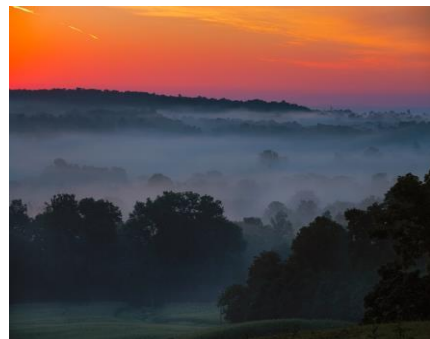


Washington Township



Comprehensive Plan

August 2024

This is a draft copy for review and editing purposes

Table of Contents

Table of Contents	2
List of Figures	4
Letter From Chairman	6
Resolution for Adoption of Comprehensive Plan	8
Committee Members and Volunteer Assistance	10
Introduction	11
Purpose and Use of a Comprehensive Plan	11
Why Adopt a Comprehensive Plan?	11
Location and Planning Area	12
History	14
Demographics	16
Population	16
Age and Gender	17
Education and Income	19
Housing	20
Land Capability	22
Climate	22
Topography	22
Soils	24
Floodplains and Wetlands	27
Groundwater	29
Infrastructure	33
Central Water and Sewer Service	33
Power Distribution Service	34
Internet	34
Roads	35
Community Services	37
Township Government	37
Township Zoning	38
Township Funds	39
Law Enforcement	39
Fire and EMS Services	39
Health and Human Services	40
Schools	41
Local Libraries	43

Parks and Recreation	44
Economic Development	46
Economy and Employment	46
Community Engagement	48
Demographic	48
Vision	50
Survey Conclusion	54
Land Use Recommendations	55
Agriculture	55
Residential	55
Industrial	56

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List of Figures

Figure 1: Washington Township Location Map.....	12
Figure 2: Washington Township Population 2000-2020	16
Figure 3: Area Populations by Decade (1940-2020).....	17
Figure 4: Washington Township Population By Age Group	18
Figure 5: Population By Gender	18
Figure 6: Education Attainment.....	19
Figure 7: Household Income.....	19
Figure 8: Home Value for Owner-occupied Housing Units.....	20
Figure 9: Housing Units	21
Figure 10: Prime Farmland Map	23
Figure 11: Slope Requirements for Various Land Uses	24
Figure 12: Washington Township Soil Map.....	25
Figure 13: FEMA 100 Year Floodplain.....	28
Figure 14: Ground Water Vulnerability Map.....	30
Figure 15: Generalized Land Use.....	32
Figure 16: Existing Central Water in Utica Village	34
Figure 17: AASHTO Safe Stopping Sight Distance.....	35
Figure 18: Driveway Spacing Requirements for Classified Roads in Licking County	35
Figure 19: County Roads in Washington Township	36
Figure 20: Washington Township Roads.....	36
Figure 21: Washington Township Government	37
Figure 22: Washington Township New Builds	38
Figure 23: Township Funds Distribution	39
Figure 24: Rehabilitation Services and Centers	40
Figure 25: Hospitals	41
Figure 26: North Fork Schools Enrollment	42
Figure 27: Area Libraries	43
Figure 28: Area Churches.....	43
Figure 29: Area Clubs and Organizations.....	44
Figure 30: Area Parks.....	44
Figure 31: Businesses Located in Washington Township	47
Figure 32: Township Age Results	48
Figure 33: Length of Establishment in Township Results	49
Figure 34: Commute to Work Results	49
Figure 35: Draw to Township Results	50
Figure 36: Economic Development Survey Results.....	51
Figure 37: Public Service Updates/Additions Results.....	52
Figure 38: Development Concern Results.....	53
Figure 39: Zoning Regulations Results	54
Figure 40: Future Land Use Map.....	57

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Letter From Chairman

Washington Township
Comprehensive Planning Committee
Licking County, Ohio

August 2024

Dear Residents of Washington Township:

In October 2023, the Washington Township Zoning Inspector held an open meeting with township residents about comprehensive planning. From this meeting the Washington Township Comprehensive Planning Committee was formed. The purpose of this committee was to update the township's Comprehensive Plan. The below mission statement was adopted by the committee to help ensure that decisions were made in line with the betterment of the township.

“Our mission is to update the Comprehensive Plan for Washington Township, Licking County, by prioritizing the preservation of its natural beauty, agriculture, and rural history, and to protect and improve the health, safety, and values of the community through the establishment of intentional and logical development recommendations.”

This committee held several public meetings and conducted a township survey. There were also outside specialists who presented data about the township to have the best information available to develop this plan before it is presented to the residents and the Trustees.

I would like to thank the members of the Washington Township Comprehensive Planning Committee, the Washington Township Trustees, and the outside specialists for their efforts in the development of this plan. I believe that this plan will be an important tool in achieving the land use goals expressed by township residents, maintaining a rural character and managing future growth and development.

Sincerely,

Justin Doup
Chairperson- Washington Township Comprehensive Planning Committee

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Resolution for Adoption of Comprehensive Plan

*Add scan of signed resolution

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Committee Members and Volunteer Assistance

Members of the Comprehensive Planning Committee consisted of Township residents, Township Officials, and volunteers from boards and committees within the county.

Members and Volunteers

Justin Doup, Zoning Inspector
Sam Parsons, Trustee
Nelson Smith, Trustee
Rex Stevenson, Trustee
Nancy Coad
Beth Dyke
Bill Dyke
Susan Hatch
John Martinsen
Joseph Merrill
Ikeya Morning
Ben Posey
Ron Thompson
David Troyer

Kristy Hawthorne, Licking County Soil and Water
Kyle Seitz, Licking County Soil and Water
Bryce Ramsey, Licking County Prosecutor

Introduction

In most communities, whether at the municipal, township, or county level, the Comprehensive Plan is not a document that the average resident frequently references. Most often, the local zoning resolution generates more interest than the Comprehensive Plan because of the immediate and tangible effects that zoning creates. However, when properly designed and implemented, the Comprehensive Plan can serve as a highly effective and influential tool for any community.

Purpose and Use of a Comprehensive Plan

A Comprehensive Plan is, as its name indicates, a plan for a community's future that attempts to consider all local and regional factors. It evaluates the state of the community by taking inventory of current demographics, infrastructure, services, and physical characteristics, as well as by assessing the needs and concerns of its residents. The plan then incorporates this information into a series of explicitly stated goals, objectives, and recommendations to be realized by a particular date or within a given time frame, such as twenty years or the year 2045.

Many of the recommendations within the plan are visualized through the Future Land Use Map, a document that indicates where types of land uses have been recommended within the community. It should be emphasized that the Future Land Use Map is not a zoning map; rather, it is a collection of recommendations. An area on the Future Land Use Map that has been recommended for industrial use, for example, has not been rezoned and will not necessarily host an industrial use in the future. The Future Land Use Map and the Comprehensive Plan are guides that should be considered and observed by local officials when making decisions concerning the community.

Why Adopt a Comprehensive Plan?

With or without a Comprehensive Plan, local officials should base their decisions on what they perceive to be best for the community's future. But how can officials demonstrate that these decisions are neither arbitrary nor biased, and that they do in fact represent the community's best interest? A Comprehensive Plan is a legally and locally adopted document, and it is formulated by a committee of residents using public input. As such, courts have consistently upheld decisions that are based on the recommendations of a Comprehensive Plan. In fact, Ohio law goes as far as to necessitate comprehensive planning for townships that implement zoning. According to Chapter 519.02 of the Ohio Revised Code, "For the purpose of promoting the public health, safety, and morals, the board of township trustees may in accordance with a Comprehensive Plan regulate by resolution the...uses of land for trade, industry, residence, recreation, or other purposes in the unincorporated territory of such township..."

Many communities regard comprehensive planning as unnecessary until there is some evidence that change is imminent. Given the change that Washington Township is anticipated to see, due to the new manufacturing plants in western Licking County, updating the current document will help better plan for the future.

Location and Planning Area

Washington Township is a mostly rural township that occupies approximately 22 square miles in north-central Licking County (See Figure 1). Washington Township borders Knox County to the north, Burlington and McKean Townships to the west, Newton Township to the south, and Eden Township to the east. The majority of the Village of Utica is located in the northwest corner of Washington Township. Several other cities including Newark, Mt. Vernon and Columbus are easily accessible to the planning area.

Figure 1: Washington Township Location Map



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History

Washington Township was first settled in 1808 and was organized in 1812. The first known occupants of Washington Township were the Mound Builders. Evidence of Hopewell and Adena artifacts along with several earthen and stone mounds were found throughout the township. The largest mounds were located south of Utica between the Village and Lake Fork Licking River.

The Native Americans had generally moved further north and to the west when the first settlers moved into the township. In 1808, Joseph Conrad and his wife Jane Butcher Conrad of Virginia purchased a farm in northern Washington Township near the Licking-Knox County line. Between 1808 and 1810 other early settlers followed. Then in 1812 after enough settlers had arrived, Washington Township was organized.

Two of the township's earliest settlers, Maj. William Robertson, and his brother James, purchased land upon which Utica now stands in 1810. In the spring of 1811, they constructed an original mill upon the site of the present mill. In 1810 Major Robertson laid out the only village in the township and it was first called Wilmington. When the population reached 100 residents in 1817, the village applied for a post office. It was necessary to change the name because there was already another town in Ohio named Wilmington in Clark County. To obtain a post office, the new name chosen for the village was Utica. The post office was established in 1820. Another early service provided to the village and the township was a school. The first one room schoolhouse was erected around 1814 on Major Robertson's land.

Joseph Conrad organized the first church in the township in 1810. It was a Methodist church, and it continues in Utica as the Utica United Methodist Church. This early church had 30 members and 3 local preachers. The congregation met in a small brick house for 27 years until 1837 when a new church was built.

Washington Township has a long history of agriculture from the early settlers who established the township to the many who continue to farm the area today. The area is considered well-watered by the North and Lake Forks of the Licking River and the many tributaries that feed these rivers. In addition, Smoot Lake is a beautiful, naturally created body of water that covers approximately 40 acres when full. All these water sources have helped the township thrive as an agricultural community throughout its history.

The township also has a rich Civil War and Underground Railroad history. There is a Civil War farm located in East Central Washington Township, as well as a house that was used for refuge during the times of the Underground Railroad along Route 13 in Utica.

From 1903 to 1929 Utica was one of the largest manufacturers of glass in the country. This was due to the abundance of natural gas in the area. Cardinal Glass Manufacturing is actively functioning today and is the largest industry in Washington Township. Velvet Ice Cream also has a long history in the township and the Village of Utica. It was established in Utica in 1914. It outgrew its facilities in the early 1960's and moved to its current location at the old gristmill, which was built in 1817. Ye Olde Mill is the largest tourist attraction in Licking County.

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Demographics

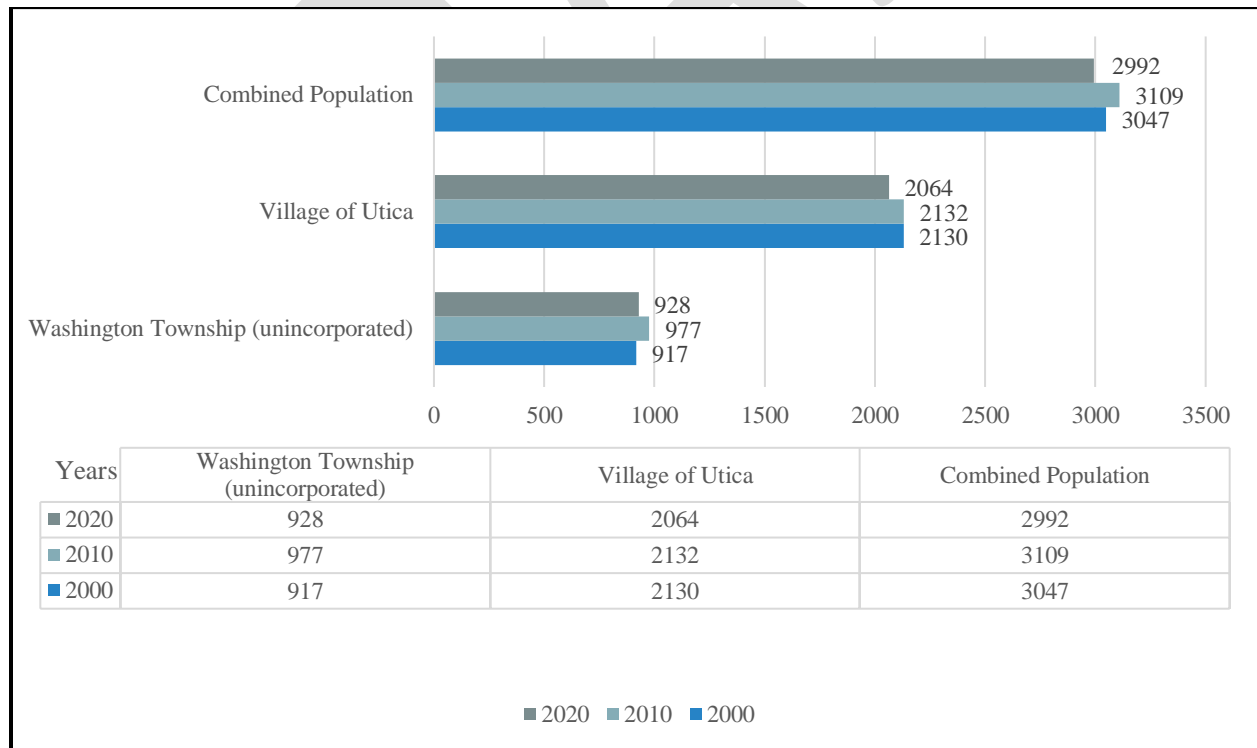
Demographic information can be used to project the direction of development in an area. The focal areas of demographic information concentrated on for the purpose of the Comprehensive Plan include population, age and gender, education and income, and housing. The demographic information as discussed below, has been collected from the 2020 U.S. Census and the 2022 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates provided by the U.S. Bureau and is discussed below.

Population

The 2020 U.S census showed the total population of Washington Township at 2992 people. Washington Township contains one incorporated area, the village of Utica, with a population of 2064 people in 2020. The unincorporated portion of Washington Township contained 928 people in 2020.

Based on the 2020 census data, the combined population of Washington Township decreased by approximately 3.8%, or 117 people, since the last U.S. Census in 2010. The unincorporated portion of Washington Township decreased in population by 49 people and the incorporated Village of Utica decreased in population by 68 people. From the 2000 U.S. Census to the 2010 U.S. Census, both the unincorporated and incorporated portions of the township saw an increase in population totals of approximately 1.2%.

Figure 2: Washington Township Population 2000-2020



Data from the U.S. Census Bureau: 2022 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates

The trending population for Washington Township is not following the current population trend for Licking County as a whole. Between the 2010 U.S. Census and the 2020 U.S. Census, population in Licking County rose nearly 7.2%

Over the past seventy years, historical U.S. Census data has shown that Washington Township has typically experienced a steady growth pattern. Although there was an unexplained small decline in population in 2020, it is expected the township will continue to experience steady growth. Additionally, since the 2020 census, there has been unprecedented development occurring in western Licking County due to the announcement of plans for many large technology companies and related industries to construct corporate locations within the county. With this rapid increase in development, it is expected that all of Licking County and possibly some surrounding counties will experience rapid growth and a large population increase.

Figure 3: Area Populations by Decade (1940-2020)

Township	1940	1950	1960	1970	1980	1990	2000	2010	2020
Washington	669	668	686	834	800	786	917	977	928
Village of Utica	1376	1510	1854	1977	2221	2172	2130	2132	2064
Burlington	732	771	801	807	904	958	1073	1223	1209
McKean	709	772	887	994	1197	1376	1516	1523	1606
Newton	916	1014	1654	2797	2934	2728	2765	3219	3194
Morgan						624	831	1085	1034
Clay						1084	1328	1604	1542

Data from the U.S. Census Bureau: 2022 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates

One way to project the future growth of Washington Township is to examine the growth pattern of similar neighboring townships. Such townships include Burlington, McKean, and Newton in Licking County and Morgan and Clay Townships in Knox County. Historically, each township has grown at a steady rate. As is consistent with Washington Township, almost all the neighboring townships experienced an unexplained decline in population in 2020 following decades demonstrating a pattern of increase in population.

Age and Gender

The breakdown of population by age and gender may help determine the future needs of the township and can be utilized to plan for current and future facilities. Children and the elderly are often the focus of such facilities planning. Looking at the estimated 2022 combined population of Washington Township, the median age is 37.1, slightly lower than the median age of 40.5 for Licking County. Nearly 33% of the population in Washington Township is under the age of 18 with the largest portion of the population between the ages of five and nine. People who are over the age of 60 years old make up nearly 23% of the population of Washington Township. In Licking County, those who are under the age of 18 make up nearly 23% of the population while those who are over the age of 60 make up nearly 24% of the county's overall population. Licking County's largest portion of the population is between the ages of 60-64 years old.

Figure 4: Washington Township Population By Age Group

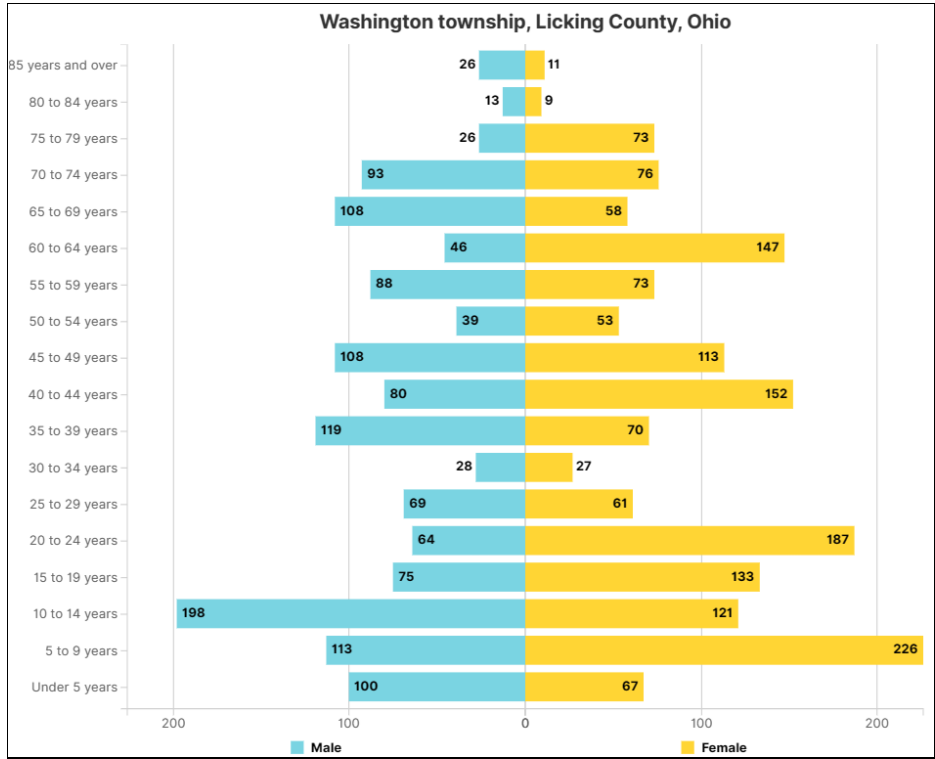
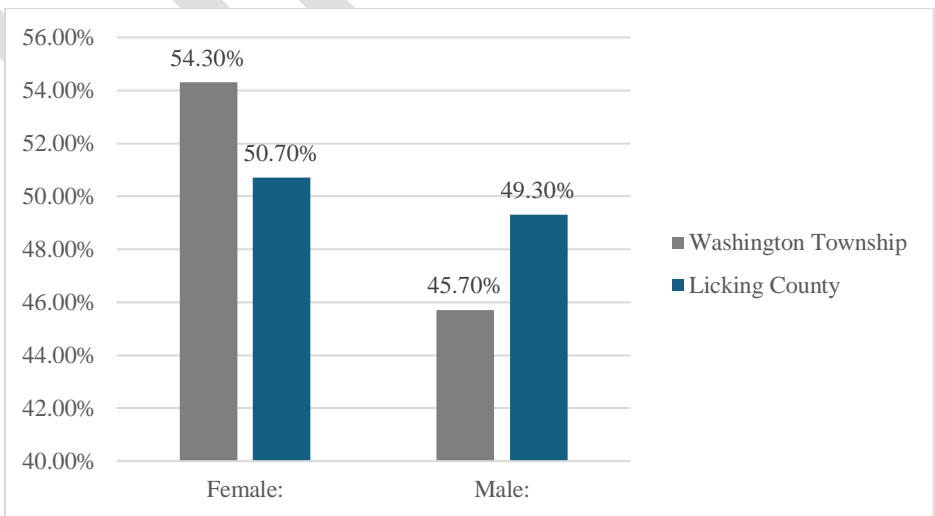


Chart from the U.S. Census Bureau: 2022 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates

A further breakdown by gender, utilizing the same data set, shows that the female and male population of both Washington Township and Licking County are very similar to one another. Washington Township has a slightly higher female population whereas Licking County, overall, has a slightly higher male population.

Figure 5: Population By Gender

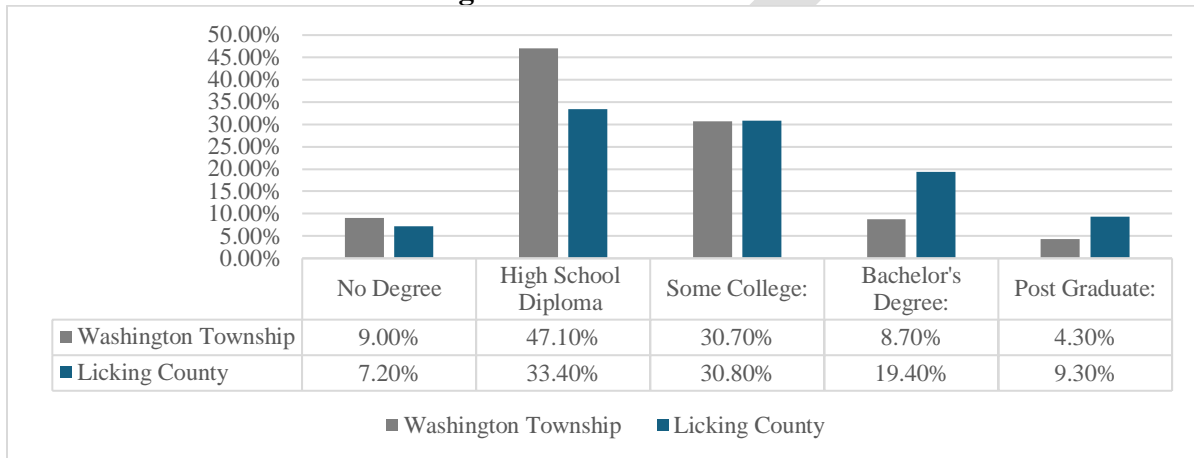


Data from the U.S. Census Bureau: 2022 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates

Education and Income

The education and income characteristics of a population can help to define the general needs of a population. Marketing studies often use this type of information to show whether a particular store, for example, will be successful in a given location. Income levels also may be used to qualify an area for certain available funding projects benefiting low-income persons. In 2020, over 80% of Washington Township residents were high-school graduates or above, and nearly 20% of the township population had some sort of college degree. This level of high school graduates is higher than the county’s average, while the level of college graduates is less than the county’s average.

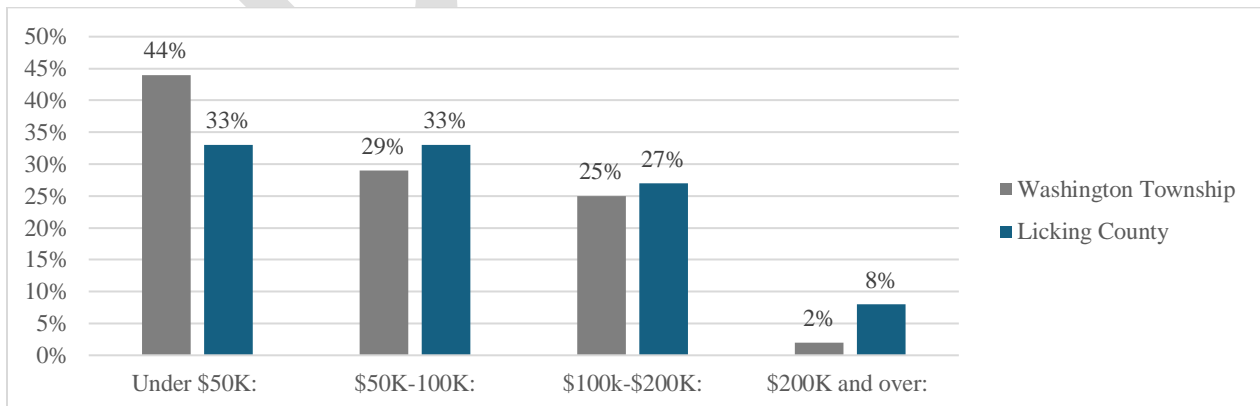
Figure 6: Education Attainment



Data from the U.S. Census Bureau: 2022 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates

Household income in Washington Township is shown in the following graph. The largest percentage of households fall in the category of less than \$50,000. Ten percent of households fall below the poverty line in the township which is consistent with the County average. The major difference between Washington Township and Licking County is the households making above \$100,000. Twenty seven percent of the households in the Township made over \$100,000 in 2020, while 35% of the households in the County fell into this category.

Figure 7: Household Income

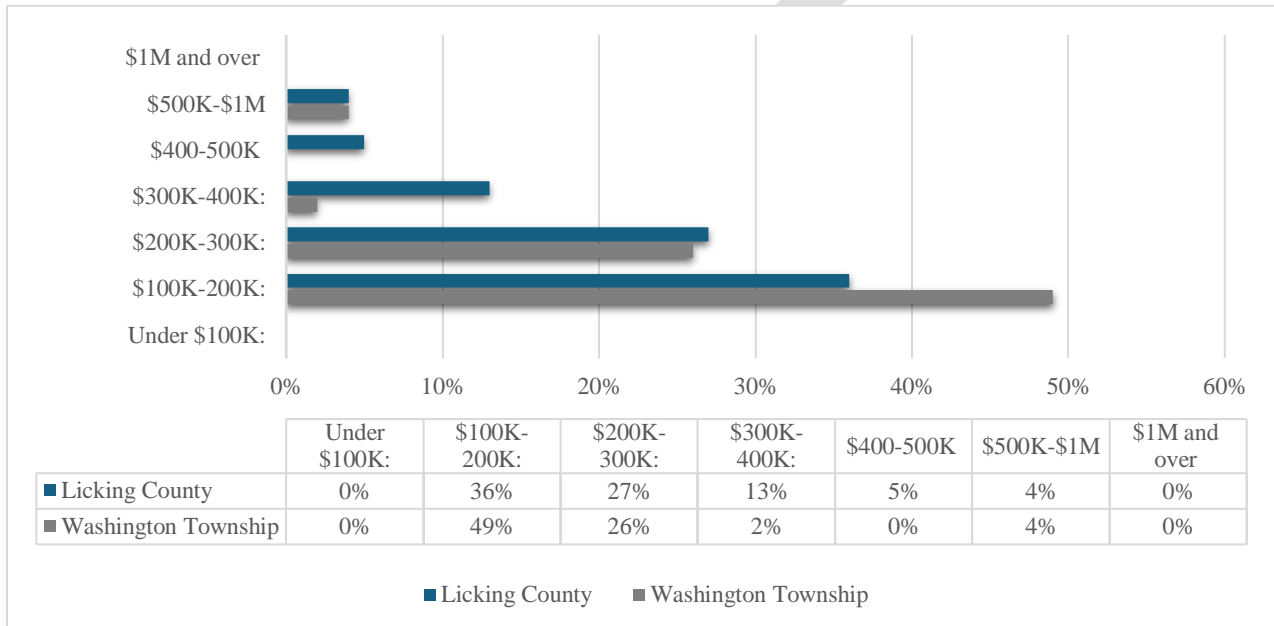


Data from the U.S. Census Bureau: 2022 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates

Housing

Most homes in Washington Township, about 60%, are owner-occupied as the below graph shows. The median home value of owner-occupied homes for Licking County from 2018-2022 was \$232,200. As of January 2024, the median sold price for a home in Licking County is \$260,000. This is just over a 9% decrease from the median sold price in January 2022. For Washington Township, the median sold price for homes is \$199,950. This is up 21.1% from the previous year, January 2023. Home values in Licking County and Washington Township are expected to continue to rise.

Figure 8: Home Value for Owner-occupied Housing Units

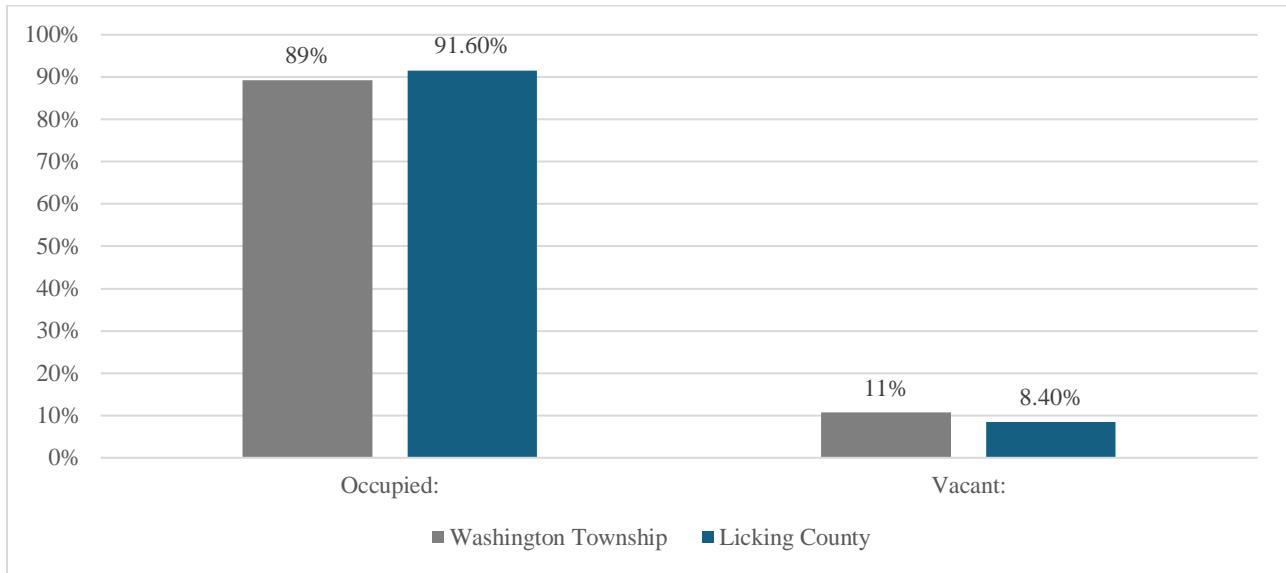


Data from the U.S. Census Bureau: 2022 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates

Per The Mid-Ohio Regional Planning Commission (MORPC), “Over the course of the next 25+ years, the Central Ohio region will see a growth of 726,000 people, which equates to 272,000 additional households and 357,000 additional workers.” Central Ohio is already experiencing a major housing shortage despite slight declines in population a few years ago. In 2020, there were 72,432 housing units. Due to the projected population increase, Licking County is expected to increase its housing units to 914,500 by 2040; to meet the increasing need Licking County will need 100,000+ new housing units in the next ten years.

Below the graph illustrates the number of occupied and vacant housing units for Washington Township and Licking County. In 2022, the number of housing units in Washington Township was 1135, and for Licking County: 72,432.

Figure 9: Housing Units



Data from the U.S. Census Bureau: 2022 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates

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Land Capability

The natural resources of an area are a key component of any Comprehensive Plan. The ability of land to support development is of major concern to communities, especially those experiencing growth or under growth pressures. Many factors can affect an area's capability to support new developments; among these are topography (or slope), soil type, and ground water availability. Because all the various forms of nature are interdependent and interact to maintain a comprehensive, yet extremely delicate system, changes that affect this balance must be carefully considered. Also, there is a need to protect certain natural features from disturbance. This includes protecting and preserving wetlands, endangered plants, and endangered animals. Woodlands, prime agricultural areas, and other significant natural features or vistas should be protected from overdevelopment, as well.

Land capability information is derived from the Ohio Department of Natural Resources' Capability Analysis Program. The information contained in this section is not comprehensive but gives general guidelines for development and land use in Licking County. The included maps are general as well showing approximate boundaries for each limitation or resource. Furthermore, severe limitations should not be read as an absolute prohibition against that use for which a soil is rated, but as an indication that sometimes-costly measures must be undertaken to overcome such limitations. A site-specific analysis is necessary to precisely determine the suitability of a parcel of land for a particular use.

Climate

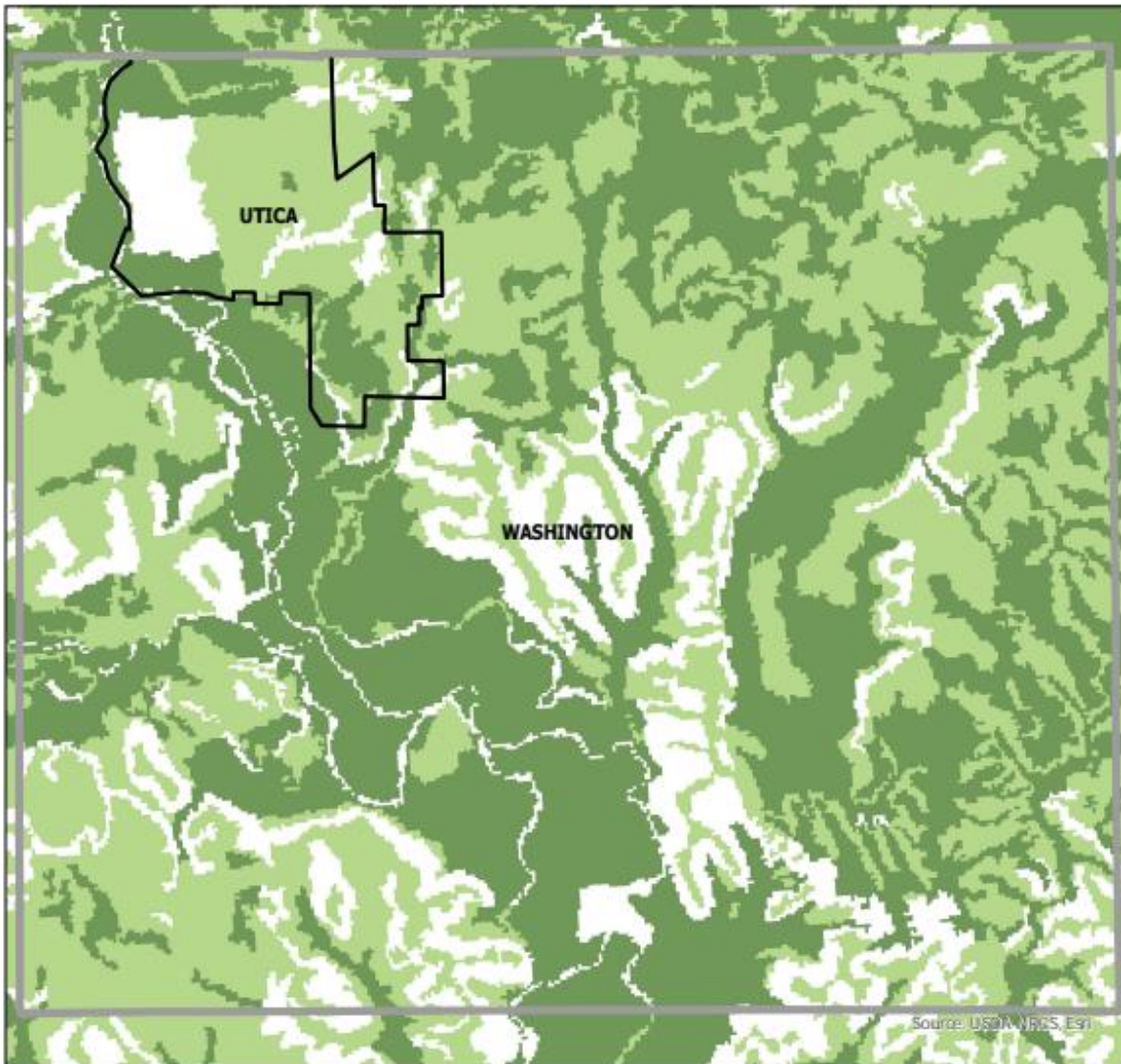
The temperature in Licking County spans from an average of 20.7 °F in the winter to an average of 81.9 °F in the summer. On average, the County experiences 42 inches of rain and 20 inches of snow in a year's time. In the summer months residents experience 11-12 hours of sunlight per day, while they experience only 7-8 hours during the winter months.

Topography

The topography of land can be measured by its slope. Slope influences the effects of the natural environment. The rate of storm water runoff, performance of septic fields, and the rate of erosion all are influenced by slope. As slopes increase, the velocity of storm water runoff increases causing problems with erosion and flooding downstream. Conversely, an area that has less than 0.5 percent slope will not drain storm water at all, and ponding may occur depending on the soils.

There is a definite relationship between land use and slope. Commercial and industrial buildings usually require relatively flat, or level land. Because of the larger size and weight of commercial and industrial uses and the cost of leveling land, slopes exceeding two percent are not suitable areas for such sites. Cropland is most often limited to areas of less than 12 percent slope to enable the use of farm machinery. Roads also are limited by the topography in an area. Arterial roads and roads designed for speeds over 45 mph should not be located in areas with greater than 4 percent slope. Local streets with speeds under 30 mph can have grades as steep as ten percent.

Figure 10: Prime Farmland Map



- | | |
|--|---|
|  Prime Farmland |  Farmland of Unique Importance |
|  Farmland of Local Importance | Not Prime Farmland |
|  Farmland of Statewide Importance |  Municipal Boundaries |
| |  Township Border |

Provided by: Licking County Soil and Water

Overall, areas with slopes greater than 4 percent are generally limited to agricultural, residential, and natural uses. When slopes exceed the 10 percent, such as with ravines and steep hills, land uses are predominantly grazing and natural space. Houses, due to their smaller size, can be built on steep slopes using various construction techniques. This is less true, however, for major

residential subdivisions when considering centralized infrastructure design limitations and costs. Furthermore, experience, such as in California, shows that nature will eventually erode these steep slopes, house, and all. As a result, it is general practice to preserve and protect slopes greater than 25 percent, leaving them in their natural state.

Because slope is so closely tied to both development and the natural environment, it should be one of the top criteria used in regulating the development of a community. The following table (Figure 11) lists some standards for slope and land use development.

Figure 11: Slope Requirements for Various Land Uses

Land Use	Maximum Slope	Minimum Slope	Optimum Slope
House sites	20-25%	0.05%	2.00%
Playgrounds	2-3%	0.05%	1.00%
Septic fields	10%	0.00%	0.05%
Parking lots	3%	0.05%	1.00%
Streets, roads, driveways	15-17%	0.05%	1.00%
Industrial sites	3%	0.05%	1.00%

**Adapted from Landscape Planning Environmental Applications, William Marsh, 1983.*

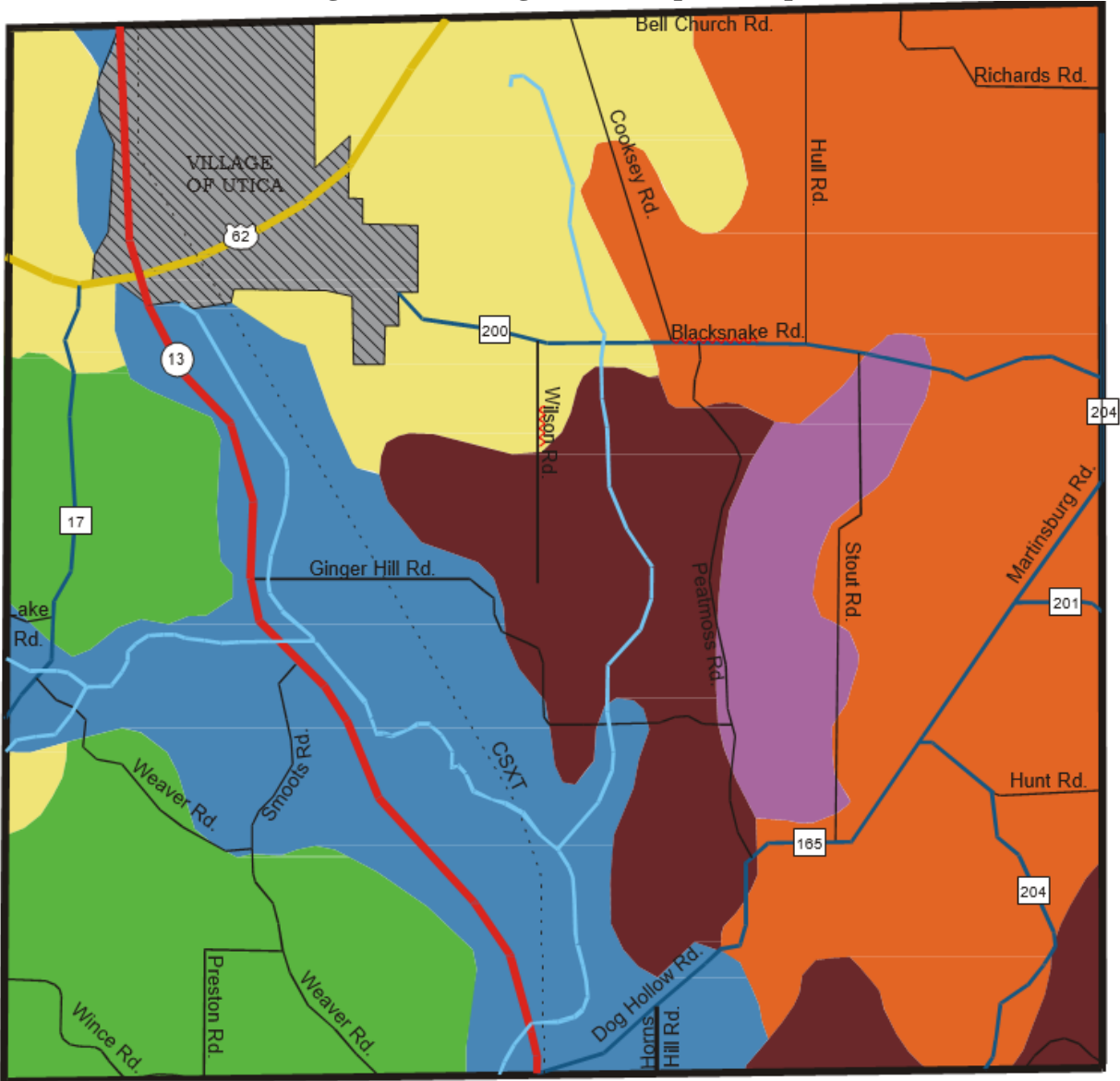
Soils

Soils are very important in determining land use capabilities because many factors are associated with certain types of soils, including everything from drainage to permeability to groundwater level. The soils in Licking County formed in many kinds of parent material, which is the raw material acted upon by the soil-forming process.







The soil types most found in Washington Township combine to form six (6) major soil associations: Homewood-Brownsville-Coshocton, Ockey-Stonelick-Shoals, Brownsville-Mechanicsburg-Amanda, Brownsville-Coshocton, Centerburg-Amanda, and Glenford-Fitchville-Orville. The soil associations map (Figure 11) shows the areas where each association occurs throughout the township.

The Homewood-Brownsville-Coshocton associations are characterized as gently sloping to very steep, well drained, and moderately well drained soils, on glaciated and unglaciated uplands. This association is normally on narrow to broad ridgetops and on foot slopes and hillsides. The topography ranges from undulating to hilly. Streams are small, and floodplains are relatively narrow. Slopes range from 2 to 70 percent. The gently sloping areas of this association are used as cropland and pasture, while the steeper areas are generally wooded. This association is well suited for cropland and pasture, and the gently sloping areas are moderately to poorly suited for buildings and septic tank absorption.

Figure 12: Washington Township Soil Map



SOIL TYPES

	CENTERBURG-AMANDA		HOMEWOOD-BROWNSVILLE-COSHOCTON
	BROWNSVILLE-MECHANICSBURG-AMANDA		OCKEY-STONELICK-SHOALS
	BROWNSVILLE-COSHOCTON		GLENFORD-FITCHVILLE-ORRVILLE

Provided by: Licking County Soil and Water

The Ockley-Stonelick-Shoals associations are characterized by nearly level to sloping, well-drained and somewhat poorly drained soils; on outwash terraces and flood plains. This association is on a broad outwash terrace benches and flood plains. Short, narrow slope breaks are between the benches and flood plains.

Slopes range from 0 to 12 percent. Most areas of this association are used as cropland., with a few being pastured or wooded. Some areas have been developed for industrial, commercial, or residential uses. The nearly level and gently sloping Ockley soils are well suited to grain crops, hay, pasture, trees, and some specialty crops. They are also well suited to buildings and septic tank absorption fields. The Shoals and Stonelick soils are well suited to row crops, hay, pasture, and trees. They generally are unsuitable as sites for buildings and septic tank absorption fields.

The Brownsville-Mechanicsburg-Amanda associations are characterized by gently sloping to very steep, well-drained soils; on glaciated and unglaciated uplands. This association is on narrow to broad ridgetops and on foot slopes and hillsides. The topography commonly ranges from undulating to hilly. Streams are small, and flood plains are relatively narrow. Slopes range from 2 to 70 percent. Most areas of this association are used for pasture or cash-grain farming. The less sloping soils are commonly used as cropland, and the steeper soils are pastured or wooded. The less sloping soils are well suited or moderately suited to grain crops, hay, pasture, and most urban uses. The steeper soils are generally unsuited or poorly suited to most of these uses. The major soils are well suited or moderately suited to woodland. The main limitations affecting farming and building site development are the slope and the hazard of erosion.

The Centerburg-Amanda associations are characterized by gently sloping to very steep, moderately well drained and well-drained soils; on dissected parts of till plains. This association consists of gently sloping soils in undulating areas and interfluvies and sloping to very steep soils in dissected areas along drainage ways. Slopes range from 2 to 50 percent. The gently sloping to moderately steep soils in this association are used mainly as cropland or pasture. In some areas they are wooded. Most of the steep and very steep soils are also wooded. They are well suited to woodland. The less sloping soils are well suited to cropland and pasture, and the moderately steep soils are poorly suited or moderately suited. The gently sloping and sloping soils are moderately suited or well suited to buildings and moderately suited to septic tank absorption fields. The very steep soils are generally unsuited to urban uses.

The Brownsville-Coshocton association is characterized by gently sloping to very steep, well-drained and moderately well drained soils; on unglaciated uplands. The maximum difference in local relief commonly is about 200 feet. Streams are small and floodplains are narrow. Slopes range from 2 to 70 percent. The less sloping soils on hilltops and ridges are used mainly as cropland or pasture. The hillsides are normally wooded and sometimes used as pasture. The gently sloping soils are moderately suited for row crops and well suited for hay and pasture. They are moderately suited for buildings and poorly suited for septic tank absorption fields. The steeper soils are generally poorly suited for all uses except woodlands. The main limitations affecting most uses in this association are slope and hazard of erosion.

The Glenford-Fitchville-Orrville association is characterized by nearly level and gently sloping, moderately well drained and somewhat poorly drained soils; on slack-water terraces, lake plains, and floodplains. This association is located on broad and slight rises on floodplains, lake plains, and slack-water terraces. Slopes range from 0 to 6 percent. Most areas of this association are used as cropland. Some areas are used for hay and pasture or wooded. The soils are well suited to row crops, hay, pasture, and woodland. Glenford soils are moderately suited for most urban uses, but the Fitchville soils are poorly suited and the Orrville soils are unsuited for urban uses. The seasonal wetness and the hazard of flooding are the limitations of this association.

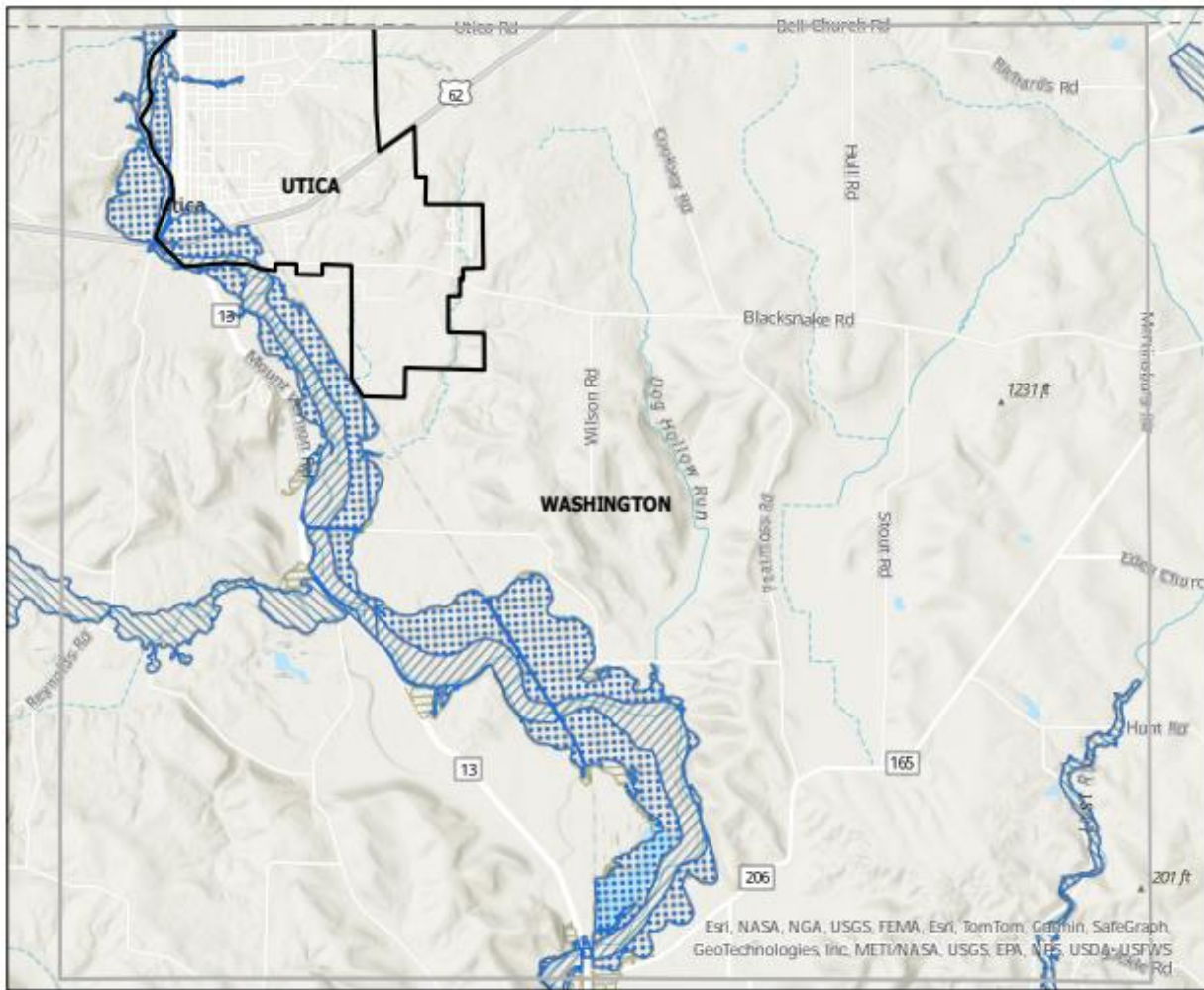
Floodplains and Wetlands

A floodplain is any land area susceptible to inundation by floodwaters from any source. Floodplains are measured in terms of the amount of storm water that it takes to cover them. Storm events are measured in years such as 5-year, 10-year, 20-year, 50-year, 100-year, and 500-year. The standard measurement is the 100-year storm and floodplain. A 100-year floodplain is the land area having a 1 in 100 chance of flooding in any given year. However, the 100-year floodplain is somewhat of a misnomer because an area could have a 100-year flood two years in a row -- unlikely, but it is possible. Figure 13 shows the 100-year, or base, flood plains of Washington Township as identified by Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA). Lending institutions use these maps to determine the need for flood insurance for structures.

Because floodplains were carved by streams and rivers and are prone to flooding, they are an important planning consideration. Any development within floodplains can impact the direction, flow, and level of the watercourse during periods of high water or flooding. In other words, if fill material is placed or a house constructed in a flood plain, it will alter the boundaries of the flood plain downstream. This is because structures or fill utilize valuable space that would otherwise act as a natural retaining area for floodwaters to spread and slow. Enough fill or development could change the probability of flooding downstream from 1 in 100 each year, to 1 in 75 or less. This development and careless filling of the flood plain has increased flooding in this nation, as seen in many parts of the country, including the Great Mississippi Flood of 1993. Not only does development in the flood plain increase dangers downstream, but developments within the flood plain are also at higher risk of damage due to flooding. This damage includes fill material and debris from destroyed structures upstream colliding with structures in the flood plain downstream. Many bridges are washed out in floods because house and/or construction debris clog their free-flow area, compromising their structural integrity.

Because the potential for public and private damage, the loss of life, and affected insurance rate decisions all are affected by materials and structures in flood plains, Licking County has recently tightened regulations for floodplains. Permits must be obtained from the Licking County Planning Commission before any development, including filling and excavating, can take place in an identified 100-year floodplain. In addition, no new lots may be created that have less than 1.6 acres of land lying outside of a 100-year floodplain. Further protection of the flood plains through township zoning will assist in protecting unsuspecting residents from personal danger and loss of property.

Figure 13: FEMA 100 Year Floodplain



- Township
- Municipal Area
- Zone A *
- Zone AE *
- Zone AE (Floodway) *
- 1% Annual Chance*
- 1% Future Conditions *
- 0.2% Annual Chance

Provided by: Licking County Soil and Water

Protecting floodplains from development offers several benefits in addition to reducing the risk of loss of property and life. Floodplains are natural floodwater storage areas. They reduce the impact of any given storm, slowing the water so that it does not become a flash flood. In addition, floodplains are prime areas where groundwater is replenished. Thus, the type of land use activity that occurs in these areas must not pollute the surface water, as it will serve as a source of aquifer replenishment. These same floodplains and adjacent land also provide a habitat for a wide variety of plants and animals. Floodplains also have important scenic and aesthetic value, providing a natural area for passive recreation activities such as nature trails or hiking

paths. In more urban and suburban areas, floodplains provide the single best place for trails and recreation because they are linear, visually interesting, close to nature, and undeveloped. The waterways with 100-year floodplains of importance to Washington Township are Winding Run, Lake Fork of the Licking River and the North Fork of the Licking River.

Aside from the floodplain, there are several wetland areas in Washington Township. Wetland areas are defined in several ways, depending on the agency involved. Methods of identifying wetlands include examining the plant species present, checking for standing water, and identifying characteristic soil types.

Wetlands are important resources for several reasons. First, there are many unique plants and animals that make their homes in these areas. Second, wetlands provide valuable groundwater recharge by acting as filters for surface runoff percolating back into the aquifers below. Third, wetlands are an important resource because they serve to join surface and groundwater sources, which can improve stream flow during drought periods. Fourth, during rainy periods, wetlands can absorb excess water and then let it slowly seep back into the surrounding land, averting potential flood damage. Finally, wetlands provide a valuable recreation resource.

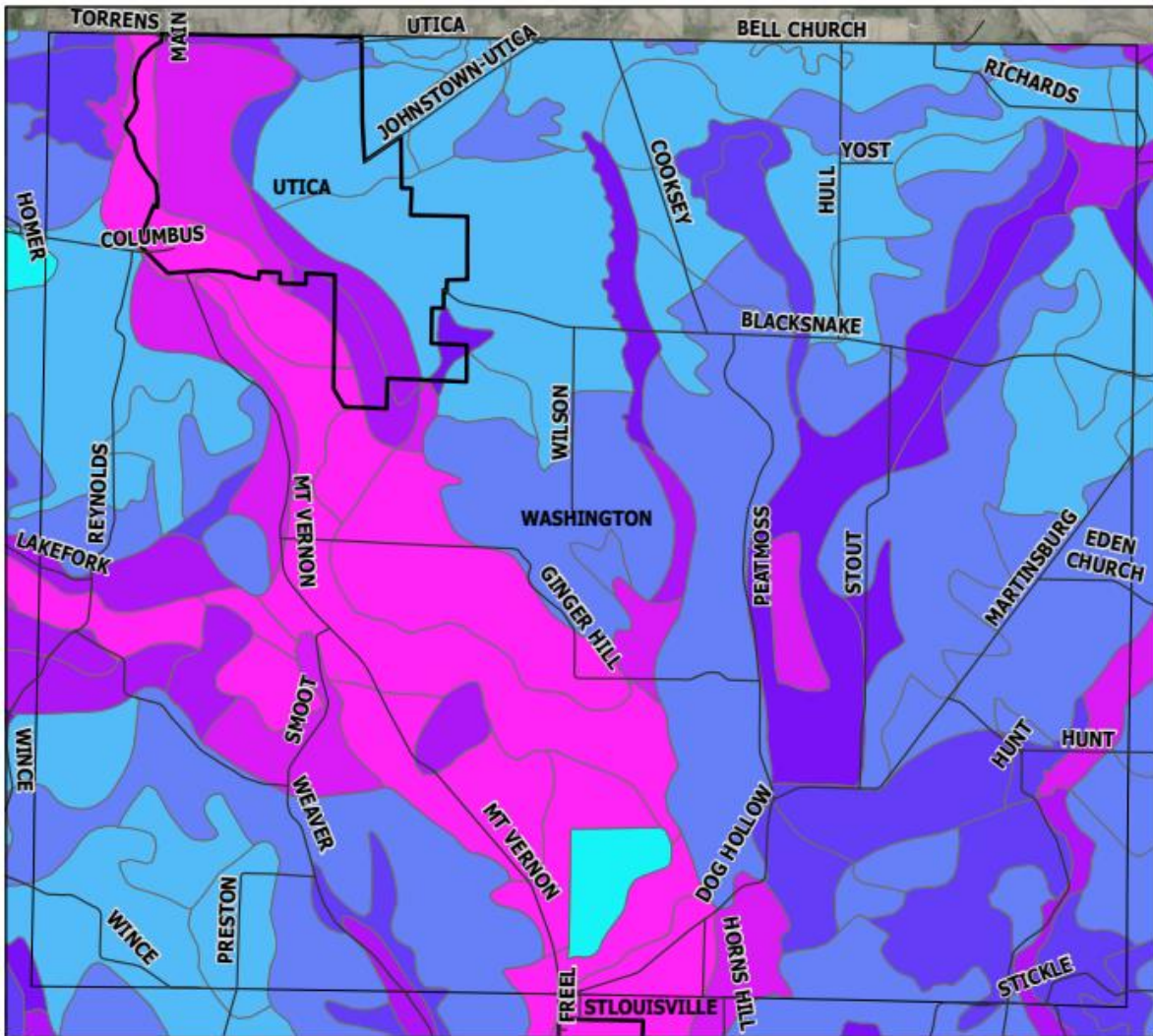
Depending on the size and location of a wetland, various types of permits may be required for fill or development of the wetland.

Groundwater

Groundwater is a very important consideration in the preparation of a Comprehensive Plan because wells and natural springs are the source of most of the water that sustains residents, crops, and livestock in Washington Township. Many residential, commercial, industrial, and agricultural activities are not possible without clean and abundant groundwater. Thus, an important aspect of future land use planning is locating adequate supplies of groundwater. Groundwater needs to be protected from two things: 1) overuse, i.e. exceeding the safe well yield and/or aquifer recharge rates, and 2) pollution.

Groundwater is water that lies beneath the land's surface. Just as there are streams, rivers, and ponds above ground, water can be found in similar systems underground. As rainwater and surface water flow across the land, water seeps down into the soils and underground rock. Areas underground with particularly large concentrations of groundwater are known as aquifers. Aquifers are like above ground rivers in that they are not static. Most often, aquifers are found in underground layers of porous rock, sand, or other unconsolidated material. Groundwater flows through them while rain and surface water "recharge" (replenish) them. In general, groundwater recharge is the ability of the aquifer to replenish its water supply from surface sources, such as soils, wetlands, rivers, and lakes. Several factors can affect the recharge rate of an aquifer including soil type, soil permeability, and distance to the aquifer from the surface. If the total rate of withdrawal from the aquifer exceeds the aquifer's recharge rate, the aquifer's water level will decline. If this overdraft, or high rate of withdrawal, is continued over several years, the aquifer could be depleted.

Figure 14: Ground Water Vulnerability Map



Layout Metadata

Title Groundwater Vulnerability

Summary Groundwater Vulnerability (GV) maps evaluate an area's vulnerability to groundwater contamination based upon its hydrogeologic, topographic, and soil media characteristics. Conceptually, these maps consider the case in which a generic contaminant is introduced at the land surface and allowed to percolate into the aquifer, be attenuated by natural processes, or be transported out of the area. As the hydrogeologic parameters controlling the fate of the contaminant change, the likelihood of the aquifer's contamination increases or decreases.

- Municipal Boundaries
- Washington Township
- 0 - 58
- 59 - 82
- 83 - 98
- 99 - 114
- 115 - 130
- 131 - 147
- 148 - 164
- 165 - 200
- Roads

Provided by: Licking County Soil and Water

In the above map, groundwater in an area with a lower index value is less vulnerable to surface contamination.

The geologic make-up of an aquifer includes underground spaces that are conducive to ground water storage. Such spaces may be found in the pores of sandstone, the joints and fractures of limestone, and between the grains of large deposits of sand or gravel. In some places, as groundwater slowly flows downhill through porous soils and rock, it becomes trapped between hard rock layers until it reaches the surface again further downhill, creating an artesian well. In the Licking County area there are also “lenses” of trapped groundwater. These were created by the glaciers and are pockets of sand sandwiched between other soils. The lenses often contain water and can be found at varying depths and in various sizes. The groundwater here is much more like a pond, in that it doesn’t flow and usually recharges slowly - in some instances very slowly - if at all. Most of the producing water wells in Washington Township are pumping water from aquifers or glacial lenses. Groundwater sources are evaluated based on their well yield (measured in gallons per minute), their recharge rate, and their cleanliness.

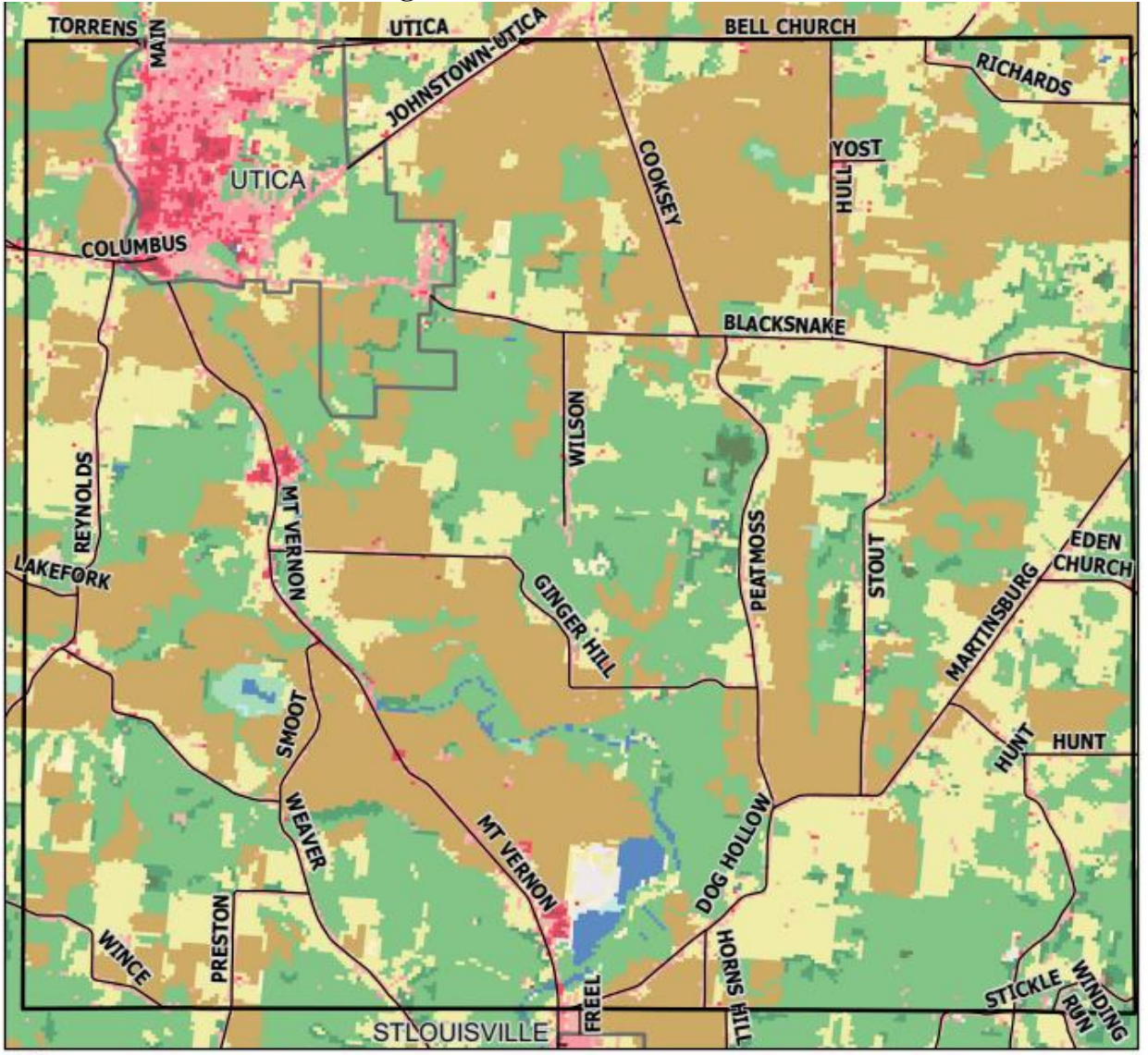
The Ohio Department of Natural Resources studied, among other things, the topography, soils, and aquifers of the area, in order to determine which areas could support higher population densities based solely on groundwater recharge rates. Using this information, the minimum residential lot sizes that should be allowed in Washington Township based on groundwater recharge rates can be calculated.

The average minimum daily household demand for groundwater is approximately five to eight gallons per minute (GPM). For commercial and industrial uses, there is no standard minimum demand. This is due to the varying nature and water needs of different commercial and industrial uses. Evaluation of groundwater for such uses should be made on an individual use and site basis.

The ground-water characteristics of Licking County have been mapped regionally based upon interpretations of over 8,000 well records, the local geology, and hydrology. Water well data on the map were selected as typical for the area.

Figure 15 below shows generalized land uses in the Washington Township based on the land characteristics discussed in this section.

Figure 15: Generalized Land Use



- | | |
|--|--|
|  Open Water |  Shrub/Scrub |
|  Developed Open Space |  Grassland/Herbaceous |
|  Developed Low Intensity |  Pasture/Hay |
|  Developed Medium Intensity |  Cultivated Crops |
|  Developed High Intensity |  Woody Wetlands |
|  Barren Land |  Emergent Herbaceous Wetlands |
|  Deciduous Forest |  Municipal Area |
|  Evergreen Forest |  Township |
|  Mixed Forest | |

Provided by: Licking County Soil and Water

Infrastructure

Infrastructure refers to the facilities and services needed to sustain industrial, residential, commercial, and all other land use activities. These facilities include roads, power plants, transmission lines, water and sewer lines, communication systems, and public facilities. Infrastructure plays a valuable role in the development of an area. If there is no nearby infrastructure, or if it would be cost-prohibitive to access or extend existing infrastructure, then development cannot occur on as large of a scale. Essentially, infrastructure forms the backbone of a society or a system, enabling various activities and services to take place.

Central Water and Sewer Service

A central water service refers to the connection a community is tied into for the distribution of clean and drinkable water. Clean water is supplied through piping connected to a water treatment plant. This approach is efficient for managing sanitation and ensuring a reliable supply of safe drinking water to a large population.

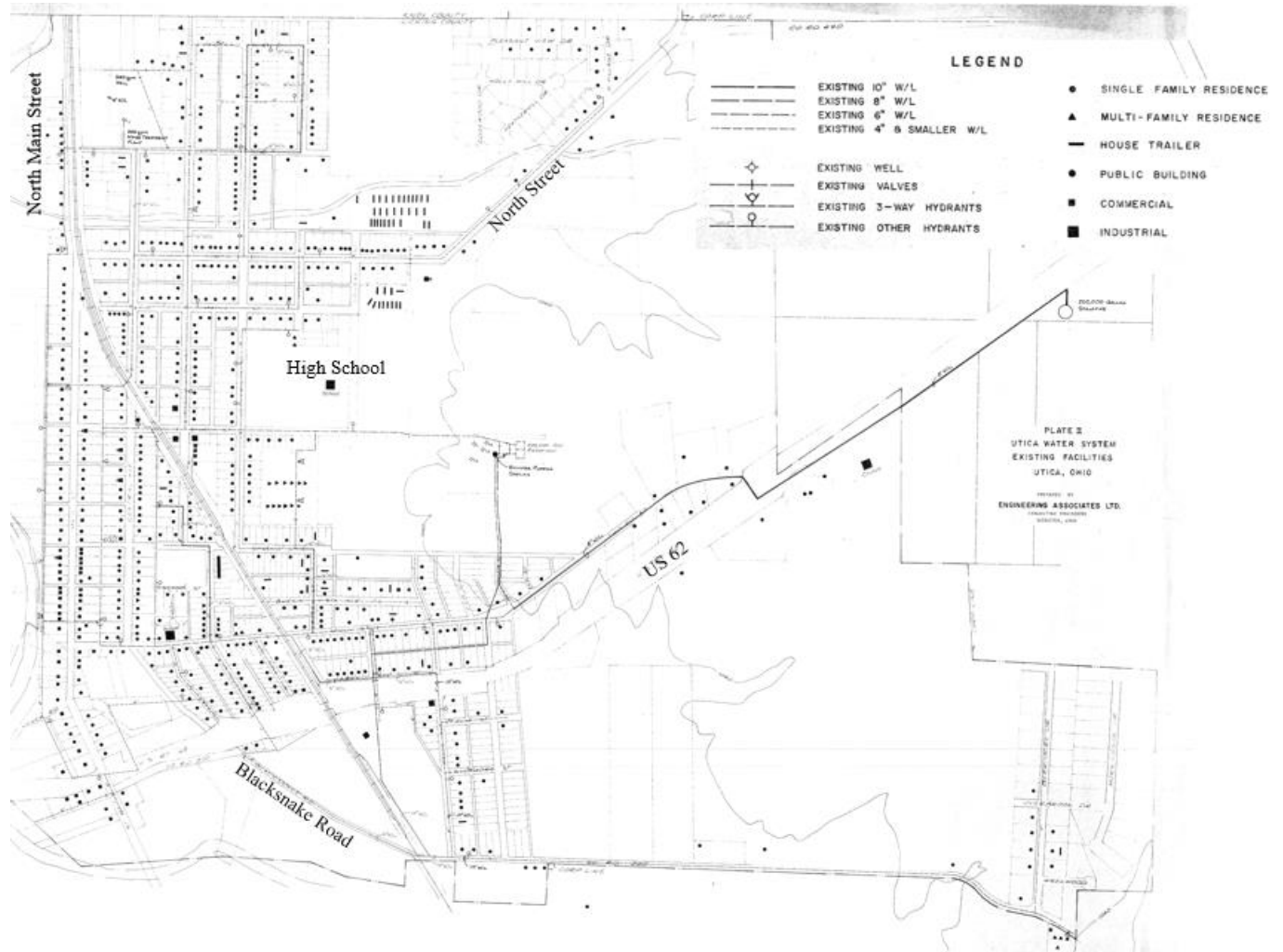
Central sewer is a system for the disposal of wastewater. Sewage from homes and businesses is collected through a network of pipes and transported to a treatment facility, where it undergoes purification before being released or reused.

Municipal Water and Sewer Systems: The following is a summary of the general status of municipal water and sewer systems in or around Washington Township.

Utica

- Has both water and sewer systems and is planning to upgrade to a treatment capacity of up to 600,000 gpd for water and 428,000 gpd for sewer.
- Mostly serves the incorporated areas of the Village.
- The 20-year service area will likely not exceed a 2-3 mile radius around the Village. Areas to receive the service could entail along State Route 13, US Route 62 and Blacksnake Road.
- The sewer treatment facility is located on Blacksnake Road and Utica Water Department is at 39 Spring Street, Utica OH 43080, 740-892-2841

Figure 16: Existing Central Water in Utica Village



Power Distribution Service

The Township is currently served by two separate power suppliers – American Electric Power and the Energy Cooperative.

AEP serves along the main roadways near their conveyance lines, while the Energy Cooperative distributes into residential areas. The Energy Cooperative also harvests sunlight through solar panels both onsite and through their member’s accounts.

Internet

Internet is distributed throughout the township via several carriers with the most prominent being Windstream. Speeds on average are between 50-100 Mbps, and can be faster depending on location. Since the COVID 19 pandemic forced everyone into seclusion, these carriers have worked to upgrade their telecommunications to deliver a more consistent and higher speed internet.

Roads

All roadways in Licking County have been classified for congestion prevention and access management. These classes are “Major Arterial,” “Minor Arterial,” “Major Collector,” “Minor Collector,” and lower order. Licking County has Congestion Prevention requirements for the first four roadway classes. Within the first four classifications, each has different degrees of access standards, with the strictest applying to major arterials and the least strict to minor collectors. Of major importance to congestion prevention and access management is driveway and roadway spacing. In other words, the distance between access points onto a roadway. The requirement for spacing between any access points and/or roads for a lot on any of these classified roadways is the LESS STRICT of the safe stopping distance required for either 1) the speed limit on that road segment, or 2) the designed speed limit for that road segment’s classification.

Figure 17: AASHTO Safe Stopping Sight Distance

<i>Speed (Mph)</i>	<i>Distance (Feet)</i>
35	250
45	400
55	550

Figure 18: Driveway Spacing Requirements for Classified Roads in Licking County

<i>Road Classification</i>	<i>35 mph or Less</i>	<i>45 mph</i>	<i>55 mph or More</i>
Minor Collector	250’	250’	250’
Major Collector	250’	400’	400’
Minor Arterial	250’	400’	550’
Major Arterial*	250’	400’	550’

**NOTE: This does NOT apply to spacing with road intersections. Intersection spacing is 550 feet regardless of speed limit or road classification.*

Washington Township has a major north-south corridor (SR 13) and one major east-west corridor (US62). US Route 62 is classified as a Minor Arterial west of the Village of Utica, and a Major Collector west of that point. State Route 13 is classified as a Minor Arterial throughout Washington Township. The latest traffic counts available for these highways are as follows. The average daily traffic on State Route 13 (count taken just south of US 62 intersection) in May of 2002 was 6,250 vehicles per day, and on US Route 62 (count taken just west of Utica Road intersection) the average in March of 2002 was 3,777 vehicles per day. Four other roads in Washington Township are also classified as Minor Collectors; these are Blacksnake Road, Martinsburg Road, Dog Hollow Road, and Reynolds Road.

There are several county highways located within Washington Township. The county maintains these roadways.

Figure 19: County Roads in Washington Township

County Road Name	Road Number	Mileage
Reynolds Road	(CR 17)	3.45
Blacksnake Road	(CR 200)	3.37
Martinsburg Road	(CR 204)	5.34
Dog Hollow Road	(CR 206)	1.53
Eden Church Road	(CR 201)	.46
Total		14.15

Washington Township has approximately 22.50 miles of roads to maintain. Less than one mile of township roads are gravel. The balance is both chip and seal and blacktop roads. The township currently uses the funds from the 5-year road levy to maintain and improve the following roads.

Figure 20: Washington Township Roads

Township Road Name	Road Number	Mileage	Road Surface (2024)
Angeletti Lane*	(TR 17)	0.259	Gravel
Bane-Welker Road*	(TR 531)	0.174	Paved with Chip/Seal
Bell Church Road	(TR 37)	0.882	Paved with Chip/Seal
Cooksey Road	(TR 206)	1.479	Paved with Chip/Seal
Coss Lane	(TR 37A)	0.073	Paved
Freel Street	(TR 896)	0.017	Paved
Ginger Hill Road	(TR 207)	2.750	Paved with Chip/Seal
Horns Hill Road	(TR 203)	0.463	Paved and Gravel
Hull Road	(TR 205)	1.411	Paved with Chip/Seal
Hunt Road	(TR 214)	0.518	Paved with Chip/Seal
Lake Fork Road	(TR 01D)	0.260	Paved with Chip/Seal
Peatmoss Road	(TR 206)	2.360	Paved with Chip/Seal
Preston Road	(TR 75)	0.900	Paved with Chip/Seal
Richards Road	(TR 272)	1.150	Paved with Chip/Seal
Smoots Road	(TR 80)	0.850	Paved with Chip/Seal
Stickle Road	(TR 251)	0.874	Paved with Chip/Seal
Stout Road	(TR 205)	2.158	Paved with Chip/Seal
Torrens Road	(TR 68)	0.300	Paved with Chip/Seal
Utica Road	(TR 490)	0.838	Paved
Weaver Road	(TR 76)	2.527	Paved with Chip/Seal
Wilson Road	(TR 208)	0.907	Paved with Chip/Seal
Wince Road	(TR 79)	1.098	Paved with Chip/Seal
Yost Road	(TR 438 A)	0.252	Gravel
Total *		22.500	
* Denotes unofficial			

Community Services

Township Government

The township form of government was brought with the original settlers to the New England states around 1620. Twenty states have the Township form of local government. Townships in Licking County were formed in five-mile squares from the Congress Lands 1798-1802 land grant.

A three-member elected board of trustees oversees Washington Township. Their duty is to oversee the business of the township, including but not limited to ensuring the public health, safety, and welfare of all residents of the township. The trustees administer, enforce, and execute all policies and resolutions of the township for the betterment of the township and its citizens.

Other members of our local government include a Township Fiscal Officer. The fiscal officer is an elected position and is responsible for keeping accurate records of all accounts, transactions, and proceedings of the township. The Board of Trustees also appoints the Zoning Inspector, the Zoning Commission, the Zoning Board of Appeals, and the road superintendent.

To carry out its duties, the board of trustees conducts bi-monthly meetings that are open to the public. These meetings are held at the township office located at 10905 Mt Vernon Road, Utica, Ohio 43080. The Trustees at each meeting discuss township business and minutes are recorded and maintained by the Fiscal Officer.

Figure 21: Washington Township Government

<i>Government Officials and Boards</i>	<i>No. of Members</i>	<i>Length of Term</i>	<i>Primary Responsibility</i>
Township Trustees	3	4 years	Conducts all the business of the township. Ensures and promotes public health, safety, and welfare.
Fiscal Officer	1	4 years	Maintains records for the township
Board of Zoning Appeals	5	5 years	Hears appeals from the decisions of the Zoning Inspector to consider requests for variances and conditional use permits.
Zoning Commission	5	5 years	Makes recommendations to the Township Trustees regarding changes to the township zoning resolutions
Zoning Inspector	1	1 year	Enforces the townships zoning resolution.

Township Zoning

Washington Township was initially zoned by the adoption of a zoning resolution in November 1988. The resolution has updated, and various changes have been made since that time.

To assist with the enforcement of the zoning resolutions, the Board of Trustees employs a paid, part-time zoning inspector. The primary responsibility of the zoning inspector is to enforce the township Zoning Resolution, as it exists. In carrying out this function, the zoning inspector reviews applications for zoning permits, conducts on-site inspections to ensure construction conforms to approved applications, investigates complaints and violations, maintains a record of non-conforming uses, and maintains the zoning text and map.

Figure 22: Washington Township New Builds

Year	New Builds
2014	1
2015	1
2016	3
2017	2
2018	3
2019	4
2020	2
2021	4
2022	2
2023	1
Total	23

A Zoning Commission consisting of five residents of the township is appointed by the Board of Trustees to serve staggered five-year terms. The Zoning Commission is responsible for making recommendations to the Township Trustees concerning the interpretation and application of the township Zoning Resolution and Comprehensive Plan, as well as conducting hearings on requested district changes and initiating amendments to the Zoning Resolution. The Zoning Commission should also be involved in planning activities in their area and keep the Township Trustees informed of their deliberations.

The Board of Zoning Appeals (BZA) is a five-member administrative body also appointed by the Board of Trustees to serve staggered five-year terms. The functions of the BZA are to hear appeals from the decisions of the zoning inspector and to consider requests for variances and conditional uses as outlined in the township zoning resolution.

Township Funds

Figure 23: Township Funds Distribution

Fund	Percentage of Fund 2017	Percentage of Fund 2023
General Fund	29.427	35.451
Motor Vehicle License Tax Fund	4.464	4.862
Road and Bridge Fund	25.789	16.182
Gasoline Tax	40.320	42.321
Revenue Sharing	0	0
Five Year Road Levy Fund	0	0
Five Year Fire Levy	0	0.592
Five Year EMS Levy	0	0.592
Grand Total of All Funds	100	100

Law Enforcement

The Licking County Sheriff's Office is the current provider of law enforcement in the township. The Sheriff's Department Headquarters is located at 155 East Main Street in Newark in the Licking County Justice Center. The facility includes the sheriff's administrative offices as well as the 155 cell county jail. The department responds to the 9-1-1 service and consists of 84 squad cars and a current employment of 235 employees.

Sheriff's Office 2024 Stats:

- 102 Sworn Personnel
- 1 Sheriff, 1 Chief Deputy, 7 Captains, 8 Lieutenants, 16 Sergeants
- 23 Dispatchers (including central control and radio)
- Randy Thorp is the 2024 Licking County Sheriff

Fire and EMS Services

In April of 2023, a joint fire district took effect comprised of the Village of Utica, Washington Township (Licking County), and Morgan Township (Knox County). The board for this district is comprised of members from each entity protected by the district.

The new district is known as the County Line Joint Fire District and started responding to calls on January 1, 2024. The main headquarters are located at 39 Spring Street in Utica. 24/7 coverage of fire and EMS is provided to the district parties with a minimum of two members at the station apart from service outings. Mutual aid is also provided by all surrounding departments: Bladensburg, Newton, Homer, and Mount Vernon.

There are currently 30 members. 14 are dual certified in fire and EMS. Thirteen members are volunteers, with the remainder being part time, including the Fiscal Officer and Fire Chief. There are eight paramedics with one completing schooling, one Advanced EMT with three members completing schooling, and 11 EMT's. Sixteen members are certified as Firefighter II with one completing schooling, six as Firefighter I, and two certified to Volunteer Firefighter standards. Training is completed on a continuous basis. On Monday nights, members meet at 22 Spring Street, Utica, for formal training and truck checks.

Health and Human Services

Washington Township has two hospitals within a 20-mile radius - Licking Memorial Hospital in Newark and Knox Community Hospital in Mt. Vernon. These hospitals offer a full range of medical services and outpatient surgical services.

Several hospitals fall within a 50-mile radius of Washington Township. These include all hospitals in Columbus: Children’s Hospital, Doctors Hospital, Riverside Hospital, Grant Hospital, Ohio State University Hospital, The Arthur G. James Cancer Hospital, Mt. Carmel Hospitals (East & West) and St. Ann’s Hospital. All of these offer a full range of medical services, trauma units and outpatient surgical services.

There are hospice care centers in Licking and Knox counties as well as many other home care services including skilled nursing care facilities, professional rehabilitation services and a full range of therapy services.

Figure 24: Rehabilitation Services and Centers

Rehabilitation Services and Centers	Address	Phone	Distance	Specialty
Mount Vernon Health and Rehabilitation Center	1135 E Gambier St Mt Vernon, OH 43050	(740) 392-1599	14 mi	Senior Care
Flint Ridge Nursing and Rehabilitation	1450 West Main Street Newark, OH 43055	(740) 348-1300	13 mi	Skilled Nursing
Centerburg Respiratory and Specialty Rehab Center	212 Fairview Ave Centerburg, OH 43011	(740) 625-5774	18 mi	Senior Care
Life Solutions Recovery Center	65 S Cedar St A Newark, OH 43055	(740) 331-4659	12 mi	Addiction
Altercare of Newark North	151 Price Rd Newark, OH 43055	(740) 366-2321	9 mi	Skilled Nursing, short and long term care.
Riverside Recovery Services LLC	408 Coshocton Ave Mt Vernon, OH 43050		14 mi	Addiction and substance abuse
Behavioral Healthcare Partners of Central Ohio, Inc. (BHP)	65 Messimer Dr Newark, OH 43055	(740) 522-8477	13 mi	Addiction and Substance Abuse and Behavioral Issues
Quest Recovery Center	112 Harcourt Rd STE 2 Mt Vernon, OH 43050	(740) 204-5649	14 mi	Addiction and Substance Abuse
Shepherd Hill	200 Messimer Dr Newark, OH 43055	(220) 564-4877	13 mi	Health and Addiction

Country Club Retirement and Rehabilitation Campus	1350 Yauger Rd Mt. Vernon, OH 43050	(740) 397-2350	16 mi	Senior Healthcare
The Courtyard at Newark	1065 Johnson Avenue Newark, OH 43055	(740) 366-5271	10 mi	Assisted Living and respite care
Knox Recovery	113 W Gambier St Mount Vernon OH 43050	(740) 326-9099	14 mi	Addiction and Substance Abuse
Arlington Care Center	98 S 30th St Newark, OH 43055	(740) 344-0303	12 mi	Skilled Nursing, Memory and Hospice Care

Figure 25: Hospitals

Hospitals, ER's and Urgent Cares	Address	Phone	Distance	Specialty
Knox Community Hospital	1330 Coshocton Ave Mt Vernon, OH 43050	(740) 393-9000	16 mi	Community Hospital/ER/ Labor & Delivery
Licking Memorial Hospital	1320 W Main St Newark, OH 43055	(220) 564-4000	13 mi	ER/ Labor & Delivery/Urent Care Center
Grant Medical Center	111 S. Grant Ave Columbus OH 43215	(614) 566-9000	41 mi	Level 1 Trama Center/ ER/ Labbor & Delivery
OhioHealth Emergency Care- New Albany	5868 N. Hamilton Rd Columbus OH 43230	(614) 788-9350	27 mi	24/7 ER
Mount Carmel St Ann's	500 S Cleveland Ave Westerville, OH 43081	(614) 546-4000	33 mi	ER/ Labor & Delivery In and out patient
Newark Valley Urgent Care	2112 Cherry Valley Road, Newark, OH 43055	(740) 522-0222	14 mi	Common Illnesses, Sports Injury , X-rays and Minor Injuires

*Distances are approximations

**This is not an all-inclusive list of available services

Schools

The North Fork Local School District rests in northern Licking County. The District boundary includes all of McKean, Morgan, Newton, and Washington Townships and portions of Burlington, Clay, Eden and Mary Ann Townships. North Fork Local boundaries trace over 135 square miles.

The District Transportation Department includes CDL Bus Drivers (20), Van Drivers (3), and Bus Aides (2). All transportation personnel are highly trained, licensed and background-checked for the safe transport of students to and from school and extra-curricular activities. All school buildings are locked during the school day. The North Fork Local Safety Plan is approved by the State Department of Education and Local Law Enforcement Agencies. North Fork staff and students are trained in bus safety and school building safety procedures. Students and staff in all four school buildings follow a safety practice schedule throughout the entire school year. All four school buildings are located in close proximity to a local fire department and a local police department.

The North Fork Local District includes four Schools. Utica High School (grades 9-12), Utica Middle School (grades 6-8), and Utica Elementary (grades K-5) are all located in the Village of Utica. Newton Elementary (grades K-5) is located in neighboring Newton Township on Route 13, just past Saint Louisville.

According to 2023-2024 school year statistics, the District employs 221 staff members (103 Teachers and 118 Support Staff) who are dedicated to the education of 1460 students grades K-12.

Figure 26: North Fork Schools Enrollment

School Building	Enrollment
Newton Elementary	351
Utica Elementary	361
Utica Middle School	335
Utica High School	413

2023-2024 Statistics

The existing Utica High School building was opened in 2003. The existing Newton and Utica Elementary buildings were both opened in 2008. The North Fork Local District is pursuing funding to replace the current Middle School building in the near future. North Fork Local has approximately 152 students who are enrolled and their families reside in other districts through the Open Enrollment Policy. The district also offers a Virtual (Online) Learning Academy and a Home Instruction option with a district approved tutor for students in special situations.

North Fork Local Schools follow the State of Ohio Department of Education Curriculum. Students in K-5 must meet academic content standards in English Language-Arts, Math, Science/Social Studies, Physical Education, Art and Computer Science. Students in grades 6-12 must meet academic content standards in English Language Arts, Math, Science, Social Studies, College Credit Plus, Accelerated Programs and Work Based Learning.

North Fork Local offers many opportunities for extra-curricular activities. At the K-5 grade levels, students may participate in: North Fork Youth League volleyball, basketball, bowling, cheerleading, Math Club, Reading Club, Running Club, and Science Club. The local community of Utica's extra-curricular programs include Bidy Cheerleading, Bidy Basketball, and Bidy

Football. Students in grades 6-12 extra-curricular activities include: Future Farmers of America (FFA), football, basketball, baseball, softball, track, cross country, volleyball, cheerleading, bowling, yearbook, drama club, school musicals and plays.

The district currently provides iPads on a 1:1 basis for students in grades 6-12. Students in grades K-3rd have several devices in each classroom to utilize for stations and more. Each elementary building also has three iPad carts that can be used for class use as well.

Local Libraries

Hervey Memorial Library is located in the Village of Utica and is the oldest branch of the Licking County Library System. The library is currently at a temporary location while renovations are performed on the original location at 15 North Main Street. David Hervey purchased the then home in 1875 and willed it to the community to be a public library. Hervey Memorial Library officially opened in 1953. The library is part of a county wide loan service that partners with other local libraries to share resources. Hervey currently has approximately 1100 cardholders and 15,000 volumes, with 33,000 volumes in circulation.

Figure 27: Area Libraries

Location	Days	Hours
Utica- Hervey Memorial 115 South Main Street, Utica, Ohio 43080	Monday, Wednesday, Friday Tuesday & Thursday Saturday & Sunday	10:00 AM to 5:00 PM 12:00 PM to 7:00 PM Closed
Newark Public Library 101 West Mmain Street, Newark, Ohio 43055	Monday-Thursday Friday Saturday Sunday	10:00 AM to 7:00 PM 10:00 AM to 5:00 PM 10:00 AM to 3:00 PM Closed
Emerson R. Miller 990 West Main Street, Newark, Ohio 43055	Monday-Thursday Friday Saturday & Sunday	10:00 AM to 7:00 PM 10:00 AM to 5:00 PM Closed
Johnstown- Mary E. Babcock 320 North Main Street, Johnstown, Ohio, 43031	Monday-Thursday Friday Saturday Sunday	10:00 AM to 8:00 PM 10:00 AM to 5:00 PM 10:00 AM to 3:00 PM Closed

Figure 28: Area Churches

Utica Church of Christ 115 North Central Avenue, Utica, Ohio, 43080	Utica Baptist Temple 57 North Central Avenue, Utica, Ohio, 43080
Utica United Methodist Church 626 North Street, Utica, Ohio, 43080	Utica Presbyterian Church 9 South Main Street, Utica Ohio, 43080
Grace Pointe Community Church 892 East Columbus Road, Utica, Ohio, 43080	Faith Outpost Church 13117 Cooksey Road, Utica, Ohio, 43080

Figure 29: Area Clubs and Organizations

American Legion Post 92 Veteran’s Services	American Legion Post 92 Auxiliary Supports the American Legion	Sons of the American Legion Supports the American Legion
Masonic Lodge Fundraising Service Organization	Sertoma & LaSertoma Supports speech and hearing loss as well as other organizations in need	Utica Historical Society Preserves the history of Utica and surrounding areas
Utica Shrine Club Fundraising for burn hospitals and other children’s hospitals	UTK Club Fundraising and Social Club	Utica Merchant Association Organization to promote Utica

Parks and Recreation

There are around fifty acres of parkland in the Village of Utica that are dedicated to active recreational activities. This includes the American Legion Park, Miller Park, and South End Park, as well as the school buildings. One of the main recreational areas within Washington Township is the Velvet Ice Cream Company property. This property contains four shelter houses and two small fishing ponds as well as a restaurant, ice cream parlor, and museum.

Washington Township also has quick access to many other recreational facilities located throughout Licking County including:

Figure 30: Area Parks

Name	Address	Special Interest
Miller Park	3 Crestview Drive Utica, Ohio 43080	Neighbor Park / Baseball Park
Morris Wood Nature Preserve	7502 Dutch Lane NW Johnstown, Ohio 43031	No pets allowed
Shelby Park	10 School Street St. Louisville, Ohio 43071	Neighborhood Park/ Baseball Park
Horns Hill Park	1250 Horns Hill Road Newark, Ohio 43055	Mountain biking
Honey Run Highlands Park	10816 Millersburg Road Howard, Ohio 43028	Waterfall/ Bird and Butterfly watching
Spring Valley Nature Preserve	1539 Columbus Road SW Granville, Ohio 43023	Hiking
Schnormeier Gardens	8701 Laymon Road Gambier, Ohio 43050	Landscaped Gardens/ Paid Admission
Wolf Run Regional Park	17686 Yauger Road Mt Vernon, Ohio 43050	Hiking/ Dog park
Infirmary Mound Park	4351 Lancaster Road Granville, Ohio 43023	Horseback riding trails/ Hiking / Mountain biking/ Dog park

Riverview Reserve	375 Ohio Street Newark, Ohio 43055	Woodland and wetlands/ Canoe launch sites
Dawes Arboretum	7770 Jacksontown Road Newark, Ohio 43056	Nonprofit arboretum/ Paid admission
Flint Ridge Park	15300 Flint Ridge Road Glenford, Ohio 43739	Ancient mounds/ Paid admission
TJ Evans Park and Bike Trail	1480 Mt. Vernon Road Newark, Ohio 43055	Bike Trail: Johnstown to Newark/ Fishing
Newark Earth Works	455 Hebron Road Heath, Ohio USA	Ancient Earthen Mounds

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Economic Development

Economy and Employment

For many decades, agriculture was the main industry of Washington Township. However, fewer and fewer inhabitants are employed by farm occupations in Washington Township compared to prior periods.

According to the 2020 U.S Census only 0.9% of the civilian employed population was employed in agriculture, forestry, fishing or mining occupations, down from 4.7% 20 years ago. In the 2000 Census, 3.6% of residents were farmers.

During the last 20 years, farmers' fortunes reversed decades of stagnating or falling incomes. This lowered the incentives to sell productive farmland resulting in less pressure of land development and new home construction. In addition, various tax supportive initiatives have helped retain land for agricultural use or conservation within the township.

In 2022, The American Community Survey estimated that 59.3% of actively working township residents were employed by private companies, 16.8% were either self-employed or family workers, 12.3% hired in local state and government occupations while the remaining 11.6% worked in private non-profit positions.

The largest industry employing people from Washington township is 'educational services and health care and social assistance' at 31.2%. This is quite a significant difference from 20 years ago when 17.9% were employed in 'Education and Health Services'. The second highest industry is 'Other Services' at 14.3%, followed by 'Construction' 13.4% and 'Retail trade' 11.9%. Compared to the 2000 Census, 'Manufacturing' has fallen back further to 5.2%. Meanwhile, 9.7% of residents are engaged in 'Transportation and Warehousing', a sign that eCommerce and trade have had an impact.

There are few large businesses in Washington Township. The Energy Co-op, Cardinal CT, and Velvet Ice Cream are the most significant and display a long history of operations. The township hosts several smaller business enterprises and a few that are seasonal depending on their offering, i.e., agri-related. Figure 31 on the next page lists most businesses within Washington Township.

Figure 31: Businesses Located in Washington Township

Business	Address	Phone
Velvet Ice Cream	11324 Mt. Vernon Rd. Utica, OH 43080	740 892 3921
Cardinal CT	140 Carey Street Utica, OH 43080	740 892 2324
The Energy Coop/Licking Rural Electric	11339 Mt. Vernon Rd. Utica, OH 43080	800 255 6815
Kokosing Materials, Inc.	9134 Mt Vernon Rd. St. Louisville, OH 43071	740 745 3341
Olen Corporation	9134 Mt. Vernon Rd. St. Louisville, OH 43071	740 745 5865
Law General Contracting	9128 Mt. Vernon Rd. St. Louisville, OH 43071	740 745 3420
Branstool's Orchard	5895 Johnstown-Utica Rd. Utica, OH 43080	740 892 3989
Legend Hills Orchards	11335 Reynolds Rd. Utica, OH 43080	740 892 2498
Coad Homestead Farm	9987 Mt. Vernon Rd. Utica, OH 43080	740 745 5644
Walsh Christmas Tree Farm	9068 Eden Church Rd St. Louisville, OH 43071	740 745 5040
Bella Vista Equine Reprod. Svcs.	9573 Martinsburg Rd. St. Louisville, OH 43071	740 503 2004
FDT Diesel Performance	13169 Martinsburg Rd. Utica, OH 43080	740 892 2977
Ohio Temp Heat & Air	9020 Mt. Vernon Rd. St. Louisville, OH 43071	740 819-0304
Rusty River Barn	4441 Johnstown-Utica Rd. Utica, OH 43080	740 644 9166
Little Avengers Academy	8905 Mt Vernon Rd. St. Louisville, OH 43071	740 745 2432

Community Engagement

Washington Township began the process of updating the Comprehensive Plan in October 2023. The updating process started with a call for community involvement by posting notice of the project across several platforms in circulation. Engaged community members gathered at public meetings during the year's transition, updating the plan's factual content in order to better represent the current state of the township in 2024. In quarter two of 2024, the team shifted focus to community engagement and conducted a survey. Postcards were sent to all members of the township with the option of an online survey, dates for in person polling, and an option to request a hard copy of the survey. The questions in the survey were selected to encourage feedback on the demographic and vision within the township. The results of the survey can be viewed below.

Demographic

With three weeks allotted for responding to the survey, 111 responses were received. To better understand the demographic of the respondents three questions were asked; What is your age? What is your commute to work? How long have you lived in the township? Nearly 80% of the responses came from members of the township who are over the age of 40 and have lived in the township for more than 10 years.

Figure 32: Township Age Results

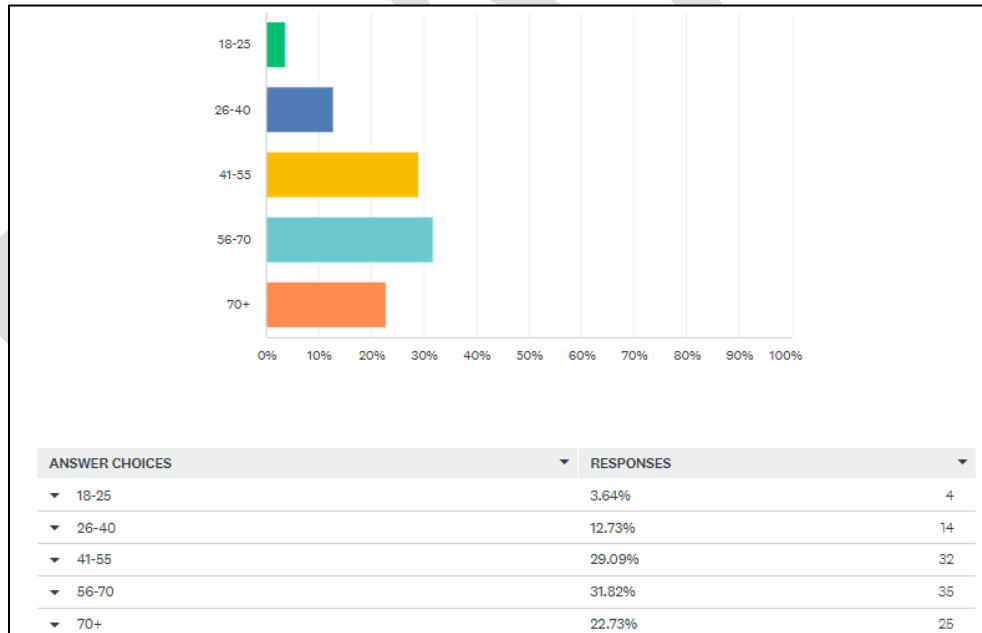
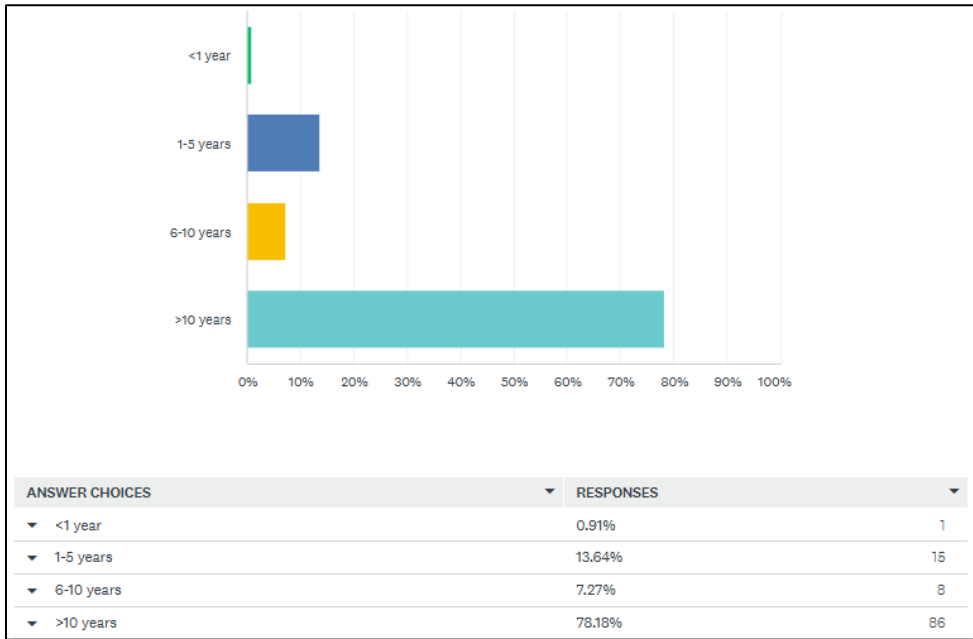
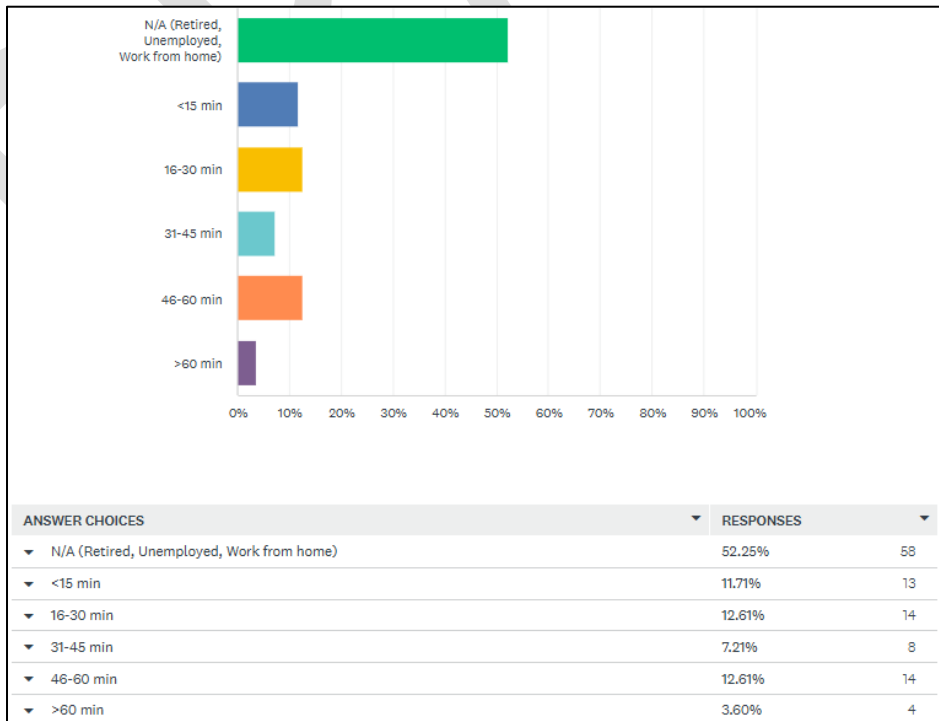


Figure 33: Length of Establishment in Township Results



Over 50% of respondents were either retired, unemployed, or worked from home, with all other responses evenly distributed between the categories from less than a 15 minute commute to work to greater than 60 minutes.

Figure 34: Commute to Work Results

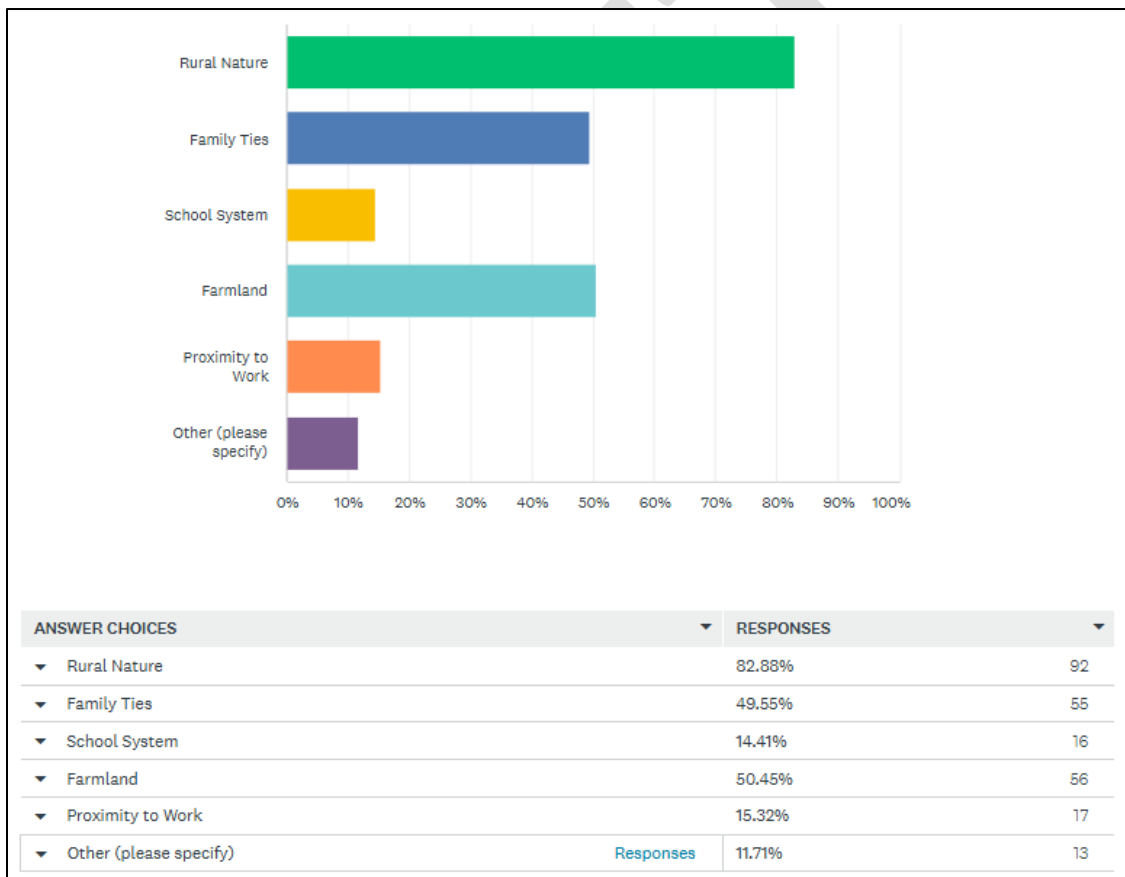


According to the results, members are willing to travel for work, if necessary, but a majority of the respondents spend the work week around their home. It is important to consider the demographics of the respondents when evaluating the remainder of the results, in order to best portray the vision for the future.

Vision

After the demographical questions, the survey asked about what drew the respondents to Washington Township, so that the focus could shift towards the vision for the township’s future. A majority of the responses were geared towards aspects like rural nature, farmland, family, peacefulness, and outdoor recreation. Things like proximity to work and the school system were less of a focal point, but still received some responses.

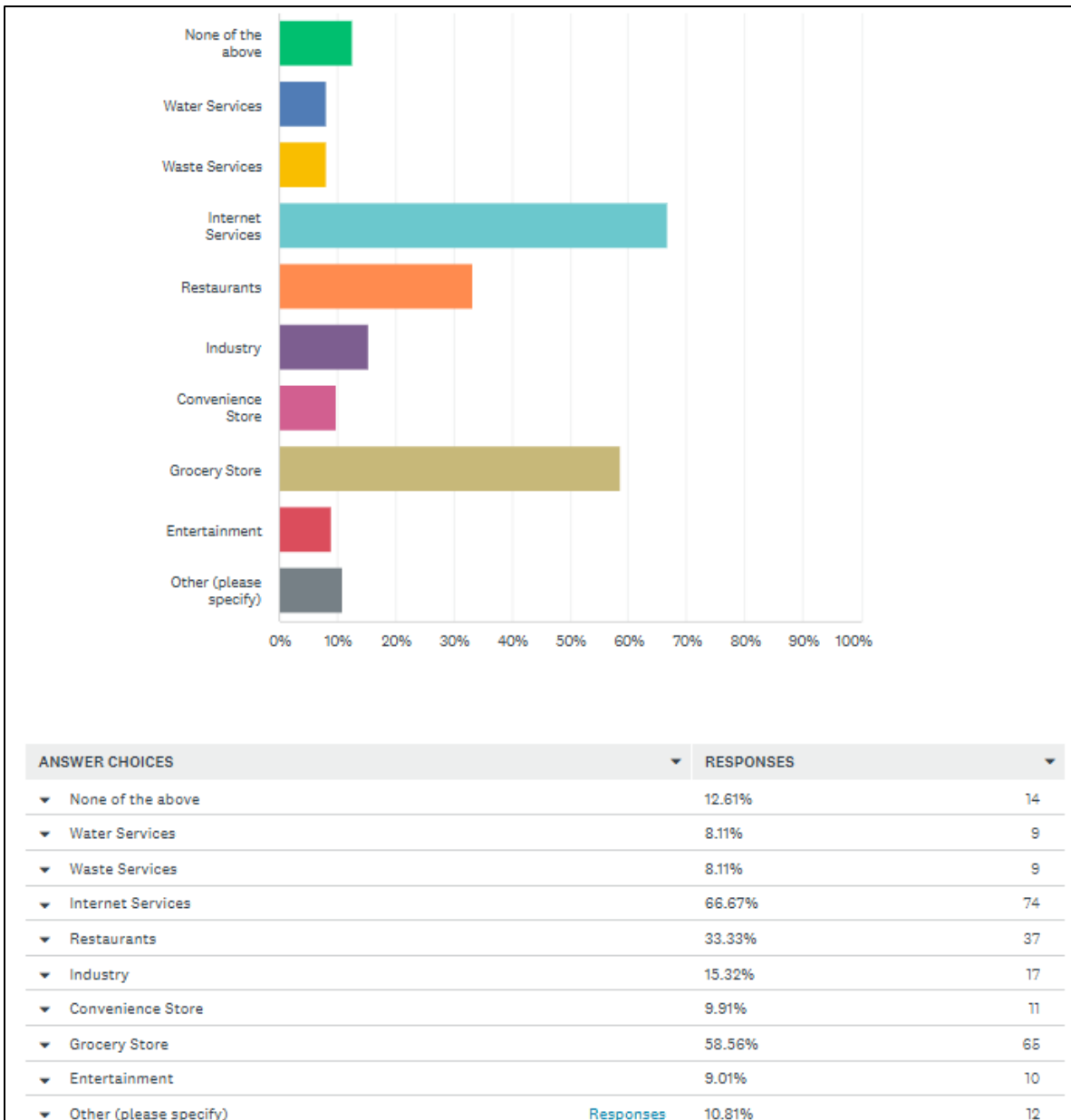
Figure 35: Draw to Township Results



Beyond understanding what draws members to the township, questions were also asked to understand what changes may be desired. The survey asked about changes in terms of economic development, public services, and township zoning.

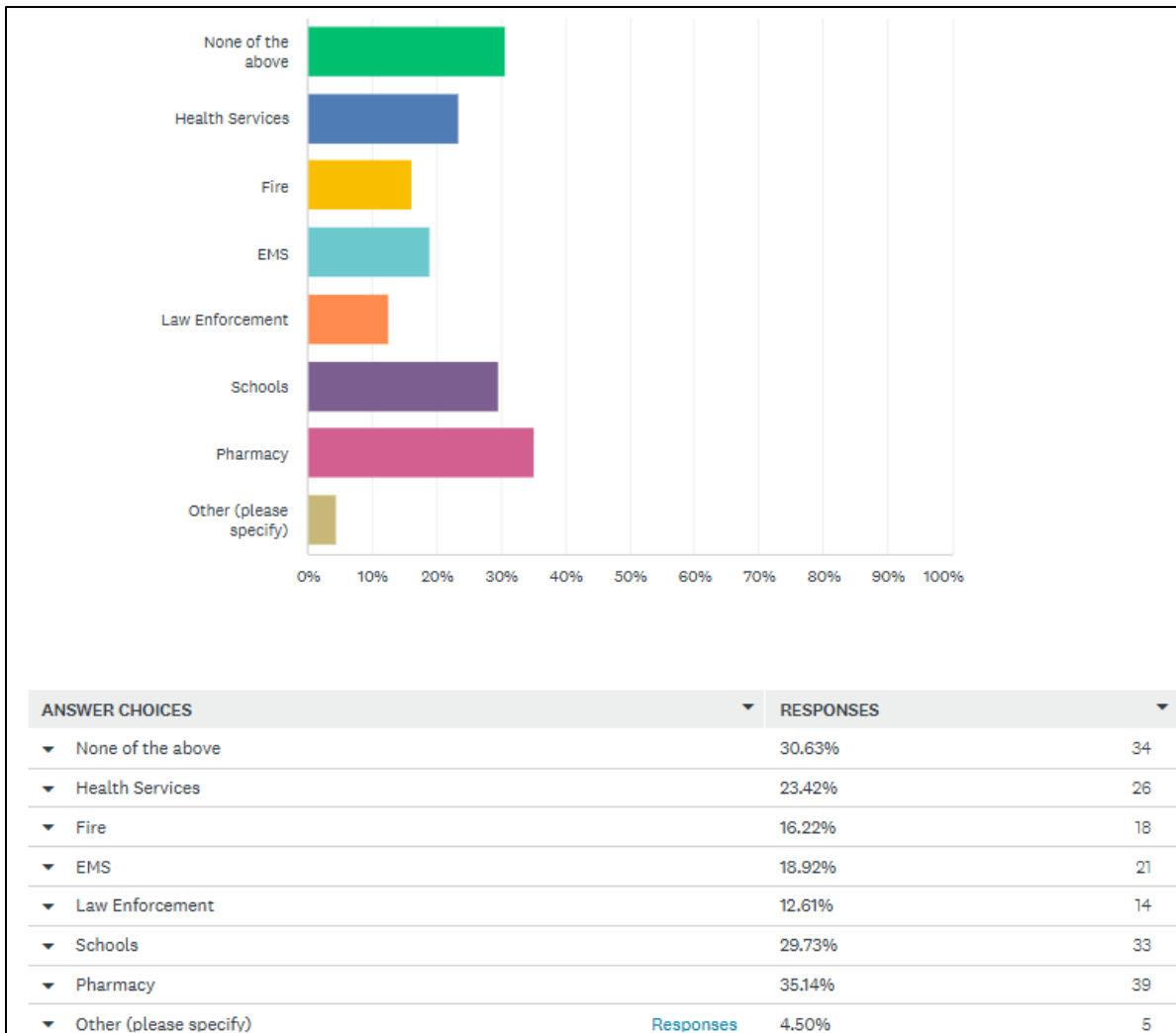
Responses for the economic development needs of the area were reflective of the vastly present digital demand of this era, and also the desire to decrease travel for basic needs and entertainment. Over 65% of respondents expressed that internet services are lacking in the township. The next closest developmental need, at 58%, was for a grocery store. Restaurants, convenience stores, and industry were the next highest voted categories, with all others receiving very few votes, as seen below.

Figure 36: Economic Development Survey Results



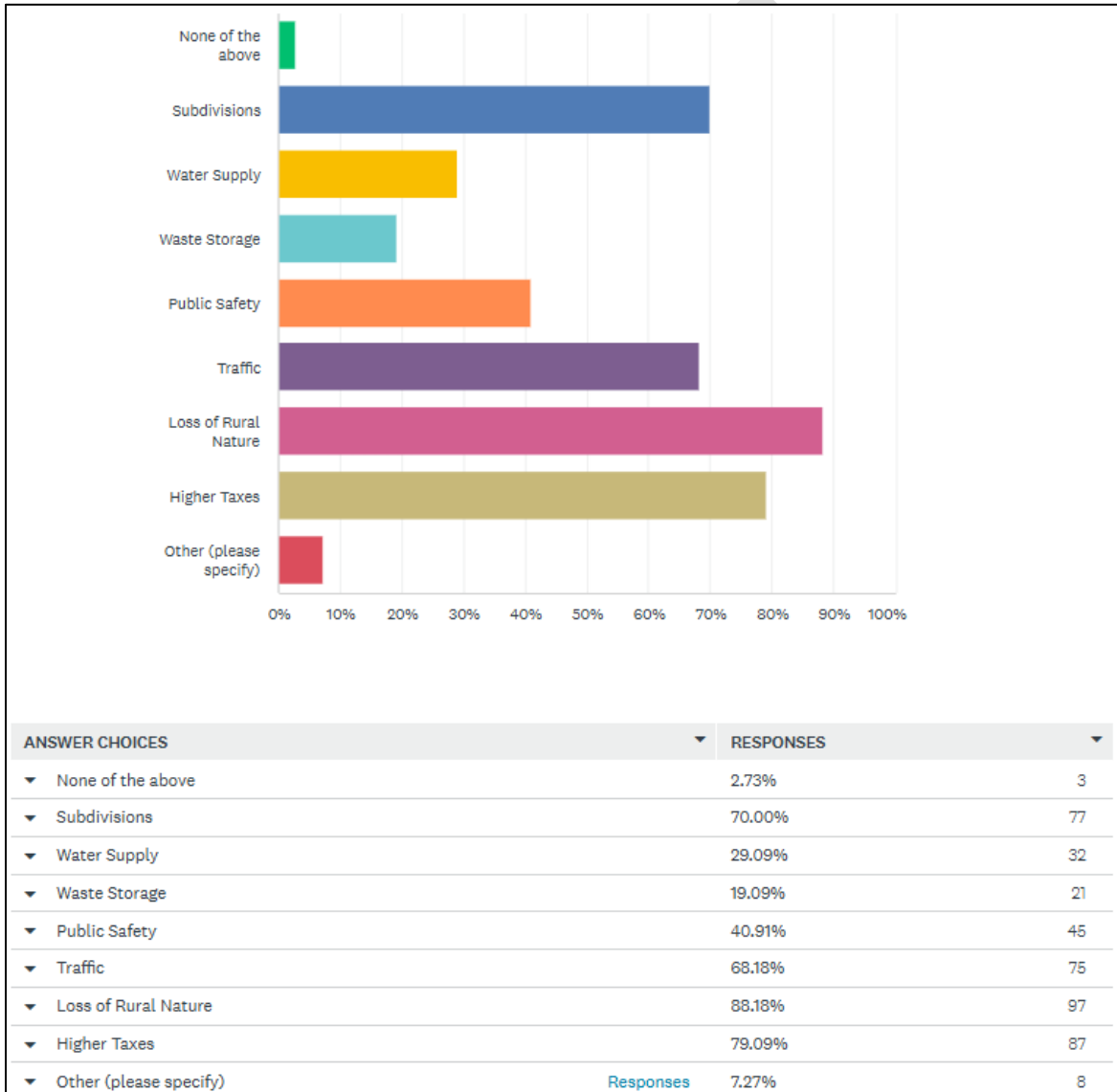
The most diversity in responses came from asking what public services need updated or added to the township. Thirty five percent of respondents selected the need for a pharmacy. Since the last survey, the local pharmacy has been shut down making this response no surprise. Fire, EMS, and Law Enforcement all received a similar number of responses, while Schools received the second most selections. There were several write-in comments as well about the school system needing attention.

Figure 37: Public Service Updates/Additions Results



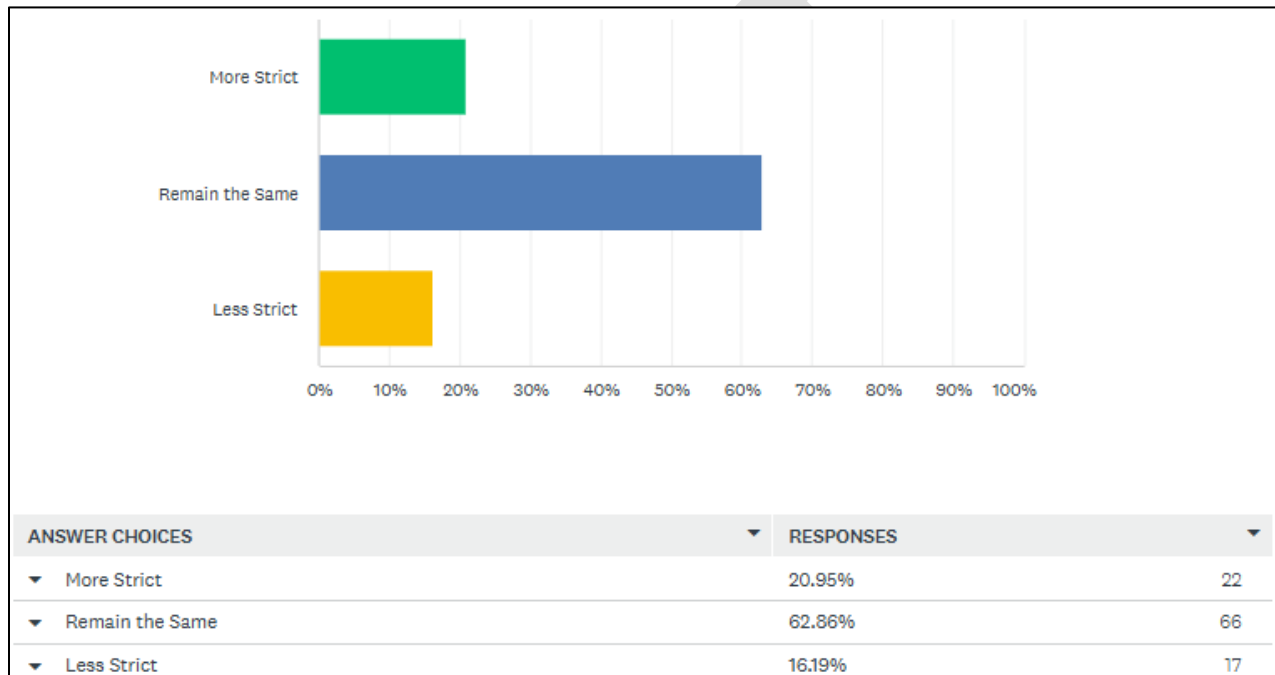
With planned development of a large manufacturing plant in western Licking County, the next question asked about the concerns that members have with extensive development. As expected by the responses to why people are drawn to Washington Township, the members are very concerned about the changes that are being forecasted. Almost 90% of respondents selected that they are concerned about losing the rural nature that they have grown to love in the area. Other concerns involved higher taxes, traffic, and subdivisions, all of which received over 60% of selections by respondents.

Figure 38: Development Concern Results



Lastly, with the threat of change comes the need to maintain control of that change so that the township values are not lost. Asking if current zoning regulations should be more strict, less strict, or remain the same sparked a lot of conversation. Sixty-two percent of respondents want zoning to remain the same, while 20% want it to be more strict. The comments for this question were mainly about lot size and housing throughout the township. A majority of the comments favored keeping a five-acre lot requirement, while others mentioned adapting to the incoming growth and making less restrictions for new homebuilders. Other comments mentioned containing the growth without changing the nature of the township, which seems to be a balance of the two comments mentioned above.

Figure 39: Zoning Regulations Results



Survey Conclusion

The objective of this survey was to gain an understanding of what the members of the township value about the current state of the area, and also to learn what changes they would like to see or not see. These results indicate that the township is full of established members and has not yet seen the impact of new growth and development, but members do realize that it is coming in the near future. The residents of the township are drawn to the area because of the farmland, serenity, and rural nature, but they would also like easier access to some of the luxuries of a small city like a grocery store, pharmacy, and entertainment. Based on the results, the public services in the township are fairly sound, with the school needing some attention. The forecast of growth has members of the township concerned about the loss of rural nature and the construction of housing developments. In conclusion, change is undoubtedly coming, and the members hope that growth can be contained while keeping the rural farm style peacefulness that Washington Township has enjoyed over the years.

Land Use Recommendations

The recommendations for land use within the Washington Township Comprehensive Plan, and more specifically the Washington Township Future Land Use Map (page 57), are based upon physical characteristics, existing land uses, infrastructure, and most importantly, the opinions expressed in the Community Survey. The Future Land Use Map and this text should be considered and consulted in matters that affect land use in the future. These include, but are not limited to, zoning map and text amendments, variance requests, and development review.

While the Comprehensive Plan is the vehicle by which land use can be legally regulated, it need not be adhered to rigidly. In order for local governments to remain proactive in planning, they sometimes have to be flexible. This means making decisions based on how they affect the community as a whole, not just one particular parcel. The following paragraphs provide general descriptions of the various land uses that are provided for on the Future Land Use Map.

Agriculture

Agriculture is a vital part of Washington Township. Therefore, it is recommended that a majority of the township remain designated for agricultural use. This is supported by the results of the community survey, with over 50% of respondents indicating they are drawn to the township because of farmland. With farmland, also comes a rural feel, which is the main aspect that residents want to maintain. Agriculturally zoned areas are not strictly limited to agricultural use. Single-family dwellings are permitted, however larger lot requirements in these areas protect from over development, which would encroach on the township's rural nature.

All of the agricultural areas on the Future Land Use Map may not be able to be farmed due to the nature of the land. Some respondents to the survey indicated that they want to enjoy the rural nature of the township, but lot requirements in the Agriculture District are too large, making them unaffordable for newer families. Lessor restrictions on lot size in areas that are agriculturally unusable could be considered on a case-by-case basis, however the end goal should still be to preserve farmland and remain rural as a whole. Utilizing some Rural Residential restrictions in the Agriculture District as well as specifically Residential restrictions near the Village of Utica would help direct growth to areas that may otherwise be deemed useless.

Residential

In order to effectively maintain the growth that is predicted to drift into Washington Township, it is best to determine where this growth can be directed so that agriculture/rural nature is not disturbed. Locating Residential districts around the Village of Utica and north of St. Louisville allows for more condensed housing near areas that are already residential in nature. These areas are near State Route 13 and 62 making them easily accessible while having little to no impact on the heartland of agriculture in the township.

Another effective method for controlling growth is the implementation of a Planned Unit Development (PUD) district. The basic premise behind the PUD is flexibility in subdivision design standards. Allowing homes to be built on smaller lots throughout a property that would otherwise be limited by lot size requirements can help better utilize space. Clustered lots provide

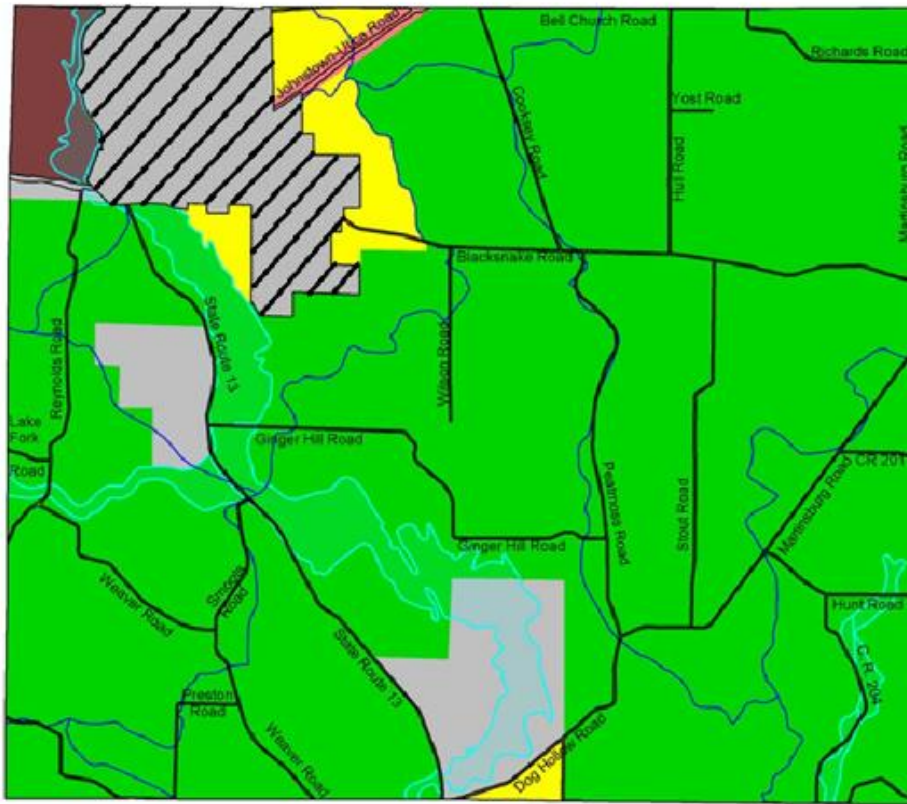
for a more efficient design, since they require fewer linear feet of roads and utility lines. More importantly, allowing smaller lots means that local zoning can require more open space to be preserved within a development. For example, developers could be required to permanently dedicate up to 50% of every proposed development to open space. Implementing a PUD district requires updating the Washington Township Zoning Resolution. If implemented, it should be done in such a way to inspire development that is efficient in design; preserves open space, environmentally and ecologically sensitive areas, and rural character; mixes compatible uses; and is pedestrian oriented. Proposed PUD development plans should also be required to be submitted to and reviewed by Washington Township officials.

A Residential district or a PUD district could both help maintain growth. The determination of which is right for the township would be dependent on the pace at which growth is experienced, and the pressure it is creating on the township. A Residential district would be more static, while a PUD district would allow for adjustments and creativity on a project-by-project basis.

Industrial

The township survey indicated that the residents of the township are drawn to the area because of the farmland, serenity, and rural nature, but they would also like easier access to some of the luxuries of a small city like a grocery store, pharmacy, and entertainment. In order to maintain the agricultural integrity of Washington Township, industrial and commercial land uses should be reserved for the areas of the township in which industrial uses currently exist. These areas include the vicinity of the Olen Corporation immediately north of St. Louisville and that of Licking Rural Electric south of Utica on S.R. 13. Commercial development may also be considered in the strip of existing commercial uses west of Utica on the south side of U.S. 62. Small, local businesses, such as markets for farm produce or other local goods, would be appropriate along U.S. 62 east of Utica.

Figure 40: Future Land Use Map



- | | |
|---|--|
|  Commercial/Industrial |  Agriculture |
|  Parks/Recreation |  Incorporated |
|  Residential |  Floodplain |
|  Small/Local Business |  Watershed |

