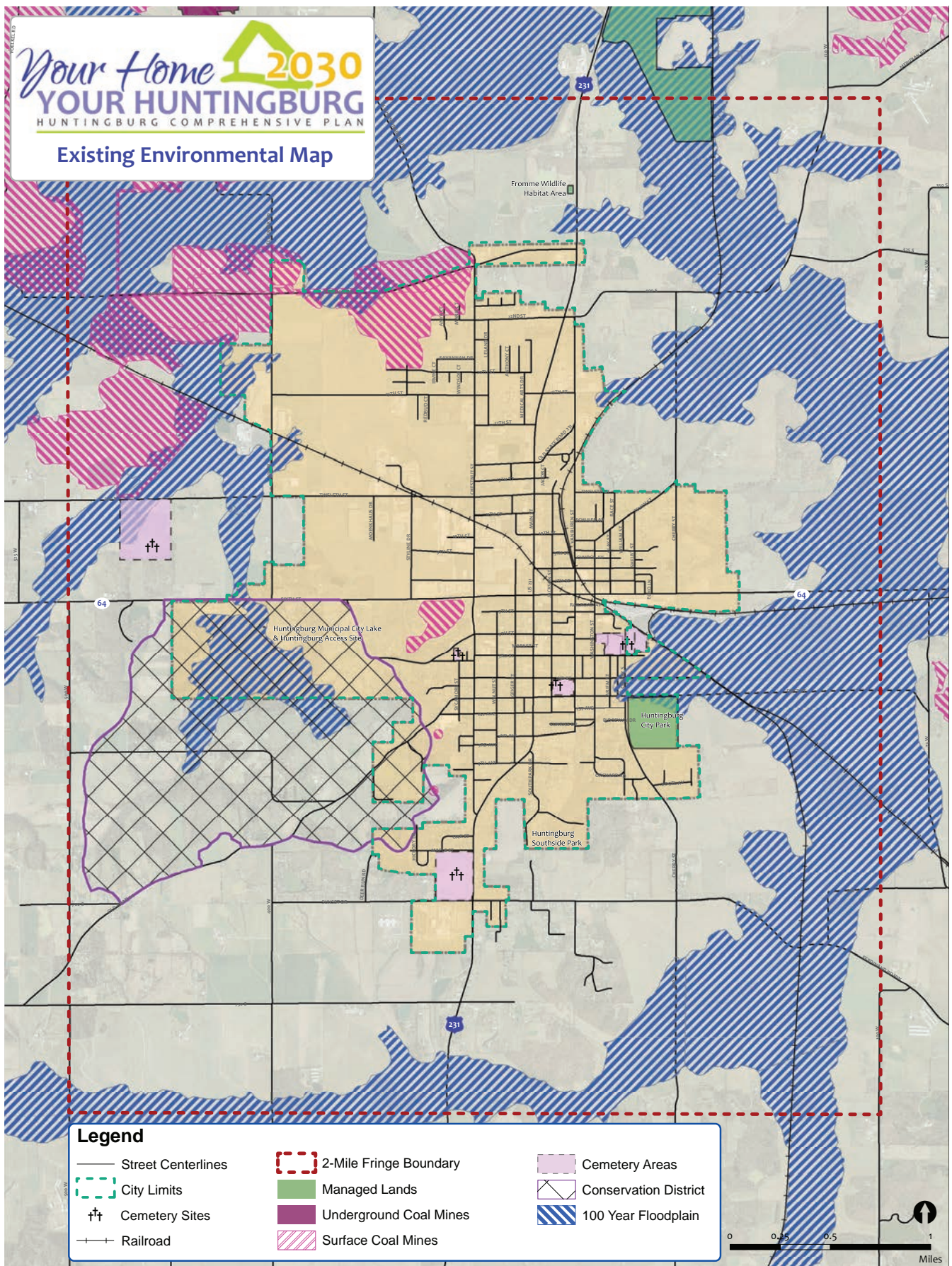
4.3.1 Identify potential energy efficiency options within the sanitary collection system and wastewater treatment plant.

4.3.2 Identify potential energy efficiency options within the water distribution system and water treatment plant.

4.3.3 Improve the convenience of the city-wide recycling program.

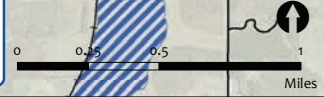
4.3.4 Continue to support the partnership with Indiana Municipal Power Agency (IMPA) Huntingburg Solar Park. .

Existing Environmental Map



Legend

- Street Centerlines
- City Limits
- †† Cemetery Sites
- +— Railroad
- - - 2-Mile Fringe Boundary
- Managed Lands
- Underground Coal Mines
- Surface Coal Mines
- Cemetery Areas
- ▨ Conservation District
- ▨ 100 Year Floodplain



Economic Development & Tourism

What does this section include?

This section emphasizes the need for supporting educational institutions, small businesses, and development which helps strengthen Huntingburg as a prime tourist destination. Attracting a skilled workforce, investing in the downtown, and improving the City's gateways are also part of these efforts.

Key Items to Address

- Increase educational attainment
- Continue to attract and retain a skilled workforce
- Focus new investment and development to make downtown a destination
- Leverage historic assets for promoting tourism
- Improve gateways leading into Huntingburg



Overarching Goals & Strategies

Goal 5: Create an environment in Huntingburg that facilitates the success of small and large businesses.

Goal 6: Continue to leverage Huntingburg as a prime destination.

Goal 5: Create an environment in Huntingburg that facilitates the success of small and large businesses.

1. Develop a strong link between the Southwest Dubois County School Corporation and other educational institutions.

Helping foster an environment, which supports small and large businesses begins with quality education at all levels. An essential part of this is developing partnerships and increasing the amount of communication between Southwest Dubois County School Corporation and other educational institutions and the City. Communication between these groups can lead to a higher number of local internships or work studies and better coordinated efforts when reacting to new State Legislation. Creating consistent opportunities for coordination between the school system and the City could occur in the form of quarterly or regular meetings.

While improving a school curriculum is one way to improve the educational attainment for students, an effective approach is to provide additional programs and real-world opportunities for students. This could involve expanding internal or after school programs, which teach students career oriented skills; increasing the number of classes, which give credit for internships and work studies; or partnering with local colleges for dual credit classes and additional educational outreach initiatives. These types of educational programming may be better suited for students who have trouble learning in a classroom environment, and can lead to careers that don't rely on a typical four-year college degree. Providing alternative curriculums for students will work to not only help promote a healthy community-wide educational atmosphere, helping push students to finish school and receive their degree, but can also help employers train the next generation of workers who have the needed skills directly out of high school. This hands-on training approach can not only better prepare students for their careers, but can increase the chances of new graduates staying in the county and working at the locations they interned with.

5.1.1 Expand youth programming that helps youth envision career and trade pathways to a successful future (leadership, career skills/training, STEAM, entrepreneurial skills, etc.).

5.1.2 Increase local internship opportunities.

5.1.3 Continue to partner with Vincennes University, Indiana University and others on community-based partnerships and educational outreach initiatives.

5.1.4 Develop quarterly communication between the City and School Corporation to support efforts that react to State Legislation.



Southwest Dubois County School Corporation



Internship Career Fair

2. Encourage small business development and entrepreneurship.

Small businesses make up a large portion of the businesses in Indiana, helping fill market niches and providing employment opportunities. Because small businesses can contribute to the character of a community, it is important to provide support for those wanting to start their own business, either in the form of administrative assistance or local market incentives. One way Huntingburg is helping support these types of businesses is through the area's first coworking space, Current Blend. This space is located in downtown Huntingburg and provides a space for business owners and entrepreneurs to access technology and resources they need in order to achieve success. Spaces such as these are appearing in small communities across Indiana and have been widely successful in supporting local businesses.

To build off this newly introduced space, the City could begin offering or continue to support programs or assistance to residents looking to start a new business. These programs could be as simple as a class held bi-monthly, which guides people through the permitting process and what they should consider before becoming a business owner. Part of this program could also include the creation of a check-list for entrepreneurs interested in starting a business in Huntingburg. This list could begin with the basics of starting a business in any location, and then expand to cover the specific requirements needed in the City such as zoning and permitting requirements.

The only currently available local market incentive for Huntingburg is a revolving loan fund. If the City is looking to more heavily support and invest in small business development, new incentives need to be offered. Typically, the largest cost for new business owners is property and equipment, so grants or programs, which target these issues directly can provide the small boost in capital a new business owner may need. These incentives do not need to demand a large portion of the City's budget, and can be simple programs such as a façade improvement grant or small business tax credit.

5.2.1 Enhance and market local incentives for small businesses.

5.2.2 Continue to support Current Blend as a center for small business development, including creation of a check-list for entrepreneurs who are interested in starting a business in Huntingburg.



Current Blend Interior

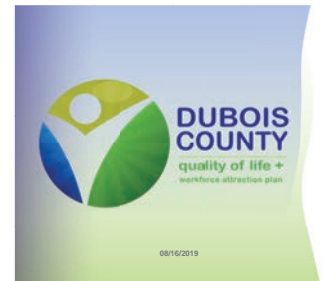


Mixed-use town center in a suburban area. Belmar, CO

3. Focus efforts to retain and attract a skilled workforce.

Although Huntingburg currently has two of the largest employers in the region, it is important to look ahead to see how the City can continue to attract and retain its skilled workforce for new and existing businesses. Having a large pool of skilled labor isn't just beneficial for businesses already present in the area, but can be used to attract new businesses and employers. One way to grow a skilled workforce is to diversify the industry base, bringing in different industries that can support higher skilled and higher paying jobs. Although there are many manufacturing jobs in the county that pay higher than average wages, the introduction of high-tech industries could begin attracting high-wage jobs, which require specific skill-sets such as high-tech. This type of skilled workforce is often made up of young professionals and those entering the middle of their careers. An advisory council should be formed, made up of young professionals and mid-career professionals who may be looking to move back home to start a family in order to develop strategies, which attract this population.

Huntingburg has also seen a rise in the number of youth and young professionals since 2010, offering an opportunity to expand the City and County's workforce even more over the next few years. Working with educational institutions to help train and provide on-site experience is one possible way to retain those ready to graduate. Another is simply improving local amenities and overall quality of life, offering what can be found in the larger cities, which recent high school and college graduates are often drawn to. These amenities can also be shaped to help retain and support the large Hispanic/Latino population in Huntingburg, including firms that assist businesses in the hiring of Spanish-speaking workers. In addition to the new action steps outlined in this plan, there should also be continued support for the recently completed Dubois County Quality of Life and Workforce Attraction Plan, which also highlights the need for an incentive program to attract recent college grads and the need for additional early learning and childcare facilities.



Dubois County Quality of Life + Workforce Attraction Plan

5.1.1 Encourage local businesses to hire bilingual employees to aid in the hiring of a Spanish-speaking workforce.

5.1.2 Work with existing businesses as well as potential new employers to actively target and attract higher wage jobs.

5.1.3 Work with the County to create a program to incentivize young professionals to move to Huntingburg and Dubois County after college or high school.

5.1.4 Encourage the creation and expansion of additional early learning and childcare facilities in Huntingburg.

5.1.5 Target high-tech industries in or near Huntingburg.

5.1.6 Develop an advisory council for mid-career professionals (30-45) to develop strategies for attracting population to Huntingburg.

Goal 6: Continue to leverage Huntingburg as a prime destination.

1. Support growth and investment in Downtown Huntingburg.

When working to turn a community into a destination for both residents and outside visitors, one of the first locations typically looked at and redeveloped is the downtown. A community's downtown is often the home for retail, entertainment, eating and other nightlife, becoming the place people are drawn toward when visiting. Downtowns can also have unique character that distinguishes them from other cities, offering a different culture or sense of place. While some downtowns may not be a thriving destination, they often have historic character that can be leveraged with private investment. Besides partnering with private investors, Huntingburg can continue supporting and partnering with Destination Huntingburg (Main Street Program) to continue encouraging uses in the downtown, which provide nightlife and attractions for residents and tourists. Indiana University's Center for Rural Engagement to help develop events at Market Street Park and throughout the downtown, with a focus on becoming an arts and cultural destination. Programming, as well as the implementation of art installations throughout the downtown, will help make this a reality for Huntingburg.

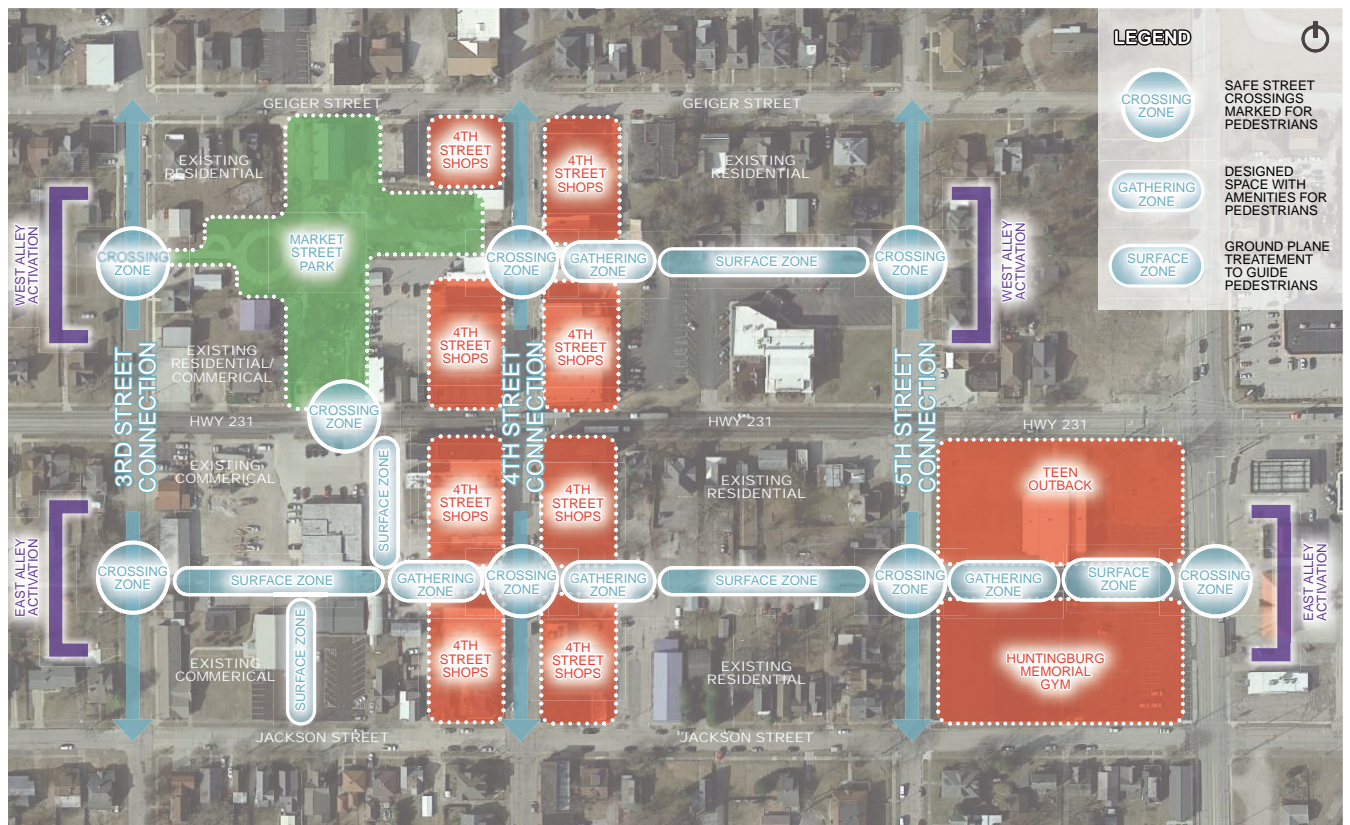
One example of a new use for downtown that was mentioned in this process included the addition of a maker space, which can be described as a collaborative workspace with high-tech tools for making and learning how to make/create crafts and products. This type of use would promote small business start-ups in Huntingburg, supporting local entrepreneurship as well as provide opportunities for learning and classes that bring people downtown on a regular basis.

A downtown's appearance is often a large factor for how a person perceives it, so programs designed to improve the area's aesthetic qualities can help make it more inviting for both visitors and investors. Investing in Huntingburg's downtown through aesthetics, cultural, and private-dollar investments can begin reshaping people's views. Efforts should include the design and construction of Phase 2 of the 4th Street Heritage Trail to encompass four blocks of downtown, in addition to a façade improvement program and alley activation program. After a street closure forced businesses to use their alleyway entrances as the main point of entry, cleaning the alleyways and making them more pedestrian friendly was a necessity. This effort went beyond a simple cleaning and became the idea that these spaces could be used by pedestrians on a regular basis, providing adequate lighting and safety was ensured. The activation of these alleyways could include public art, landscaping and other beautification efforts creating more access points to downtown. Specifically, these alleyways could help draw attendees of the nearby Memorial Gym and Teen Outback to safely walk to businesses and attractions in the downtown.

1. Support growth and investment in Downtown Huntingburg. (cont.)

- 6.1.1** Support Destination Huntingburg (Main Street Program), Huntingburg Merchants Association, and the Chamber to encourage uses such as retail, restaurants, entertainment, nightlife and other tourist destinations in Downtown.
- 6.1.2** Make downtown a district for arts and culture through continued investment and programming with Market Street Park / Indiana University programming.
- 6.1.3** Design and construct Phase 2 of the 4th Street Heritage Trail to encompass four blocks of downtown.
- 6.1.4** Support the creation of a community-focused makers space.
- 6.1.5** Create an alley-activation program.
- 6.1.6** Develop a façade improvement program.

Locations of Alley-Activation Program





East Alley Gathering Zone - Day View



East Alley Gathering Zone - Night View

2. Promote and market Huntingburg's assets and history.

Turning Huntingburg into a destination can also be done through leveraging historic assets, such as the existing League Stadium, home of the Dubois County Bombers, to promote tourism. The City should begin both supporting its historic assets and promoting regional historic sites for future tourism. These assets do not need to be old buildings and sites, but can also include places of agri-tourism and arts and culture that is unique to the City. These are quickly becoming major draws for smaller communities across the Midwest, and often also include promoting natural resources such as lakes and parks.

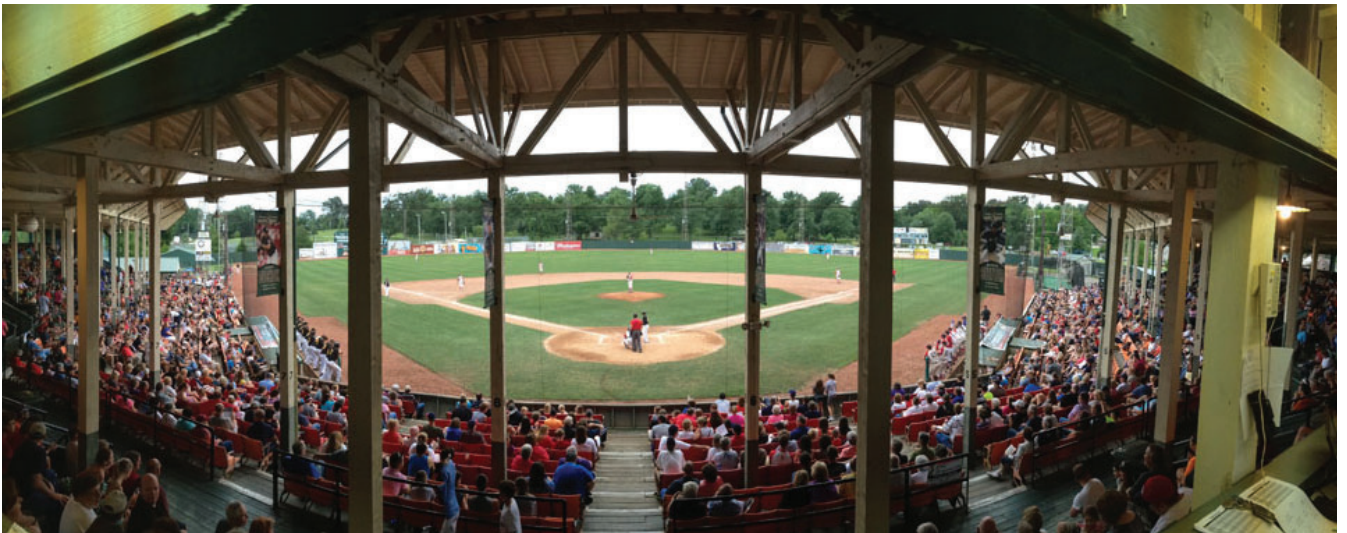
Building from a previous action step (Goal 6-b), the City could leverage an arts and cultural district and include it as part of a tour through the City, using the 4th Street Heritage Trail as a base. The trail can be expanded in future phases to include assets related to the community's arts and culture initiatives. Existing landmarks such as League Stadium should be included as highlights or destinations for people on the trail, and the possibility of it leaving the City and connecting to trails in Jasper or other communities should also be considered.

6.2.1 Leverage League Stadium/Dubois County Bombers to promote tourism.

6.2.2 Support efforts that advance agri-tourism in and near Huntingburg.

6.2.3 Create a history, destination, and art tour throughout the City.

6.2.4 Identify a long-term plan for the Huntingburg Museum facility and programs.



League Stadium - Dubois County Bombers

3. Improve gateway entrances and gateway developments to enhance visitor and resident experiences in Huntingburg.

Creating a destination city does not only involve locations and amenities for people to visit, but includes gateways and signage that both attract and direct visitors. A strong gateway will include some form of signage used to signify someone is entering a particular city, neighborhood, or even an individual street as well as other beautification and streetscape enhancements along the "gateway" corridor. Gateways serve as a first impression for new visitors and clearly announce that a person has entered a unique area. Installing updated gateway signage, beautification enhancements, and streetscape improvements at key entrances into Huntingburg can help promote a positive image for the City and give visitors a favorable first impression. Additional signage should also be installed alongside gateways for wayfinding, directory maps, and parking, all having a similar theme unique to the City. These help guide and direct people to what Huntingburg has to offer and can add to the arts and culture of a community if done correctly. Additionally, the City should prepare a Main Street/231 Corridor Master Plan to identify specific enhancements such as sidewalks, lighting, landscaping and signage along 231.

These gateway enhancements will become increasingly important along the US 231 corridor, allowing for new signage to be installed during construction and improved sidewalks and lighting alongside it. These improvements will also facilitate the redevelopment of vacant and dilapidated properties along the 231 Corridor, further promoting a strong "economic gateway" for the City of Huntingburg as visitors and residents travel along this route. Other "gateway developments" may include the enhancement of the Huntingburg Event & Community Center to include hospitality type uses such as a hotel, which may also serve as an entryway for visitors. On top of physical improvements, Huntingburg should begin updating digital platforms to better promote and provide information about the City to potential visitors and residents.

6.3.1 Install gateway signs at key locations that promote a positive image of Huntingburg.

6.3.2 Develop consistent signage for gateways, wayfinding, directory maps, and parking signage throughout the City.

6.3.3 Prepare Main Street/231 Corridor Master Plan to identify improvements and focus redevelopment efforts along the 231 corridor and downtown.

6.3.4 Attract hotel and hospitality development near the Huntingburg Event & Community Center.

6.3.5 Update digital platforms that promote and provide information about the City of Huntingburg.

Gateway Signs at Key Locations to Promote the Huntingburg Image



Northern Gateway Enhancement



Southern Gateway Enhancement

Redevelopment Efforts Focused Along the 231 Corridor and Downtown



US 231 Corridor Development



US 231 Corridor Development

Redevelopment Efforts Focused Along the 231 Corridor and Downtown



US 231 Corridor Enhancements



US 231 Corridor Enhancements

Quality of Life

What does this section include?

This section covers services and amenities provided by the City of Huntingburg and partners to provide a high quality of life, making YOUR Huntingburg an attractive place to be and live! Services and amenities include the parks and recreation system, emergency services, celebration of the Latino Community, and events and festivals.

Key Items to Address

- Provide a diverse range of activities including teens, retirees, and the Latino community.
- Expand overall programming, events, festivals, and the Huntingburg parks system.
- Continue to provide adequate service for emergencies
- Continue to be a diverse and inclusive community



Overarching Goals & Strategies

Goal 7: Increase access to exceptional parks and community facilities in Huntingburg.

Goal 8: Increase and support diverse cultures, activities, and programming for all ages and interests.

Goal 7: Increase access to exceptional parks, community facilities, and amenities in Huntingburg.

1. Expand the existing parks system to include a range of recreation venues.

Recreational assets and other public amenities such as parks, open space, natural features, libraries, community centers, etc. are extremely beneficial to providing a high quality of life for existing and future residents. Expansion of the parks system could include the addition of new amenities at parks such as Niehaus Park or others already established, or the construction of new park facilities. Specific ideas mentioned during this process included a playground and splash pad at Northside Park, Phase 2 of Market Street Park, implementation of the new Senior Center, additional soccer fields, and providing a park within walking distance of every residential neighborhood. A bigger idea suggested as a recreational need for Huntingburg included an indoor/outdoor sports complex that would host a range of sports and provide for regional tournaments, local leagues, and local intramural/pick-up games. Expansion of the park system should consider the impact and cost of maintenance included with new amenities and all parks systems should continue to be maintained at high-level, promoting a safe and clean environment. As part of the strategy to improve and expand the parks system, the City should continue to participate in the 5-Year Parks and Recreation Master Plan initially developed by Dubois County. These plans outline specific improvements to be made over the course of five years as well as allow Huntingburg to apply for Land and Water Conservation Funding through the Indiana Department of Natural Resources.

7.1.1 Consider updating Five-Year Parks and Recreation Plan.

7.1.2 Implement the new Senior Center.

7.1.3 Consider the development of a Sports Complex that could include additional soccer fields and an indoor recreational venue.

7.1.4 Design and complete Phase 2 of Market Street Park expansion.

7.1.5 Create small neighborhood parks near residential areas that do not have a park within walking distance.

7.1.6 Continue to maintain and enhance existing recreational facilities, including investment in Niehaus Park and Huntingburg City Park.

7.1.7 Expand facilities at Northside Park to include a playground and splash pad.

7.1.8 Develop a Parks and Recreation Plan specific to Huntingburg Parks that includes a Maintenance Plan for each park.

2. Increase the utilization of and programming at existing recreational assets such as Market Street Park and Huntingburg Lake.

Not only do recreational and community facilities provide opportunity and access to entertainment and healthy lifestyles, the programming that is offered for each asset elevates the use and enjoyment of these facilities. Two types of activities that were identified as limited during this process included activities for teens and winter activities. Winter activities could be focused at Market Street Park or other parks that provide open space for recreational options such as ice-skating, holiday/winter festivals, winter hikes, organized sledding and more. Utilizing existing facilities such as Teen Outback for organized or free hang-out during evening hours would expand safe recreational options for teens, as well.

Other existing amenities that may be underutilized include Memorial Gym and Huntingburg Lake. While water sources are attractive for recreational uses such as fishing, kayaking/boating, swimming, etc. activities should not harm the quality of the water since it is currently used as a water source. Additionally, Memorial Gym is a 67-year old gymnasium owned by the school that could offer regular programming and uses as well. As a historic fixture of the community, joint efforts between the school system and city could draw participants to programs offered there. As identified during the planning process, exercise gyms or options are limited in Huntingburg and are strongly desired.

7.2.1 Utilize Huntingburg Lake for more water activities such as kayaking, fishing, etc.

7.2.2 Implement more winter activities at Market Street Park.

7.2.3 Create evening programs for teens at Teen Outback.

7.2.4 Expand exercise options at the Memorial Gym or other appropriate facilities.



Seasonal Ice Skating



Market Street Park Event

3. Continue to provide exceptional police, fire, community and emergency services for Huntingburg residents.

While the planning process was conducted for the Your Home Your Huntingburg Comprehensive Plan, community services such as police, fire, and emergency services were identified as adequate. As the community grows, an increased demand for these services will be required, which includes the addition of staff, equipment, facilities, and more. The City should keep track of emergency response times and population growth data to keep up to date on potential gaps or prepare financially for additional services. As part of providing a high-level of service for emergency services, the City should continue to work with the County to update the Hazard Mitigation Plan for Dubois County and implement measures needed to ensure the safety of local residents during disasters.

Additionally, as the opioid epidemic continues to be a threat to communities across the Nation, the community desires to stay ahead of this crisis and support efforts and programs to address the issue. The City should develop strong partnerships and stay engaged with groups focused on tackling these challenges such as the Dubois County Substance Abuse Coalition and Dubois County CARES.

7.3.1 Prepare financially for the impact of new growth to provide additional equipment, service-vehicles, and new facilities for fire and police services.

7.3.2 Continue to work with Dubois County to develop and implement the Hazard Mitigation Plan.

7.3.3 Track emergency response times and data to identify gaps or future needs.

7.3.4 Work with partners to support health service needs such as the attraction of physicians to the City, substance abuse programs, and other mental health support services.



Huntingburg Fire Department

Goal 8: Increase and support diverse cultures, activities, and programming for all ages and interests.

1. Increase events and festivals in Huntingburg.

A community survey was conducted for the comprehensive plan, in addition to several focus group meetings that revealed festivals and events as a key asset in Huntingburg with a strong desire for them to be continued. The Garden Gate Festival, 4th Fridays, 5-5-5 5K Series, Huntingburg Farmers Market, Herbstfest, Haunted Huntingburg and the Christmas Stroll are just a few examples of many successful events occurring in the City. As part of this strategy, a part-time or full-time staff position as well as volunteers may be needed to support the growth of events and festivals in the City. This would support the planning, organization and execution of these events as well as support the needed labor to expand events in Huntingburg. As events are expanded or added, activities for families, young professionals, teens, seniors, and the Latino Community should be provided, ensuring that each resident has some form of entertainment available to them. Other partnerships that have been recently developed such as the Indiana University Center Rural Engagement should be strengthened and created to further support the success of these events.

8.1.1 Work with Destination Huntingburg to expand staff to organize and coordinate events in Huntingburg.

8.1.2 Actively recruit volunteers to help serve event needs.

8.1.3 Encourage activities for teens at existing and future events.

8.1.4 Continue to support and grow existing community events and partners (Indiana University Center for Rural Engagement, etc.).



Seasonal Santa Meeting Event



Destination Huntingburg Farmers Table at Market Street Park

2. Increase recreational programming opportunities.

In addition to providing more programming opportunities at existing recreational and community venues, new programming at other or new venues should be encouraged, as well. As an example, a focus group meeting with the Mayor's Youth Council revealed that entertainment and "things to do" for teens were extremely limited after 10 PM. In general, activities for teens were also limited if the teen is not involved in organized sports activities. Recreational programs can vary from a traditional set of sports programming to art classes, exercise instruction classes, special interests learning such as dancing or sewing, and more. Similarly, new activities should not be limited to teens or children, but include a diverse range of ages and interest. Activities for active retirees and aging adults were also identified as limited in Huntingburg. To host more activities, the City may need to consider hiring part-time staff to conduct these specialized programs such as art classes and exercise instruction.

8.2.1 Increase recreational programs and offerings for retirees and adults over the age of 50 years old.

8.2.2 Identify recreational activities and programs for teens and youth not involved in organized sports.

8.2.3 Consider hiring part-time staff to implement additional recreational programs such as exercise classes.

8.2.4 Continue to support and grow the Huntingburg Farmers Market, including development of a seasonal Winters Market.



Huntingburg Farmers Market



Yoga in the Park

3. Continue to grow collaboration and inclusion of the Latino Community within Huntingburg.

The City of Huntingburg has a large Latino Community, which is 24.1% of the population. This percentage is higher than the State (6.7%), United States (17.6%), as well as peer communities. Existing groups in Huntingburg such as ALASI (Association of Latin Americans in Southern Indiana), an organization formed in 2014 that breaks down barriers and bridges the gap between the Anglo and Latino communities, are examples of how the collaboration and inclusion efforts are already happening and should be continued. A strong communication strategy can be an effective tool for developing strong relationships with the Latino Community – thus better serving the community and connecting issues and opportunities with decision makers. These efforts should include the continuation of conversations with the Latino Collaboration Table, as well as translating City documents to Spanish and hiring staff that are bilingual. Employers in and near Huntingburg should also be encouraged to hire bilingual employees, helping Spanish-speaking residents find local jobs and grow in their careers. Finally, programs and venues should be provided for the Latino Community, expanding existing events to integrate the Latino culture as well as a Latino Outreach Facility that could serve as a one-stop shop for community resources.

8.3.1 Support and develop more programs to connect the Latino Community to Huntingburg.

8.3.2 Continue consistent conversations with the Latino Collaboration Table.

8.3.3 As job opportunities within the City become available, seek qualified professionals who are bilingual.

8.3.4 Develop a Latino Outreach Facility to expand services and programs offered.

8.3.4 Translate City documents such as utility bills or permitting applications to Spanish.



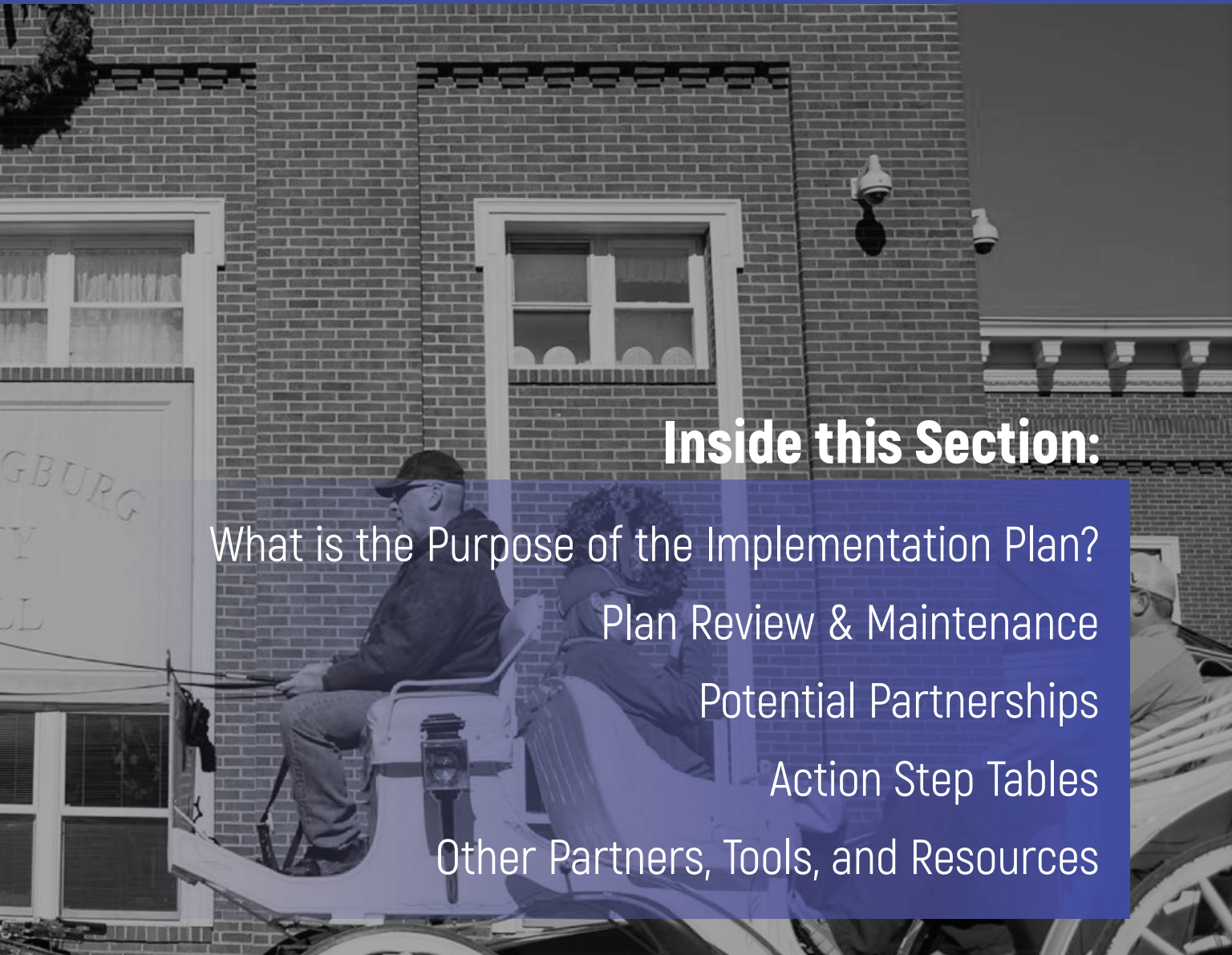
Latino Culture Fest



Latino Culture Fest

IMPLEMENTATION PLAN





Inside this Section:

What is the Purpose of the Implementation Plan?
Plan Review & Maintenance
Potential Partnerships
Action Step Tables
Other Partners, Tools, and Resources

IMPLEMENTATION PLAN

What is the Purpose of the Implementation Plan?

An implementation plan is an integral part of any document that holds a set of objectives and strategies, which make up a larger goal. This section of the plan begins showing the process in which Huntingburg can start carrying out the individual action steps that make up each strategy and goal. The following also details each action step required for strategy implementation, including timelines for completion and prioritization of actions based on input gathered throughout the planning process. While the following action steps, tools, and partners are recommended, they are not the only ways Huntingburg can complete the goals and objectives laid out in this document. A community's needs are constantly changing, which will require City officials to update and revisit this implementation plan in future years as Huntingburg evolves.

Plan Review & Maintenance

A standard comprehensive plan should be reviewed and updated every five years, checking off strategies that have been completed, and revising any outdated information that is obsolete or has been changed since the plan's creation. The revision should also focus on any economic or demographic changes that have occurred, as well as making updates to strategies to coincide with advancements in technology. Huntingburg department heads and officials should meet monthly to evaluate the progress of the plan, identify strategies or action steps that are under performing, and determine if there is a need to make updates to the plan. These internal monthly meetings should also be used to determine which objectives and action steps the City should move forward with and budget for the upcoming year. Alongside this, quarterly progress reports are recommended

to inform community leaders and residents on the progress of the plan and identify priorities for the following year. Finally, an internal tracking system should be developed and utilized for implementation purposes. The internal tracking system should include all of the plan's objectives, identify progress that has been made, develop tasks and assign individuals responsible for each task. This will increase accountability, which will lead to continued progress for each of the prioritized objectives.

Potential Partnerships

A comprehensive plan is not a document meant to be completed only by Huntingburg's planning staff, it is expected that partnerships will begin forming in the community which will lead to greater success of the plan's strategies. While parts of the plan may eventually rely on City staff to take charge and push for their completion, leveraging local institutions and organizations is key to the success of the implementation strategies. The following list provides a non-exhaustive list of possible partners who would be best suited in assisting with larger goals or individual action steps. Depending on the strategy, partners can be assigned positions based on the services or resources they can provide, such as groups who have an authoritative role, provide administrative support, or contribute with funds, staff, equipment, and other in-kind resources. On top of these, partnerships are useful because they can provide outside knowledge and experience that a community may not hold. Forming partnerships between a community and private organization, non-profit, or business should not stop once the initiative is complete; these partnerships should be on-going and groups should continuously meet to discuss follow-up steps.

Partnership Diagram Key:

Non-Profit/Local Organization Partners

Private Partners

Public Partners

Partnership Diagram



Action Step Tables

The following tables provide descriptions for the numerous strategies and action steps listed for each individual goal in the Your Home Your Huntingburg Comprehensive Plan. These lists detail the partners, tools and resources, and priority of each action step, and are not set in stone. As priorities and needs for the community shift, these action step tables may be revised and changed as needed.

- **Partners:** While the City is ultimately responsible for the successful implementation of the plan, certain goals and strategies will be most successful if worked on by or with another organization.
- **Tools & Resources:** Resources most often include human capital from volunteers or outside organizations, donated materials and equipment, and any outside media coverage which may help promote the plan. This may also include outside professionals who are hired by the city for their expert knowledge or skill.
- **Priority:** Each strategy in this plan has been assigned a priority level based on input from the multiple meetings and surveys, ranging from low-medium-high. These priorities help distinguish which strategies should be worked towards first or which hold a greater importance to Huntingburg residents as identified through the public planning process.



Goal 1: Ensure redevelopment, new construction, and industrial growth are compatible with the long-term vision of the community.

1. Encourage uses in areas appropriate based on infrastructure, environmental constraints, and desired outcome.

Action Step	Priority	Partners	Tools & Resources
Identify and reserve areas for new industrial development.	Low	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Planning Staff • Plan Commission • City Council • Chamber • Public Works • Indiana Department of Transportation • Developers • Mid States RDA • Dubois Strong 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Indiana Department of Transportation • Local Farmers • Mid States RDA • Dubois Strong • Grow Dubois Co
Strategically grow City boundaries that are prime for development and can be feasibly served by infrastructure.	High		
Once the route for the Mid-States Corridor is finalized, update the future land use plan to reflect appropriate future growth patterns.	High		
Support the success of agricultural business and protect agricultural areas from encroaching development.	Moderate		

2. Update ordinances to accurately reflect the community's vision for the City.

Action Step	Priority	Partners	Tools & Resources
Update the Zoning Ordinance and Subdivision Control Ordinance.	High	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Planning Staff • Plan Commission • City Council 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consultant • American Planning Association
Update ordinances focused on property maintenance.	High		

3. Actively promote the reuse and revitalization of abandoned buildings.

Action Step	Priority	Partners	Tools & Resources
Enforce property maintenance and zoning codes.	High	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Planning Staff • Plan Commission • City Council • Redevelopment Commission • Financial Institutions • Developers • Huntingburg United Neighborhood Teams (HUNT) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tax Abatement • US Department of Interior Historic Guidelines • Historic Rehabilitation Tax Credits • Indiana University Center for Rural Engagement
Create public-private partnerships to improve select properties that create a negative perception for the City.	Moderate		



Goal 2: Diversify and expand the existing housing stock.

1. Incentivize the availability of workforce/affordable housing.

Action Step	Priority	Partners	Tools & Resources
Prepare and identify undeveloped areas for the construction of new homes.	Moderate	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Habitat for Humanity · Indiana Housing and Community Development Authority · Indiana 15 Regional Planning Commission · United States Department of Agriculture 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Developers · Indiana Office of Community and Rural Affairs · United States Department of Agriculture
Support efforts to improve the condition of existing homes such as owner-occupied rehabilitation programs.	High		
Work with partners such as Habitat for Humanity to provide homes and improvements for low-income and senior populations.	Low		

2. Plan for housing the supports projected growth and housing preferences.

Action Step	Priority	Partners	Tools & Resources
Monitor rental housing units to ensure landlords are meeting health and safety standards.	High	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Planning Staff · Plan Commission · City Council · City Attorney · Developers · Property Owners · Dubois County Health Department 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Indiana Office of Community and Rural Affairs · Indiana Housing and Community Development Authority · Developers · Building Permits for Renovation
Encourage housing type options, including apartments, lofts, and townhomes.	High		
Encourage diversity in single-family detached subdivisions and development.	Low		
Increase senior housing options such as age-in place development, assisted living, nursing homes, retirement communities, and low-maintenance homes.	Moderate		
Utilize statistical information released as part of the 2020 census to inform future housing needs.	Low		
Work with developers to annex new housing development just outside of City limits.	Low		



Goal 3: Increase accessibility and connectivity to destinations both locally and regionally.

1. Improve regional and local transportation connectivity.

Action Step	Priority	Partners	Tools & Resources
Actively participate in the development of the potential Mid-States Corridor.	High	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Indiana Department of Transportation City Council Street Department Public Works Dubois County Jasper Ferdinand Huntingburg Airport Southwest Dubois County School Corporation Mid-States Corridor Regional Development Authority Dubois County Community Foundation Dubois Strong Dc Multisport, Inc Non-Profit Organizations Supporting Health Parks Board 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Indiana Department of Transportation-LPA Community Crossings Next Level Trails IDNR - Recreational Trails Program Dubois County Community Foundation Non-Profit Organizations Dc Multisport, Inc Indiana State Department of Health
Plan for upgrades and new roadways to accommodate the Mid-States Corridor.	Low		
Encourage regional connectivity with the Dubois County Trail, connecting to Jasper, Ireland and Ferdinand.	Moderate		
Complete the missing segments of the Heritage Trail Loop, including the link along Styline Drive at Niehaus Memorial Park.	High		
Invest in sidewalk connections and safety improvement to local schools, neighborhoods, and downtown.	High		
Work with partners to expand the existing on-demand transit system.	Low		
Support efforts to expand the Huntingburg Airport.	Moderate		
Install bike racks at strategic locations throughout the City such as Southridge High School, Southridge Middle School, Huntingburg Elementary, parks, and downtown.	Moderate		



Goal 3: Increase accessibility and connectivity to destinations both locally and regionally.

2. Develop and finalize policies for existing transportation assets.

Action Step	Priority	Partners	Tools & Resources
Prepare 4th Street Flex Policy and implement the 4th Street Flex Street Program.	High	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> · City Council · City Attorney · Street Department · Public Works · Planning Staff · Existing Businesses · Destination Huntingburg · Merchants Association 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Consultant
Implement and update a Thoroughfare Plan.	Low		
Identify and mark designated Truck Routes.	Low		
Continue to expand on the downtown parking initiative with an updated downtown parking study and plan to support visitor attractions and businesses.	High		

3. Continue to maintain and provide a strong transportation system.

Action Step	Priority	Partners	Tools & Resources
Annually update the asset management plan as required to procure Community Crossings Matching Grant Funds from INDOT.	High	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Indiana Department of Transportation · Street Department · Public Works · Planning Staff 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Indiana Department of Transportation-LPA · Community Crossings
Develop a pathway to funding for key projects to ensure necessary steps are being taken prior to applying for competitive funds from various agencies.	High		
Maintain the condition and level of service for existing roadways and other transportation infrastructure.	Moderate		



Goal 4: Invest in long-term infrastructure improvements that support high-quality service and growth.

1. Continue to provide affordable utility services.

Action Step	Priority	Partners	Tools & Resources
Implement recommended improvements to the wastewater treatment plant to increase capacity.	High	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Utilities Dept. Public Works Energy Dept. City Council 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Consulting Engineers Alliance of Indiana Rural Water Indiana Municipal Power Association (IMPA) Utility Operating Funds American Water Works Association (AWWA)
Continue to utilize GIS to develop tools that look for efficiencies amongst several departments. This tool can then determine what is the major item of work and lead department heads.	High		
Develop an asset management plan in accordance with Indiana State Revolving Loan Fund as required to obtain low interest loans and address replacement cycles for end of life assets for electric, gas, sanitary sewer, and water.	Moderate		
Continue to update the electric and gas master plan that addresses infrastructure needs required to meet demands of future development.	High		
Identify and track potential unfunded regulatory requirements for sanitary sewer and water.	Moderate		

2. Improve flooding and stormwater issues as growth continues in Huntingburg.

Action Step	Priority	Partners	Tools & Resources
Complete detailed hydrologic and hydraulic studies as recommended in the 2019 Stormwater Utility Study and identify specific projects and costs required to address flooding issues.	High	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Utilities Dept. Public Works Energy Dept. City Council Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) – Soil and Water 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Consulting Engineers Indiana MS4 Partnership Indiana Department of Natural Resources Indiana Association for Floodplain and Stormwater Management
Identify which stormwater projects can be completed as part of other City projects and which projects are standalone.	High		
Update project budgets and determine funding options/opportunities to complete identified stormwater projects.	Moderate		



Goal 4: Invest in long-term infrastructure improvements that support high-quality service and growth.

3. Implement infrastructure and services that support an energy-efficient and environmentally-conscious community.

Action Step	Priority	Partners	Tools & Resources
Identify potential energy efficiency options within the sanitary collection system and wastewater treatment plant.	Moderate	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Utilities Dept. · Public Works · Energy Dept. · City Council · Indiana Municipal Power Agency (IMPA) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Alliance of Indiana Rural Water
Identify potential energy efficiency options within the water distribution system and water treatment plant.	Moderate		
Improve the convenience of the city-wide recycling program.	Low		
Continue to support the partnership with Indiana Municipal Power Agency (IMPA) Huntingburg Solar Park.	Moderate		



Goal 5: Create an environment in Huntingburg that facilitates the success of small and large businesses.

1. Develop a strong link between the Southwest Dubois County School Corporation and other educational institutions.

Action Step	Priority	Partners	Tools & Resources
Expand youth programming that helps youth envision career and trade pathways to a successful future (leadership, career skills/training, STEAM, entrepreneurial skills, etc.).	High	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Southwest Dubois County School Corporation Local businesses Vincennes University Indiana University City Staff/Council Chamber Ivy Tech Community College Non-Profit Organization i Teen Outback Entrepreneurs in Dubois County Dubois County Community Foundation 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Indiana Economic Development Corporation
Increase local internship opportunities.	Moderate		
Continue to partner with Vincennes University, Indiana University and others on community-based partnerships and educational outreach initiatives.	Moderate		
Develop quarterly communication between the City and School Corporation to support efforts that react to State Legislation.	Low		

2. Encourage small business development and entrepreneurship.

Action Step	Priority	Partners	Tools & Resources
Enhance and market local incentives for small businesses.	High	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Destination Huntingburg Chamber City Council Planning Staff Current Blend Staff Dubois Strong Radius Indiana Entrepreneurs in Dubois County 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Indiana Economic Development Corporation
Continue to support Current Blend as a center for small business development, including creation of a checklist for entrepreneurs who are interested in starting a business in Huntingburg.	Moderate		



Goal 5: Create an environment in Huntingburg that facilitates the success of small and large businesses.

3. Focus efforts to retain and attract a skilled workforce.

Action Step	Priority	Partners	Tools & Resources
Encourage local businesses to hire bilingual employees to aid in the hiring of a Spanish-speaking workforce.	Moderate	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ALASI Latino Collaboration Table Existing Employers Dubois County Community Foundation Chamber Indiana University Center for Rural Engagement Dubois Strong 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Indiana Economic Development Corporation Dubois County Quality of Life & Workforce Attraction Plan
Work with existing businesses as well as potential new employers to actively target and attract higher wage jobs.	Moderate		
Work with the County to create a program to incentivize young professionals to move to Huntingburg and Dubois County after college or high school.	High		
Encourage the creation and expansion of additional early learning and childcare facilities in Huntingburg.	Low		
Target high-tech industries in or near Huntingburg.	Moderate		
Develop an advisory council for mid-career professionals (30-45) to develop strategies for attracting population to Huntingburg.	Moderate		



Goal 6: Continue to leverage Huntingburg as a prime destination.

1. Support growth and investment in Downtown Huntingburg.

Action Step	Priority	Partners	Tools & Resources
Support Destination Huntingburg (Main Street Program), Huntingburg Merchants Association, and the Chamber to encourage uses such as retail, restaurants, entertainment, nightlife and other tourist destinations in Downtown.	High	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Destination Huntingburg • Huntingburg Merchants Association • Chamber • Indiana University • City Council • Local Businesses • Planning Staff • Dubois County Community Foundation 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Indiana Office of Community and Rural Affairs • Indiana University Center for Rural Engagement
Make downtown a district for arts and culture through continued investment and programming with Market Street Park / Indiana University programming.	Moderate		
Design and construct Phase 2 of the 4th Street Heritage Trail to encompass four blocks of downtown.	Moderate		
Support the creation of a community-focused makers space.	Low		
Create an alley-activation program.	High		
Develop a façade improvement program.	High		

2. Promote and market Huntingburg's assets and history.

Action Step	Priority	Partners	Tools & Resources
Leverage League Stadium/Dubois County Bombers to promote tourism.	High	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • City Council • Local Farmers • League Stadium/ Bombers • Dubois County Historical Society • Dubois County Tourism • Indiana University Center for Rural Engagement • Dubois County Historical Society - Museum Private Sponsorship • Dubois County Community Foundation 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Indiana Office of Tourism Development • Dubois County Tourism • Indiana University Center for Rural Engagement
Support efforts that advance agri-tourism in and near Huntingburg.	Low		
Create a history, destination, and art tour throughout the City.	Moderate		
Identify a long-term plan for the Huntingburg Museum facility and programs.	Low		



Goal 6: Continue to leverage Huntingburg as a prime destination.

3. Improve gateway entrances and gateway developments to enhance visitor and resident experiences in Huntingburg.

Action Step	Priority	Partners	Tools & Resources
Install gateway signs at key locations that promote a positive image of Huntingburg.	High	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> · City Council · Planning Staff · Youth Council · Indiana Department of Transportation · Huntingburg Event & Convention Center · Dubois County Visitors Center & Tourism · Destination Huntingburg 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Indiana Office of Tourism Development
Develop consistent signage for gateways, wayfinding, directory maps, and parking signage throughout the City.	Moderate		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Indiana Department of Transportation
Prepare Main Street/231 Corridor Master Plan to identify improvements and focus redevelopment efforts along the 231 corridor and downtown.	High		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Indiana Department of Transportation
Attract hotel and hospitality development near the Huntingburg Event & Community Center.	High		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Indiana Department of Transportation
Update digital platforms that promote and provide information about the City of Huntingburg.	Low		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Developers



Goal 7: Increase accessibility and connectivity to destinations both locally and regionally.

1. Expand the existing parks system to include a range of recreation venues.

Action Steps	Priority	Partners	Tools & Resources
Consider updating Five-Year Parks and Recreation Plan.	Moderate	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Park and Recreation Board • City Council • Planning Staff and Parks Staff • Dubois County Community Foundation • Indiana 15 Regional Planning Commission • Parks Department • Dubois County Tourism • Southwest Dubois County School Corporation 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • IDNR • Indiana Office of Tourism Development • Private Donors
Implement the new Senior Center.	High		
Consider the development of a Sports Complex that could include additional soccer fields and an indoor recreational venue.	Moderate		
Design and complete Phase 2 of Market Street Park expansion.	Moderate		
Create small neighborhood parks near residential areas that do not have a park within walking distance.	Moderate		
Continue to maintain and enhance existing recreational facilities, including investment in Niehaus Park and Huntingburg City Park.	High		
Expand facilities at Northside Park to include a playground and splash pad.	Moderate		
Develop a Parks and Recreation Plan specific to Huntingburg Parks that includes a Maintenance Plan for each park.	High		



Goal 7: Increase accessibility and connectivity to destinations both locally and regionally.

2. Increase the utilization of and programming at existing recreational assets such as Market Street Park and Huntingburg Lake.

Action Steps	Priority	Partners	Tools & Resources
Utilize Huntingburg Lake for more water activities such as kayaking, fishing, etc.	Moderate	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Park and Recreation Board · City Council · Planning Staff · Teen Outback · Memorial Gym/ Southridge High School and Dubois County School Corp. · Utilities Dept. · Destination Huntingburg · Dubois County Community Foundation 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> · IDNR · Private Donors
Implement more winter activities at Market Street Park.	High		
Create evening programs for teens at Teen Outback.	Moderate		
Expand exercise options at the Memorial Gym or other appropriate facilities.	Moderate		

3. Continue to provide exceptional police, fire, community and emergency services for Huntingburg residents.

Action Steps	Priority	Partners	Tools & Resources
Prepare financially for the impact of new growth to provide additional equipment, service-vehicles, and new facilities for fire and police services.	Low	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Public Safety · Dubois County · City Council · Dubois County Substance Abuse Council · Memorial Hospital · Dubois County Emergency Management · Dubois County Local Emergency Planning Committee 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Center for Disease Control & Prevention · ISDH · Dubois County Health Department · FEMA
Continue to work with Dubois County to develop and implement the Hazard Mitigation Plan.	Low		
Track emergency response times and data to identify gaps or future needs.	Low		
Work with partners to support health service needs such as the attraction of physicians to the City, substance abuse programs, and other mental health support services.	High		



Goal 8: Increase and support diverse cultures, activities, and programming for all ages and interests.

1. Increase events and festivals in Huntingburg.

Action Steps	Priority	Partners	Tools & Resources
Work with Destination Huntingburg to expand staff to organize and coordinate events in Huntingburg.	Moderate	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Destination Huntingburg • Indiana University • City Council • Teen Outback • Southwest Dubois County School Corporation • Mayor's Youth Council 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Indiana University Center for Rural Engagement
Actively recruit volunteers to help serve event needs.	High		
Encourage activities for teens at existing and future events.	Moderate		
Continue to support and grow existing community events and partners (Indiana University Center for Rural Engagement, etc.).	High		

2. Increase recreational programming opportunities.

Action Steps	Priority	Partners	Tools & Resources
Increase recreational programs and offerings for retirees and adults over the age of 50 years old.	High	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Parks and Recreation Board • Destination Huntingburg Farmers Market • City Council • Senior Center • Parks Staff • Tri-County YMCA 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fee-based programs
Identify recreational activities and programs for teens and youth not involved in organized sports.	Moderate		
Consider hiring part-time staff to implement additional recreational programs such as exercise classes.	Low		
Continue to support and grow the Huntingburg Farmers Market, including development of a seasonal Winters Market.	Moderate		



Goal 8: Increase and support diverse cultures, activities, and programming for all ages and interests.

3. Continue to grow collaboration and inclusion of the Latino Community within Huntingburg.

Action Steps	Priority	Partners	Tools & Resources
Support and develop more programs to connect the Latino Community to Huntingburg.	High	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> · ALASI · Latino Collaboration Table · City Council · Parks and Recreation Board · Destination Huntingburg · Chamber · Indiana University Center for Rural Engagement · Local Churches and Religious Communities 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Planning Staff · Southwest Dubois County Schools
Continue consistent conversations with the Latino Collaboration Table.	High		
As job opportunities within the City become available, seek qualified professionals who are bilingual.	Low		
Develop a Latino Outreach Facility to expand services and programs offered.	Moderate		
Translate City documents such as utility bills or permitting applications to Spanish.	Low		

Other Partners, Tools, and Resources

The following list the various tools, resources and funding sources the City could potentially utilize while implementing the various strategies of this plan.

Tools

- Bonds

Backed by the credit and "taxing power" of the issuing jurisdiction, a bond is government debt issued to raise money to finance capital improvements. A bond issue requires a vote by citizens in a general election. Property taxes and other revenue then pay for the bond's retirement.

- Capital Improvement Planning

A Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) is a system of documenting the capital investments that a community plans to make in the short-term, often five years. A CIP identifies projects, timelines, estimated costs, and funding sources and is linked to a community's budgeting process. It is a means of planning ahead for capital improvements and ensuring implementation of specific projects by connecting them more closely to the budgeting process. The City's CIP would include funding needed for any capital improvement the City is planning to invest in, regardless of which City department will be responsible for operating and maintaining a given investment.

- Impact Fees

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

- Accelerating Indiana Municipalities (AIM)/ Redevelopment Association of Indiana

The Redevelopment Association of Indiana (RAI) was established in 1995 by municipal employees whose job focus in their respective communities was on economic development, job creation, industry, redevelopment of blighted areas, and creating quality places to live. The founders of the association saw a benefit in creating a forum to share ideas and best practices and worked with the Indiana Association of Cities and Towns (now Aim) to start RAI. More information can be found online at <https://aimindiana.org/members/affiliate-groups/redevelopment-association-of-indiana-about/>

- Tax Abatement

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

- Tax Increment Financing

Tax Increment Financing, or TIF, is a financial tool a municipality can utilize to promote economic development and redevelopment. Tax increment financing is a government finance tool for development which captures increases in taxable assessed value within a defined "allocation areas" and then uses property tax revenue created from these increases to finance public improvements within the specified area.

Resources

- Bicycle Indiana
- Dc Multisport, Inc
- Dubois County Office of Family Resources
- Dubois County 4-H
- Dubois County Emergency Management
- Dubois County Humane Society
- Dubois Strong
- Indiana Association of Area Agencies of Aging (IAAAA)
- Indiana Chapter of the American Planning Association
- Indiana Small Business Development Center
- Indiana State Department of Health (ISDH)
- League of American Bicyclists
- Local Churches and Religious Communities
- Memorial Hospital Foundation
- Mid-States Corridor Regional Development Authority
- Natural Resources Conservation Service – Soil and Water
- Prosperity Indiana
- Smart Growth America Technical Assistance Workshop
- Southwest Dubois County Schools
- US Department of Interior/Department of Natural Resources Historic Preservation Standards and Guidelines

Funding

- **American Planning Association – Plan4Health**

The American Planning Association and the American Public Health Association (APHA) aims to build local capacity to address population health goals and promote the inclusion of health in non-traditional sectors. The program, supported by the Center for Disease Control (CDC), focuses on areas that include nutrition and physical activity. Nutrition is focused on the accessibility of healthful food in communities and physical activity is focused on improving physical activity and education in schools, adoption of comprehensive approaches to improve community design, and increase physical opportunities in/through workplaces.

- **Center for Disease (CDC) – Healthy Communities Program**

CDC's Healthy Communities Program provides communities with funding, tools, strategies, and training for creating environmental changes to improve people's health. Working with key partners, CDC guides the ever-growing network of communities to implement population-based strategies that reduce the prevalence of chronic disease and achieve health equity. Funding opportunities can be found on www.grants.gov.

- **Dubois County Community Foundation**

The Community Foundation administers a vast array of scholarship funds. These scholarships are funded by donors who believe in the young people of Dubois County and want to support their pursuit of higher education. There are currently three types of scholarships: Dubois County Community Foundation Scholarships, Lily Endowment Community Scholarships, and External scholarships. For qualifications for each type, visit <https://dccountunityfoundation.org/scholarships/> for more information.

- **Economic Development Assistance Program, Economic Development Administration**

Under this FFO, EDA solicits applications from applicants in rural and urban areas to provide investments that support construction, nonconstruction, technical assistance, and revolving loan fund projects under EDA's Public Works and EAA programs. Grants and cooperative agreements made under these programs are designed to leverage existing regional assets and support the implementation of economic development strategies that advance new ideas and creative approaches to advance economic prosperity in distressed communities. EDA provides strategic investments on a competitive merit-basis to support economic development, foster job creation, and attract private investment in economically distressed areas of the United States.

- **Indiana 15 Regional Planning Commission**

Indiana 15 Regional Planning Commission is a multi-county governmental agency as enabled by Indiana Code 36-7-7, and has served the counties of Crawford, Dubois, and Orange since 1973 when originally named Patoka Lake Regional Planning Commission. Perry and Spencer joined the Commission shortly thereafter in 1974. Pike County joined the Commission in 1993. Indiana 15 is partially funded through annual county per-capita fees and an annual federal planning grant as an Economic Development District of the U.S. Department of Commerce - Economic Development Administration. The balance of the annual cost of operations of Indiana 15 is funded through professional, fee-for-service contracts with participating local governments and not-for-profit corporations for administrative, planning and technical services within the six-county region. Throughout its years of service, Indiana 15 has been involved with a multitude of community and economic development projects bringing millions of dollars into the regional economy. For more information on each service and resource offered, visit <https://www.ind15rpc.org/>

- **Indiana Association for Floodplain and Stormwater Management (INAFSM)**

The Indiana Association for Floodplain and Stormwater Management was founded in 1996 by professionals interested in and responsible for floodplain and stormwater management in the State of Indiana. INAFSM members include federal, state, and local agency staff, engineers, consultants, planners, elected officials, members of academia, students, and floodplain residents. Visit the Resource Center online for more information <https://www.inafsm.net/training-resources>

- **Indiana Department of Natural Resources (IDNR)**

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

- **Residential Historic Rehabilitation Tax Credit (RITC) - Investment Tax Credit Programs**

An adjusted gross income tax credit is available for the rehabilitation of historic residential property. The qualified expenditures for preservation or rehabilitation of the historic property must exceed \$10,000. The tax credit is equal to 20 percent of the qualified expenditures that the taxpayer makes.

- Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF)
LWCF federal grants can be used to protect important natural areas, acquire land for outdoor recreation and develop or renovate public outdoor recreation facilities such as campgrounds, picnic areas, sports/playfields, swimming facilities, boating facilities, fishing facilities, trails, natural areas and passive parks. The minimum grant request is \$10,000 and the maximum request is \$200,000 with a local match requirement.

- Recreational Trails Program (RTP)
Matching assistance program that provides funding for the acquisition and/or development of multi-use recreational trail projects. Minimum funding available is \$10,000 and maximum funding available is \$200,000 and a 20% match is required. Both motorized and non-motorized projects may qualify for assistance.

- **Indiana Department of Transportation (INDOT)**

INDOT's mission is to plan, build, maintain and operate superior transportation system enhancing safety, mobility and economic growth.

- Local Public Agency (LPA) Program
INDOT shares gas tax revenue from the state Motor Vehicle Highway Fund and Local Road and Street Fund with LPAs towards capital improvement needs. Community's must have a local employee in charge with ERC training, projects must be ADA compliant, provide matching funds and meet project eligibility. More information can be found at <http://www.in.gov/indot/files/LPA%20Guidance%20Document.pdf>.
- Community Crossings Matching Grant Fund Program
In 2016 this program provided a 1-1 match for eligible projects up to \$1 million. In the second year (2017), INDOT funded 75% of the project of communities under 10,000. Eligible projects included bridge and road preservation type projects along with ADA sidewalk projects that intersect with any road project, roundabouts and road reconstructions. Trails and enhancement type projects are not eligible and only construction costs are eligible. In the upcoming years, this program is expected to change and the community should reference INDOT's website for more information.
- Transportation Alternatives Funding
The Transportation Alternatives (TA) program will receive about \$780 million to carry out all TA projects, including SRTS and RTP projects across the country, which represents about a 35% reduction from the current \$1.2 billion spent on these programs. Under the bill, states will sub-allocate 50% of their TA funds to Metropolitan Planning Organizations (MPO) and local communities to

run a grant program to distribute funds for projects. States could use the remaining 50% for TA projects or could spend these dollars on other transportation priorities Indiana Economic Development Corporation (IEDC)

- **Indiana Housing and Community Development Authority (IHCDA)**

The IHCDA is committed to providing assistance for residents by providing housing opportunities, promote self-sufficiency, and strengthen communities.

- Business Expansion and Entrepreneurship Development (BEED) Program
This program offers assistance and fostering of microenterprise development through community lending. This program offers businesses up to \$10,000 for start-ups and \$25,000 to expand existing businesses.
- Community Enhancement and Economic Development (CEED) Loan Program
CEED provides communities with a source of loan financing for economic development, housing rehabilitation, public facilities, and other large-scale projects. Eligible activities include machinery/equipment, acquisition, site preparation, and clearance/demolition.
- Low Income Housing Tax Credit – Investment Tax Credit Programs
Dollar-for-dollar federal tax credit that incentivize the investment of private equity in the development of affordable housing. The project owner must agree to comply with Chapter 42 regulations and maintain an agreed open percentage of low-income units, as well as meet requirements for a 15-year compliance period and a subsequent 15-year extended use period. Maximum request is \$1.2 million tax credits.

- **Indiana Office of Community and Rural Affairs (OCRA)**

OCRA works with local, state and national partners to provide resources and technical assistance to aid communities in shaping their vision for economic development.

Source: www.IN.gov/OCRA

- **Main Street Revitalization Program (MSRP)**

The Indiana Office of Community and Rural Affairs (OCRA) assists Indiana's rural residents in their endeavors to create successful, sustainable communities and improve local quality of life. MSRP grants are funded with federal Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) dollars from the U.S. Eligible projects typically include downtown infrastructure, streetscape and facades.

- **Planning Grant**

Planning grants offer long-range planning grants for communities such as feasibility studies, preliminary engineering reports (PERs), and assessment for issues such as, land use, economic development, downtown revitalization, comprehensive plans, utilities, parks, economic development and historic preservation.

- **Public Facilities Program (PFP)**

This programs goal is to promote quality of place and spur economic development through community facilities (libraries, museums, community centers, etc.), emergency services (fire stations, and EMS stations) and historic preservation projects.

- **Stormwater Improvements Program (SIP)**

This program aims to reduce flooding, cut stormwater treatment and energy costs, as well as protect Indiana rivers, lakes and vital landscape.

- **Wastewater and Drinking Water Program**

This program helps communities with inadequate water supplies and failing wastewater treatment. Financing is available through this program towards communities who have set long term development priorities for water and sewer infrastructure.

- **Hometown Collaboration Initiative (HCI)**

This initiative is intended for incorporated communities under the population of 25,000 people or less that want to develop a new generation of local leaders, promote the start-up and growth of small business, or enhance natural assets of the community.

- **Historic Renovation Grant Program (HRGP)**

This program helps preserve and rehabilitate historic properties in order to further incentivize downtown economic development. Grants between \$10,000 and \$100,000 will be accepted and be no more than 35% of eligible project costs and the local match must be greater than 65% of the total eligible project costs.

- **Blight Clearance Program (BCP 2.0)**

The Blight Clearance Program encourages communities with blighted properties to focus on long-term community development and revitalization through improving quality of place, generating jobs, and spurring economic revitalization. Eligible projects include the removal of deteriorated or abandoned downtown buildings or vacant/unusable industrial sites. BCP 2.0 applicants may request funds of up to \$500,000 over a period of time. The \$500,000 may be divided into multiple grants over time or may be requested all at once. However, once a grantee has received BCP awards totaling \$500,000, the community will not be considered for additional BCP funding for a period of five years following the closeout date of the most recent award.

- **Indiana Office of Tourism Development (IOTD)**

The Indiana Office of Tourism Development offers matching grant to cities, towns, counties and nonprofit entities located in Indiana that are involved with tourism promotion and development.

- **Marketing Asset Grant**

IOTD offers matching grants to entities located in Indiana that demonstrate financial need and are focused on tourism promotion and development. Proposals that must focus on either sports tourism/ outdoor recreation, culinary and agritourism, heritage tourism, or arts and cultural tourism. Project eligibility include tourism infrastructure, technology that improve marketing efficiency and effectiveness, collaborative marketing initiatives that strategically align assets, attractions, destinations and regions. Grant awards will not exceed \$20,000 and must be matched 1:1.

- **Destination Development Grant Guidelines**

Eligible projects include those that enhance Indiana's tourism profile. Large-scaled projects will be viewed favorably and as the project category as either spectator sports/participation sports/outdoor recreation, cultural/agricultural activities, heritage/historical experiences, or arts and culture. Grants are between \$50,000 and \$250,000 and be matched 1:1.

- **Indiana Finance Authority (IFA)**

In order to provide economic efficiencies and management synergies and enable the State of Indiana ("State") to communicate as one voice with the various participants in the financial markets, the Indiana Development Finance Authority, the State Office Building Commission, the Indiana Transportation Finance Authority, the Recreational Development Commission, the State Revolving Fund Programs and the Indiana Brownfields Program were consolidated into a new and separate entity called the Indiana Finance Authority ("IFA") on May 15, 2005. The Indiana Health and Educational Facilities Finance Authority was also merged into the IFA, effective July 1, 2007.

As the successor entity to these formerly separate debt-issuing entities, the IFA is authorized to issue revenue bonds payable from lease rentals under lease agreements with various state agencies and to finance or refinance the cost of acquiring, building and equipping structures for state use including state office buildings, garages, highways, bridges, airport facilities, correctional facilities, state hospitals and recreational facilities related to State parks. The IFA also manages the Wastewater and Drinking Water State Revolving Fund Loan Programs and the Indiana Brownfields Program.

For more information visit <https://www.in.gov/ifa/2349.htm>

- **National Endowment for the Arts**

Our Town Program supports creative place-making projects that help transform communities into lively, beautiful, and resilient places with the arts at their core. They offer support in two areas, projects that are focused on representing the distinct character and quality of their communities (Arts Engagement, Cultural Planning, and Design Projects), and projects that provide technical assistance for place-based work (Projects that Build Knowledge about Creative Place-making). For more information visit www.arts.gov/grants-organizations/our-town.

- **Radius Indiana**

Throughout the year, the Radius Indiana team hosts, visits and responds to site selection advisers and corporate decision makers throughout the United States. Radius Indiana provides a central location for site selection needs. We offer custom searches and site tours, comprehensive up-to-the-minute data, contacts to local, regional and state organizations, and access to gap funding for regionally beneficial programs. Additionally, Radius Indiana works to grow our defense and national security industry by serving as the lead economic development entity outside the gates at Naval Support Activity Crane, the world's third largest naval installation. We also work to grow advocacy, connect the community, and coordinate defense resources for Crane within our region. Radius Indiana serves as a regional catalyst for government, business and academic collaboration to market and promote the area as a highly competitive, vibrant region with an increasingly attractive quality of life. Community and business leaders have worked collaboratively with the Radius region to establish an economic development partnership at work for our region to ignite prosperity in the heart of Southern Indiana. For more information visit <http://www.radiusindiana.com/resources/>

- **Regional Opportunity Initiative (ROI)**

The mission of Regional Opportunity Initiatives, Inc. (ROI) is to support economic and community prosperity in the 11 counties of Southwest Central Indiana (now called the Indiana Uplands). ROI supports this mission primarily through education and workforce initiatives and strategies for quality of place development. ROI is supporting and planning for investments in quality of place development that have the potential to benefit the entire Indiana Uplands region. To view ROI's current quality of place initiatives visit: <https://regionalloppportunityinc.org/quality-of-place-initiatives/>

- **Indiana Municipal Power Agency**

Companies located within an IMPA member community benefit from some of the lowest industrial rates in the Midwest. In an effort to encourage the additional growth and success of companies within IMPA service territory, IMPA offers an electric incentive, which is often referred to an Economic Development Rider (EDR), for companies that meet certain criteria. To qualify, a new or expanding business must meet the following minimum criteria:

- The site or building must be located within IMPA service territory
- The customer must invest a minimum of \$1,000,000 in real and/or personal property
- The project must add a minimum of 1 MW of new load at one premise

For more information visit <https://www.impa.com/economic-development/financing-incentive-programs>

- **US Department of Agriculture (USDA)**

The USDA provides leadership on food, agriculture, natural resources, rural development, nutrition, and related issues based on public policy, the best available science, and effective management. They have a vision to provide economic opportunity through innovation, helping rural America to thrive; to promote agricultural production that better nourishes Americans while also helping feed others through the world; and to preserve our Nation's natural resources through conservation, restored forests, improved watersheds, and healthy private working lands.

- **Intermediary Relending Program (IRP)**

This program provides 1% low-interest loans to local intermediaries that re-lend to businesses and for community development projects in rural communities. The maximum loan available is \$250,000, or 75% of the total cost of the ultimate recipient's project for which the loan is being made.

- **Rural Business Enterprise Grant (RBEG)**

Grants range from \$10,000 to \$500,000 and are used towards the facilitation and development of small and emerging rural businesses, distance learning networks, and employment-related adult education programs.

- **Rural Business Opportunity Grant (RBOG)**

This program promotes economic growth in rural communities through training support and technical assistance for business development and to assist with regional economic development planning. A specific emphasis on funding is the support for a collaborative economic planning and development through regional food systems. The maximum grant is \$100,000.

- **Rural Economic Development Grant**

This is a loan and grant program that provides funding to rural projects through local utility organizations. The loan provides a zero percent interest loans to local utilities, which is then passed to local businesses for projects that will create and retain employment in rural areas. The grant program provides grant funds to establish a revolving loan funding.

- **Rural Micro-entrepreneur Assistance Program**

This program offers microloans for microenterprise start-ups and growth through a Rural Microloan Revolving Fund. Grants are provided for technical assistance and must have a 15% match. Loans up to \$50,000-\$500,000 may be used for establishing a rural microloan revolving fund managed by the Microenterprise Development Organization (MDO).

- **Rural Development**

USDA Rural Development operates over fifty financial assistance programs for a variety of rural applications. The Water & Waste Disposal Loan & Grant Program provides funding for clean and reliable drinking water systems, sanitary sewage disposal, sanitary solid waste disposal, and storm water drainage improvements. Funding is most commonly available in the form of long-term, low interest loans but may include grants to help keep used costs reasonable.

- **US Economic Development Administration**

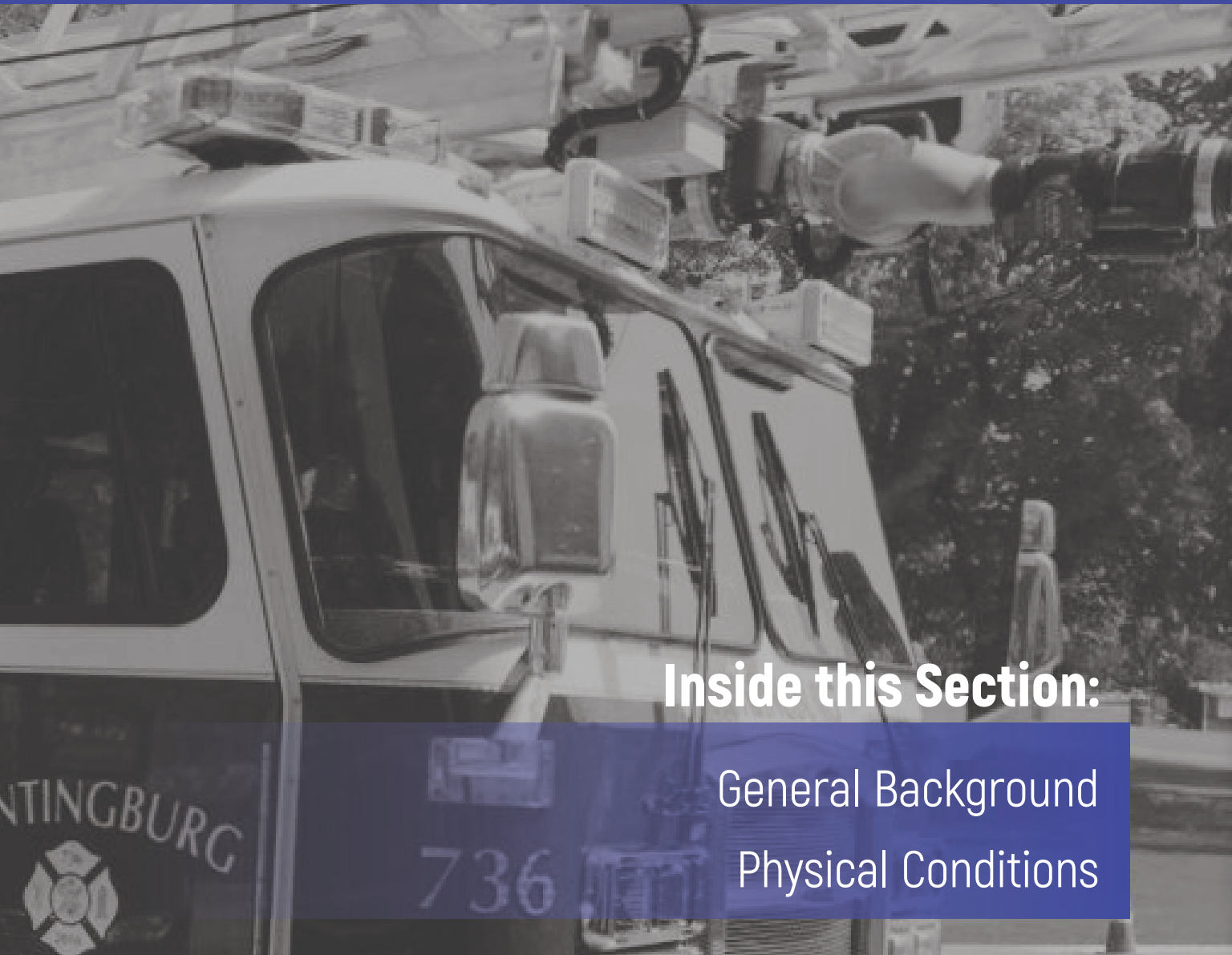
The Economic Development Administration (EDA) has published the FY 2020 Public Works and Economic Adjustment Assistance Programs Notice of Funding Opportunity (PWEAA NOFO). EDA's Public Works and Economic Adjustment Assistance (EAA) programs provide economically distressed communities and regions with comprehensive and flexible resources to address a wide variety of economic needs. Projects funded by these programs will support work in Opportunity Zones and will support the mission of the Department by, among other things, leading to the creation and retention of jobs and increased private investment, advancing innovation, enhancing the manufacturing capacities of regions, providing workforce development opportunities, and growing ecosystems that attract foreign direct investment

Through the PWEAA NOFO, EDA solicits applications from applicants in order to provide investments that support construction, non-construction, planning, technical assistance, and revolving loan fund projects under EDA's Public Works program and EAA programs (which includes Assistance to Coal Communities). Grants and cooperative agreements made under these programs are designed to leverage existing regional assets and support the implementation of economic development strategies that advance new ideas and creative approaches to advance economic prosperity in distressed communities, including those negatively impacted by changes to the coal economy

For more information visit <https://www.eda.gov/funding-opportunities/>

APPENDIX A: EXISTING CONDITIONS REPORT





Inside this Section:

- General Background
- Physical Conditions

GENERAL BACKGROUND

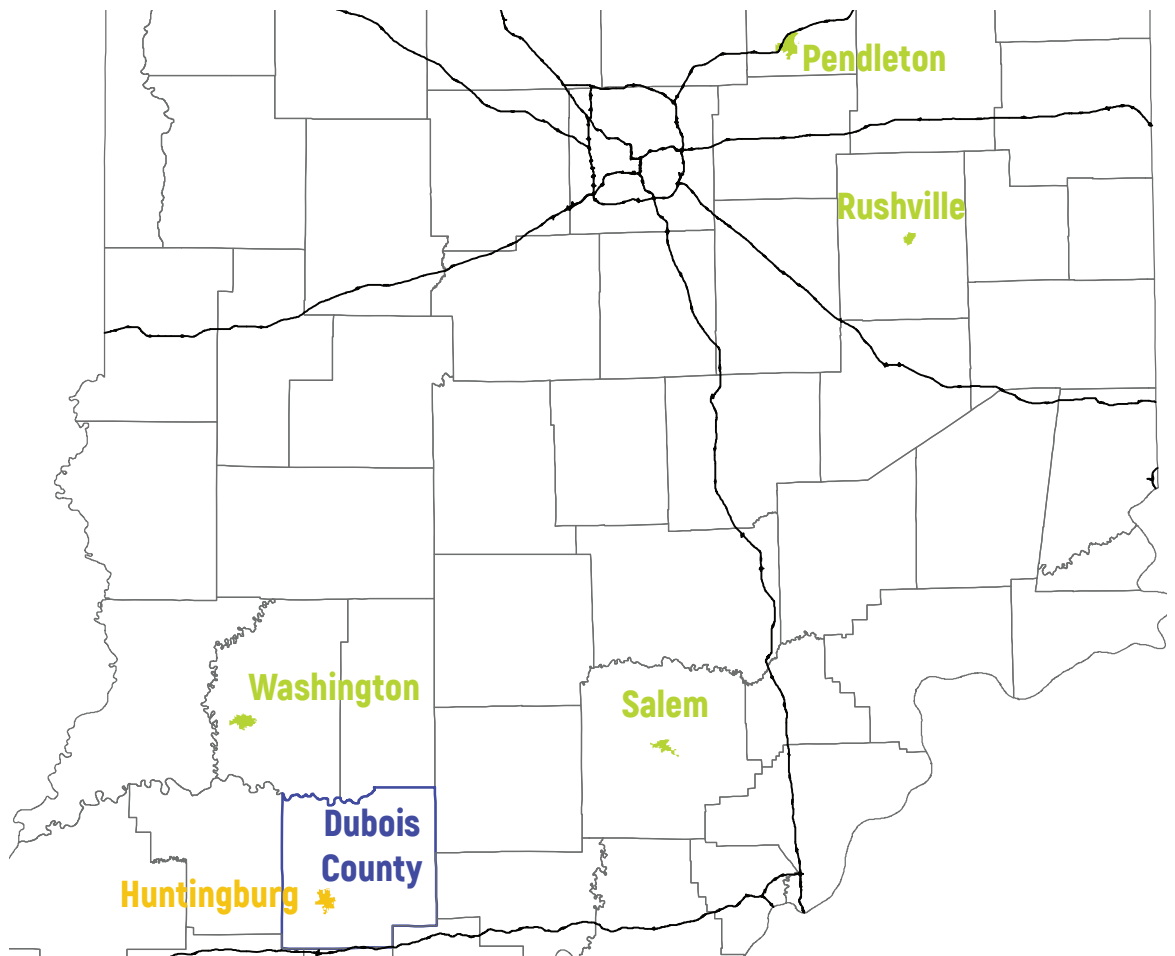
Population Features

Comparison Communities

The following section highlights key statistics and information that give decision makers a basic understanding of Huntingburg's existing conditions at the time of this plan's adoption. It is important to have an understanding of where Huntingburg is today, and where the community is heading based on past trends, in order to accurately plan for the City's future. These existing conditions will help form the foundation of this plan, identifying areas Huntingburg should focus on or build from. They will influence the City's vision, goals and objectives, and strategies for growth.

Looking at Huntingburg alone will not highlight typical or atypical trends. They need to be compared against similar communities to gauge how Huntingburg is faring and what trends differ from local, state, and national occurrences. The local communities used for comparison were:

- Pendleton
- Rushville
- Salem
- Washington
- Dubois County



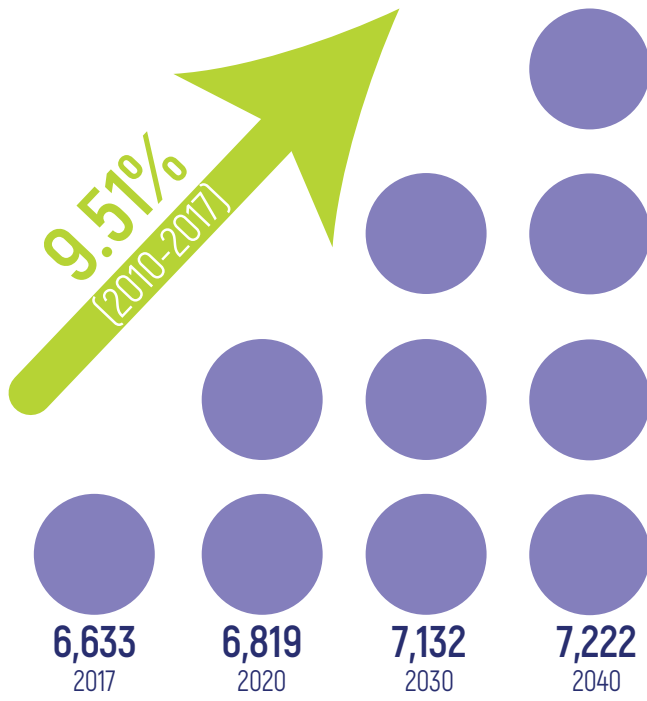
Population

Huntingburg's population in 2017 was 6,633 people, an increase of 576 people since 2010 (9.5%) and an overall growth of 1,035 people since 2000 (18.5%). This growth can also be seen in Dubois County (1.2% increase from 2010 to 2017), but at a much slower rate. This rate also outpaces all comparison communities, including Indiana (2.0%) and the United States (4.0%). The comparison community with recent growth that is closest to Huntingburg is Washington, with an increase in population of 4.3% between 2010 and 2017.

Dubois County is projected to continue a low rate of growth in the future, with a 2040 population projected at 45,821 (a growth of 3,442 people from 2017). Huntingburg's recent high rate of growth could play a role in the County's projected growth. It is important for planners and decision makers to look at future population growth because it helps predict the amount of future services and infrastructure required to support it.

42,379
Dubois County Population

16%
of County Population in Huntingburg

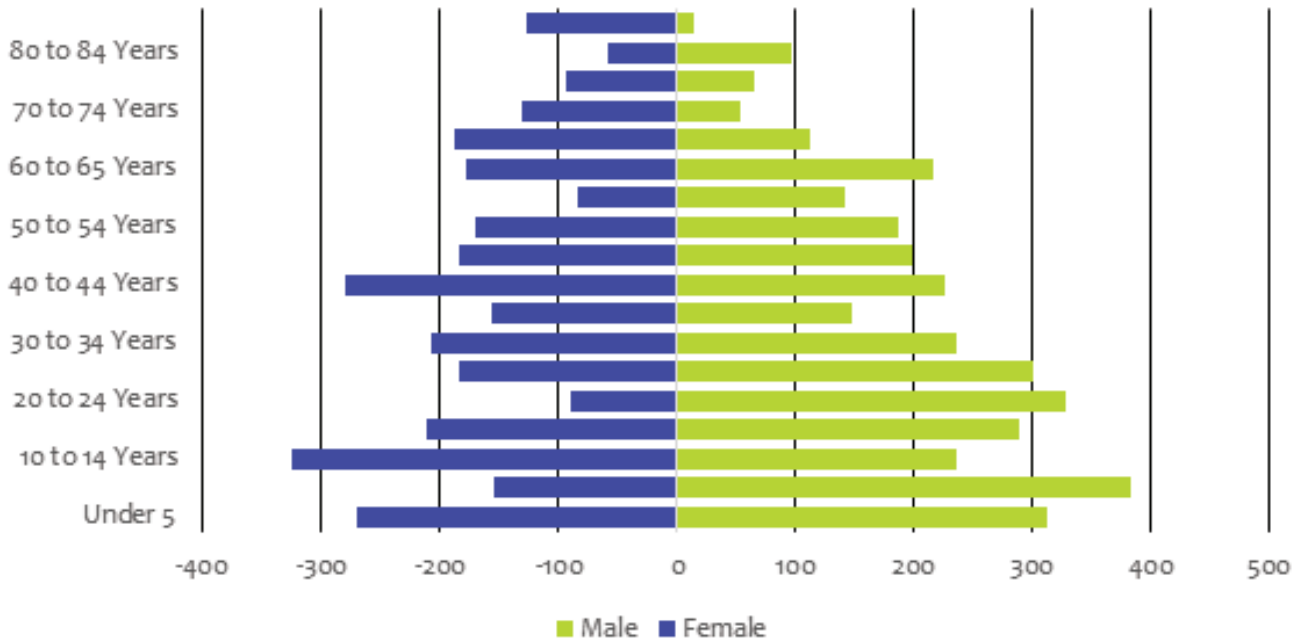


Population Change	
Comparison Communities	Percent Change (2010-2017)
Rushville	-2.85%
Salem	-2.03%
Pendleton	+0.38%
Dubois County	+1.17%
Washington	+4.26%
Huntingburg	+9.51%

POPULATION PROJECTION

Sources: US Census 2000, US Census 2010, ACS 2017

Population Pyramid



Age

The median age in Huntingburg is 32.6, the lowest of any comparison community, including the state (37.5) and country (37.8). Rushville has the highest median age of all the comparison communities at 41.5 years of age.

This low number can be seen on the population pyramid shown above. A stable population would generally have similar numbers in population for all age groups except the oldest, while a wide base indicates high birthrates (or growing population) and a narrow base represents low birthrates (naturally declining population). Huntingburg has a wide base, which points to higher than average birthrates, leading to natural population growth. The community also has an equal amount of millennials (born 1981-1996) when compared to baby boomers (born 1946-1964), with each group making up 22.7% of the City's population.

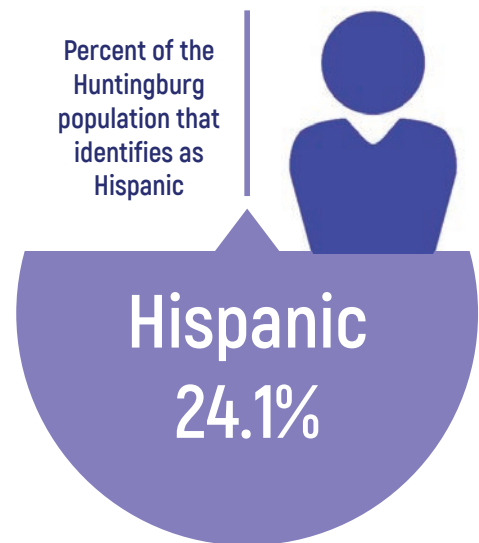
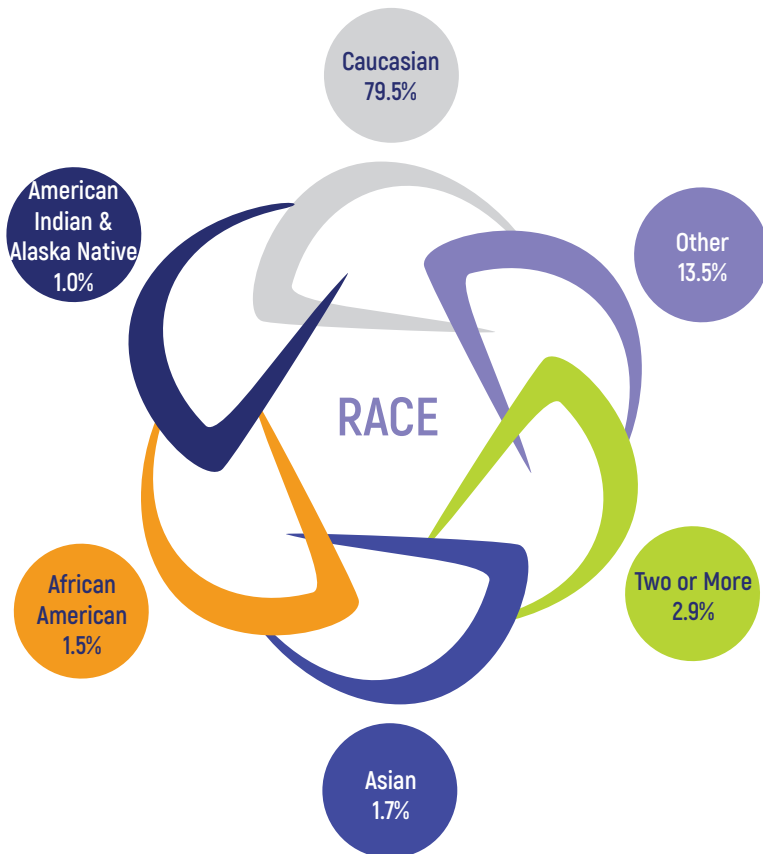
The high population growth can also be contributed to migration, or people moving to Huntingburg. From 2010 to 2016 there was an increase in the number of people moving into Huntingburg. These new residents typically moved from within Dubois County or surrounding counties and were most often families (higher percentage of 25-45 year olds and children under 17) and those over the age of 75. Many of these migrants (an average of about 20%) were also of Hispanic origin, possibly explaining Huntingburg's high Hispanic population. Looking at the different prevalent age groups in a city helps inform decisions on what types of amenities and entertainment options are needed in the future.

Diversity

Compared to many rural communities in Indiana, Huntingburg is more diverse. Huntingburg is 79.5% Caucasian, 1.5% African-American, 1% American Indian and Alaska Native, 1.7% Asian, 13.5% Some Other Race, and 2.9% as Two or More Races. Huntingburg is not only more diverse than its community comparisons, but also has a higher diversity than Indiana (83.9% Caucasian). Washington has the second highest diversity, with a population who is 88.8% Caucasian.

Additionally, 24.1% of Huntingburg's population is considered Hispanic or Latino (of any race). Out of that group, 12.5% identify as Mexican, 1% Cuban, and 10.6% as Other Hispanic or Latino. This is higher than every comparison community including Indiana (6.7%) and the United States (17.6%).

Race and **ethnicity** are considered two separate and distinct characteristics. **Race** categories include White, Black/African American, American Indian/Alaska Native, Asian, Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander, and Other Race. **Ethnicity** refers to a person's origin. Examples of Hispanic origin could include a person of Cuban, Mexican, Puerto Rican, South/Central American, or other Spanish Cultures. Understanding the racial and ethnic breakdown of a community can help officials in determining what services and amenities are needed for the residents. A large Hispanic population indicates a need to provide language or translation services.



Educational Attainment

Approximately 79% of Huntingburg's population who are 25 years and over have a high school diploma or higher, which is lower than every comparison community including Indiana (88.3%) and the United States (87.3%). Salem and Washington are just slightly higher, with 79.9% and 79.7% having high school diplomas or higher respectively.

About 15.2% of Huntingburg residents over the age of 25 have a bachelor's degree or higher. This is higher than Rushville (14.5%) and Salem (14.2%), but lower than the other comparison communities including Indiana (25.3%) and the United States (30.9%). Understanding a community's educational attainment levels can help officials when working to attract new industries/businesses. High educational attainment, either post-secondary degrees and/or trade school certifications may be more appealing to potential employers.

Households

Huntingburg had a total of 2,511 housing units in 2017, a slight increase since 2010 (< 1%), and an average household size of 2.77 people per occupied household (2,391). The average household size in Huntingburg is higher than all other comparison communities, but could be contributed to the large natural growth rate taking place in the City.

Approximately 63.9% of households in Huntingburg are family households. Of those, about 53.3% are married couples, 7.7% are single women, and 2.9% are single men.

Huntingburg also has a higher percentage of single family households (34.1%) than all comparison communities except Salem (37.5%). This could be contributed to the higher percentage of millennials and young professionals living in the City.



79.2%
high school diploma or higher



27.3%
associate's degree or higher
(25 years old or older)

Housing

About 14.1% of Dubois County's 17,748 total housing units are located in Huntingburg (2,511), with an additional 38.3% residing in the county seat of Jasper (6,799). Huntingburg's vacancy rate (4.8%) is lower than the county (6.9%), state (11.1%), country (12.2%), and all other comparison communities.

Vacancy Rates	
	Percent
Rushville	13.0%
Washington	11.9%
Salem	11.7%
Pendleton	8.9%
Dubois County	6.9%
Huntingburg	4.8%

Huntingburg has a lower amount of owner-occupied housing (60.6%) when compared to state trends (68.9%), but is similar to its comparison communities. Dubois County is higher than the comparison communities and the state, with 77.0% of housing units being owner-occupied.

Huntingburg's median home value is \$107,700, which is lower than Dubois County (\$146,000) and Pendleton (\$134,400), but higher than Rushville (\$84,700), Washington (\$82,200) and Salem (\$81,700). Although Huntingburg's median home value sits in the middle of the comparison communities, it has the lowest median rent at \$542.

Both housing and household statistics show the current housing market in a community, providing a look at what types of housing are most common and who is using them. This information helps a city predict what type of housing is needed in the future and if there will be a shortage or surplus due to changing population. For example, affordable housing may be needed to support more owner-occupied homes.



60.6%

owner occupied housing units



\$107,700

median value



\$542

median rent

Economic Base

Workforce and Unemployment

Approximately 66.0% of Huntingburg's population of 16 years and over was in the workforce as of 2017. This is higher than Salem (54.3%), Rushville (55.1%) and Washington (62.5%), but lower than Pendleton (69.1%) and the county (68.1%).

According to the Bureau of Labor Statistics, Dubois County had an unemployment rate of 2.5% in 2018, which was less than Indiana's 2018 average of 3.4% and the national average of 3.9%. High labor force participation and low unemployment informs the community that population and workforce attraction is needed to support existing and future employers.

Income

Huntingburg's median household income was \$48,984 in 2017, which is lower than Pendleton (\$62,500), Dubois County (\$57,307) and Indiana (\$52,182), but is higher when compared to Rushville (\$40,154), Washington (\$36,411) and Salem (\$34,483). Huntingburg's income per capita (\$21,910) is lower than Pendleton (\$30,117) and Dubois County (\$28,302), and slightly higher than the other comparison communities.

Median household income is based off all available incomes in a household, while per capita income is the average income based on all community residents. Per capita income is frequently used in measuring a standard of living, but can be skewed because it does not reflect income distribution. These are both important indicators that measure the economic health of an area in comparison to others. High educational attainment may contribute to higher incomes for Huntingburg residents.

Income		
	Median Household Income	Income Per Capita
Rushville	\$40,154	\$21,523
Salem	\$34,483	\$19,727
Pendleton	\$62,500	\$30,117
Dubois County	\$57,307	\$28,302
Washington	\$36,411	\$20,300
Huntingburg	\$48,984	\$21,910

Commuting Statistics

The mean travel time to work is approximately 18.6 minutes. About 85.9% drive alone to work, 8.6% carpool, 2% walk, and 3.4% work from home. These stats are very similar to the other comparison communities, except Huntingburg's mean travel time is lower than all other communities, especially when compared against Pendleton (32 minutes) and Salem (27.6 minutes). Approximately 84.5% of Huntingburg residents work in Dubois County. This is higher than all comparison communities except Dubois County (86.9%), and much higher when compared to Pendleton (45.7%) and Rushville (52.1%).

Dubois County also imports more workers than it exports. A total of 5,017 people commute into Dubois County for work, while only 1,154 leave the county for work. This points to Dubois County and its communities being an economic hub for the region. Commuting patterns such as these are important to take into account because they can affect decisions officials make regarding housing and economic development. For example, new housing development could be supported by the jobs currently available in the county.



18.0%
Live Below Poverty Rate



\$48,984
Median Household Income

Industries and Occupations

Huntingburg's largest industries as of 2017 were manufacturing (41.7%), retail trade (15.0%), educational services, healthcare and social assistance (11.9%). This is similar to Dubois County, who's largest industries are manufacturing (33.0%), educational services, health care and social assistance (19.3%).

Over half of Huntingburg's labor force is involved in the production, transportation, and material moving occupations (29.3%) and the management, business, science, and arts occupations (27.7%). This also mimics the county who has the same top occupations. The industries and occupations present in a community can reflect its economic viability and flexibility. Communities with a workforce spread out over multiple industries may react better if there is a sudden recession. City officials want to attract a range of industries for their workforce, not just rely on a single one.

Major Employers

The table below shows the largest 10 employers in Dubois County by number of people employed. These large companies help explain the large amount of workers commuting to the county and high percentage of production occupations (29.3%) and manufacturing industries (41.7%) in Huntingburg. This list also points to Huntingburg, and Dubois County, having a high concentration of a particular industry type.

This regional concentration is described using an employment location quotient, which shows the proportion of those employed in that particular industry compared to the national average. The national baseline is 1 for all industries; a regional location quotient over 1 means that area has a higher percentage of people employed in that particular industry. A score of over 20 typically means that area is a regional exporter for that industry. Dubois County has an employment location quotient of 93.38 in furniture and related product manufacturing. This very high number shows that Dubois County not only has an extremely high concentration of that industry type, but also means they likely export their products state and nationwide.

Major Employers			
Employer Name	Industry	City	Employees (#)
OFS	Furniture Manufacturing	Huntingburg	1600
OFS	Furniture Manufacturing	Huntingburg	1500
Masterbrand Cabinets Inc Plant	Cabinet Manufacturing	Ferdinand	1500
Best Chairs Inc	Furniture Manufacturing	Ferdinand	1200
Jasper Engines & Transmissions	Engines Rebuilding & Exchange	Jasper	1200
Memorial Hospital-Health Care	Hospitals	Jasper	1099
Jasper Rubber Products Inc	Rubber-Synthetic Manufacturing	Jasper	900
Kimball Electronics Inc	Electronic Equipment & Supplies Retail	Jasper	800
Kimball International Inc	Furniture Manufacturing	Jasper	600
Masterbrand Cabinets	Cabinets	Ferdinand	500

Source: Hoosierdata.in.gov

Population Features Implications

Based on the existing conditions and demographics of Huntingburg, there are a few key pieces of information that should be given higher consideration during the planning process because of the possible implications they pose for Huntingburg's future.

Huntingburg has seen a high population growth (9.5%) since 2010 and is projected to continue growing through 2040. This growth rate has been influenced by an increase in children under the age of 18 and a wave of migration from 2010 to 2016 that included a high percentage of millennials, which both contribute to Huntingburg's low median age (32.6 years old). The City also has a higher percentage of those who identify as Hispanic or Latino (24.1%). This projection of population growth, and the groups who make it up, means Huntingburg will need to develop infrastructure, housing, and amenities accordingly.

The City has a high proportion of renters (39.4%) when compared to the County (23%), and the lowest median rent (\$532) out of any comparison community. One reason behind the City's high levels of migration since 2010 could be attributed to Huntingburg's low housing costs, catering to young families and young professionals. As these groups begin to age, the City should focus on providing more owner-occupied housing options for those looking to make the switch from renting to home ownership.

Huntingburg, and Dubois County as a whole, draw in more workers than are commuting out. Huntingburg is home to the largest employer in the county, OFS. With this company employing over an estimated 3000 people, many from outside the City and County, the City has the opportunity to attract new residents who wish to live and work in Huntingburg. The City also has a large concentration of one industry type, and while this designates the area as a regional exporter, it will be important to begin diversifying the industry base.

Key Anchor Institutions in the Community

Public Library

The Huntingburg Public Library has been serving the citizens of Huntingburg and Dubois County since 1922. Open every day except Sunday, patrons of the library have access to books, magazines, audio books, videos, computers, and printing facilities. The library offers multiple events throughout the year and holds regular events including Story Times, Stay and Plays, and book clubs.

Emergency Service Facilities

The Huntingburg Police and Fire Departments are located in downtown Huntingburg. There are currently 13 police officers on staff and 29 Volunteer Fire Department members. The Fire Department includes 11 emergency response vehicles that consist of various fire trucks, a water tank, and a non-transport medical vehicle.

Healthcare Facilities

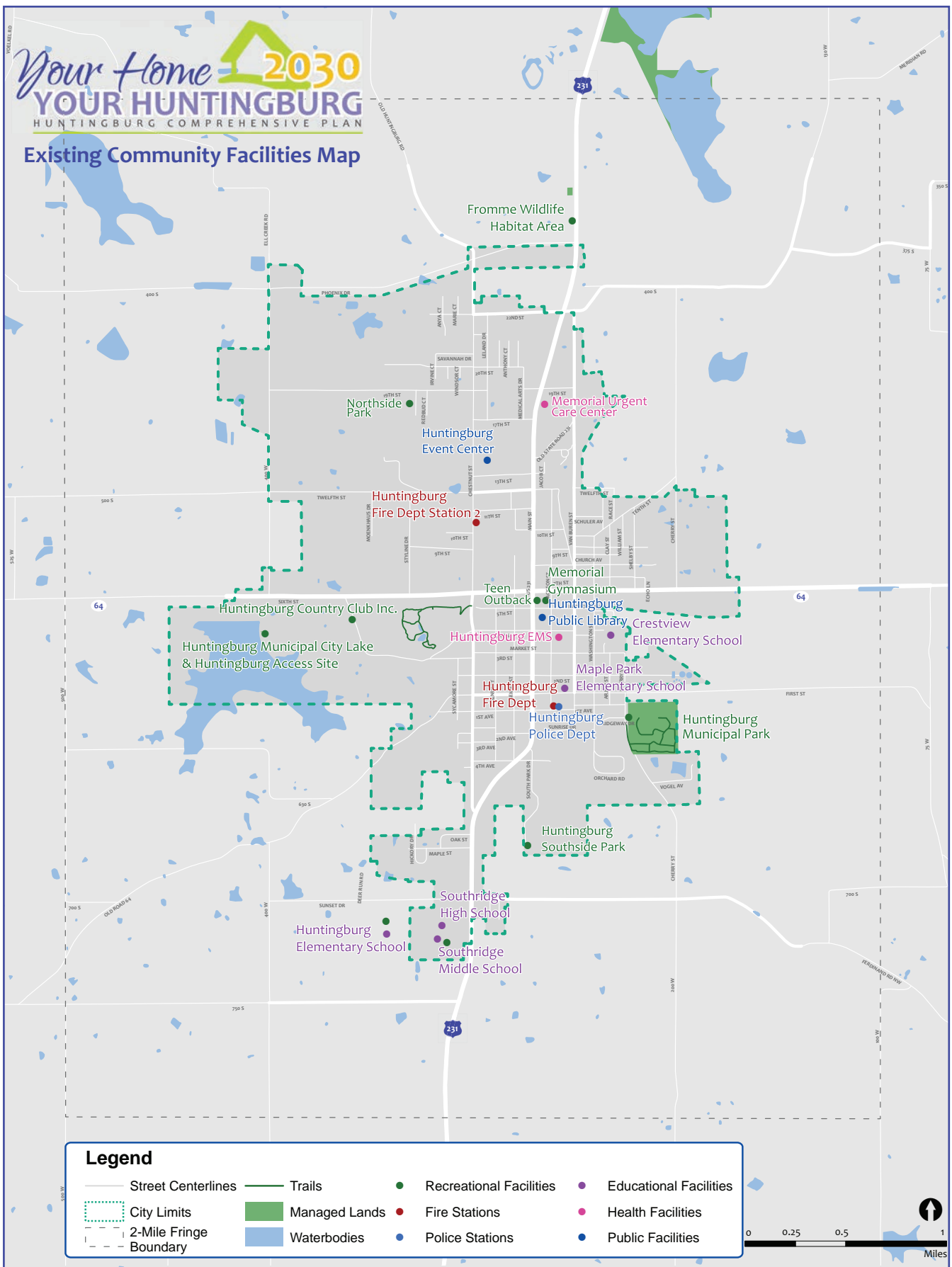
Memorial Urgent Care is currently the only healthcare service facility in Huntingburg. Memorial Hospital and Heath Care Center is located 15 minutes north in neighboring Jasper, Indiana. There are also multiple pharmacies available in the City.

Educational Institutions

Huntingburg is served by the Southwest Dubois County School Corporation and 1,815 students are enrolled for the 2019-2020 school year. For the 2017-18 school year, the percentage of students that passed ISTEP+ Math was 61.7% (which is higher than the Indiana state average of 58.3%) for the 2017-18 school year. The percentage of students that passed ISTEP+ Reading/Language Arts was 60.1% (which is lower than the Indiana state average of 64.1%) for the 2017-18 school year. The educational facilities located in Huntingburg include:

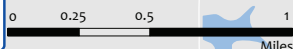
- Huntingburg Elementary School
- Southridge Middle School
- Southridge High School

Existing Community Facilities Map



Legend

— Street Centerlines	— Trails	● Recreational Facilities	● Educational Facilities
⋯ City Limits	■ Managed Lands	● Fire Stations	● Health Facilities
⋯ 2-Mile Fringe Boundary	■ Waterbodies	● Police Stations	● Public Facilities



PHYSICAL CONDITIONS

Zoning

The existing zoning map reflects the zoning at the time of this plans writing. The 2020 updated Zoning Map and Ordinance Code should be referenced for new growth and development. Currently, there are 5 zoning districts with a total of 10 different zoning classifications. The zoning classifications are described below.

Agricultural District

■ **AG - Agricultural** The primary purpose of the agricultural district is to promote the business of agricultural production. Secondary purposes include the accommodation of agricultural-related uses, land-intensive non-agricultural uses, large acreage uses, and uses which are not compact forms of development.

■ **AZ-1 - Aircraft Overlay District** The aircraft overlay district permits land uses and construction in accordance with the underlying zoning district while ensuring that aircraft safety is not compromised, and that habitable structures in the district are properly protected against noise.

Residential

■ **R1 - Single-family** The primary purpose of the R-1 district is to provide a stable environment for single-family homes on lots with ample open space for the enjoyment of privacy and family recreation. The preservation of single-family housing stock within the core neighborhoods of the city, preservation of property values, and protection from encroachment by non-residential uses are key requirements.

■ **R2 - Two-family** The R-2 district provides the essential qualities of the single-family district with slightly greater density and lower cost of living than is available in the single-family district. Uses in the R-2 district should be limited to single-family and two-family (duplex) dwellings.

Commercial Districts

■ **B1 - Light Commercial** The light commercial district supports less-intense light retail and service businesses along arterial and collector streets and adjacent to or near residential areas, offering a transitional area between the residential uses and the heavier commercial and industrial uses.

■ **B1D - Maximum Floor Area** Each attached or detached building in the B-1D district shall have not greater than 10,000 square feet of building area on the ground floor.

■ **B2 - Heavy Commercial** The heavy commercial district is located along US231/SR64, supporting traffic-intense uses and services for a large number of clients, and offering ample off-street parking facilities. Residential uses are strongly discouraged.

Industrial

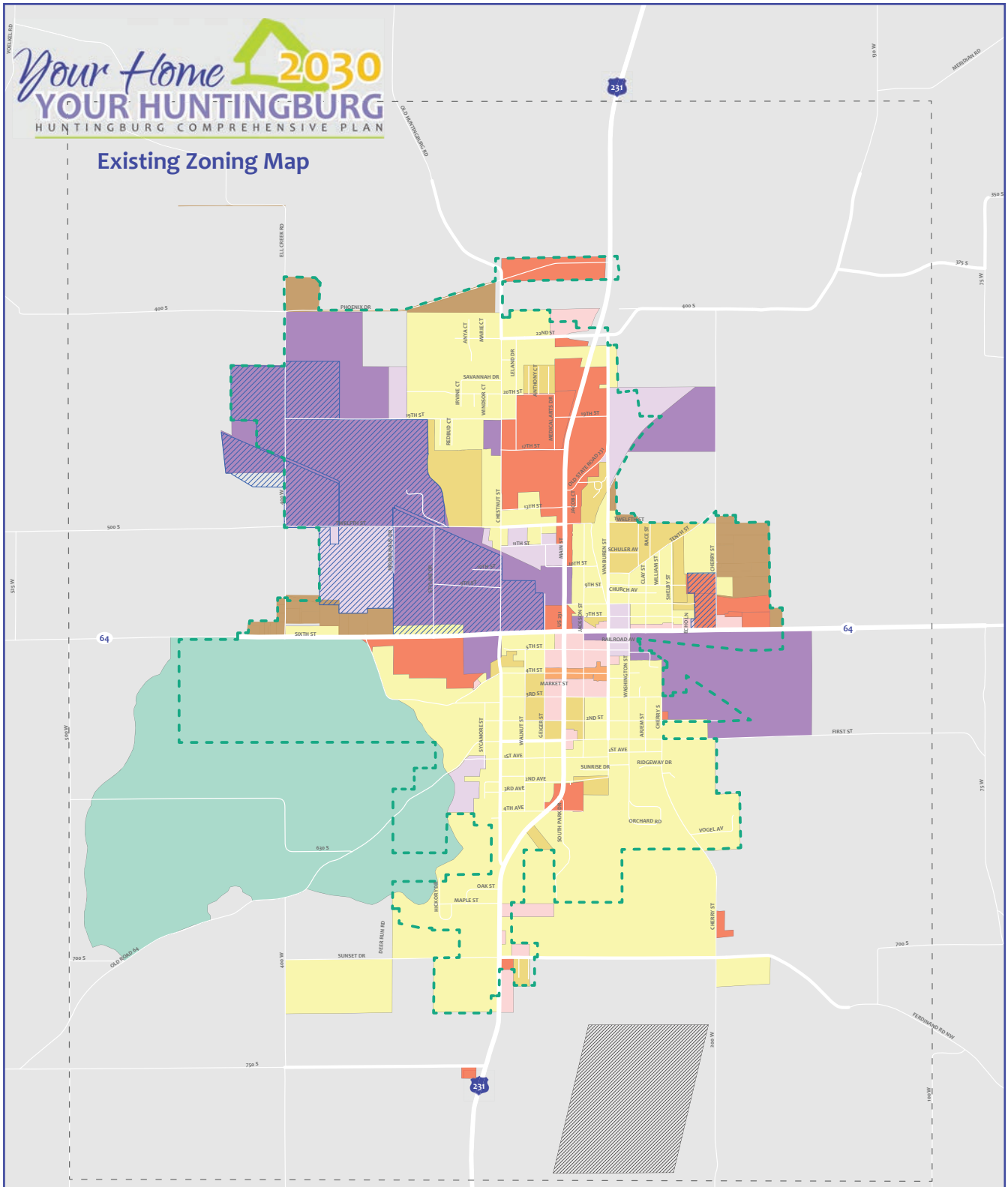
■ **I1 - Light Industrial** The light industrial district designates areas for manufacturing, processing and assembly operations that produce very little or no smoke, dust noise, or other environmentally objectionable byproducts. Warehousing and distribution are acceptable uses in the I-1 district. Due to potential heavy truck traffic, location along a well-constructed industrial or collector street with access to an arterial street, or along an arterial street, is important.

■ **I2 - Heavy Industrial** The heavy industrial district provides areas for manufacturing, processing and assembly operations that require access to heavily-built truck routes or rail services. Storage and warehousing are incidental uses in the I-2 district. Location along an industrial street with access to a principal arterial is important.

Conservation District

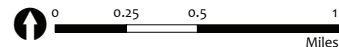
■ **C - Conservation District** The conservation district protects Huntingburg Lake from pollution or other conditions which may adversely affect the quality of the water or its use as a source for drinking water, by controlling the use and development of the land within the watershed of the lake. The conservation zoning district shall include all land lying within the watershed of the Huntingburg Lake and the exact boundaries of said District are as indicated on the Existing Zoning Map.

Existing Zoning Map



Legend

- Street Centerlines
- ▭ AZ-1 Aircraft Overlay District
- ▭ B-1D Downtown Commercial
- ▭ I-2 Heavy Industrial
- ▭ City Limits
- ▭ B-1 Light Commercial
- ▭ C Conservation District
- ▭ R-1 Single-Family
- ▭ TIF Districts
- ▭ B-2 Heavy Commercial
- ▭ I-1 Light Industrial
- ▭ R-2 Two-Family
- ▭ 2-mile Fringe Boundary



Environmental

The Existing Environmental Map on the following page illustrates the locations of the flood plains and waterbodies in and surrounding Huntingburg. These environmental constraints may have a large effect on potential growth and development outside City limits but will not have a large effect within Huntingburg.

Existing Waterbodies

Huntingburg Lake is the major waterbody within City limits. Along State Road 64, this 312-acre site contains a 178-acre lake, 94 wooded acres and 30 acres of open area. The lake acts as a water source for the City. Fishing and boating are permitted on the lake. However, swimming, camping and open fires are prohibited. A shelter house with picnic tables and a grill are located on the northwest corner of the lake. No other facilities are provided at this time; however, the City is considering future development of the area around the lake.



Huntingburg Lake

Flood Plain

A 100-Year Floodplain describes areas that have a 1% chance of flooding to occur in a given year or once every 100 years. Any development that occurs within the floodplain is controlled by the Department of Natural Resources (DNR). There is a floodplain that extends across mainly agricultural and residential properties on the east city limits of Huntingburg. Development in these areas could potentially occur, if the elevation of the surface is raised above the floodplain. However, these areas are best served as recreation areas or preserved in its natural state.

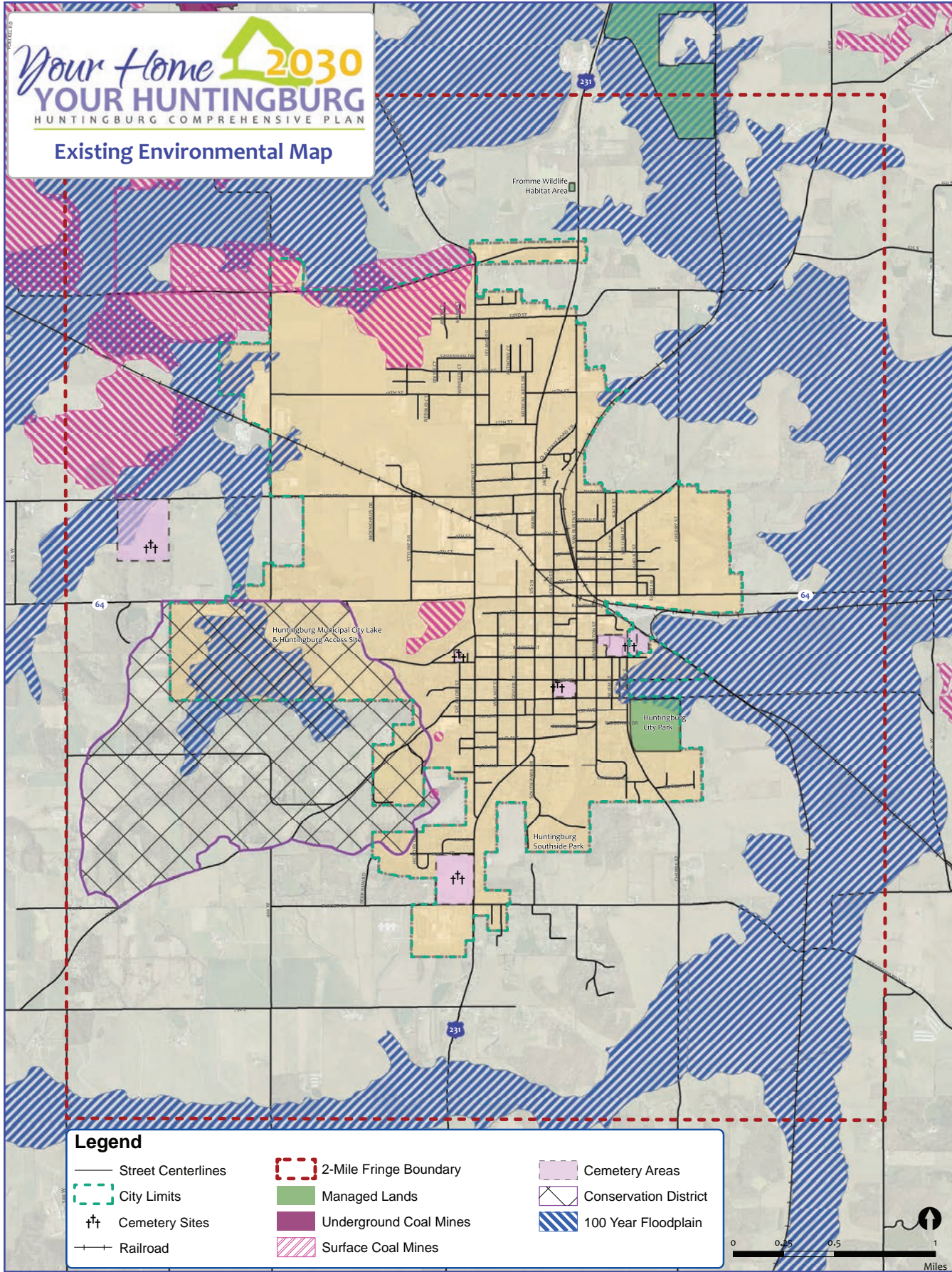
Districts

As stated in the Conservation District zoning, the conservation district on the southwest portion of the City protects Huntingburg Lake from pollution or other conditions, which may adversely affect the quality of the water. The district not only includes the Lake and surrounding natural property, but also additional agricultural and residential land. There are multiple surface coal mining locations outside of the northern city limits. Surface mining can include strip mining, open-pit mining, and mountaintop removal mining.




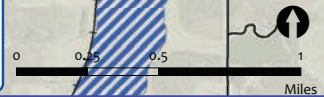
Huntingburg City Park. Source: Visit Dubois County

Existing Environmental Map



Legend

 Street Centerlines	 2-Mile Fringe Boundary	 Cemetery Areas
 City Limits	 Managed Lands	 Conservation District
 Cemetery Sites	 Underground Coal Mines	 100 Year Floodplain
 Railroad	 Surface Coal Mines	



Transportation

As a significant manufacturing and population center within Southwestern Indiana, the City of Huntingburg understands that maintaining a safe and efficient transportation network is important to the community and region as a whole. Providing adequate capacity on City streets in order to accommodate increased traffic as development occurs, along with a focus on non-motorized modes of transportation is critical to maintaining the quality of life and economic identity of the City.

Functional Classification

All of the streets within the City of Huntingburg are classified according to INDOT's hierarchical system that is based on elements such as the number of travel lanes, traffic volumes, level of access and mobility. The functional classifications used for the City's streets are as follows:

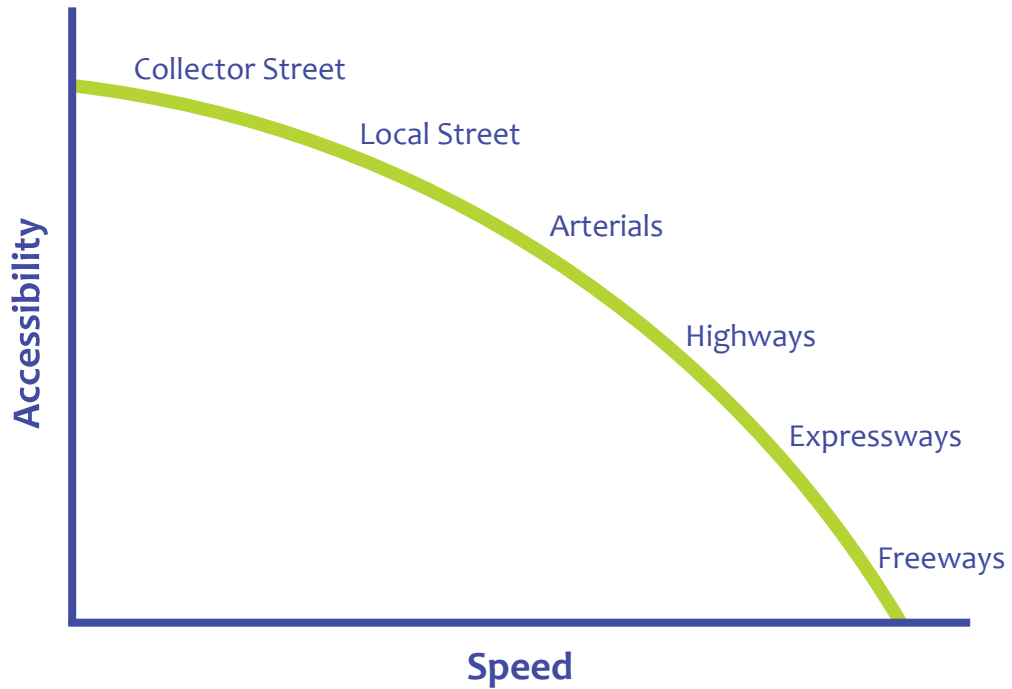
Arterial

Arterials are higher capacity roadways with the intent to move traffic from collector roads to interstates or regional highways. Access is usually limited in order to increase traffic flow and level of service, but developed areas often have an increased number of drives and/or intersections. Speed limits on arterials can range from 25 mph to 55 mph depending on location.

US 231 (Main Street) is the principal arterial serving Huntingburg and provides access from the north and south. US 231 also provides connectivity to the Interstate system via I-64 approximately 7 miles to the south and I-69 approximately 45 miles to the north. Even with US 231, Huntingburg and Dubois County as a whole continue to be underserved from a regional connectivity standpoint. US 231 in its current condition continues to be plagued with congestion which results in a high frequency of accidents, high travel times and many other issues that come with congested substandard roadways.

The City of Huntingburg along with the City of Jasper, Dubois County and Spencer County have joined the Mid-States Corridor Regional Development Authority (RDA) in order to pursue improved highway connectivity in Southern Indiana. As it relates to the City of Huntingburg, preliminary mapping for the Mid-States Corridor identifies potential preliminary corridors to the east and west of the City. A potential preliminary corridor utilizing existing US 231 is also identified. A preferred corridor will be recommended as part of the Tier 1 Environmental Study that is currently underway. A record of decision indicating the Federal Highway Administration's approval of the preferred corridor is expected in the summer of 2021. Additional information regarding the Mid-States Corridor can be found at www.midstatescorridor.com.

SR 64 (6th Street) serves as a secondary arterial providing east/west access to the City of Huntingburg. Generally speaking SR 64 provides access to neighboring communities and counties; however, access to I-69 is available via SR 64 approximately 25 miles to the west.



Collectors

Collector roads are typically 2-lane roadways that provide access to adjacent arterials while linking land uses such as residential neighborhoods, parks, and schools to one another. Speed limits on collector roads are lower, usually between 25 and 35 mph. GIS mapping made available by the City of Huntingburg further differentiates major and minor collector roads. Major collectors are higher volume than minor collectors and may also connect a City to other nearby cities or towns (i.e. Old Huntingburg Road). Major collectors within the City of Huntingburg include:

- 750 S
- 1st Street
- 12th Street
- 14th Street
- 22nd Street
- Phoenix Drive
- 400 W
- Styline Drive
- Chestnut Street
- Van Buren Street
- Cherry Street

Local Roads

Local roads provide a connection between residential roadways or areas and other higher classified streets in Huntingburg. Local roads typically allow on-street parking, but depending on circumstances on-street parking may be restricted or controlled.



Junction of 14th Street and Old State Road 231

Traffic Counts

The Indiana Department of Transportation (INDOT) currently controls the traffic signals along US 231 through Huntingburg. The installation of new (and removal of existing) traffic signals is completed through a traffic signal warrant process that includes a specific set of traffic counts at the intersection in question. The traffic signal warrant analysis may be initiated by INDOT or the City.

The City of Huntingburg has requested additional traffic counts in order to determine how the recently completed railroad overpass (which connects Styline Drive to 14th Street) has impacted traffic. Depending on the results of the traffic counts, the City will explore adding and/or removing traffic signals along US 231 between 19th Street and 12th Street.

Traffic Data Collection

The City of Huntingburg does not currently have a formal traffic counting program in place. Traffic data is collected on an as-needed (or project by project) basis to determine appropriate recommendations for roadway or intersection improvements. The most recent traffic counts available from INDOT's Traffic Count Database are shown on the existing conditions transportation map. Significant congestion occurs at the intersection of US 231 and SR 64 where US 231 sees over 13,000 vehicles per day and SR 64 over 6,000 vehicles per day.

Crash Records

Crash records are maintained and available through the Huntingburg Police Department. The City utilizes the crash data as necessary to evaluate options for enhancing public safety on the road network throughout Huntingburg.

Pavement Condition Assessment

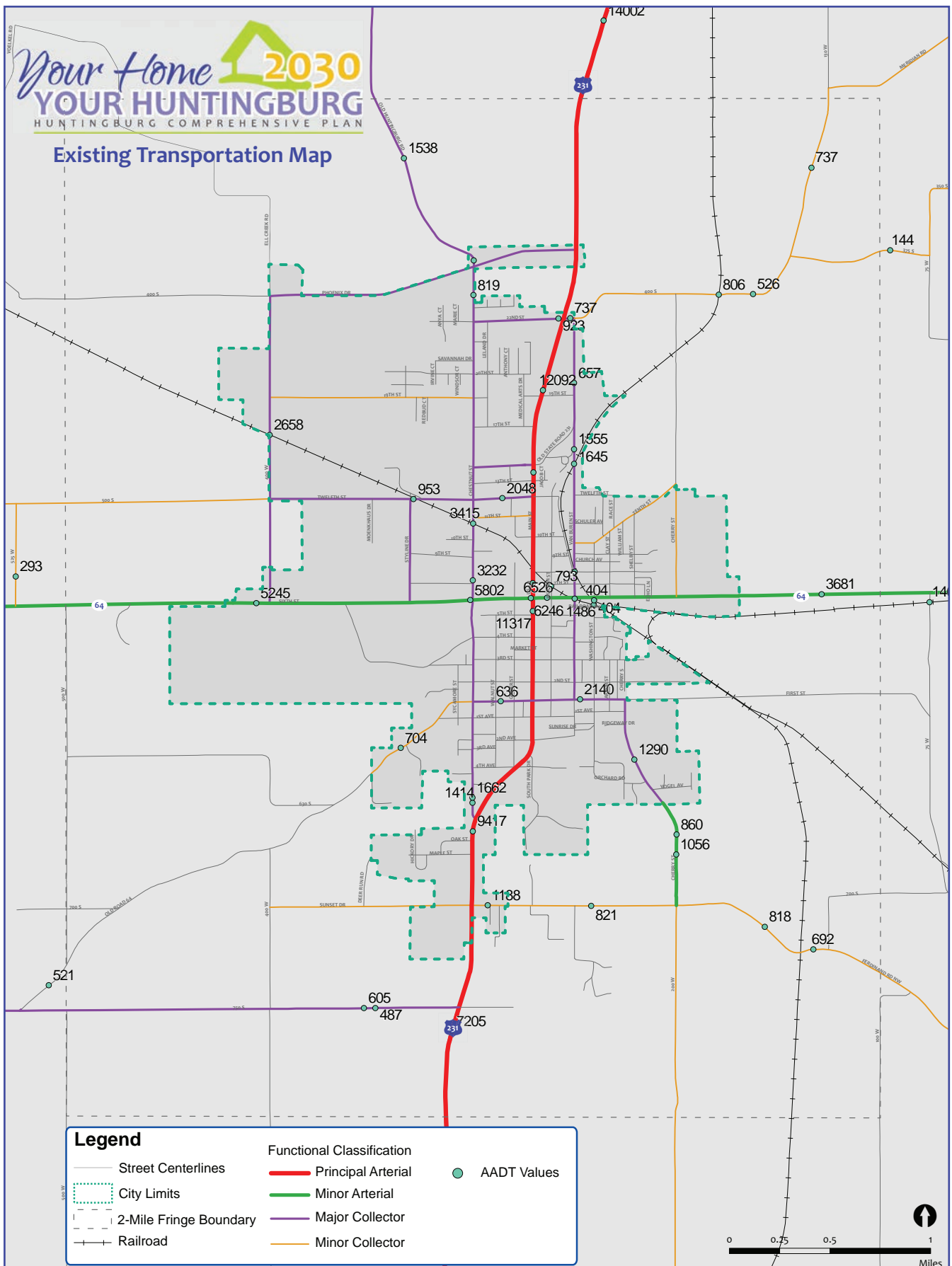
The City of Huntingburg Street Department conducts an annual condition evaluation for roadways in the City. The condition evaluation is then compiled into an asset management plan that meets the requirements of INDOT and the Indiana Local Technical Assistance Program (LTAP). The asset management plan is a requirement to obtain funding for roadway improvements through INDOT's Community Crossings Matching Grant Program and also allows the City prioritize roadway maintenance spending at the local level.

Railroads

Several rail lines are present within the City. Norfolk Southern has a rail line running east-west that is roughly parallel to SR 64 and also maintains a switch yard just east of US 231. Norfolk Southern also has a rail spur extending to the south out of switch yard. The Dubois County Railroad has a north-south line, east of US 231, beginning at Norfolk Southern's switch yard. The Dubois County Railroad is not currently active.

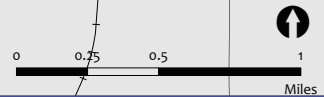
The railroads create fifteen at-grade crossings throughout the City. With the high frequency of trains on the Norfolk Southern line, disruptions in traffic and emergency services are common. In order to mitigate these disruptions, the City recently completed a railroad overpass connecting Styline Drive to 14th Street. Signage exists just north of 14th Street alerting US 231 southbound motorists to the presence of a train on US 231. Similar signage for US 231 northbound motorists does not exist as the train is visible prior to reaching SR 64.

Existing Transportation Map



Legend

Street Centerlines	Functional Classification	AADT Values
City Limits	Principal Arterial	
2-Mile Fringe Boundary	Minor Arterial	
Railroad	Major Collector	
	Minor Collector	



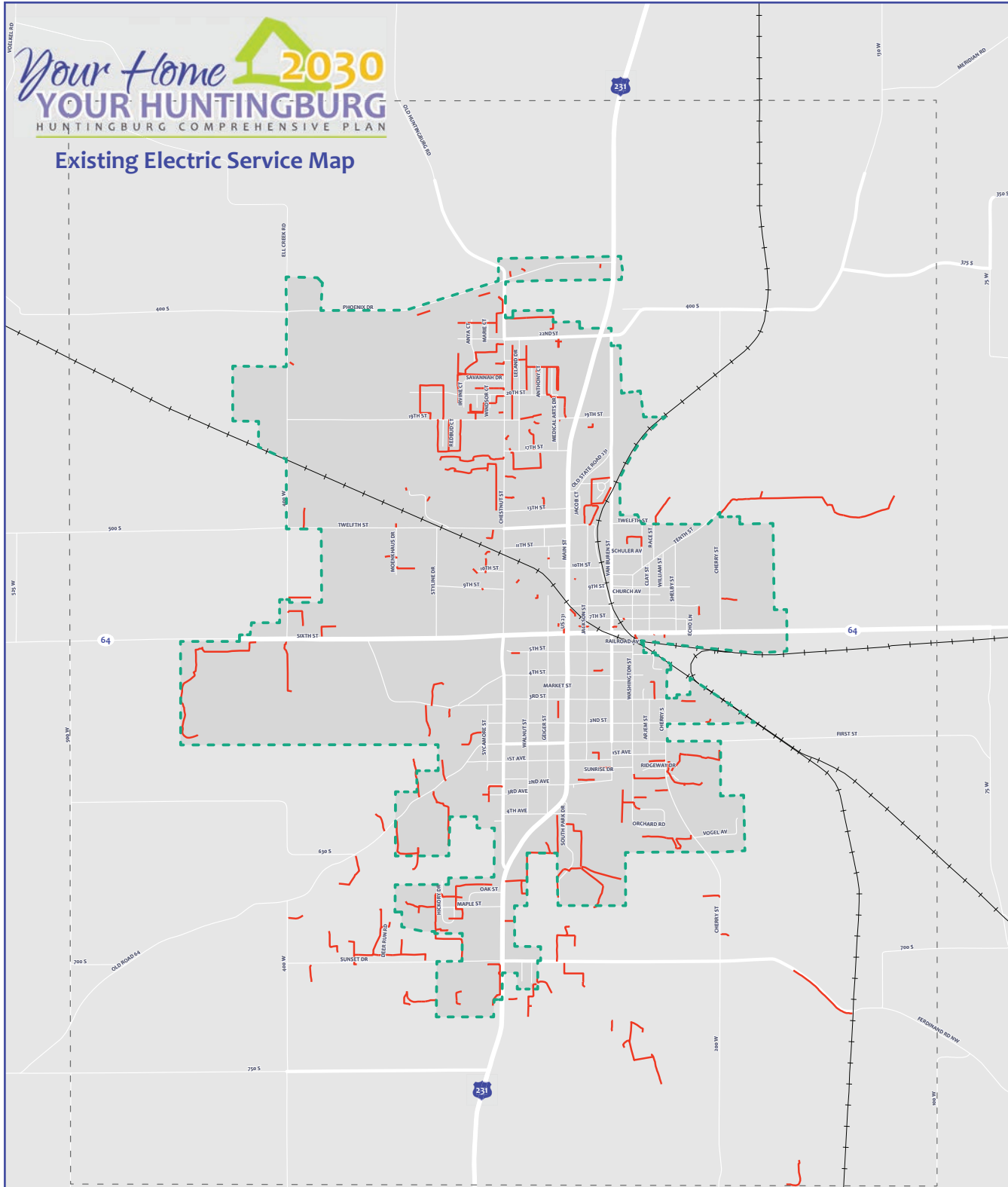
Electric Service

The City of Huntingburg's electric system includes over 330,000 LFT of primary and secondary distribution lines and 2 electric substations. The electric utility provides service to outlying areas beyond that of the 2-mile fringe surrounding the City of Huntingburg's corporate limits.

The electric utility purchases electricity through the Indiana Municipal Power Agency (IMPA). IMPA generates its power through a variety of methods including coal and natural gas combustion, wind and solar.

In 2016, the City of Huntingburg and the Indiana Municipal Power Agency opened a new two-megawatt solar park on the City's Northwest side. The park is a major source of long-term renewable energy, which results in the reduction of carbon emissions and gives the City the ability to control costs to residents during times of peak demand.

Existing Electric Service Map



Legend

- Street Centerlines
- Rail System
- ⋯ City Limits
- ⋯ 2-mile Fringe Boundary
- Electric Underground Lines



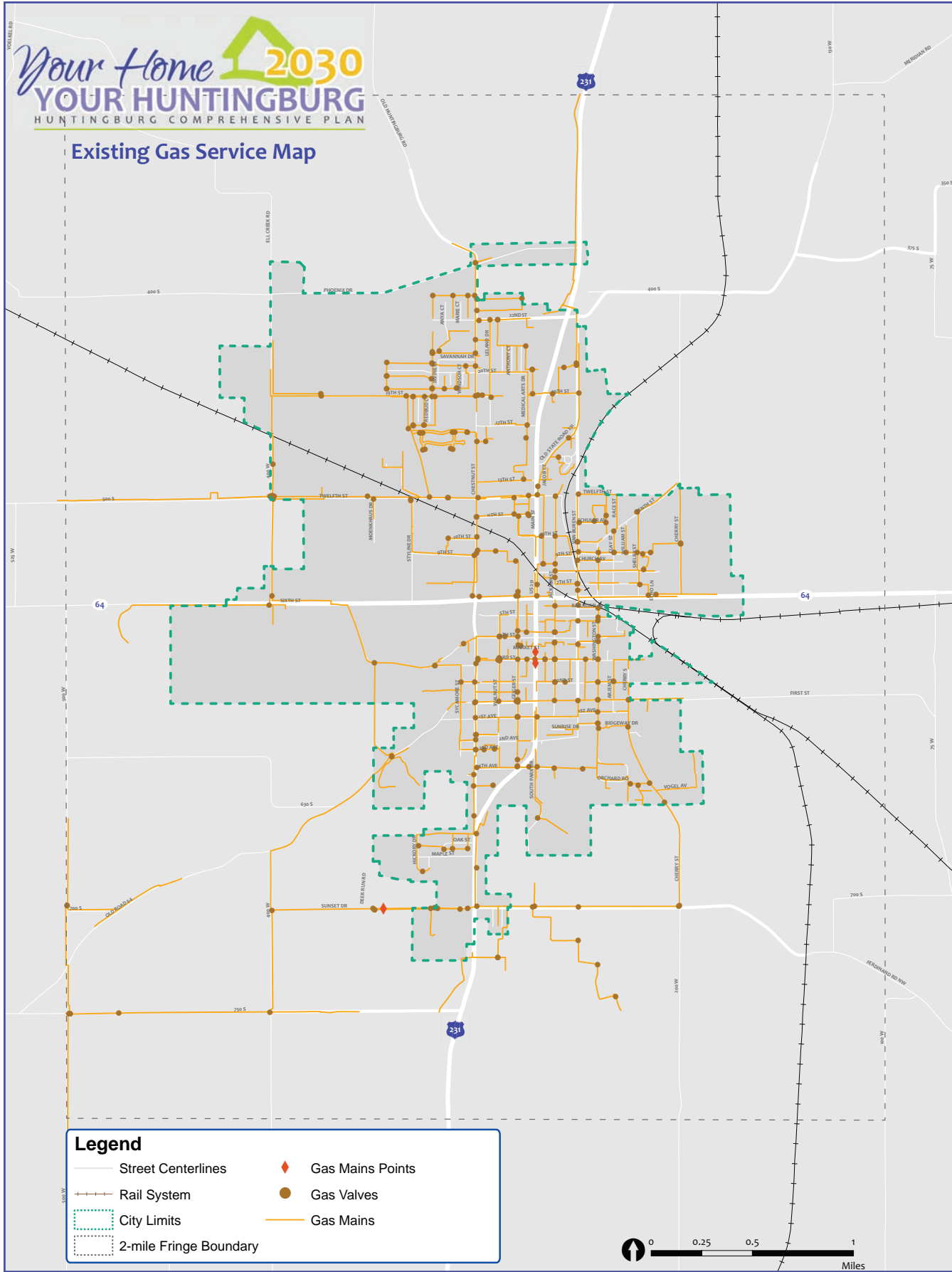
Gas Service

The City of Huntingburg's existing gas distribution system was constructed primarily in the 1950's and includes over 330,000 LFT of main ranging in size from 3/4" to 6". The gas utility provides service to outlying areas beyond that of the 2-mile fringe surrounding the City of Huntingburg's corporate limits.

The gas utility receives its gas via a connection to the Texas Eastern System near Stendal, IN. The gas utility owned and operated a gas storage field until the City of Huntingburg voted to abandon it in 2012. The gas storage field was originally constructed to store gas during times of low usage such that contractual rate surcharges incurred during times of high usage could be moderated.

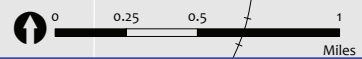
The gas utility replaces end of life gas mains within the distribution system on an as-needed basis. The gas utility also performs an annual gas leak survey as required by the Indiana Utility Regulatory Commission.

Existing Gas Service Map



Legend

Street Centerlines	Gas Mains Points
Rail System	Gas Valves
City Limits	Gas Mains
2-mile Fringe Boundary	



Storm Sewer

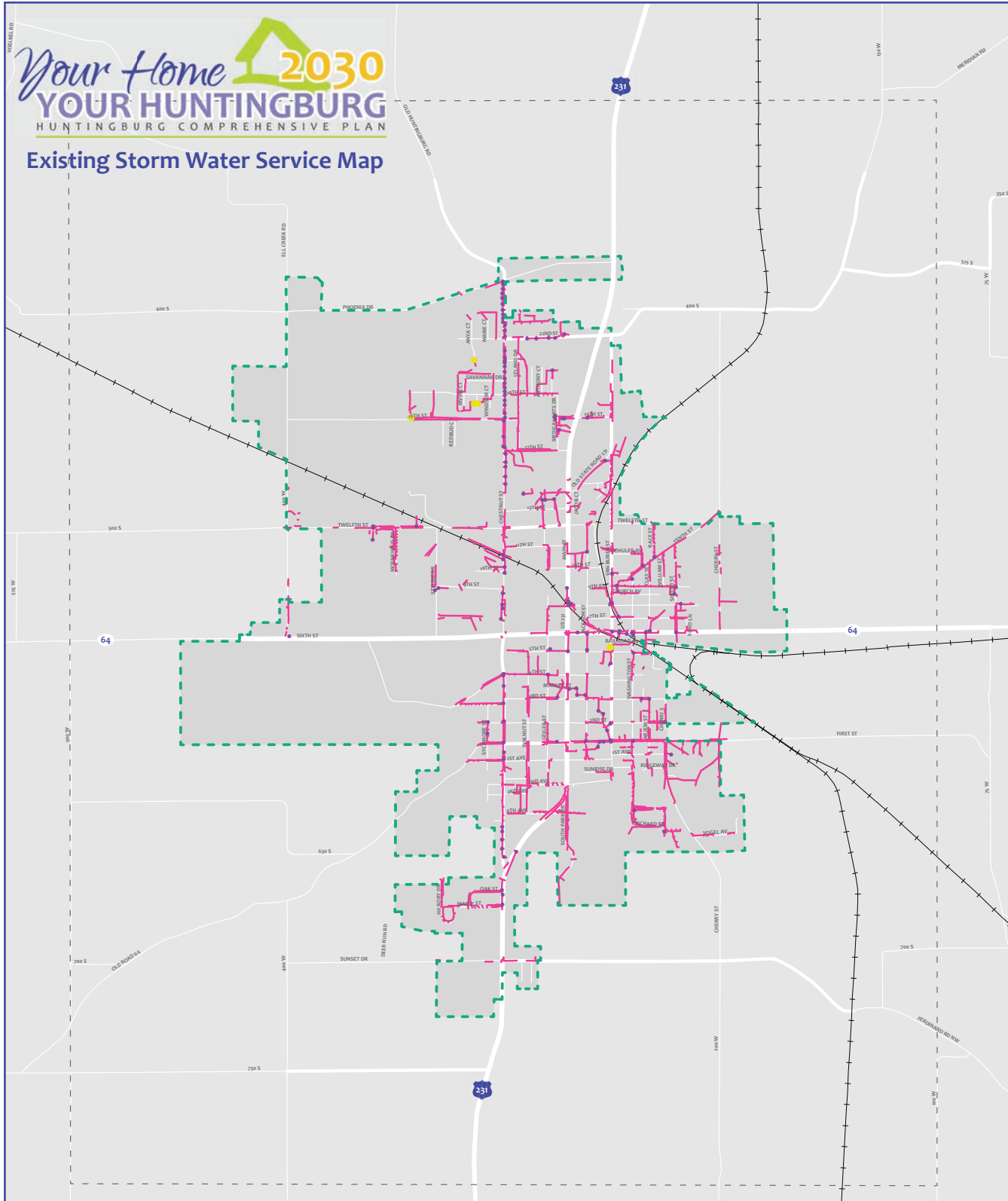
Stormwater is routed through (and ultimately out of) the City of Huntingburg through sheet flow, open ditches and enclosed storm sewers. Based on available GIS information, the City's drainage system is comprised of over 200,000 feet of pipe with approximately 75% of that pipe being 24 inches and smaller. Approximately 10% of the City's pipe is of unknown size.

Given the magnitude and frequency of rain events impacting the City over the past 5 years, developing solutions to drainage concerns has been a priority of the City of Huntingburg. In order to begin addressing these concerns, the City of Huntingburg commissioned a Stormwater Utility Study that was completed in February of 2019. The Stormwater Utility Study (Study) examined existing drainage infrastructure and needs, operations and maintenance capabilities and potential structure for a stormwater utility. The Study did not make specific recommendations or specific solutions for identified problems, as that was not the intent of the initiative. The Study did identify major problem areas through interviews with City of Huntingburg Officials and public outreach meetings.

The drainage issues plaguing the City of Huntingburg are often the result of headwater conditions (i.e. inefficient inlet placement, inadequate conveyance infrastructure, clogged pipes, etc.) or backwater conditions (i.e. effect of surrounding floodplains associated with the Patoka River and its tributaries). As recommended by the Study, detailed hydrologic and hydraulic analysis needs to be completed in order to understand which condition governs prior to making improvements.

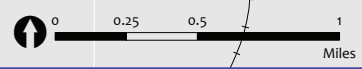
In an effort to begin addressing drainage issues, the City of Huntingburg has considered drainage a design priority in its recent infrastructure projects, specifically the 4th Street Heritage Trail and Market Street Park. Drainage design for these adjacent projects was not only compatible, but also allowed for future drainage system expansion upstream of the projects.

Existing Storm Water Service Map



Legend

Street Centerlines	2-mile Fringe Boundary	Stormwater Pipes
Rail System	Stormwater Pipes Point	
City Limits	Stormwater Manholes	



Waste Water Service

The City of Huntingburg's sewer system is a separate sanitary system, which collects wastewater flows only. Sewers convey flows to the wastewater treatment facility (facility) which discharges to an unnamed tributary to the Bruner/Hunley Creek. The facility is a Class III oxidation ditch that provides primary and secondary clarification, chlorination/dechlorination facilities and post treatment aeration. The facility has a design flow of 1.114 million gallons per day (MGD), an average design peak flow of 2.0 MGD and a maximum plant flow capacity of 9.5 MGD.

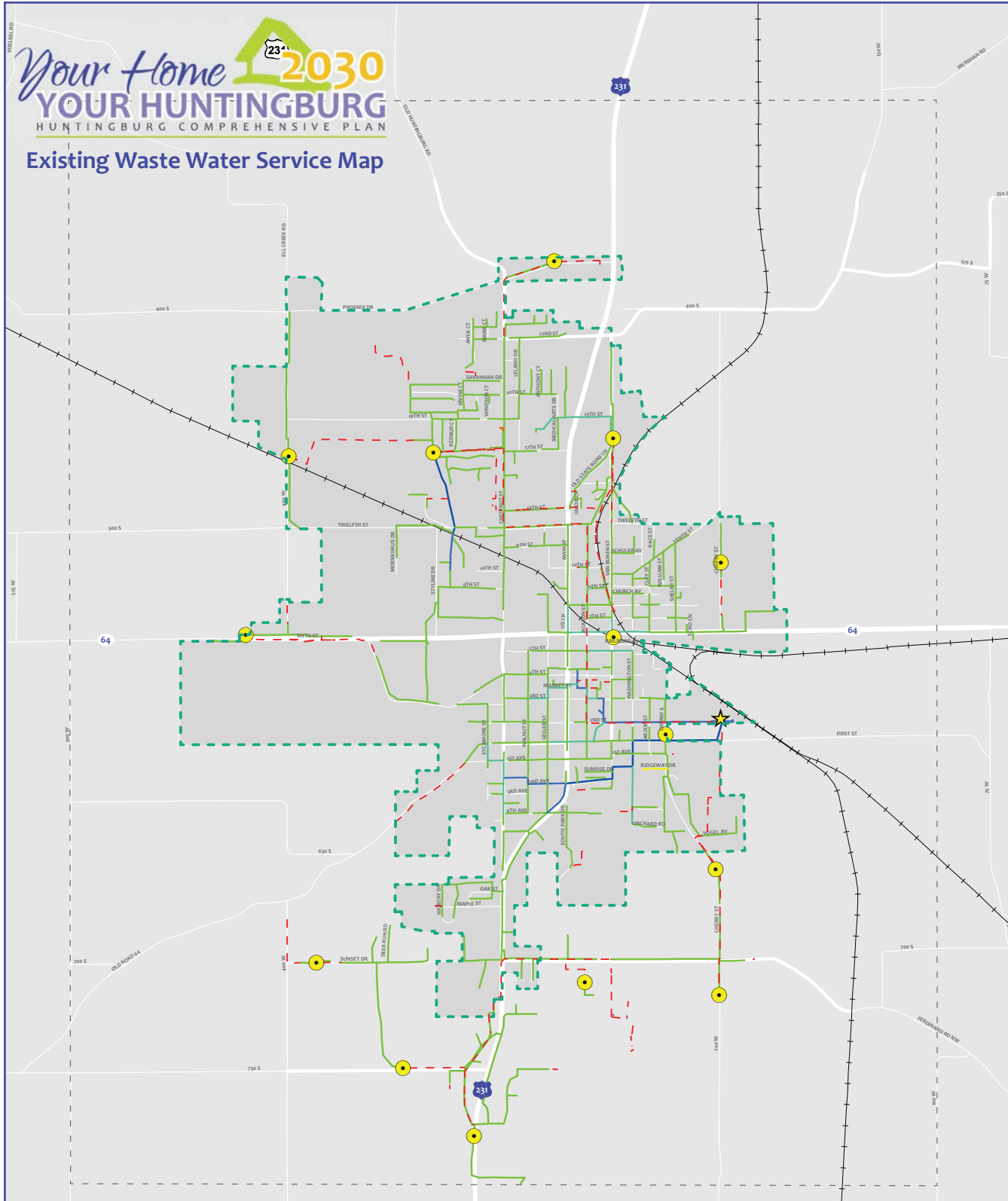
The existing sanitary collection system was constructed primarily in the 1920's and includes over 80,000 LFT of forcemain and 240,000 LFT of gravity sewer. There are also 16 lift stations present within the existing system. The City's largest wastewater producer, Farbest Foods, Inc. is not connected to the City's collection system and operates its own wastewater treatment plant.

As the collection system aged, cracks and failed joints allowed for a significant amount of infiltration, which in turn exceed the wastewater treatment facility's average design peak flow capacity. This resulted in a Interlocutory Agreed Order (1992) which was then superseded with an Agreed Order (2011) between the City of Huntingburg and the Indiana Department of Environmental Management. The Agreed Order stipulated that operations procedures be produced that addressed how times of excess flow were managed as well as submission of a No Feasible Alternatives Analysis for IDEM's review. Additionally, the City was required to produce annual reports which identified a list of sewer improvement projects to reduce wet weather flows to the WWTP. The City's NPDES Permit No. IN 0023124 identifies all bypass / wet weather procedures.

Since the original Interlocutory Agreed Order, the City of Huntingburg has made significant capital investments in its lift stations (both new and old), collection system (replacement and rehabilitation) and treatment plant (capacity increases, flow equalization basins and phosphorous removal). Huntingburg completed the terms of its Agreed Order on July of 2018 and IDEM officially closed the action. Even with IDEM's action officially closed, Huntingburg continues to be proactive in rehabilitating and replacing aged sewers, particularly those that lie within the limits of transportation related improvements.

Through a recent study conducted by Commonwealth Engineers, it was discovered the City will need to undergo an approximately \$20 million upgrade to the wastewater treatment plant. Current capacity is 1.1 MGD, and the upgrade will allow 3.5 MGD, with a peak capacity of 9.5 MGD.

Existing Waste Water Service Map

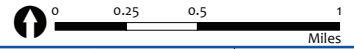


Legend

- Street Centerlines
- 2-mile Fringe Boundary
- Force main
- Rail System
- City Limits
- ★ Waste Water Treatment Plant
- Waste Water Lift Stations

Gravity Main Sizes

— 4 IN	— 8 IN	— 15 IN
— 6 IN	— 10 IN	— 16 IN
— 12 IN	— 27 IN	



Water

The City of Huntingburg receives drinking water through a City-owned water filtration plant as well as the Patoka Lake Regional Water and Sewer District (PLRWSD). The water filtration plant processes water stored in the adjacent 178 acre Huntingburg Lake.

The water filtration plant was constructed in 2002 and has a permitted capacity of 800 GPM. An expansion is currently programmed to increase the water filtration plant's capacity to 1600 GPM by constructing 4 additional filter beds that were planned for in the plant's original design.

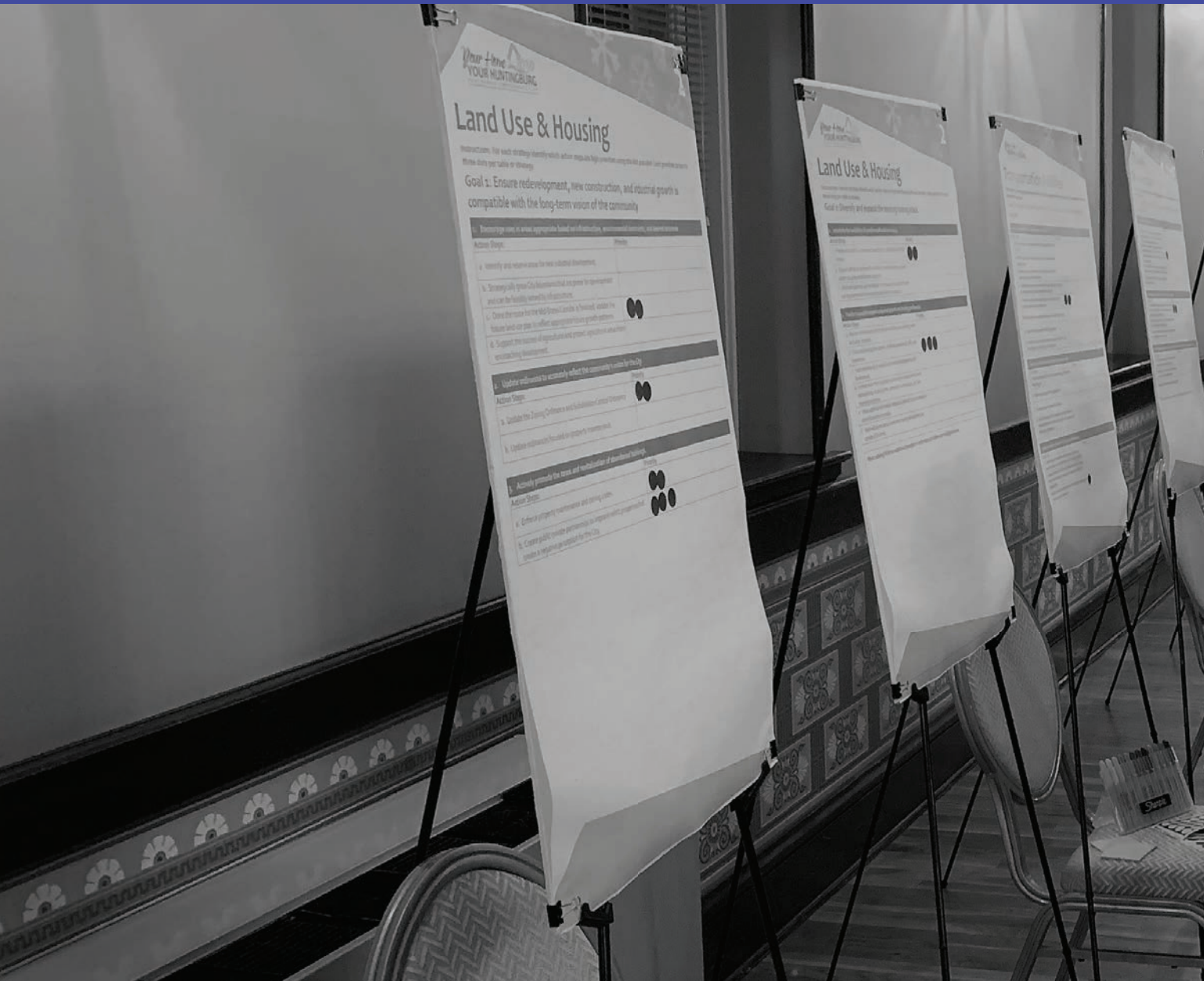
In 1980, the City of Huntingburg connected to PLRSWD's Phase I facilities with a 16" ductile iron transmission main. The Phase I connection primarily feeds the system via the east water storage tank as well as a connection near the intersection of Cherry and 1st Streets. The Phase I connection provides approximately 350,000 GPD to the City of Huntingburg. An additional connection, known as the Phase V connection was constructed in 1986 as a result of low levels in the Huntingburg Lake. The Phase V connection provides approximately 175,000 GPD. The City of Huntingburg has been exploring dredging Huntingburg Lake in order to increase its total storage capacity; however, the construction start date has not yet been determined.

The current average water daily demand is approximately 1.3 MG. Since the construction of the water filtration plant in 2002, the City's water demand has increased from by approximately 3% each year. The usage of the City's largest water user (Farbest Foods, Inc.) has remained largely flat, indicating that the increase in demand is primarily residential.

The water distribution system includes approximately 305,000 LFT of pipe that is of varying age and material. The vast majority of pipe (approximately 95%) is 6" in diameter or greater. Although the system continues to age, it has been well maintained through regular flushing (twice a year), flow testing each hydrant annually in the fall and exercising all valves annually in the spring. The City maintains a 10 year maintenance plan to ensure that water mains are replaced in a timely manner and is also in year 3 of a 5 year plan to convert all meters to smart meter system. Main replacement is also coordinated with planned street rehabilitation and reconstruction projects such as the City's 4th Street Heritage Trail project and INDOT's US 231 pavement rehabilitation project.

With the planned increase of the water filtration plant, the water supply system has the capacity to support growth within and around the City of Huntingburg. Additional analysis will be required once the route of the Mid-States Corridor is known as this could affect planned development patterns and water supply needs.

APPENDIX B: PUBLIC INPUT REPORT





Inside this Section:

Steering Committee

Public Meetings

Focus Group Meetings

Steering Committee Meetings

Throughout the planning process, the City hosted four steering committee meetings. The following summaries showcase the feedback and guidance collected during those meetings.

Committee Meeting #1 7.25.2019

The steering committee met for this first time and the agenda for this meeting included:

- Introduction & Roles
- Planning Overview
- Process Overview
- Existing Demographic and Physical Conditions Highlight
- Group Visioning Exercises
- Homework and Next Steps

The committee discussed their individual response to the exercises completed during the meeting, and identified additional topics that should be explored during the plan development process. These exercises included identifying City assets and challenges, the role of Huntingburg in the region, and other big ideas for the future of the City. The following lists the feedback provided for each discussion topic.



Steering Committee 1: July 25, 2019

What are Huntingburg's Assets?

- Parks and green space (16)
 - Market Street Park
 - Huntingburg City Park
 - Beautiful park facilities with a rich history
 - Sports facilities/Sports
 - League Stadium
- School system (8)
- Corporate employers based here/Strong industry (7)
 - Employment opportunities
- Downtown 4th Street (5)
- Faith community is strong (4)
- Locally controlled utility department (3)
- Engaged public/community involvement (3)
- Festivals and activities/events (3)
- Proximity to tourist attractions (3)
 - Holiday World
 - French Lick
- Entrepreneurship/locally owned businesses (3)
 - Growing entrepreneurship
 - Continued investment by businesses in community
- Youth Center (2)
- Broadband (2)
- Low unemployment rates (2)
- Collaboration among agencies/organizations (2)
- Leadership (2)
- Downtown Huntingburg/Chamber
- Daycare center (2)
- Airport (2)
- Good infrastructure
- Youth leagues and programs
- Youth center
- Healthcare – urgent care and physicians
- Strong young population
- Diversity
- Well engage Hispanic/Latino community
- Character
- Community pride
- Event Center

What are Huntingburg's Challenges?

- Transportation improvements/connectivity (11)
 - Road conditions/Street improvements
 - Sidewalks (connectivity)
 - Connectivity in schools (sidewalks to schools)
 - Walkability
 - Lack of bike/ped trails
 - Regional connectivity
- Increase available workforce – skill-set training (8)
- Housing (7)
 - Workforce/Affordable
 - Single-Family
 - Rental Properties/Apartments
 - Availability of single-family rental homes in good repair
 - Higher end housing
- Retail (7)
 - Stores
 - Restaurants
 - Shopping
 - Entertainment/nightlife
- Hwy 231 property improvements (5)
- Integrating communities (Latinx services/support) (4)
- Flooding issues (3)
- Retaining youth (4)
 - Increasing engagement of those under the age of 30
- Aging healthcare providers (3)
 - Need more physicians
- Vacant buildings on 4th street/Downtown (3)
- Expand/extend infrastructure to support growth (2)
- Lack of incentives for small businesses (2)
- Need More daycare facilities (2)
- Maintenance of parks/public spaces
- Code enforcement
- Addressing poverty levels
- Railroad tracks
- Retiree activities
- Assisted living facilities
- Continue to grow infrastructure to meet growth
- Increasing quality of life
- Youth soccer fields
 - Middle school and high school soccer fields
- Language barrier in community communications – need to hire a Spanish speaking employee
- Increase employment opportunities and wages
- Inadequate parental role models

What is Huntingburg's role in the region?

- Destination for arts & culture experiences/Tourism/sports (7)
- Employment (6)
 - Market Street Park
 - Huntingburg City Park
 - Beautiful park facilities with a rich history
 - Sports facilities/Sports
 - League Stadium
 - Employer of region's residents that pays comfortable living wage
 - Employment – thousands of people commute to Dubois County & Huntingburg for employment because of the high manufacturing opportunity. This plays a huge role to surrounding counties and the lower half of the state.
 - Huntingburg plays a significant role as an employment hub for the region. It should continue to grow this role while/through its key location to multiple transportation assets in the region: road, interstate, air and rail.
 - Employment options
- Diversity (5)
- Community of choice when deciding where to live (4)
- Supporter of locally-owned and Hoosier businesses
- Huntingburg to have a connection with Jasper & Ferdinand
- Providing a foundation for residence/children
- Senior Citizen Destination/living
- Continue our involvement in the Mid-states Corridor
- Support small and large businesses/growth
- Business-friendly climate
- Huntingburg is a great role model of how to dream big and implement changes to make these dreams happen. Too many communities talk about visions and plans for the future and don't follow through. Huntingburg has been successful in coming together to make things happen. It something to be proud of.
- Affordable housing & entertainment
- Event Center is a great asset for trade shows/conventions

Committee Meeting #1 cont.

What is your next BIG IDEA?

- Great industries in the county = we want to be where employees live!
- Youth programming that helps youth envision pathways to a successful future [leadership, career skills/training, philanthropy, STEAM, entrepreneurial skills]
- According to population pyramid, most youth aged 11-14, meaning they are still in school and still able to be reached/influenced about why Huntingburg is a good place to stay, work & live.
- There should be more housing/rental properties available a lot of the Cuban community are traveling from Florida to work at Farbest and move to Jasper because they feel there isn't availability of rental properties. I feel Huntingburg is becoming more diverse and many of the Hispanics moving to this community do not speak English. It would be helpful to have a paid bilingual employee to be able to break the language barrier and help these upcoming community members feel more welcome so they can continue to stay.
- Begin to grow south towards interstate 64. Key infrastructure growth at wastewater and other currently un-available utilities will leverage new hospitality and retail/food establishment near the county-line/interstate. Growth 'near' Huntingburg, but outside its corporate limits has benefits as well.
- We don't have an issue attracting people for employment, but there is an issue for keeping them here with proper housing. Huntingburg needs to focus on expanding affordable housing and rental properties for those commuters. Additionally, look for other way (outside of employment) to make Huntingburg a great choice to live. Things like Market Street Park, local festivals, etc. [local eateries, the event center, hospital-ties/hotels/breweries/wineries, retail opportunities, arts & entertainment, youth programming, mid-state corridor
- Housing options – educational opportunities to learn financial skills – budget, credit, home loans, etc.
- How do we make Huntingburg a place that people choose to come to, live in, shop at, etc. Entertainment?

- Tell the story of Huntingburg better – small-town charm/big-city amenities
- Better utilize event center – need hotel rooms
- Better utilize lake
- Quality of life (schools, entertainment)
- Capitalize on existing and new amenities to become a center for arts, entertainment and recreation
- Mid-state corridor
- Continue to improve quality of life to attract residents
- Address housing/rental issues
- Transportation and walkability routes
- Ways to attract/retain younger adults/families
- Arts & Culture Hub
- Entrepreneurial Destination
- Continue to be a major tourist attraction
- We have huge opportunities in our downtown area – Market Street and 4th Street. We've shown that Market Street has so many uses and are really using it to better our community with new events. I hope that this happened with our 4th Street property!
- Small town charm, big city amenities
- Road connectivity will ensure travel to and from Huntingburg is much easier!



Steering Committee 1: July 25, 2019

Committee Meeting #2 9.25.2019

During the second steering committee meeting, members reviewed and edited the draft vision and goals for the plan. Each plan element included two goals that help achieve the overall vision of the plan. The committee also identified priorities for each plan element goal that would be developed as draft objectives for the plan. Below is a summary of comments and feedback generated during the meeting.

Vision Comments:

- "Industry" or "commerce" instead of business.
- Tourism may be too narrow
- Youth Council should look at this statement and make comments

Land Use & Housing:

- Priorities include the 231 corridor, property maintenance & zoning ordinance update and enforcement, and property re-use.
- Hospitality near the event center is not a priority.
- Focus development (annexation and businesses) near the future Mid State Corridor should be added with a prime focus on bringing people from the corridor to Huntingburg. Floodplain near the MSC is considered a challenge.
- Affordable housing and senior housing should also be emphasized.
- The goal should focus on long-term industrial growth as well.

Infrastructure:

- Meter technology is already in progress.
- Priorities should be sidewalk schools and Niehaus Park.
- Transit hours should be expanded past 5pm
- Stormwater should also be a priority.

Economic Development & Tourism:

- Priorities for this included bringing conferences here through the addition of a hotel, as well as align with the existing school corporation and prioritize student feedback.
- The airport should also be emphasized.
- Utilization of the lake is a priority, as well as little league sports tournaments.
- Remove "downtown" and "tourist" from the goal to broaden it. Add "investment" to goal five.

Quality of Life:

- Priorities should include more activities at the Farmers Market and Market Street Park, soccer fields and other sports facilities, connect more with the Latino Community, expand events through the possibility of a staff person, create a small theatre/ concert hall for productions.
- A shortage of mental health professionals were identified.
- Attraction of professionals to live here was highlighted.
- Create a smart phone application that connects communication of events, programs and community info.
- Goals 7 should be broadened, and goal 8 should include diverse "cultures," activities, and programs.

Committee Meeting #3 10.17.2019

The steering committee held a third meeting to review the updated vision and goal statements, and discuss the plan elements and objectives in greater detail. After reviewing each plan element, committee members were asked to prioritize the corresponding action steps. Broken up into small groups, members then conducted two mapping exercises to identify priority areas for future land use and transportation projects.

During the future land use exercise, committee members identified areas appropriate for growth in the following categories:

- Housing
- Recreational Assets
- Industrial Development
- Mixed-Use
- Commercial
- Agricultural Preservation

Committee members identified pedestrian and vehicular connections that could be made or improved upon during the transportation mapping exercise. Improvements to the roadways that were considered included:

- Safety Enhancements
- Traffic Mobility Improvements
- Access Improvements
- Identification of gateway sign locations

Committee Meeting #4 01.16.20

At the beginning of the year, the fourth steering committee met to discuss the implementation plan and update the plan priorities as seen fit by the committee. As well as editing the action steps and prioritization, the committee also provided additional partners, tools, and resources that could be used during the implementation process. Next steps for the committee included the review of the comprehensive plan and providing comments and edits before the public review period for the plan document.

Focus Group Meetings Summary

The City of Huntingburg hosted six focus group meetings/ key-person interviews on Wednesday, October 3, 2019 in order to round out public engagement in the first phase of the planning process with groups that were not well-represented in the public meeting, online survey, or the Steering Committee. These groups included the Mayor's Youth Council (high school students at South Ridge High School), City Department Heads, Elected & Appointed Officials, the Latino Community, and Community Service Organizations. The following summary provides highlights and major themes that emerged during these sessions.



Mayor's Youth Council

- Emphasize tourism through the implementation of a Sports Complex and hotel connected to the event center.
- Improve vacant and blighted buildings along the Main Street Corridor.
- Better enforce property maintenance and address key dilapidated properties throughout the City.
- Update the City's ordinances.
- Identify areas for potential annexation based on where the future Mid-State Corridor route, logical utility expansion/capacity, and avoiding floodplain and mining areas.
- Enhance alternative transportation in the City by developing trails and sidewalk connections to the Schools, Niehaus Park, and the City of Jasper. Also consider a shuttle service on weekends or special events from League Stadium to Downtown. Bike racks should be considered throughout the community as well.
- Implement the new senior center.
- Encourage entrepreneurship in Huntingburg.
- Support expansion of the Huntingburg Airport and industrial development nearby.
- Identify areas for future industrial development and housing.
- Utilize Teen Outback for High School activities after 10 pm. More gathering spaces and entertainment options during evening hours are desired for High school students. More teen activities are desired in general.
- Events are appreciated and there is a desire for additional events and activities throughout the entire year. A limited supply of volunteers was identified as a challenge to this. Integration of Latino artists, musicians, and food was also identified.
- Communication barriers – such as lack of Spanish-speaking or bi-lingual employees as well as translated documents were identified as a challenge.
- The gateways of the City should be enhanced because they are the first impression for visitors.
- Infrastructure and internet are considered to be in good shape at the current time.
- Consider creating an advisory council of a 30-45 age group who might be able to navigate the attraction of young professionals and families.
- A splash pad may be needed on the Northside.
- More starter homes from \$100k-\$130k are missing, in addition to mid-range homes \$150k-\$200k.
- Community feels "divided" by the North, South and rural areas.
- Additional fire and police personnel may be needed if population grows. Additional equipment such as a fire truck and physical locations/space may also be needed.
- Digital platforms may need to be reviewed to become more user-friendly. Utility set-up should be available online.
- Connectivity and land use planning should be considered for the Mid-State Corridor.
- Additional parking and restrooms should be included as part of Market Street Park Phase II.
- A Façade Improvement Program should be considered to incentivize property improvement along 4th Street.
- Traffic congestion near the school may require a future turn lane.
- Work ethic and workforce attraction was considered a need.

Public Open House #1 7.25.2019

The City of Huntingburg hosted a public open house on Thursday, July 25th from 5:30-7:30 pm at Old Town Hall. Approximately 19 people signed-in during the public open house, although not all participants recorded their attendance. The public open house had four stations throughout the room, with the first providing an overview of the planning process, scope of the project, and highlights of the demographic conditions.

The second station asked participants to identify why Huntingburg is their homes, what should be changed, and what should be preserved. The following provides a list of the feedback collected during the meeting.



Community members provide feedback on future development in Huntingburg

Huntingburg is Your Home Because...

- Small town safe feeling where good jobs, good food, and good fellowship exists.
- Family
- Community support
- Pride
- Welcoming
- Diversity
- I choose to live here!
- Love our beautiful facilities – parks, sports complexes and events – 4th Fridays, Latino Fest, etc.
- Disc golf & the pool
- Close-knit community
- It is where my family is!
- Like going over the big bridge – Joseph Age 5

What should be Changed?

- Need city-wide recycling [3]
- Whatever it takes to attract and keep the younger population [2]
- Alleyways need to be cleaned up and lighted [2]
- Children's center, maker space, science center, garden
- Playground on the North side
- Sidewalks to access schools
- More fun places to go
- Housing market & rental units
- Clean-up residential along 231 and main streets. Tear down or clean empty buildings and business-es
- Sidewalks on 12th Street and Chestnut by factories
- Bike lanes
- More sidewalks

What should be Preserved?

- Transit system [3]
- Parks [3]
- Christmas Stroll [2]
- Car Shows [2]
- Shopping district and eatery [2]
- Concerts at Market Street Park [2]
- Beautiful parks and sports facilities [2]
- Small town feel/sense of community
- Herbstfest
- Garden Gate
- Disc Golf Course
- Library [2]
- Keep growing and bring people together = community pride! Thanks for all your work and change
- Community events – Latino Fest Friday Concerts, 5-5-5 events
- Our beautiful parks keep sharing ideas to make use of these spaces
- Willingness to work together

The third station asked a variety of questions for the participant to think about. These included challenges related to connectivity, community programs, and barriers to new development. Participants were also asked to write something they would build in Huntingburg and what they thought the City's role is in the region. The following provides a summary of the feedback collected for each question.

What are some of the challenges that Huntingburg should plan for as it relates to Connectivity?

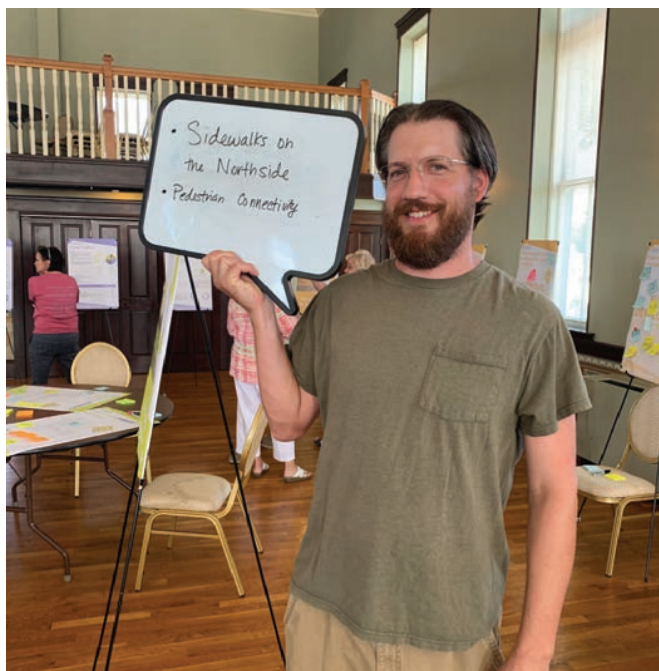
- Safe routes to schools (pedestrian and bicycle) – 3
- Mid-state corridor [2]
- Advertise the current transit system
- Sidewalks – 6th Street to Chestnut, North Chestnut 6th Street to 19th Street, 4th Ave from Hwy 231 to Chestnut, Along Hwy 231 from 1st St to 4th Ave.
- Connect the top attractions with sidewalks
- Provide more options of transportation and help for the elderly for doctor appointments, grocery shopping, park outings, etc. Also, for new comers without transportation
- Better sidewalks
- Complete and connect trails
- How to bring people to the new beautiful downtown to shop in the stores.
- Comprehensive trail system connecting north, south, east and west ends of town.

What are some of the challenges that Huntingburg should plan for as it relates to Community Programs?

- Community Theatre – Community Theatre Group [3] Marketing Director is needed for the whole community
- Programs to connect the Hispanic community to our town
- Southridge HS Band Concerts
- Make Parks more attractive
- More library programs for all ages
- Community classes for kids and adults
- Neighborhood watch programs
- More events at parks/Market Street. Connect with school's music and theater programs in areas. Concerts and art festivals
- Create a multi-cultural center
- Encourage more activities around Market Street Park
- More kids' activities and groups
- Indoor walking facility
- More library programs
- Expand the youth centers programming and support
- Encourage arts and crafts
- More downtown events – more \$ to promote tourism
- A YMCA type facility is needed – no public exercise facility here

What is Huntingburg's role in the region?

- Arts and cultural hub
- Arts and tourism – Market League Stadium “tours” and shopping
- Friendly to new industries that are environmentally safe
- Tourism
- Small town with high quality of life
- Welcoming to new businesses
- Could be a tourism destination
- Highlight Latino population
- Good pool of hard workers
- The place to live
- Diversity “A City Like No Other” – Friendly
- Local tourism with rich history



Community member provides their BIG IDEA for Huntingburg

If you were to develop anything in Huntingburg, it would be?

- Old general style store (3)
- More restaurants (3)
- Technology Industry (3)
- Craft brewery or winery with outdoor seating and outdoor activities (corn hole, fire pits and smores, etc.)
- Food trucks?
- We need a mall in the City.
- More clean energy
- Housing
- Bookstore/Coffee Shop
- Retail
- Shopping
- Apartments
- Children and teen center
- Open splash pad
- Huntingburg Museum
- Kids playground in Market Street Park
- We need more retail shops for growth
- Greater variety of shopping opportunities
- Generate indoor space for community during winter for concerts, skiing, dancing, etc. that is free
- More public restrooms
- More median and up housing needed
- Fitness center with exercise equipment, batting cages, indoor basketball courts, etc.
- Better equipped soccer fields for youth, SMS, SHS
- Bed and breakfast
- YMCA
- Craft brewery or winery hangout
- Housing development
- Performing arts center
- Nice restaurants
- A hotel
- Winery
- Place that offers art/adult education classes
- More parking areas around Market Street Park and 4th Street downtown
- New age library/medical/cultural center within/near Market Street Park
- Fun spaces – mini golf, arcade, recreation center
- Business to increase tourism
- Bike lane or bike trails
- Build a stage area at H. city park for festivals “permanent” to encourage groups to use it.

What are the barriers to new development and/or economic development?

- Quality housing in all price ranges
- Small business development and support
- Give economic incentives to get another sit-down restaurant in town.
- Bring more retail stores to 4th Street
- Overlay of districts
- Lack of incentives for small businesses
- Be generous with initial incentives
- Lack of housing for commuters
- Incentives for small businesses
- Attract some street, car vendors on times of public activities at the park venues.

The final station asked participant to think about what's next for the City of Huntingburg. Participants were asked to write their big idea for the future and the following provides a summary of the feedback collected.

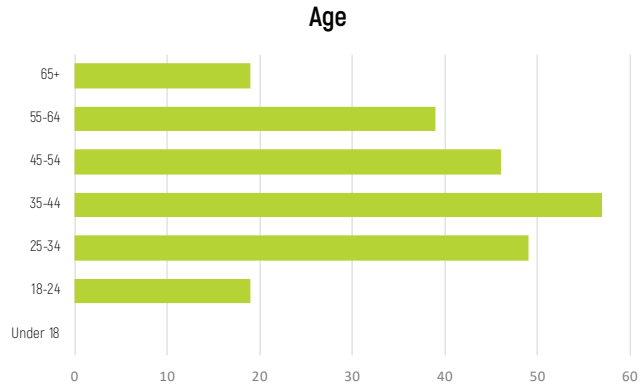
What is your Big Idea?

- Redevelop 231 – North of Railroad Tracks
- Parks at 12th Street – Joseph Age 5
- Expand the airport – hotels, commercial center, etc.
- Tourist destination – i.e. Nashville, IN, New Harmony, IN
- Seasonal Ice Rink
- Regional Service Center for equipment like Cat McAllister
- To have at least three different ways in an out of Town to keep traffic flow when there is a need for construction
- Kids play area near Hunters Crossing & event center
- Community space exercise place with indoor batting cages, yoga, weights, café/coffee shop would be cool to include library
- 9-hole course – disc golf
- Hotel
- How about an ordinance to stop loud cars?
- How about a one-way street on Washington?
- Give some more incentives for new restaurants
- Children's Center (activity) – indoor play

Public Survey #1

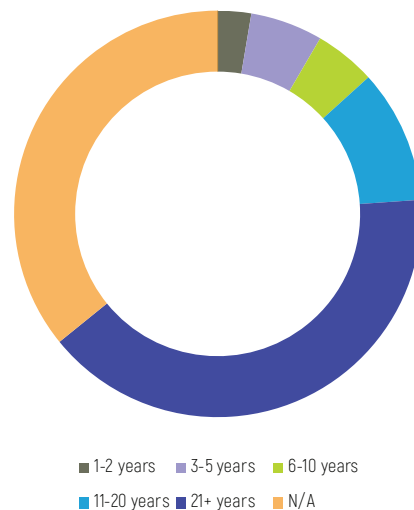
In order to reach the most possible residents for input it was important to provide alternative methods for public engagement. Online forms of engagement offered an outlet for this, and in the form of a Facebook page, project website, and online survey, Huntingburg residents were able to learn about the process and offer their thoughts and ideas. The following provides a brief summary of the feedback collected from the 273 participants.

- 56% of participants live within the City of Huntingburg
- 40% have been a resident of the City for more than 20 years
- 56% of participants either work at home or travel less than 10 miles to their place of employment
- 26% of participants have a median household income over \$100,000
- 30% stated the reason Huntingburg is their home is due to their job/career, while 26% answered it was family
- The participants found the top two assets to leverage in the next ten years should be Existing Businesses & Employers (47%) and Quality of Place/Character (37%)
- The top two priorities which should be addressed in the next 10 years are Redevelopment of Vacant or Dilapidated Buildings (46%) and Population Attraction & Retention (31%)
- The following are very important to the quality of life of Huntingburg residents:
 - Job Opportunities (85%)
 - Municipal Services (police, fire, utilities) (82%)
 - Housing Options (71%)
 - Youth/Family Activities (70%)
 - Attractiveness of the Community/Character (69%)
- 54% of respondents would like to see transportation and connectivity enhancements in Huntingburg through Improved Roadways, 20% through dedicated trails for bikers and pedestrians
- 26% of participants stated the preferred type of development they would like to see is Local/Small Businesses

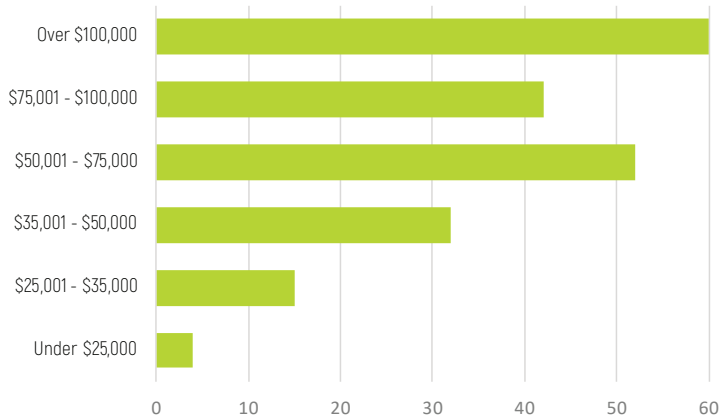


- Some of the barriers for economic developing frequently mentioned in the survey were inadequate infrastructure, lack of available workforce, limited housing, and funding for small businesses
- Many participants expressed the need for the city to focus on improving youth programming and amenities, increasing transportation options, switching over to curbside trash and recycling, and creating additional programs and spaces for healthy active lifestyles
- Respondents tended to think Huntingburg's role in the region should be providing quality amenities and job opportunities while retaining its small town culture
- Bringing in new businesses and entertainment options, continued maintenance of city infrastructure, attracting a regional business/industry, and promoting city beautification were identified as being the next big projects the city should focus on

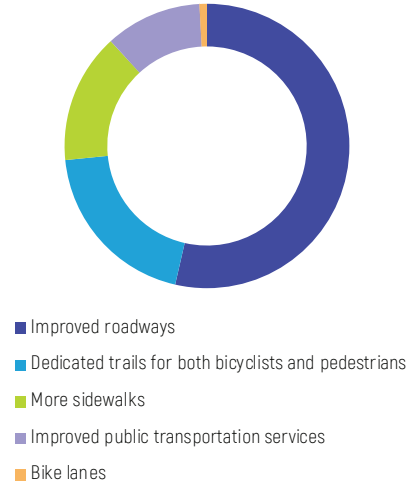
40% Have Lived in City for Over 21 Years



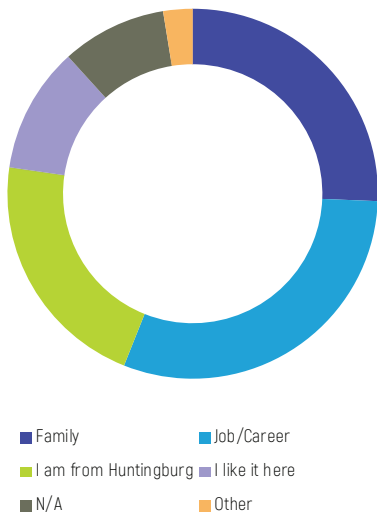
56% Lived in Huntingburg



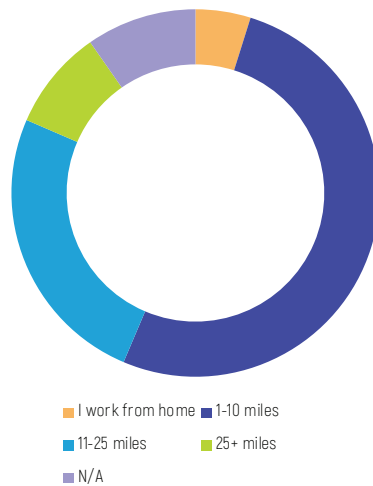
54% Want Roadway Improvements for Transportation Enhancements



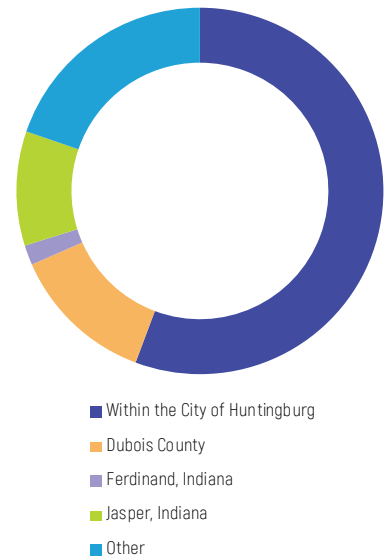
30% live in Huntingburg due to a job/career



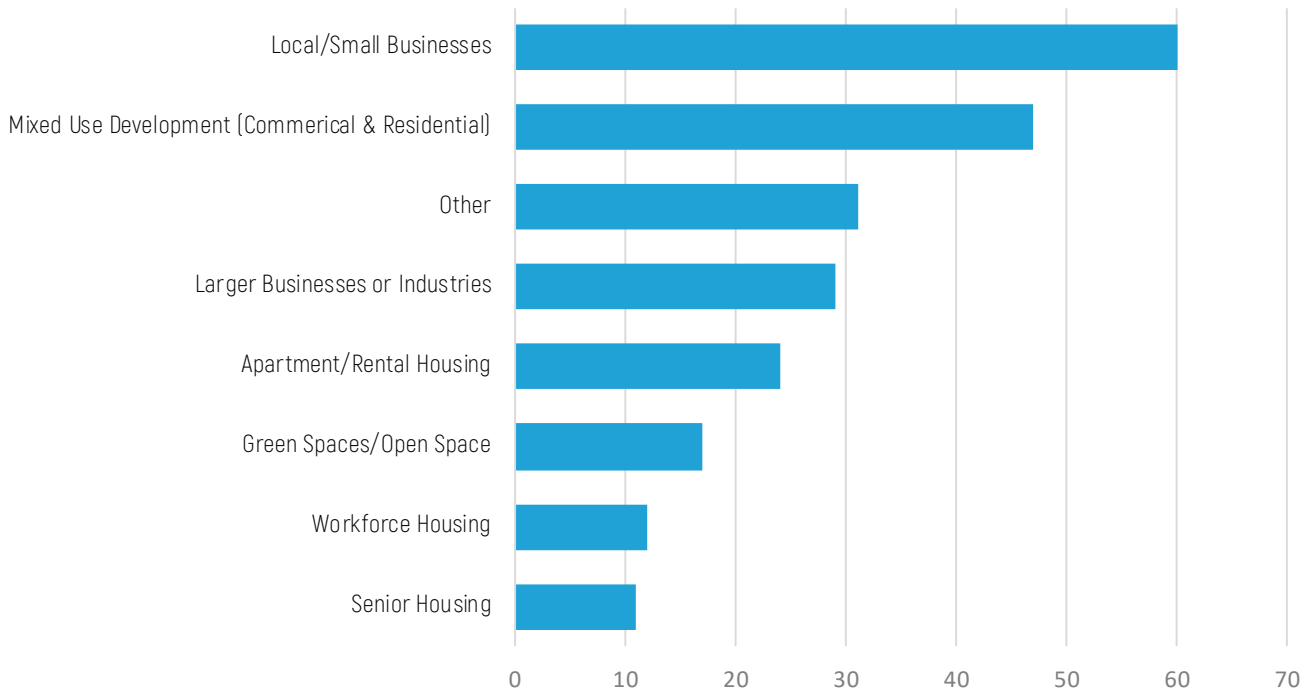
56% Work at Home or Commute Less than 10 Miles



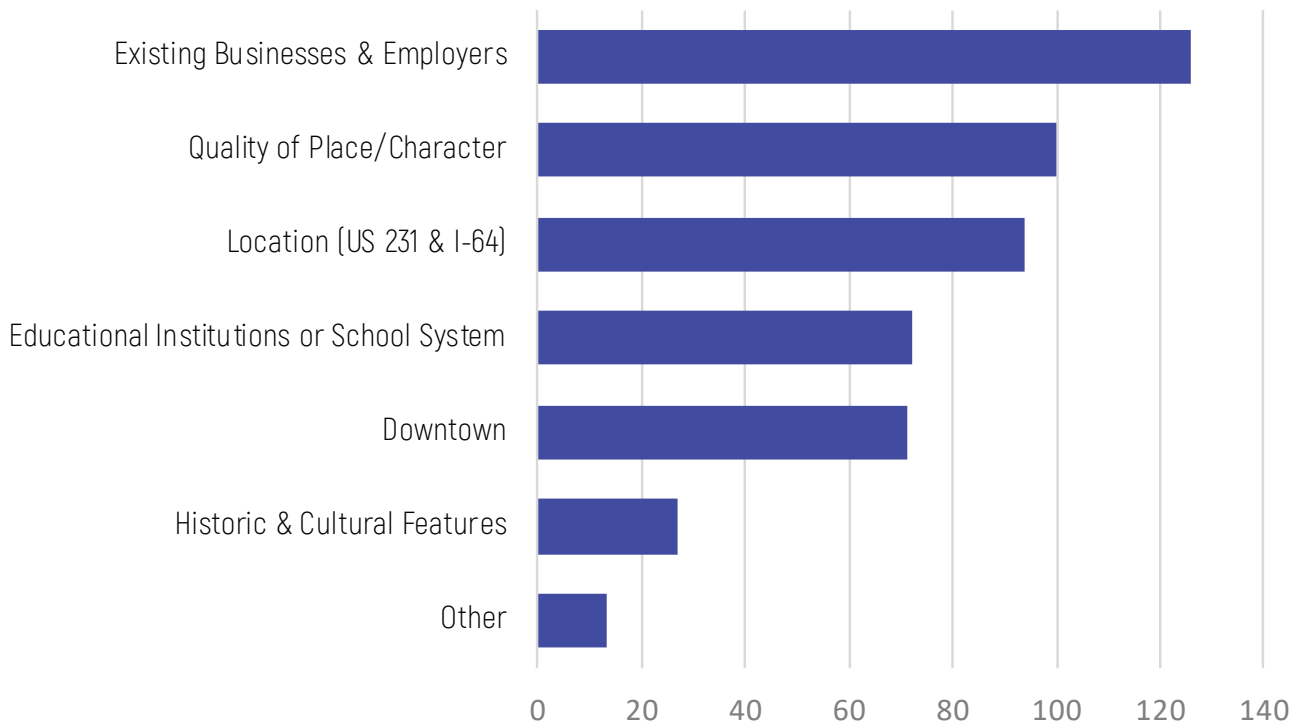
56% Lived in Huntingburg



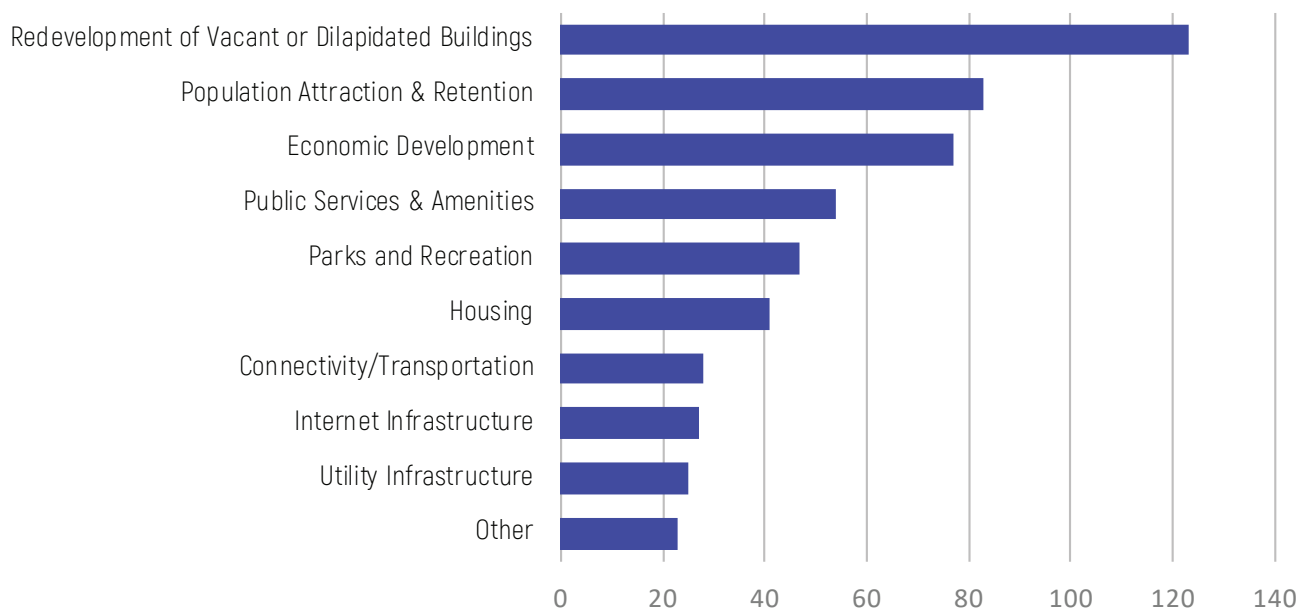
Top Assets to Leverage



Demanded Development



Top Priorities to Address



Very Important to Quality of Life



Public Workshop #2

The second public workshop was held on Thursday, November 7, 2019 at Old Town Hall from 6:30-8:00 PM. Approximately 16 people signed into the workshop, with others in attendance as well. The workshop was an open house format where attendees were asked to provide feedback on the draft vision statement, goals, and objectives of the plan. Participants were also asked to prioritize the objectives. The following identifies the objectives that attendees identified as priorities at this particular workshop.

- Update ordinances focused on property maintenance.
- Enforce property maintenance and zoning codes.
- Create public-private partnerships to improve select properties that create a negative perception for the City.
- Support efforts to improve the conditions of existing homes such as owner-occupied rehabilitation programs.
- Invest in sidewalk connections and safety improvements to local schools, neighborhoods, and downtown.
- Continue to expand on the downtown parking initiative with an updated downtown parking study and plan to support visitor attractions and businesses.
- Maintain the condition and level of service for existing roadways and other transportation infrastructure.
- Support Destination Huntingburg, Huntingburg Merchants Association, and the Chamber to encourage uses such as retail, restaurants, entertainment, nightlife, and other tourist destinations.
- Attract hotel and hospitality development near the Event Center.
- Expand youth programming that helps youth envision career and trade pathways to a successful future (leadership, career skills/training, STEAM, entrepreneurial skills, etc.).
- Enhance and market local incentives for small businesses.
- Work with the County to create a program to incentivize young professionals to move to Huntingburg and Dubois County after college or high school.
- Work with partners to support health service needs such as the attraction of physicians to the City or substance abuse.
- Actively recruit volunteers to help serve event needs.



Station 1 of the Second Public Workshop



Attendees prioritizing objectives

Public Survey #2

In addition to collecting feedback on the draft vision statement, goals, and objectives during the public workshop, a second public survey was launched to increase feedback on the various plan elements. Approximately 127 people responded to the survey, where participants were asked to provide feedback on the vision statement and goals, and prioritize the objectives. A majority of all participants agreed with the vision statement and goals as written, and the following bullet point list outlines the objectives that were identified as priorities (50% or higher).

- Support efforts to improve the condition of existing homes such as owner-occupied rehabilitation programs.
- Monitor rental housing units to ensure landlords are meeting health and safety standards.
- Invest in sidewalk connections and safety improvement to local schools, neighborhoods, and downtown.
- Maintain the condition and level of service for existing roadways and other transportation infrastructure.
- Improve the convenience of the city-wide recycling program.
- Expand youth programming that helps youth envision career and trade pathways to a successful future (leadership, career skills/training, STEAM, entrepreneurial skills, etc.).
- Enhance and market local incentives for small businesses.
- Actively target and attract higher wage jobs.
- Utilize the Huntingburg Lake for more water activities such as kayaking.

Plan Commission Presentation

A representative from the project team presented the *Your Home, Your Huntingburg Comprehensive Plan* at the February 24th Planning Commission meeting. During the discussion, a minor edit to the Future Land Use was requested as well as additional information regarding the Mid-States Corridor transportation project.

Public Recommendation and Hearing

The Huntingburg Plan Commission held a public hearing on March 9, 2020 to make a favorable recommendation to the City Council to adopt the Comprehensive Plan. The Huntingburg City Council adopted the *Your Home, Your Huntingburg Comprehensive Plan* by Resolution on April 14, 2020.

**CITY OF HUNTINGBURG PLAN COMMISSION
RESOLUTION NO. 2020 - 01**

**A RESOLUTION OF THE PLAN COMMISSION OF
THE CITY OF HUNTINGBURG APPROVING THE
2020 COMPREHENSIVE PLAN UPDATE
AND RECOMMENDING APPROVAL TO THE COMMON COUNCIL**

WHEREAS, Indiana Code 36-7-4-500, *et. seq.* empowers the City of Huntingburg Plan Commission to prepare a Comprehensive Plan for the promotion of public health, safety, morals, convenience, order, or the general welfare and for the sake of efficiency and economy in the process of development and to make periodic updates thereto; and

WHEREAS, Indiana Code 36-7-4-500, *et. seq.* authorizes a Comprehensive Plan to include a variety of elements, including but not limited to a statement of objectives for the future development of the jurisdiction; a statement of policy for the land use development of the jurisdiction; a statement of policy for the development of public ways, public places, public lands, public structures, and public utilities; and any factors that are part of the physical, economic, and social characteristics of the City of Huntingburg; and

WHEREAS, the City of Huntingburg has hired Taylor Siefker & Williams Design Group to prepare an updated Comprehensive Plan for the City of Huntingburg (Your Home. Your Huntingburg 2020-2030); and

WHEREAS, the Huntingburg Plan Commission has reviewed the process and completed study of the updated Comprehensive Plan as prepared by Taylor Siefker & Williams Design Group; and

WHEREAS, after due notice the City of Huntingburg Plan Commission conducted a public hearing on March 9, 2020 at which it invited and received public input, comment and questions on the proposed updated Comprehensive Plan in accordance with Indiana Code 36-7-4-507, *et. seq.*; and

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED BY THE ADVISORY PLAN COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF HUNTINGBURG, INDIANA that the 2020 updated Comprehensive Plan is hereby determined to be in the best interests of the citizens of Huntingburg, Indiana; and

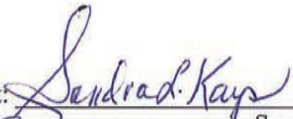
BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the 2020 updated Comprehensive Plan attached hereto and made a part hereof as Exhibit A, is in all respects approved, certified to the Common Council of the City of Huntingburg, and recommended for approval to the Common Council as the guide for the future growth and development for the City of Huntingburg, Indiana.

PASSED AND ADOPTED BY THE ADVISORY PLAN COMMISSION THE CITY
OF HUNTINGBURG, INDIANA ON THIS 9th DAY OF March, 2020.

HUNTINGBURG PLAN COMMISSION

By: 

Nicholas Stovris President

Attest: 

Sandra L. Kaye, Secretary

Paed

**CITY OF HUNTINGBURG, INDIANA
RESOLUTION NO. 2020 - 16**

**A RESOLUTION OF THE COMMON COUNCIL OF
THE CITY OF HUNTINGBURG APPROVING THE
2020 COMPREHENSIVE PLAN UPDATE**

WHEREAS, Indiana Code 36-7-4-500, *et. seq.* empowers the City of Huntingburg Plan Commission to prepare a Comprehensive Plan for the promotion of public health, safety, morals, convenience, order, or the general welfare and for the sake of efficiency and economy in the process of development and to make periodic updates thereto; and

WHEREAS, Indiana Code 36-7-4-500, *et. seq.* authorizes a Comprehensive Plan to include a variety of elements, including but not limited to a statement of objectives for the future development of the jurisdiction; a statement of policy for the land use development of the jurisdiction; a statement of policy for the development of public ways, public places, public lands, public structures, and public utilities; and any factors that are part of the physical, economic, and social characteristics of the City of Huntingburg; and

WHEREAS, the Huntingburg Plan Commission, in conjunction with Taylor Siefker & Williams Design Group, has undertaken a study to update the Comprehensive Plan for the City of Huntingburg (Your Home. Your Huntingburg 2020-2030); and

WHEREAS, after due notice the Huntingburg Plan Commission conducted a public hearing on March 9, 2020 at which it invited and received public input, comment and questions on the proposed updated Comprehensive Plan in accordance with Indiana Code 36-7-4-507, *et. seq.*; and

WHEREAS, the City of Huntingburg Plan Commission did certify the updated Comprehensive Plan with a unanimous vote and forwarded the updated Comprehensive Plan to the Common Council of the City of Huntingburg with a favorable recommendation (Plan Commission Resolution No. 2020-01).

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED BY THE COMMON COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF HUNTINGBURG, INDIANA that the updated 2020 Comprehensive Plan, as attached hereto and made a part hereof as Exhibit A, is hereby in all respects approved as the guide for the future growth and development for the City of Huntingburg, Indiana.


PASSED AND ADOPTED BY THE COMMON COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF HUNTINGBURG, INDIANA ON THIS 14th DAY OF April, 2020.

COMMON COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF HUNTINGBURG, INDIANA

By: 
Dennis W. Spinner, Presiding Officer

Attest: 
Thomas A. Dippel, Clerk Treasurer

Presented by me, the undersigned Clerk-Treasurer of the City of Huntingburg, to the Mayor of said City for his approval on the 14 day of April, 2020.


Thomas A. Dippel, Clerk-Treasurer

Approved by me, the undersigned Mayor of said City on the ____ day of _____, 2020, at 6:45 o'clock P.M.


Dennis W. Spinner, Mayor

Your Home  **2030**
YOUR HUNTINGBURG
HUNTINGBURG COMPREHENSIVE PLAN
