

City of New Franklin

COMPREHENSIVE PLAN





ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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A heartfelt thank you to all committee members, visioning participants, workshops participants, survey respondents, and members of the public who gave freely of their time to attend steering committee meetings, visioning sessions, workshops, and complete the public survey. Their input was critical to the development of this plan and is deeply appreciated.



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CHAPTER 1: INTRODUCTION



CHAPTER 1: INTRODUCTION



Greetings to the New Franklin Community,

We are immensely grateful for your valuable input and the trust you have placed in us to provide these recommendations to our leadership.

Our commitment to preserving the unique rural charm and Portage Lakes identity remains unwavering. We recognize the importance of maintaining a fiscally conservative approach while heeding your voices, resonating with safeguarding our vital resources. Our mission is to ensure the sustained health and vibrancy of our community while maintaining a high level of accountability for the collective revenues we manage.

One clear message we have received is that any growth or development in our area must be subjected to thorough research and meet an acceptable threshold that aligns with the greater good of our community. It should never compromise the quality of life many of us enjoy.

We hold our small-town identity dear, and we firmly believe that deviating from this identity would not be prudent. The submitted recommendations represent examples and goals that will assist our council members and executive leadership in shaping the New Franklin image and identity for future generations. These suggestions aim to build upon our current successes and ensure our continued growth as a community.

We express our heartfelt gratitude for your active participation in meetings and discussions, where we collectively determined what matters most to you. We understand the weight of this responsibility and do not take it lightly.

To our fellow committee members, we sincerely thank you for your sacrifices and the professionalism you displayed throughout this process. Your dedication has been invaluable in our efforts to enhance and preserve the essence of our community.

Thank you for being a part of this journey, and we look forward to continuing our work together for the betterment of New Franklin.

Respectfully,

Michael V. Conwell
 Comprehensive Plan
 Steering Committee Chairperson

Together with our Chair, we respectively submit this Comprehensive Plan for City Council approval:

 Steve Rector, Vice Chair

 Laura Jo Hawk, Secretary

Steering Committee Members

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Comprehensive Plans

What is a comprehensive plan? A comprehensive plan is a document and process that determines community goals and aspirations in terms of community development. It can guide public policy in terms of current/future land use, parks/recreation/open spaces, agriculture, housing, economic development, transportation, infrastructure, utilities, and downtown development.

“The comprehensive plan is one of the most important tools municipalities can use for land use planning and local governance. The plan serves as an official public document that guides public and private decisions about physical development in the community. It is an explicit statement of future goals for the community and serves as a formal vision for the planning commission and other public agencies, elected officials, private organizations, and individuals. The comprehensive plan is a measuring tool for evaluating specific development proposals and their impact on the general public welfare.” (Source: A Guide to Planning in Ohio by the Ohio American Planning Association, 2007).

Unlike other states, where planning is mandatory, in Ohio it is permissive (a community can choose not to have a plan or zoning). From a practical sense, however, it is highly recommended that communities have a comprehensive plan to guide growth and to serve as a legal foundation for zoning.





Planning Trends & Previous Planning Efforts

The American Planning Association (APA) provides trends for planners to watch for while working in community planning. The reporting is a partnership between the APA and the Lincoln Institute of Land Policy. A brief summary of trends for 2021 and 2022 is located in **Appendix A** and are heavily influenced by the Covid-19 pandemic. Trends for 2023 are listed below.

2023

Act Now...	Prepare For...	Learn and Watch For...
Climate Policies, Funding, and Action	Blockchain, Crypto, and NFTs (Non-Fungible Token)	Geopolitical Dynamics
The Digital Era	The Metaverse	Green Signals
Federal Funding and Local Priorities	Amazon-ification and Other Retail Trends	Outer Space
Gender Expansiveness and Gender Mainstreaming	The Future of Work	Political Shifts in Public Safety and Security
Policy Impacts on Health	The Upside-Down Economy	Potential Game-Changing Tech
The Housing Crisis, New Roommates, and Solutions	Relaxed Zoning Regulations allowing for more rental units, allowing accessory dwelling units, and converting office buildings to residential uses	
Social Media Use and Media Literacy		
Equitable, Environmentally Responsible Transportation		
Younger Generations and Social Challenges		

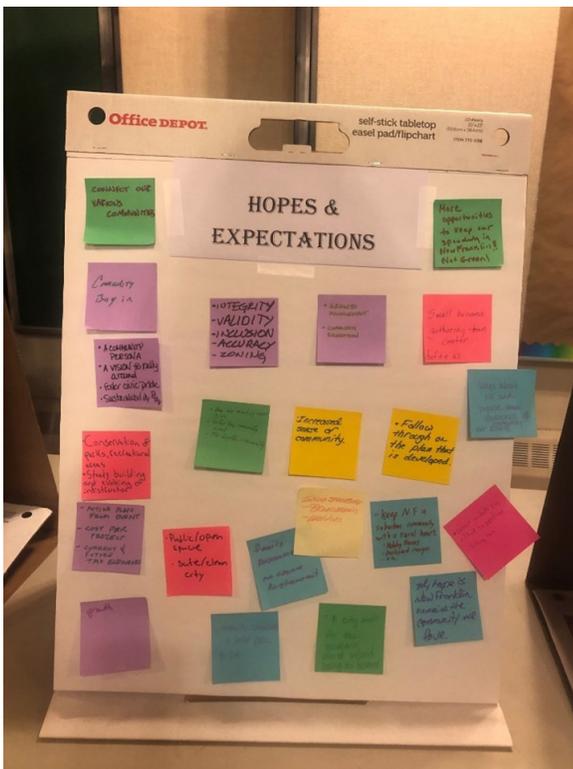
New Franklin completed a comprehensive plan in 2004 with a steering committee and developed a planning theme of “Today, Tomorrow, Together.” This document represented a vision for overall development of the township and the village over a period of two decades (2004-2024). The purpose of the plan was to provide a framework where informed spending and regulatory decisions could be made that helped determine the future character of the community. Such decisions included proper location and nature/type of future development, need for public facilities or infrastructure, and the determination of scenic, environmental, and historic resources that should be afforded a measure of protection as development occurs. Residents liked peace and quiet, rural character, large lots, open space, farms, beauty of community, little traffic, low taxes, low utility costs, affordable housing, and good schools. Residents were concerned about keeping taxes low, keeping autonomy of community, maintaining rural character, large lots, promoting balanced growth, protecting sensitive natural resources, more shopping, restaurants, and industrial development, but a limited amount, more recreation opportunities, and trails, building a community center, more housing/services for seniors, and improving appearance of Manchester Road and certain other areas. Many of the key issues outlined in the previous plan are still very real issues for the city today. A matrix outlining the recommendations of the 2004 Plan can be found in **Appendix B**.

There is also an Akron Metropolitan Area Transportation Study (AMATS) Transportation Outlook 2035 that examines preserving the region’s existing transportation system and focusing resources on those preservation strategies. A summary of the previous planning efforts can be found in **Appendix A**.

Planning Processes

In March of 2022, the City of New Franklin hired Kleinfelder, Inc. (and its subconsultant, Boulevard Studios, LLC) to work with the city and a city-appointed steering committee to complete a Comprehensive Plan. A steering committee of approximately 20 volunteer community members was appointed to collaborate with the consultants. Two survey subcommittees were also developed to create the survey and analyze the open-ended results. The steering committee included citizens, local business and building owners, local elected officials/board members, and public-school officials. This group of individuals met with the consultants and the city's communication manager for seven steering committee meetings, one public visioning meeting, and three public planning workshops. All steering committee meetings were open to the public and members of the public were invited to comment on the planning project during the last ten minutes of each meeting.

This document will guide development and decision making for the next 10 years. This guide will assist the city in implementing the visions that were agreed upon during this planning process.



The steering committee was surveyed early in the process for their hopes and expectations of the comprehensive plan. Many participants wanted to see an increased sense of community/a community persona, enhanced connections to various communities, a vision to rally around, and fostered community pride coming from this final document. Participants also mentioned needing community buy-in for the plan, as well as integrity, validity, inclusion, sustainability, and accuracy during the planning process. An identified town center, conservation of parks/recreation areas, public open spaces, evolving infrastructure (broadband, utilities), small/family-oriented businesses, keeping its rural atmosphere at heart, and continued buying and shopping in New Franklin were also mentioned. Growth, growth management, keeping the status quo, preserving history, having a safe and clean community, striving to be a better place to live, keeping New Franklin affordable, reviewing cost of proposed projects, and assessing current/future tax rates to ensure fiscal responsibility were also mentioned. Steering committee members wanted to see how much was completed in the 2004 Plan and what still needed to be done that could be carried over along with the new updated comprehensive plan.

All documentation from each meeting and each public event (power point, meeting minutes) was forwarded to the steering committee for comments. The steering committee was instrumental in reviewing the final report and recommendations.

Process

Comprehensive plans typically follow a phased approach ensuring a look back to the past and forward to the future with public input included in between. The following phases were used for New Franklin’s comprehensive planning process:

Phase 1- Discovery: This was a time to learn and gather information necessary to gain a shared understanding of the community. This understanding included both current conditions and trends shaping the future.

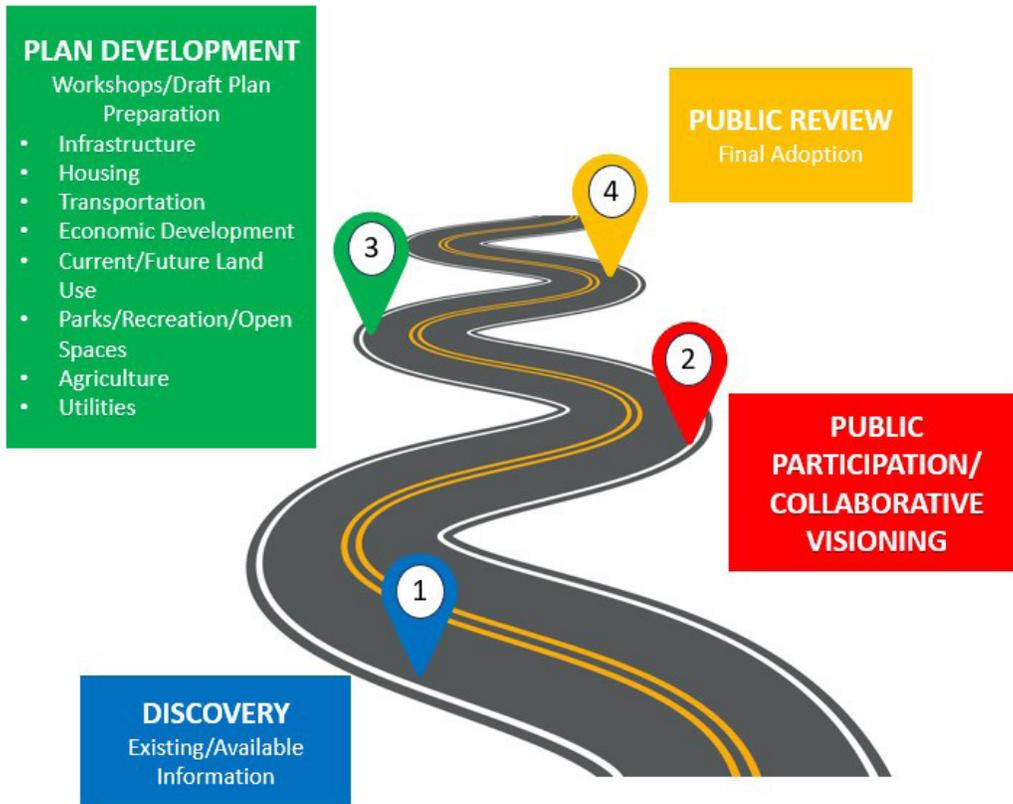
Phase 2- Collaborative Visioning: Armed with the key information about community characteristics and trends, more informed conversations about the future were undertaken. These conversations occurred in many ways and in many settings to provide residents with opportunities to share thoughts and exchange ideas.

Phase 3- Plan Development Phase: Here, steering committee members and consultants began to build on previous steps and assembled the components of a new Comprehensive Plan. The Plan format followed steps taken throughout the planning process and incorporated all aspects of public input.

Phase 4- Public Review & Final Adoption: Once completed and approved for public review by the steering committee, the Plan was presented to the general public. The steering committee had a signing party to formally sign off on the document. Formal adoption by the City Council was completed in November 2023.

Comprehensive Plan Guiding Principles

- Visionary
- Inclusive
- Strategic
- Transparent
- Community-oriented
- Accessible
- Systems-based
- Accountable
- Consensus-focused
- Action-oriented
- Data-driven

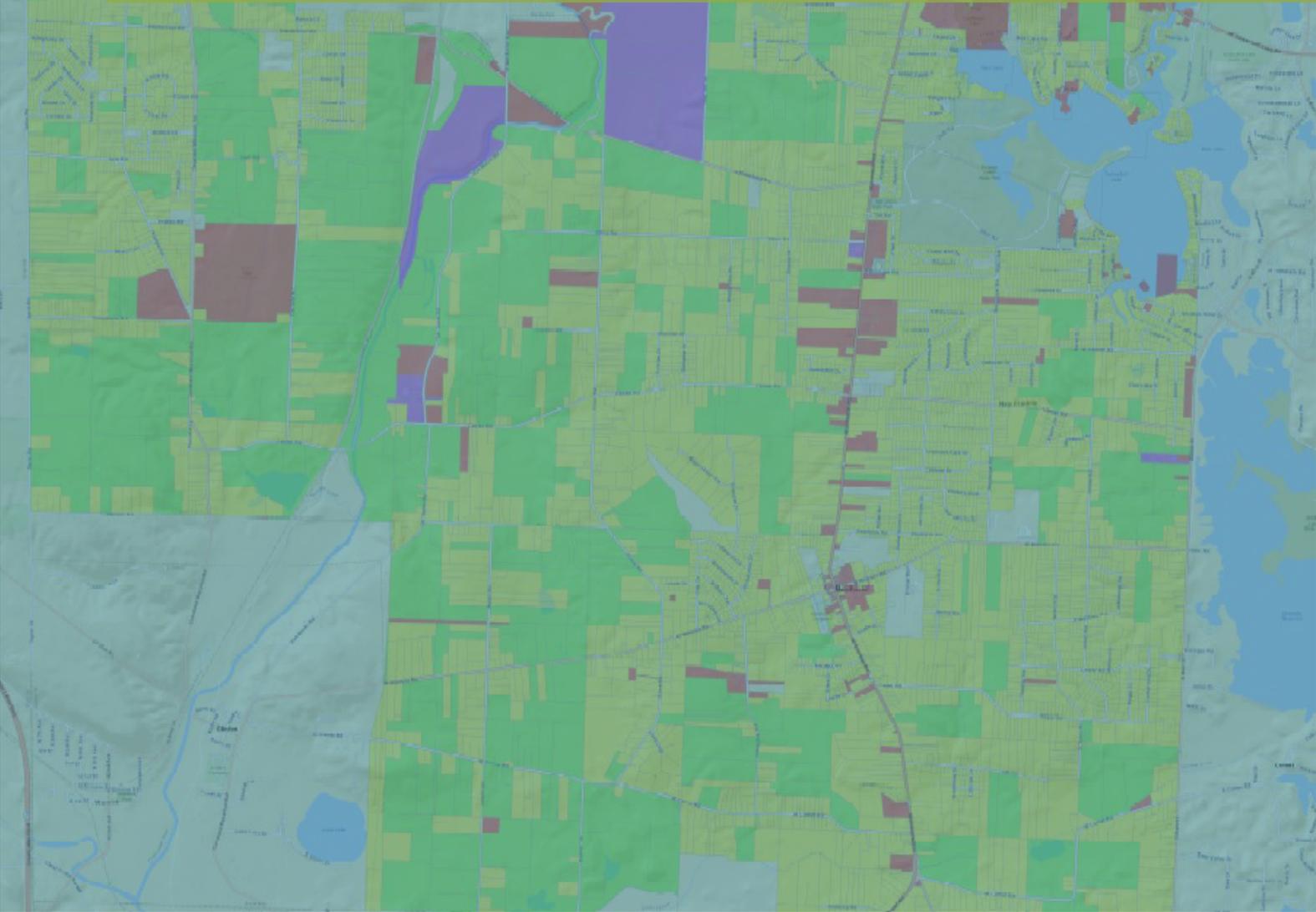


General Guiding Principles

1. *New Franklin* residents know what they want to be and what they do not want to be; any future planning should recognize this appreciation for the current quality of life and focus on the potential impact of the financial needs of planning.
2. *New Franklin* has two commercial gateways, Manchester Road (SR 93) and West Turkeyfoot Lake Road (SR 619), into the community, and investment should be targeted here, along with planning tools for a more uniform look and feel.
3. *New Franklin* residents are engaged about their existing infrastructure; any changes should be further studied, recognizing that changes may need to be made to attract certain types of development or redevelopment.
4. *New Franklin's* existing agriculture is part of the fabric of the community and should be preserved as part of the agricultural atmosphere residents' desire.
5. *New Franklin* residents are interested in an identity and a central gathering place, one that will serve to bring all residents together, no matter where they live in the city or what school district they attend.
6. *New Franklin's* parks, recreation, and open spaces (and unique opportunities with state and county-owned recreational areas) are important to residents and should be preserved, improved, and expanded to meet the needs of existing and future residents and visitors.
7. *New Franklin* residents are interested in some additional commercial development, specifically more diversity and options in restaurants and other commercial businesses. These developments should utilize vacant buildings first so as not to utilize existing greenspace.
8. *New Franklin's* housing stock should include more diversity in price and options in order to keep existing residents and attract new residents in different stages of their lives, especially those who want to downsize and age in place.
9. *New Franklin* is interested in conservation design principles to protect land and environmentally sensitive areas in development and redevelopment projects.
10. *New Franklin* is one strong community, where residents love where they live, and all planning elements should recognize this.

Many voices were heard during this process and many ideas were generated. These recommendations can be found in Chapter 6 by planning elements. While some of these ideas will be easily implemented, others will need further study. Additional public input and finalized plans will be necessary. Some drawings were developed for illustrative purposes only. We understand the financial implications of all these recommendations will need further review and final project determinations will be made by City Council.

CHAPTER 2: DATA COMPARISON & TRENDS





CHAPTER 2: DATA COMPARISON & TRENDS

Population / Households

Between 2010 and 2020, New Franklin experienced a 2.46% loss of population. With the exception of the City of Green, all other adjacent communities also experienced slight losses of population.

	2020		2010		2000	
Community	Population	Household	Population	Household	Population	Household
New Franklin	13,877	5,661	14,227	5,640	2,191	867
Barberton	25,191	10,950	26,550	11,054	27,899	11,523
Clinton	1,197	509	1,214	471	1,337	496
Chippewa Twp.	9,795	3,952	10,212	3,924	10,085	3,775
Coventry Twp.	10,238	4,800	10,945	4,915	10,900	4,633
Green	27,475	11,195	25,699	10,070	22,817	8,742
Lawrence Twp.	13,548	5,475	13,702	5,256	13,382	4,779
Norton	11,668	4,699	12,081	4,708	11,512	4,340

Source: 2020 U.S. Census Data, ODOD Office of Research, August 2021

Income

New Franklin and Green have the highest median household incomes in the area.

	2017-2021	2006-2010
Community	Median Household Incomes	Median Household Incomes
New Franklin	\$80,357	\$57,756
Barberton	\$45,017	\$35,411
Clinton	\$74,955	\$50,536
Chippewa Twp.	\$72,298	\$53,475
Coventry Twp.	\$68,065	\$45,783
Green	\$85,255	\$63,402
Lawrence Twp.	\$72,981	\$56,464
Norton	\$76,513	\$55,252

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey 5-year estimates

Educational Attainment

From the 2017-2021 ACS 5-year profile data, there were 10,634 individuals in New Franklin 25 years of age and older. The figures below represent the educational attainment for this population.

2017-2021 ACS Data

	HS Graduate	Associates	Bachelors	Graduate/Professional
New Franklin	3,702 (34.8%)	1,474 (13.9%)	1,403 (13.2%)	930 (8.7%)

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2017-2021 5-year estimates from the American Community Survey (ACS) Profile Report

Employment / Unemployment

From 2017-2021 ACS data, the City of New Franklin had a workforce of 7,595 with 342 persons unemployed (4.5%).

Variables	New Franklin
Population 16 yrs and over	11,722
In labor force	7,604 (64.9%)
Civilian labor force	7,595 (64.8%)
Employed civilians	7,253 (95.5%)
Unemployed civilians	342 (4.5%)
In military	9 (0.1%)
Not in labor force	4,118 (35.1%)

Employers

New Franklin in Summit County is within the Northeast Ohio Region of JobsOhio, the state's economic development agency. The Northeast Region encompasses eighteen (18) counties and works with JobsOhio on economic development recruitment and retention strategies, workforce development, site selection, and economic development incentives for businesses. The top employers in Summit County are Goodyear, Bridgestone, GOJO (makers of Purell), First Energy, PPG, Needle Holdings, Sterling Jewelry, Summit County Government, Akron Public Schools, University of Akron, Summa Health, Akron Children's Hospital, and Spectrum (a communications company). The top employers within the City of New Franklin are Manchester Schools, Norton Primary School, Coldwell Banker Schmidt Realty, and the City of New Franklin.

Industry / Occupations

The top industries employing the most workers in New Franklin are in the educational services, healthcare, and social assistance (23%), followed by manufacturing (15%), retail trade (10.4%), arts, entertainment, recreation, accommodation and food services (9.5%) and professional/scientific/mgmt. and administrative fields (9.1%).

New Franklin, Ohio

Civilian employed population 16 yrs and over	7,253
Agric, forestry, fishing, hunting, and mining	26 (0.4%)
Construction	595 (8.2%)
Manufacturing	1,094 (15.1%)
Wholesale Trade	214 (3.0%)
Retail Trade	755 (10.4%)
Transportation, warehousing, and utilities	654 (9.0%)
Information	70 (1.0%)
Finance, insurance, real estate, rental & leasing	336 (4.6%)
Professional, scientific, management & administrative	663 (9.1%)
Educational services, healthcare, social assistance	1,668 (23%)
Arts, entertainment, recreation, accommodation & food services	689 (9.5%)
Other services except public administration	269 (3.7%)
Public administration	220 (3.0%)

Source: U.S. Census Bureau American Community Survey 5 year profile- 2017-2021

Housing

The housing stock in New Franklin has remained stable between these two ACS timeframes. The percentage of owner-occupied units dropped slightly which increased the number of rental units. The majority of New Franklin's housing inventory is made up of single-family homes (over 91%). The number of mobile homes increased by 42% from 117 to 167. The median home value increased by \$15,400 (10.31%) over this time period.

New Franklin, Ohio

Variable	2017-2021	2006-2010
Total Housing Units	5,984	5,931
Occupied units	5,614 (93.8%)	5,583 (94.1%)
Owner-occupied	4,837 (86.2%)	5,021 (89.9%)
Renter-occupied	777 (13.8%)	562 (10.1%)
Vacant	370 (6.2%)	348 (5.9%)
Single Family	5,458 (91.2%)	5,543 (93.5%)
Single, detached	5,449 (99.8%)	5,413 (97.7%)
Single, attached	9 (0.2%)	130 (2.3%)
Duplexes	156 (2.6%)	160 (2.7%)
3-4 units	62 (1.0%)	40 (0.7%)
5-9 units	8 (0.1%)	44 (0.7%)
10-19 units	82 (1.4%)	18 (0.3%)
20+ units	41 (0.7%)	9 (0.2%)
Mobile homes	167 (2.8%)	117 (2%)
Units built prior to 1979	4,986 (83.32%)	4,800 (80.93%)
Median home value	\$164,700	\$149,300
Median owner cost	\$1,323	\$1,345
Median rent	\$976	\$799

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey 5-year profiles

CHAPTER 3: EXISTING CONDITIONS





CHAPTER 3: EXISTING CONDITIONS

Location

The City of New Franklin is located at the southern edge of Summit County in northeastern Ohio.

The portion of Franklin Township lying east of the Tuscarawas River was surveyed in 1800 due to the Treaty of Fort McIntosh. At that time, the Tuscarawas River was the boundary between the United States and the Native Americans. In 1805, the Treaty of Fort Industry dissolved Native American title to land west of the river. Primarily settled by the Pennsylvania Dutch, there was abundant rich soil and water (Tuscarawas River and Turkeyfoot Lake, named for a noted Indian Chief). The area, founded in 1817, was originally known as Franklin Township and part of Stark County. In 1840, Franklin Township was severed from Stark County and made a portion of the new Summit County. In 1997, the Village of New Franklin was incorporated from a section of Franklin Township due to numerous annexation attempts; and in 2003, residents of Franklin Township and the Village of New Franklin voted to merge the two entities. The merger was approved and took effect January 1, 2005, with the new combined village officially becoming a city on March 5, 2006. New Franklin has a total area of 26.76 square miles.

Employment

Major employment sectors are manufacturing and healthcare, followed by transportation and finance/insurance. Professional/technical services and wholesale trade round out the labor force sectors found in the City of New Franklin (www.summit4success.com).

Major employers in the City of New Franklin based on **income tax revenue** include Manchester Local School District (Elementary, Middle, and High Schools); City of New Franklin; Hi-Way Distributing Corp. of America; Boat Master’s Marine, Inc.; Martin Steel Fabricating; and St. Luke Lutheran Community.

The City of New Franklin has 298 businesses with a labor force of 7,741 (www.summit4success.com). The top employers based on **number of employees** include Manchester Local Schools (Elementary, Middle, and High Schools) (120); City of New Franklin-Fire, Police, Service, and Administration (102); Upper Deck (80-100 depending on season); Hi-Way Distributing (65); Turkeyfoot Links Golf Course (55-60); Dano’s Lakeside Pub (40-45); and Coldwater Banker Schmidt Realty (36).

Key industries (**county-wide**) include Polymers & Advanced Materials; Advanced Manufacturing; Biomedical; Logistics & Distributions; and Technology & Professional Services (from [summit4success](http://summit4success.com)).

Economic Development (ED)

ED Services for the city have been provided by inSITE Advisory Group since 2014.

Land Use

Based on the current land use map for Summit County (2015), residential uses comprise the most acreage within the community followed by agricultural, commercial, exempt, and industrial.

Uses	Acres	Percentage
Residential	±8,143	50.5%
Agricultural	±5,385	33.5%
Commercial	±1,039	6.5%
Exempt	±993	6.1%
Industrial	±555	3.4%
Total	±16,115	100%

The City of New Franklin’s residential areas are located throughout the city and adjacent to Manchester Road in the eastern part of the city from its northern corporate limits to its southern corporate limits. There is a small concentration of residential development to the west of Fairland Road and Pancake Lane. The commercial uses are concentrated in several parts of the city: along Manchester Road, south of Vanderhoof Road; along West Turkeyfoot Lake Road, east of Manchester Road; between Fairland Road and Pancake Lane, just east of Baughman Road; and a large mixed commercial/industrial area at Rex Hill and Vanderhoof Roads. Industrial uses are concentrated/located adjacent to Vanderhoof Road, at Rex Hill, between Van Buren Road/Tuscarawas River and Railroad Tracks, with a smaller area of mixed industrial/commercial at the corner of Van Buren Road and Center Road.

Most of the communities surrounding New Franklin have an adopted comprehensive plan, and all have zoning.

Community	Comprehensive Plan	Zoning
Coventry Twp.	No	Yes
Barberton	Yes, 2006	Yes
Norton		Yes
Chippewa Twp., Wayne County	Yes, 2010, Being Updated	Yes
Village of Clinton		Yes
City of Green	Yes, 2014, Being Updated	Yes
Lawrence Twp., Stark County		Yes

Natural Areas

The Tuscarawas River traverses the community north/northeast to south/southwest on the western edge of the city. As a result, there are floodplains and wetlands along and related to the river. Turkeyfoot Lake is located in the northeast portion of the city and is part of the Portage Lakes State Park. Per GIS review, FEMA Panels located partially or entirely within the city limits: 39153C0232F, eff. 4/19/2016; 39153C0235F, eff. 4/19/2016; 39153C0251F, eff. 4/19/2016; 39153C0253F, eff. 4/19/2016; 39153C0250F, eff. 4/19/2016; 39153C0265F, eff. 4/19/2016; 39153C0270F, eff. 4/19/2016; and FEMA Panel 39153C0252E, eff. 7/20/2009. Natural Resources Inventory & Mapping Study, Franklin Township, Summit County, 2002. Prepared by Davey Resource Group.

Topography

The City of New Franklin’s topography ranges from 950’ to 1,150’ above sea level. The lower levels run parallel and along the Tuscarawas River and Nimisila Creek. Higher levels are located in the central part of the city, in the far southwest corner of the city, and also in the eastern part of the city, adjacent to Manchester Road, Center Road, and Grove Road. The highest points are in those same areas of the city with an elevation of 1,150’.

Brownfield Remediation Site

The city does contain one brownfield site (owned by PPG Industries) and it is located along Vanderhoof Road.

Zoning

The City of New Franklin has nine zoning classifications that, for the most part, reflect the existing land uses.

- R-1 Rural Residential- large lot parcels having septic systems and wells located in the southwestern part of the City
- R-2 Residential- mostly found in the northwest corner and eastern half of the City
- R-3 High Density Residential- mostly found in the northeastern area of the City
- R-L Lakefront Residential- found along the Portage Lakes area in the northeast corner of the City
- B-1 Light Commercial- found along both sides of Manchester Road between Yager Road on the south and Vanderhoof Road on the north
- B-2 Heavy Commercial- at the intersection of Manchester and Center Roads, and West Turkeyfoot Lake and State Roads
- L-1 Light Industrial- a parcel along the west side of South Main Street
- I-2 Manufacturing and Storage- a large area north of the City, east of Barberton, north of Vanderhoof Road and west of Rex Hill Road; the northwest corner of Baughman Road and South Cleveland Massillon Road, Van Buren Road north of Center Road, three parcels west of the City of Barberton
- CD Conservation- located north of the Village of Clinton along the CSX Railroad, an area along the City's southern boundary along the Stark County border and a northwest section of land north of Peggy Ann Drive and Rawlins Avenue.

The current zoning map is located in **Appendix C**.

In 2023, the entire zoning code is being evaluated by a consultant with updates being proposed. The current zoning code was carried over from when the city was still a township (prior to 2006) and there has never been a complete update. The city is in the process of reviewing it, and while much of the current code will remain the same, some updates will be made.

Parks/Trails

Ohio & Erie Canal Towpath Trail: Franklin Trailhead, dedicated in October 2022 and located at 2328 Center Road, New Franklin, Ohio. The Vanderhoof Trailhead is located on Vanderhoof Road just west of Van Buren Road.

Summit Metro Parks: Founded in 1921, managing more than 15,000 acres throughout 16 parks and three nature centers, Summit Metro Parks has over 150 miles of trails, including 22 miles of the Ohio & Erie Canal Towpath Trail. Maps, guidebooks, and park & trail finders are available along with shelter houses and lodges for rental. A variety of programming and events are also available.

Portage Lakes State Park: Includes 411 acres at 5031 Manchester Road, is a division of ODNR, and offers boating, water skiing, swimming, beaches of Turkeyfoot Lake, camping, hunting, fishing, hiking trails, an astronomy observatory, wetlands, cross-country skiing, ice skating, snowmobiling, ice fishing, and ice boating. Holds annual fireworks on Independence Day.

Tudor House/Civic Center: Located at 655 Latham Lane and is an historic lakefront mansion built in 1927 and owned by the City of New Franklin. It sits on approximately nine (9) acres of property adjacent to Portage Lakes State Park and includes the following amenities: ADA Accessible, Tables/Chairs, Dock, Fishing, Internet, Meeting Rooms, Parking, Picnic Areas, Restrooms, Trails, and Water.

New Franklin City Parks: Bollas Park (formerly Rawlins Park), Rawlins Avenue; George Sisler Memorial Baseball Park, 800 W. Nimisila Road (baseball/softball, volleyball, soccer, tennis, pickleball, pavilion, picnic tables, parking, restrooms); Grill Park, 6125 Kungle Road (baseball/softball, basketball court, playground); Lakeside Park, Map Drive (pickleball court); Maple Grove Park, Spangler Drive; Miracle Park, 5611 Manchester Road (baseball/softball, trails, parking, restrooms); and The Lockhart Field Complex, 6132 Kaderly Way (baseball/softball, football field, parking, pavilion, picnic tables).



Police/Fire/EMS

The City of New Franklin has its own Police and Fire Departments.

The Police Department currently consists of the Chief of Police, Captain, 3 Sergeants, 2 School Resource Officers, 13 full-time patrolmen, and 1 part-time officer who are all supported by a civilian Administrative Assistant. The department serves not only the City of New Franklin but also the Village of Clinton under a service contract. Patrol units are on-duty 24/7, 365 days. New Franklin has a Community Policing Program – a partnership between residents and law enforcement. Several neighborhoods participate in Neighborhood Watch Programs and the city also has a Senior Watch Program. Seniors that participate receive calls/visits from the Community Policing Officer. School Resource Officers serve as a resource for the schools and provide a variety of educational programs throughout the year.

The Fire Department provides fire and emergency medical services from two (2) fire stations located in the city: Station #1, 5605 Manchester Road and Station #2 at 3200 Rhapsody Lane. Providing 24/7 service 365 days a year, the fire department currently employs fifteen (15) full-time firefighter/paramedics, one (1) Fire Chief, one (1) Assistant Fire Chief, one (1) administrative aide, and eight (8) part-time personnel. As of February 2019, the Class/ISO rating has been 03/3Y. Fire services provided include: emergency medical services (EMS); injury prevention; fire and injury prevention education; fire prevention; fire suppression; technical rescue teams (specialty ops such as heavy extrication, water rescue, rope rescue, trench collapse rescue, and building collapse rescue); CPR classes; blood pressure checks, and general assistance. Emergency services are available by calling 911.

New Franklin made the list of 100 Safest Cities in America as compiled by SafeWise, a community-focused security organization (www.safewise.com, 2013).



Schools

The City of New Franklin's children are served by four (4) school districts: Manchester, Coventry, Norton, and Northwest (See figures below from Public School Review, 10/17/2022). For comparison purposes, the State of Ohio's student teacher ratio is 17:1 with a graduation rate of 82%.



Manchester Local School District (The Panthers) supports youth football, baseball/softball, basketball, soccer, wrestling, tennis, volleyball, track, cross-country, and cheerleading; as well as Manchester Middle School/High School Athletics. Manchester Local School District in southern Summit County serves approximately 1,200 K-12 students in three (3) buildings: Nolley Elementary (K-4), Manchester Middle School (5-8), and Manchester High School (9-12). Nolley Elementary has 440 students with a student teacher ratio of 19:1, higher than the State of Ohio at 17:1. Manchester Middle School has 399 students and a student teacher

ratio of 18:1, also higher than the State of Ohio. Manchester High School has 399 students with a 15:1 student teacher ratio, lower than the State of Ohio's 17:1 ratio. Manchester's graduation rate is 90-94% compared to 82% for the State of Ohio. The current high school was built in 1959 with an addition in 1963. A new high school is being built behind the current high school and is expected to be completed in time for the 2024-2025 school year. Nolley Elementary was built in 1962. After the 2023-2024 school year, the current high school will serve as the elementary school (K-5) and the new high school will serve 9-12 grade students. Manchester Middle School is the newest building in the district, built in 1973. Nimisila Elementary was also constructed around 1962 but closed in 1983. With passage of Issue #8/Bond Issue in 2019, construction and facility

updates are planned, including: new high school building (accommodates 425 students), new multi-sport stadium including new fieldhouse, weightroom/wrestling room, and current high school to be remodeled to accommodate pre-K through 5th grade and district offices. Initial tree removal occurred March 2022 on site of the new high school. Groundbreaking was September 18, 2022. Manchester also uses the Portage Lakes Career Center.



Coventry Local School District (The Comets) centers around the Portage Lakes area and supports youth baseball/softball and soccer, as well as Coventry High School Athletics. Coventry Local Schools has three (3) buildings to serve its approximately 1,600 students: Coventry Elementary (K-4), Coventry Middle School (5-8), and Coventry High School (9-12). Coventry Elementary School has 460 students with a 15:1 student teacher ratio. Coventry Middle School has 561 students and a student teacher ratio of 22:1.

Coventry High School has 621 students with a student teacher ratio of 18:1. Coventry High School graduation rate is 85-89%, higher than the state's graduation rate. The high school building is new, opening with the 2016-17 school year. Coventry Local also serves students at its Portage Lakes Career Center (615 students) providing both high school and adult education classes for hands-on career and technical training.

Norton City Schools (The Panthers) supports youth baseball/softball, basketball, soccer, wrestling, as well as the Norton Ohio Youth Sports Facebook Page and Norton High School Athletics. Norton City Schools has four (4) buildings serving its students: Norton Primary (Pre-K, Kindergarten), Norton Elementary (1-4), Norton Middle (5-8), and Norton High School (serving 802 students in grades 9-12). Norton Primary has 199 students and a student teacher ratio of 15:1. Norton Elementary School has 659 students and a 19:1 student teacher ratio. Norton Middle School has 693 students and a student teacher ratio of 19:1. Norton High School has a student teacher ratio of 19:1 with a graduation rate of 83%.



Northwest Local School District (The Indians) supports youth football, baseball/softball, wrestling, and cheerleading, as well as Northwest High School Athletics. Northwest Local Schools in western Stark County serves approximately 1,700 students in four (4) buildings: Northwest Primary (K-2), W.S. Stinson Elementary School (382 students in grades 3-5), Middle School (6-8), and High School (9-12, rated Excellent by ODE since 2003). Northwest Primary School has 368 students and a student teacher ratio of 16:1. W.S. Stinson Elementary School has a student teacher ratio of 14:1. Northwest Middle School has 437 students with a 16:1 student teacher ratio. Northwest High School has 557 students and a student teacher ratio of 18:1 with

a graduation rate equal to or greater than 95%. All the buildings are on a central campus located between Canal Fulton and Clinton. District boundaries include City of Canal Fulton, Village of Clinton, and Lawrence & Franklin Townships. Also serving students in the district is the R.G. Drage Technical Career Center (grades 11-12).

Taxes

The City of New Franklin has a 2% personal income tax rate. Income taxes are collected and administered by RITA (Regional Income Tax Agency). Residents may receive a tax credit of up to 2% of income taxes paid to another municipality or JEDD (Joint Economic Development District).

Historic Buildings

The City of New Franklin has two buildings listed on the National Register of Historic Places: the Zimmerly House, located at 4332 Manchester Road (NR Reference #SG100001936) which was listed on January 2, 2018 and the Tudor House (Frank Mason Raymond House/Franklin Park Civic Center) located at 655 Latham Lane (NR reference #95000500). Zimmerly House Applicable Criteria: Event. Periods of Significance: 1900-1924 and 1925-1949. Areas of Significance and Level of Significance: Commerce and Social History at a Local Level. The building's architectural style is Colonial Revival by architect Clifford B. Ferguson. Historic use was domestic, single dwelling and secondary structure. Current usage is a winery and event center. Tudor House Applicable Criteria: Architecture/Engineering (Late Gothic Revival). Periods of Significance: 1925-1949. Areas of Significance: Architecture. The building's architectural style is Late Gothic Revival by architects Albert H. Good and Edwin D. Wagner. Historic use was domestic, single dwelling. Current use is civic center, community events, and rental for private events.



Government

Mayor/Council Plan. This form of government was established/adopted by Charter in November 2006. The mayor and seven (7) council members are elected by the voters of the municipality and shall possess judicial & legislative powers specified in the Charter. The mayor is a full-time position, elected to a four (4) year term at alternate regular Municipal elections. The council members are elected to four (4) year terms, three elected at large and four elected from the Wards. All council elections shall be non-partisan. Mayor has power to appoint directors/division heads of municipality's administrative departments (Department of Finance & Department of Law, require majority vote of council; Public Safety & Public Service director positions shall be filled by the mayor, until mayor & council determine otherwise). Council members elect by majority vote from their membership, a President of Council and Vice-President of Council, each to serve one (1) year terms.

Water

Currently, much of the city water is via well systems. Per Summit County Public Health, Ali Rogalski, Water Quality Manager, there is no method to track the number of private water systems in each community (though calculation/estimation may be possible by comparing public water provider customer lists to the number of residences in each community).

Interest in city water has been expressed with four (4) options identified: build own plant/run lines (millions of dollars in costs); get water from Canal Fulton (impractical due to cost & distance); get water from Barberton (JEDD required/costs involved); or Aqua Ohio, a private company.

In 2009, New Franklin entered an agreement with Aqua Ohio, a private company with well fields in Massillon. In 2020, together with Aqua, the city applied for and received a substantial grant from Ohio EPA to cover half the cost of the initial

phase to bring water from the area of East Caston and South Main to SR 93 (Manchester Road). Aqua Ohio made public water service available to areas of New Franklin, beginning in 2021. Residents are not required to tie into the water main – service is voluntary; however, residents have the opportunity if located directly on the main route. No costs to the taxpayers, only those converting to public water service will pay a water main assessment (lot charge) and customer impact fee (meter charge). Those converting are also responsible for the service line from the street to the home/business and either abandoning the current well or installing a backflow preventer device that requires annual testing.

The water route begins on East Caston, runs south on South Main Street, west on West Caston, north on Coleman Drive, west on Catalina Drive, north on Renninger Road, and west on Renninger Road to Manchester Road (SR93). The water main runs north on Manchester Road to Vanderhoof Road and south to the location of Grace Bible Church.

Wastewater Treatment

Per Summit County Public Health, Ali Rogalski, Water Quality Manager, there are 5,146 private septic systems currently/still in use in the City of New Franklin.

For public sanitary sewers, data from Summit County Department of Environmental Services shows two (2) sanitary sewer pump stations in the City of New Franklin: 2441 Vanderhoof Road and 4977 Zelray Park. New Franklin also has three (3) wastewater treatment plants (WWTP): (#10) Melody Village on Overture Way has a capacity of 160,000 GPD; (#32) Broken Fence at Grill Road has a capacity of 40,000 GPD; and (#48) Zelray Park on Roble Road has a capacity of 132,000 GPD.



Summit County Department of Sanitary Sewer Services provides sanitary sewer service to the City of New Franklin. Summit County's sewer district is responsible for six (6) wastewater treatment plant (WWTP) facilities, 115 wastewater pumping stations, and approximately 1,009.46 miles of sanitary sewer lines transporting wastewater to both the county-owned treatment plants and to those of the cities of Akron, Barberton, Twinsburg, the NE Ohio Regional Sewer District, Stark County, and Portage County. Combined, the six (6) WWTPs process 7.1 million gallons per day (GPD). At close of 2021, the non-depreciated value of the county's sewer system assets totaled approximately \$210 million.

Of the six (6) WWTPs, the Fishcreek Facility in Stow, Ohio has a processing capacity of 8 million GPD and is currently processing an average daily flow of 4.5804 million GPD. The Springfield Facility has a capacity of 4 million GPD and is currently processing 2.76 million GPD. The Upper Tuscarawas Facility processes 4 million GPD.

Stark County provides some sanitary sewer services southeast of the Akron-Canton Airport. There is also a private system near Miller Lake in the far northwest part of the City of Green just north of East Turkeyfoot Lake Road. The City of Barberton Sewer also provides sewer service in some areas.

Electricity

The City of New Franklin is served by Ohio Edison, a First Energy Company. Ohio Edison has four (4) substations that service the city. Standard primary voltage throughout the city is 12.47 KV. This could be either single phase (traditionally in residential neighborhoods) or three phase (for commercial and/or industrial areas). Voltage is stepped down via Ohio Edison transformers. For residential customers, it is typically 120/240 volts. Large businesses and industries vary as a function of customer needs. Ohio Edison recently completed Grid Mod 1 which updated necessary lines and poles.

The average residential cost per kilowatt hour (kWh) depends on whether the customer is shopping for generation. However, as reported by both U.S. Energy Information Administration (USEIA) and www.utilitieslocal.com, residential electricity averaged approximately 14.33 cents per kWh in June 2022, or about 7% below the national U.S. average of 15.42 cents/kWh. From June 2021 to June 2022, average electricity rates increased from 13.35 cents/kWh to 14.33 cents/kWh (per www.utilitieslocal.com).

Commercial and industrial electricity for the same period in the state of Ohio averaged 10.97 cents/kWh (compared to national average of 12.90 cents/kWh) and 8.15 cents/kWh (compared to national average of 8.96 cents/kWh) (per U.S. Energy Information Administration, www.eia.gov).

Gas

The City of New Franklin is served by Dominion Energy of Ohio/East Ohio Gas. Dominion Energy provides natural gas service to approximately 1.2 million customers in Ohio, including New Franklin residents. Dominion Energy, Inc. company headquarters is in Richmond, Virginia.

Additionally, Nexus Gas Transmission (NEXUS) is an approximately 256 mile, 36-inch interstate natural gas pipeline designed to transport up to 1.5 billion cubic feet per day (Bcf/d) from receipt points in eastern Ohio to existing pipeline system interconnects in southeastern Michigan.

Residential natural gas costs in the City of New Franklin averaged 33.22 dollars per thousand cubic feet (\$/Mcf) or about 46% more than the natural average of 22.70 \$/Mcf in June 2022. From June 2021 (25.12 \$/Mcf) to June 2022 (33.22 \$/Mcf), average natural gas prices increased approximately 32% (www.utilitieslocal.com).

Residential natural gas prices as reported by the U.S. Energy Information Administration (USEIA) varied slightly from those reported by www.utilitieslocal.com. USEIA reported residential at \$33.28 /Mcf (compared to a national average of \$22.73 /Mcf); and a City Gate of \$7.94 /Mcf (compared to a national average of \$10.12 /Mcf).

Transportation

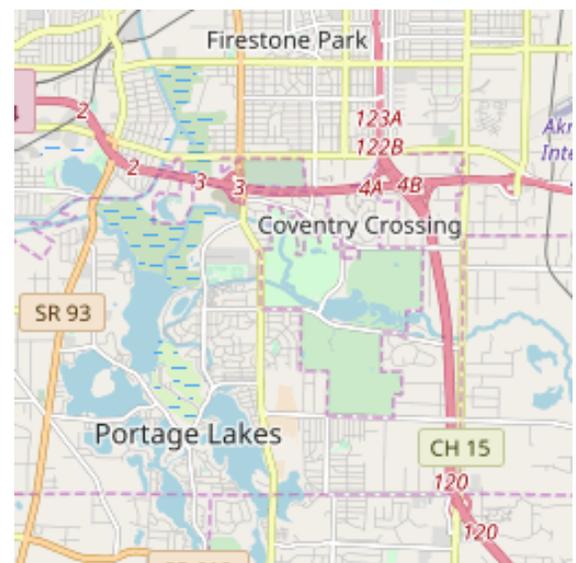
Ohio State Route 93 (SR 93/Manchester Road), the third longest state route in Ohio, is a two-lane highway running north/south through the City of New Franklin on the eastern side of the city and connects Canal Fulton to the south and Interstate 277 (I-277) and City of Akron to the north. Ohio State Route 619 (SR 619/West Turkeyfoot Lake Road), an east-west two-lane highway, runs through the northeast corner of the city from Barberton and connects to SR93 (Manchester Road) just northwest of Portage Lakes State Park. Ohio State Route 236 (SR 236/Akron Avenue NW), a north-south two-lane highway, connects to SR 93 (Manchester Road) in the southeast corner of the city. State Route 21 is also easily accessible.

There is one rail line (CSX- Transportation, Inc.) running north-south in the city adjacent to the Tuscarawas River.

While Akron Metro Regional Transit Authority (www.akronmetro.org) does not service New Franklin, there are several routes located north of the city with connections to Akron. Closest Metro routes to the city are as follows: 8-Kenmore/Barberton; 14-Euclid/Barberton Express; and 18-Thorton/Manchester.

Additionally, several pre-arranged transportation options are available to qualified individuals: Metro SCAT/ADA Complementary Paratransit; American Medical Transport; United Disability Services; City Yellow Cab; Active Transportation (Paratransit); and Provide A Ride (General paratransit/community ride programs).

The City of New Franklin is located approximately 20 minutes from Akron, Canton, and Massillon; and only 40 minutes from Cleveland; with easy access to Akron-Canton Airport (CAK), Akron Fulton Airport (AKC), Burke Lakefront Airport (KBKL), and Cleveland Hopkins International Airport (CLE).



Local Transportation Routes

CHAPTER 4: PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT





CHAPTER 4: PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT



The city used different forms of community outreach to invite residents to participate in the planning process. All meetings and the public survey were advertised in the South Side News Leader local newspaper. A customized meeting flier was developed and widely distributed in advance of all meetings. This was publicized on the city's website, Facebook Page, at local businesses, and in the South Side News Leader. Surveys were also publicized using yard signs throughout the city. Direct mail and post card follow-ups were made as well as text and email campaigns and use of the city's digital sign. The steering committee developed a comprehensive list of businesses, mapped by location, for public engagement outreach and meeting notices. These notices and fliers were also posted at these local businesses.



YOUR CITY. YOUR VOICE.
NEW FRANKLIN
 COMPREHENSIVE PLAN 2022

Join Us, New Franklin!
PUBLIC INPUT WORKSHOPS

Your City. Your Voice.
 Share your ideas for the future of New Franklin.

Learn More at NewFranklin.org

YOUR CITY. YOUR VOICE.
NEW FRANKLIN
 COMPREHENSIVE PLAN 2022

Your City. Your Vision.

Please Join Us to Share
 Your Ideas for the
 Future of New Franklin.

WORKSHOP #1
Current & Future Land Use
 Thursday, January 26, 2023 6-8 pm

WORKSHOP #2
Economic Development
 Tuesday, February 7, 2023 6-8 pm

WORKSHOP #3
Parks & Recreation
 Thursday, March 9, 2023 6-8 pm

ALL WORKSHOPS WILL BE HELD AT
gather
 at the lakes
 EVENT VENUE
 4315 MANCHESTER ROAD



**COMPREHENSIVE PLAN
 PUBLIC INPUT WORKSHOPS**

Add your voice and ideas to the efforts to build a better community for the future. During the workshops, the City's consultant (Kleinfelder, Inc.) will lead a brief discussion about the work that has already been completed including a review of the recent survey results. The majority of the time will be spent discussing planning elements. The information from this meeting will be fundamental to the development of the Comprehensive Plan, which will include goals and action steps to help shape the future of the City of New Franklin.

All New Franklin residents are invited and encouraged to attend! Light refreshments will be served.

Questions?

Contact Katie Smith, Communications Manager, City of New Franklin
 330-882-4324 ksmith@newfranklin.org



VISIONING EXERCISE

Community visioning is a technique that offers communities a way to promote great awareness of change, deepened citizen involvement, and a stronger sense of control over a community's destiny. The City of New Franklin has many great assets and through this process we hope to learn more about the future of the community. This is a unique opportunity to add your voice and ideas to the efforts to build a better community for the future.

BACKGROUND

The City hired Poggenmeyer Design Group, Inc. to work with a Steering Committee comprised of community members to complete our Comprehensive Plan. A Comprehensive Plan is a document and process that determines community goals and aspirations in terms of community development. It can guide public policy in terms of economic development, land use, transportation, infrastructure, public safety, community facilities, agricultural, natural, and cultural resources, housing, downtown revitalization, and historic preservation.

We look forward to seeing you at this important event!

The Comprehensive Plan Steering Committee

PUBLIC VISIONING

TUESDAY
May 17th
 2022
6:00 - 8:00pm

WHAT
 Comprehensive Plan Visioning Workshop

WHERE
 Gather at the Lakes Event Venue
 4315 Manchester Road
 New Franklin, Ohio 44319
 Light refreshments will be served.

Questions?
 Please contact Katie Smith,
 Communications Manager,
 City of New Franklin,
ksmith@newfranklin.org,
 330-882-4324.

The goal of the city and the steering committee was to involve as many residents as possible in this planning process. The planning process was open and inclusive with scheduled public meetings, but also included attending pre-scheduled events and activities where residents were already gathering. The public engagement plan (**Appendix D**) included:

Activity	Number of Activities	People Engaged
Steering Committee Meetings	7	175+
Visioning	1	50+
Workshops	3	200+
Public Survey	1	1,751
Press Releases	3	75,000 (25k circulation)
Social Media	28	500-3,000 each time
Email Blasts	5	1200
Webpage	1	2000
Mayor's Daily Updates	On website with regular updates	500-3,000 each time
Letter to the Editor (Akron Beacon Journal)	1	21,947-34,841 circulation
Community Events	2	1,000
Speakers Bureau	2	Kiwanis, Farm Bureau Members
SC Text/Email Campaigns	4	100+

The City of New Franklin has many great attributes and through this outreach process the steering committee hoped to learn more about the residents' thoughts on the future vision for the city. Public engagement activities became unique opportunities for residents to add their voice and ideas to build a better community for the future.

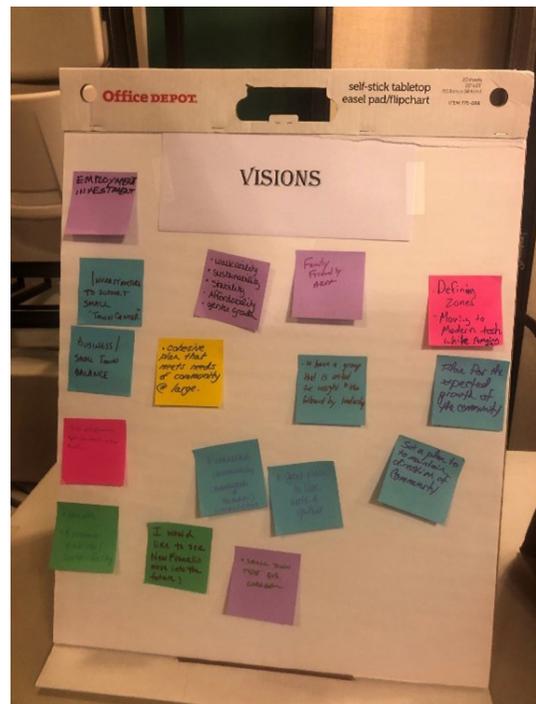
Visioning

Community visioning is a technique that offers communities a way to promote greater awareness of change, deepen citizen involvement, and provide a stronger sense of control over a community's destiny. Some benefits to visioning include the opportunity to:

1. Bring the community together in unique context to consider the future
2. Explore new ideas and possibilities and enrich public involvement
3. Create a shared sense of direction
4. Produce shared goals and strategies
5. Encourage new civic leadership and promote partnerships
6. Strengthen community partnerships

Steering committee members had the following visions:

- Employment investment
- Business and small-town balance
- Small town type business center
- Defining zones, moving to modern tech while remaining agricultural
- More entrepreneurs
- Infrastructure to support small "town center"
- Walkability, sustainability, stability, affordability, gentle growth
- Growth, economic vitality, and sustainability
- A great place to live, work, and gather
- A connected community (broadband and human connections)
- Family-friendly area
- To have a group that is asked for insight and then listened to by local leadership
- Cohesive plan that meets the needs of the community at large
- Plan for the expected growth of the community
- See New Franklin move into the future



A public visioning session was held on May 17, 2022 at Gather at the Lakes Event Venue. The space was generously donated by the business and the city provided refreshments. While there were 20 people signed in, the crowd reflected more than 50 persons. The steering committee chair welcomed the group and explained the comprehensive planning process. The consultant gave a power point presentation about comprehensive planning, public input, and visioning. Residents moved from table to table to complete a visioning board activity involving photo displays, denoting “likes” (green dots)/”dislikes” (red dots), and listing their visions by planning element. The group reviewed the following key planning issues and worked on formulating vision statements for each category. Steering committee members summarized the comments they heard at each table. The list of comments were aligned with photographs of that vision culminating into completed visioning boards for each of the eight planning elements:

Visioning Instructions

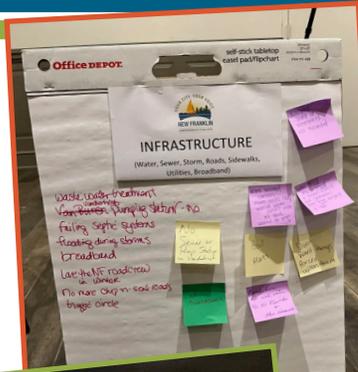
Public Visioning by Planning Event

Related to the key planning issue table you are seated at:

- Agriculture
- Community Facilities
- Current & Future Land Use
- Economic Development
- Housing
- Infrastructure
 - Water, Sewer, Storm, Roads, Sidewalks, Utilities, Broadband
- Recreation/Open Space/Environmental
- Transportation

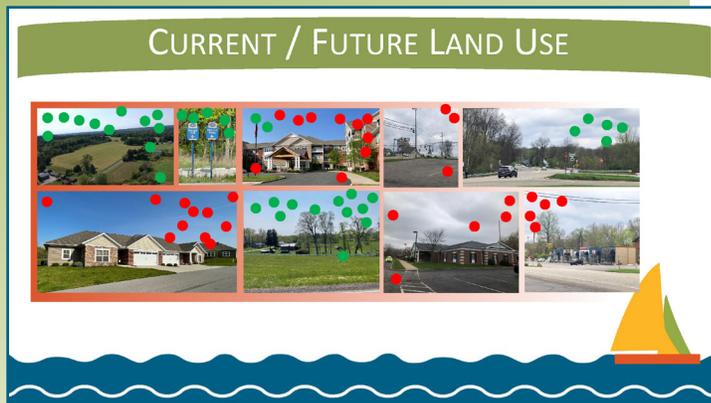


1. What is your vision of New Franklin in 2032-42 related to key issues?
2. Looking into the future, by 2042 what has changed in New Franklin? What aspects of the community have been improved? Related to key issues.
3. Describe quality of life in New Franklin in 2042. Related to key issues.
4. What are the issues and opportunities that need to be addressed to achieve this vision? Related to key issues.
5. What aspects of New Franklin need to be preserved and enhanced as the area continues to grow and change? Related to key issues.



CURRENT/FUTURE LAND USES

1. Comet/Manchester – (green stickers/likes due to green space)
2. High density and senior housing not wanted but as people age, less maintenance-heavy facilities are desired
3. Location of water/sewer treatment areas once water lines/sewer services are done
4. No vacant buildings



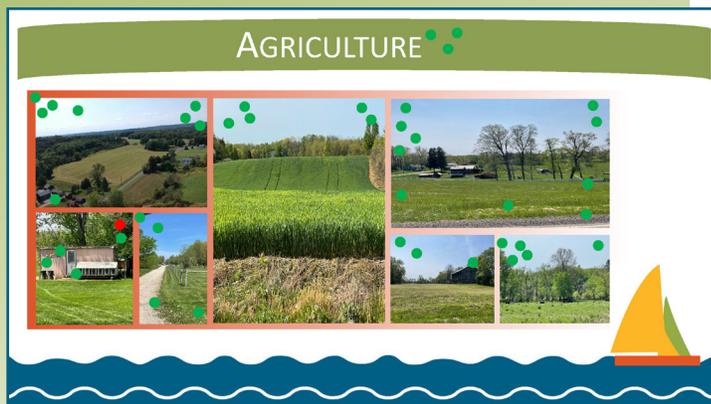
RECREATION/OPEN SPACE/NATURAL RESOURCES

1. No trail connection that cuts through residents' yards – Towpath to State Park.
2. Fewer tax burdening amenities
3. Multi-purpose parks – kayaking increasing in popularity; tangle with anglers.
4. Residents like open, natural feel of parks; not forced-feeling green space
5. Keep lots big, open
6. Parks serve community demographics well



AGRICULTURE

1. Lots of green dots
2. Need better description small family farm vs commercial farming
3. One red – chicken coop; not desirable (but residents do have chickens)
4. Preserve large lots for hobby farming
5. Marketing for the city is always showing large plots of land. Must be what people like. Work towards preserving.



TRANSPORTATION

1. Busier roads now – maintenance should keep up; deal with increased traffic
2. Discussion about bigger retail on Manchester Road driving up traffic
3. Manchester Road corridor must be looked at now before more unplanned growth occurs. More sidewalks needed near commercial areas, need to look at land uses, signage, turning lanes, possible access roads, streetscape, etc.
4. South Main and Comet is a dangerous intersection; Manchester and Johns Road is difficult
5. Manchester Road to Towpath trail spur
6. Other connections to Towpath needed for better access



INFRASTRUCTURE/UTILITIES

1. Upkeep of roads – city does a good job, especially in winter
2. Not a lot of discussion about broadband (no picture on the vision board)
3. Not paying to tie into city water that needs to be paid for– does this improve home values?
4. Some want improved water (quality) – others love their well water
5. Concern about faulty and failing septic systems, sewage going into lake, and annual registration cost with county
6. Housing along lake is old and have old septic systems that are costly to fix/replace
7. Need to know what plans/timelines are for extension of water lines and sanitary sewer services since their expansion will dictate growth
8. Some question Health Dept septic inspections (required by law to make annual inspections of septic systems)



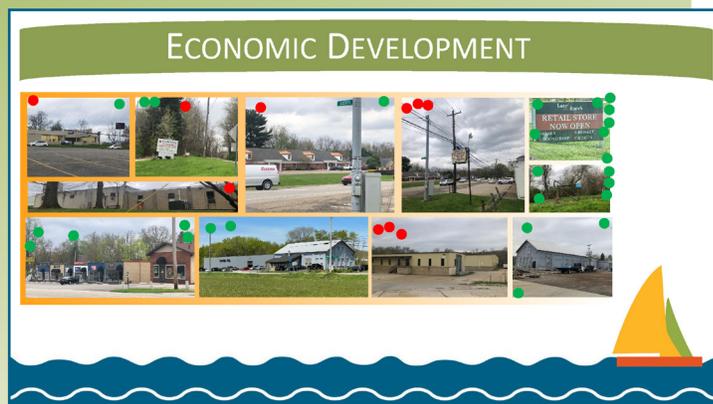
HOUSING

1. Single-family homes on acreage is most desired
2. Zoning to clean up homes' frontage- should present better, more picturesque
3. No ginormous houses
4. Zoning, zoning
5. More thoughtful, planned housing design/ development
6. Quality of Akron schools chasing people to outlying areas such as New Franklin
7. Pricing of New Franklin housing stock a bit more reasonable than Medina County



ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

1. Property (redevelopment) uses – Lazy L is a good example
2. Reduce empty buildings
3. Retain small businesses
4. Need coffee shop



COMMUNITY FACILITIES/PUBLIC FACILITIES/SERVICES

1. Fire department (note: new station opened May 2022)
2. Lots of ambiguity for the Tudor House usage and renovations, and pickleball courts, some comments that they do not like to see trees removed for pickleball court (also may be a loud activity) or need for additional development on Tudor property
3. Interest in a farmer's market and developing a community garden



QUALITY OF LIFE

1. **What is New Franklin's identity? Having four school districts in the area makes it difficult - community pride versus school pride**
2. **Only outlying areas are agricultural but mostly for large lot single family housing. Need to check if farming is a truly economic activity within New Franklin**

In addition, residents were asked to fill out a Visioning Card at public events, public meetings, and steering committee meetings. There were 39 vision cards completed with the following vision themes:

Parks, Recreation, Open Spaces

- Tudor House is important
- Parks/Trail/Towpath are important
- No connection from State Park to Towpath
- Rotary Camp is important
- Utilize current infrastructure and natural resources

Agricultural

- Keep it rural (+9), country feel, keep farming, keep green space, feel like a township
- Rural only
- Less farming, no farming (+1)

Housing

- Senior housing (+6), depending on location, small availability, 55+ older communities
- More housing
- Single family dwellings (not farms)
- No AMHA housing or 2-story apartment buildings

Economic Development

- Grocery store (+1)
- No big supermarket
- More restaurants
- Economic development, increase commercialization (+1)
- Retail options
- On areas that are not rural, need development to maintain livability
- Keep local businesses, small businesses, larger selection of small businesses (+2)

Transportation/Infrastructure/Utilities

- Water and sewer (+3), to increase commercialization and increase property value, safe water for all, down main roads
- No water/sewer
- More infrastructure, strong infrastructure (+1)

YOUR CITY. YOUR VOICE
NEW FRANKLIN
COMPREHENSIVE PLAN 2022

What's Your Vision?
Please Share Your Ideas for the Future of New Franklin.

To have a thriving community
strong infrastructure
Support: keep local business

Please return to comprehensiveplan@newfranklin.org
or the City Hall, 5611 Manchester Road.

YOUR CITY. YOUR VOICE
NEW FRANKLIN
COMPREHENSIVE PLAN 2022

What's Your Vision?
Please Share Your Ideas for the Future of New Franklin.

IN 10 years I would like N.F.
to be productive for the people
living here. Sustainable for
cost of living. Food + water for
the community. A place where
you can grow live + Retire!!

Please return to comprehensiveplan@newfranklin.org
or the City Hall, 5611 Manchester Road.

YOUR CITY. YOUR VOICE
NEW FRANKLIN
COMPREHENSIVE PLAN 2022

What's Your Vision?
Please Share Your Ideas for the Future of New Franklin.

Small town Feel, Affordability
to live, and a green
community w/parks for
all age groups

Please return to comprehensiveplan@newfranklin.org
or the City Hall, 5611 Manchester Road.

- Sidewalks, bike lanes, parks
- Dredge channel from Turkeyfoot to Main Street (+1)
- Enhance Manchester Road
- High speed internet (+1)
- More availability for the township to put pipes in ditches (W. Caston) (+1)
- Pedestrian-friendly
- Food and water for the community
- Focus on roads, good roads (+1)

Community Facilities/Public Facilities/Services

- Fire Department on west side of town (note: new station opened in May 2022)
- Focus on police and fire

Quality of Life

- Places and events for community to meet
- Improve inclusion (+1)
- Small town feel, cultivate relationships with neighbors (+3)
- Peaceful community (+1)
- Comfortable community
- Thriving community
- Well-maintained, clean
- Balanced planning
- Self-sustaining
- Sustainable for cost of living
- Responsibly embrace the inevitable growth of traffic/businesses (+1)
- Clean, well maintained
- Family-oriented
- Beautiful, spacious, inviting
- Leave things the way they are now, maintain what it is (+2)
- Leave people alone
- Affordability to live
- Good and safe schools, friendly and safe neighborhoods (+1)

Government

- Limited government oversight into daily life of citizens
- Focus on small government (+1)
- Minimize government spending, do not bankrupt the city (+1)
- Reduced city budgets, reduced ordinances, and no new city programs/development, shrink government
- Tax base that allows the city to grow and keep up with the world

YOUR CITY. YOUR VOICE.
NEW FRANKLIN
 COMPREHENSIVE PLAN 2022

What's Your Vision?
 Please Share Your Ideas for the Future of New Franklin.

- CLEAR
 - WELL-MAINTAINED
 - COMFORTABLE
 - BALANCED PLANNING

Please return to comprehensiveplan@newfranklin.org
 or the City Hall, 5611 Manchester Road.

YOUR CITY. YOUR VOICE.
NEW FRANKLIN
 COMPREHENSIVE PLAN 2022

What's Your Vision?
 Please Share Your Ideas for the Future of New Franklin.

FOR the City to utilize its current infrastructure and nature resources. Protecting our unique corner of Summit County. We really are one of the last green space. Lets keep it that way!

Please return to comprehensiveplan@newfranklin.org
 or the City Hall, 5611 Manchester Road.

YOUR CITY. YOUR VOICE.
NEW FRANKLIN
 COMPREHENSIVE PLAN 2022

What's Your Vision?
 Please Share Your Ideas for the Future of New Franklin.

- Maintain Rural Atmosphere
 - cultivate Relationship w/ Neighbor
 - limited gov. oversight into daily life of citizens.

Please return to comprehensiveplan@newfranklin.org
 or the City Hall, 5611 Manchester Road.

YOUR CITY. YOUR VOICE.
NEW FRANKLIN
 COMPREHENSIVE PLAN 2022

What's Your Vision?
 Please Share Your Ideas for the Future of New Franklin.

I'd like to see New Franklin as beautiful, spacious, inviting and affordable in the future as it is now. I think inclusion and consciousness of the future is key.

Please return to comprehensiveplan@newfranklin.org
 or the City Hall, 5611 Manchester Road.



- Plan tax rate increase, population cap for city, a goal not a law
- Lower taxes, affordable, no increase in taxes (+3)
- Leave RITA or no municipal income tax
- No money into Tudor House

In addition, visioning cards called for:

- A city that will grow within the belief system of the residents.
- Many Visions, One Community.
- Jewel of Summit County.
- Precise language is critical so that all regions are not subject to one vision.
- Something for Everyone.
- Productive for the people living here.
- Protecting our unique corner of Summit County.
- The best bedroom community we can be.
- A green community with parks for all age groups, green homes, and green spaces (+2)

The public survey asked residents to describe in 1-2 words their vision of New Franklin in 10-20 years. Consolidated themes included rural/small town (keep rural, small town, country feel), specific types of future development (restaurants, grocery, retail shopping), hometown/community (hometown feel, community, quiet, safe, beautiful, family), growth (business growth, controlled growth, growth), stay same (retain character, don't change), minimum/moderate growth (slow growth, suburban, not urban, not Green or Coventry), and taxes (hoping for lower, worrying will be higher).

Final Visions

Based on the visioning information provided by the public, the steering committee worked with the consultant to craft the following overall vision statement and vision statements by planning element.

Overall Vision

The City of New Franklin aspires to be a centrally located community providing residents with an excellent quality blend of rural, suburban, and lake lifestyles, a varied housing stock, quality infrastructure and services, access to small local businesses, amenities, community gathering areas, strong schools, and natural open spaces.

Future Land Use

To focus on small, incremental growth to maintain the current character of the community related to all planning elements.

Parks/Recreation/Open Spaces

To have open, natural-feeling, inclusive, and accessible parks that serve multiple purposes, contain many amenities, and continue to serve the community demographics well while respecting residents' privacy and property.

Agriculture

To continue with a rural atmosphere and balance agricultural uses with residential uses and environmental issues related to agriculture.

YOUR CITY. YOUR VOICE
NEW FRANKLIN
 COMPREHENSIVE PLAN 2022

What's Your Vision?
 Please Share Your Ideas for the Future of New Franklin.

Small town feel!
SAFE WATER FOR ALL.
PLACE'S AND EVENTS FOR COMMUNITY TO MEET.

Please return to comprehensiveplan@newfranklin.org
 or the City Hall, 5611 Manchester Road.

YOUR CITY. YOUR VOICE
NEW FRANKLIN
 COMPREHENSIVE PLAN 2022

What's Your Vision?
 Please Share Your Ideas for the Future of New Franklin.

PEACEFUL COMMUNITY
SELF SUSTAINING
PEDESTRIAN FRIENDLY
SOMETHING FOR EVERYONE

Please return to comprehensiveplan@newfranklin.org
 or the City Hall, 5611 Manchester Road.

Housing

To continue to encourage property maintenance and the availability of single-family homes on larger lots, as well as different housing types for an aging population who want to age in place.

Economic Development

To focus on small- to medium-sized locally owned existing and new businesses (retail, commercial, industrial) that service the residents of New Franklin. To prioritize existing vacant or underutilized properties for the best and highest use first, before utilizing green or agricultural spaces.

Transportation

To focus on Manchester Road (SR 93) Corridor and the Turkeyfoot Lake (SR 619) Corridor making it safe and aesthetically pleasing to all modes of transportation.

Infrastructure

To maintain infrastructure for the current and future residents and businesses while being fiscally responsible and balance varying opinions on water/sewer and location of related services, especially as it relates to existing and future development/re-development.

Community Facilities

To ensure adequate community facilities to host events in addition to those held at the Tudor House, such as a Farmer's Market, Community Garden, and other activities to bring people together.

Environmental

To apply conservation design principles to all types of development and redevelopment in the city to preserve environmentally sensitive areas.

Quality of Life

To maintain and cultivate our community by unifying the city residents around a common identity. To foster a distinct character and design potential gathering places that strengthen the environment for a stronger New Franklin identity.

Public Survey

A Survey Sub-committee (SSc) was formed at the request of the full steering committee (SC), composed of SC members Mark Sedlack (Chairman), Nolan Cartner, Jack Daniels, and Tim Lusk. Eight meetings were held to develop the survey. All agendas, minutes, and work-product of the SSc were shared with the SC using a Google Docs page to maintain transparency throughout the process. Those documents will be included in the permanent record for the 2023 Comprehensive Plan. Complete survey results are located in **Appendix E**.

A list of topics for questions was identified: Quality of life, Recreation and Community, Housing, Infrastructure, Economic Development, and Prioritizing Spending. A review was conducted of the 2004 New Franklin Community survey, as well as numerous surveys from other municipalities to aid in deciding on format, question form, and content.

Several demographic questions (age group, ward, number of years as resident, etc.) were included to allow in-depth analysis of the survey results by filtering using those demographics. Several maps were simplified and vectorized for inclusion in the survey to aid residents in answering the associated questions.

Once the draft survey was completed, a Survey Question Review was conducted. Twenty-five residents of varying ages were asked to assess the readability of the survey and provide feedback. That feedback was incorporated into the draft.

It was decided that to reach the most residents, a mailed paper survey was needed. The SSc contacted several 3rd party independent survey companies for quotes. The SSc requested and received approval for the expenditure from New Franklin City Council. The company, Dataforce (DF), was chosen to conduct the paper survey, collect and tabulate the responses.

The draft survey was reviewed, edited, and finalized by the entire SC. The SC added several questions requiring write-in answers. It was decided to run the survey in parallel in both paper form by DF and online by Kleinfelder using Survey Monkey (SM).

The survey was publicized through many media channels. Yard signs were developed by the city and given to steering committee members to post in their yards and around town. Fliers were generated by the city and distributed for posting at area businesses by steering committee members. In addition, the survey was publicized on social media, email blasts, and multiple press releases/advertisements in the South Side News Leader.

Hey, New Franklin!
Take the Survey!
NOW THROUGH DECEMBER 15TH!

Find the Comprehensive Plan Survey:

- Online** at NewFranklin.org
- Mailed to your home** in November

1 survey was sent to each home in November, but all household members are invited to take the survey. Complete it online or pick up additional paper copies at City Hall or the Portage Lakes Branch Library.

Your feedback will be used to create a new Comprehensive Plan for the City, which will help guide public policy in the areas of transportation, utilities, land use, recreation, housing, and economic development.
ONE SURVEY PER NEW FRANKLIN RESIDENT PLEASE.

Have questions or need help?
Call the City of New Franklin at 330-882-4324 or visit Newfranklin.org.

The survey was conducted, and the results were tabulated by both SM and DF and provided in spreadsheet format. Paper surveys were sent out to approximately 5,800 households and businesses in the city. 1069 paper and 682 online responses were received, for a total of 1,751 representing approximately 30% of the households and businesses located in New Franklin.

A data integrity plan was written (attached as **Appendix F**) in order to ensure the survey results were accurate and reliable. Per that plan, read-only copies of the original collected data will be maintained by both vendors until the final Comprehensive Plan is completed.

The data from both surveys was downloaded and merged during a public meeting with the Mayor, City Council, SC members, and other members of city administration. It was decided that a software tool, Tableau, be utilized to do the data analysis. The merged data will be part of the permanent, read-only record.

A Tableau file was set up by citizen Dusty Smith and Nolan Cartner, which allows charting and filtered analysis using any of the demographic criteria. The overall results of the survey with graphs for each question are located in **Appendix E**.

A free Tableau reader is available which allows further data analysis, which will be used in analyzing the data further to assist in the development of the Comprehensive Plan. The public is welcome to download the reader at <https://www.tableau.com/products/reader/download> and do their own exploration of the survey answers.

Survey Fast Facts

Some survey fast facts (additional survey data responses can be found in Chapter 5, Planning Elements) shared with the community during the public workshops include:



37% of respondents are not sure if they would support additional taxes/levies to support potential improvements discussed in this survey. 33% said they would not and 28% said they would support additional taxes/levies to support potential improvements discussed in this survey

Majority of respondents are retired

78% of respondents would encourage others to live in New Franklin

Majority of respondents thought that the comprehensive planning process should be repeated every 10 years

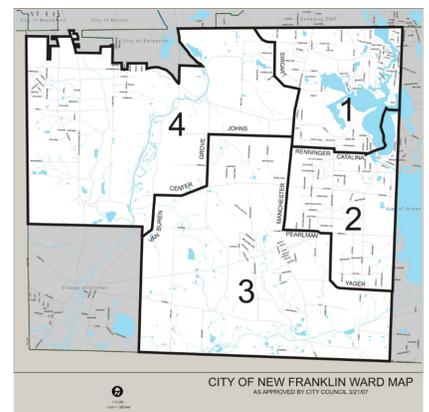
Majority of respondents have lived in New Franklin for 21-40 years

Ward 3 had the most respondents, followed by Wards 2, 1, and 4

Majority of respondents are ages 65+

Majority of respondents are not happy with grocery store options, shopping opportunities, and dining options

Majority of respondents are happy with safety services, quality of life, snow plowing, traffic, road maintenance, schools, parks, housing affordability



With the addition of the open-ended and write-in questions in the survey, it was determined that it would require a task force to read, categorize, and summarize the comments. The report of that task force is attached in **Appendix G** and summary of their findings are listed below. Their classification codes will be merged back into the master dataset by the SSC.

Open-Ended Survey Questions Summary

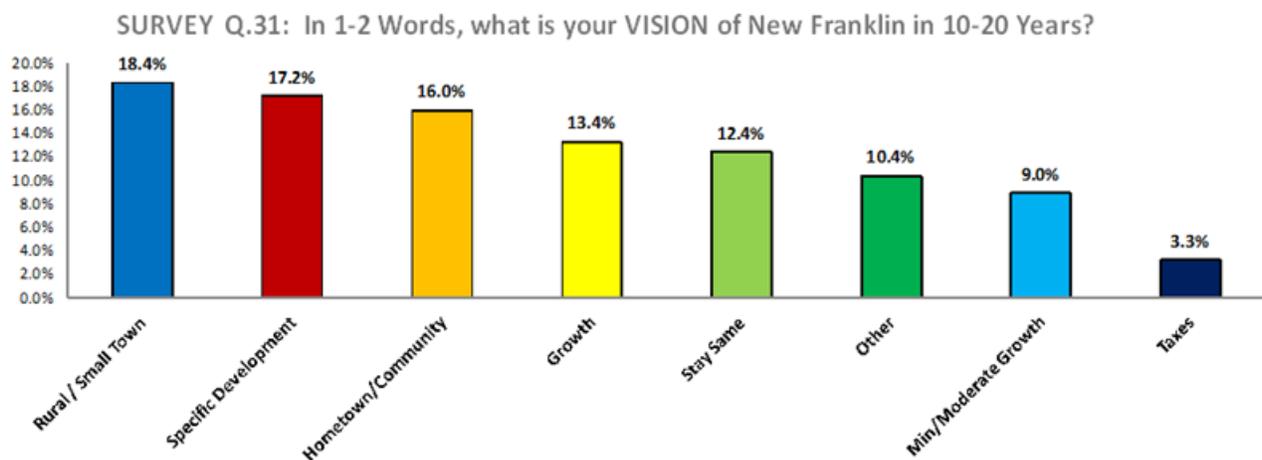
Of the 1,751 surveys completed, 1,413 of the surveys included an answer to at least one of the three open-ended questions. Below is a summary of the information compiled by the open-ended, write-in questions task force.

SURVEY Q.31: In 1-2 Words, what is your VISION of New Franklin in 10-20 Years?

Consolidated Groups	Commonly Used Words	Count	% of total
Rural / Small Town	Keep Rural, Small Town, Country Feel	242	18.4%
Specific Development	Restaurants, Grocery, Retail Shopping	227	17.2%
Hometown/Community	Hometown Feel, Community, Quiet, Safe, Beautiful, Family	211	16.0%
Growth	Business Growth, Controlled Growth, Growth	176	13.4%
Stay Same	Stay the Same, Retain Character, Don't Change	164	12.4%
Other	No Common Thread	137	10.4%
Min/Moderate Growth	Slow Growth, Suburban, Not Urban, Not Green or Coventry	118	9.0%
Taxes	Hoping for lower, Worried will be higher	43	3.3%
Total		1318	100.0%

Important Caveat :

Some residents answered from the perspective of where they would LIKE the community to be, while others answered from the perspective of what they FEAR the community will become.

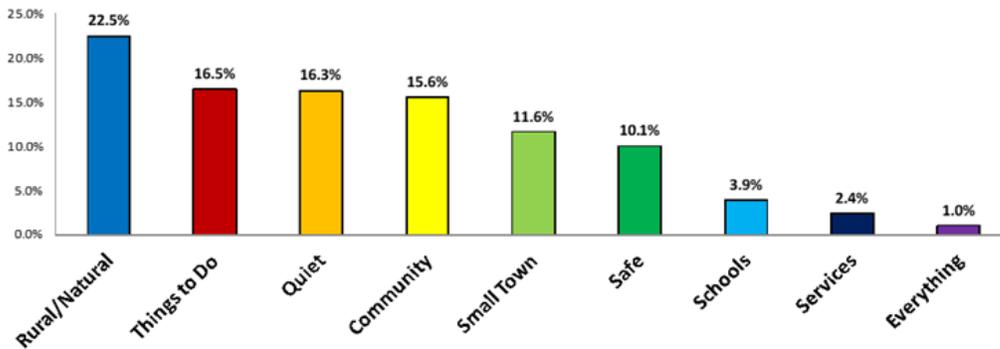




SURVEY Q.32: In 1-2 Words, what do you like **MOST** about New Franklin?

Consolidated Groups	Commonly Used Words	Count	% of total
Rural/Natural	Rural, Country, Woods, Large Lots	360	22.5%
Things to Do	Lakes, Location, Parks & Rec	263	16.5%
Quiet	Quiet	261	16.3%
Community	People, Quality of Life	249	15.6%
Small Town	Small town	186	11.6%
Safe	Safe, Low-Crime	161	10.1%
Schools	Schools	63	3.9%
Services	Administration, Roads, Traffic, Infrastructure	39	2.4%
Everything	Everything	16	1.0%
Total		1598	100.0%

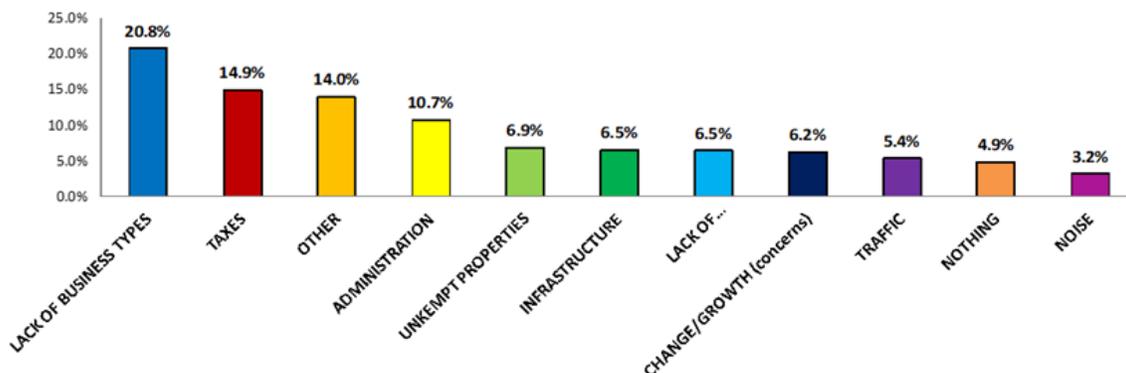
SURVEY Q.32: In 1-2 Words, what do you like MOST about New Franklin?



SURVEY Q.33: In 1-2 Words, what do you like **LEAST** about New Franklin?

Consolidated Groups	Commonly Used Words	Count	% of total
LACK OF BUSINESS TYPES	Restaurants, Grocery Stores, Retail Shopping	277	20.8%
TAXES	Taxes too High	199	14.9%
OTHER	No Common Thread	187	14.0%
ADMINISTRATION	City Government, Communication, Roads, Spending, Services, Schools	143	10.7%
UNKEMPT PROPERTIES	Unmaintained/Unightly Residential & Business Properties	92	6.9%
INFRASTRUCTURE	Lack of Water, Sewer, Sidewalks, Street Lights, Internet	87	6.5%
LACK OF ACTIVITIES/COMMUNITY	No City/Comm Center, Lack Playgrounds,, Nothing to Do, No Senior Activities	86	6.5%
CHANGE/GROWTH (concerns)	Worried About Too Much Change/Growth	83	6.2%
TRAFFIC	Speeding, Dangerous Intersections	72	5.4%
NOTHING	Likes Everything about New Franklin	65	4.9%
NOISE	Motorcycles, Bars, Guns, Fireworks	42	3.2%
Total		1333	100.0%

SURVEY Q.33: In 1-2 Words, what do you like LEAST about New Franklin?



In general, the write-in comments at the end of the survey were very consistent with the rest of the survey data.

Top Ideas Reinforced in the Comments:

- Stay Small /Quiet/Do not Change Anything
- Some Growth is Desired, Especially Restaurants, Grocers, and Small Business
- Taxes are Too High
- Unkempt Properties/Appearance Complaints were Common
- Water/Sewer is very Polarized Between “For” & “Against”
- Lots of Traffic Complaints, Especially Speeding
- Road Maintenance – Equal Praise & Complaints
- City Spending – Concerns about Priorities
- Noise Complaints (Motorcycles, Fireworks, Bars, Gunfire)
- Many People Feel a Better Method is Needed to Communicate Information such as City Services, Activities, Important Meetings, Zoning, etc.
- Some Interest in a Community/Recreation Center

Interesting Outlier Ideas Worth Noting:

- We Should Celebrate the History of New Franklin and Highlight Historic Homes
- Bike and Walking Safety – Concerns due to Traffic and Speeders
- Maintain/Update Existing Parks (Restrooms, Playgrounds, etc.) Before Building New Ones
- Lack of “New Franklin” Identity
- Tree Lighting or Christmas Parade
- Leaf Pick-up
- Issues with the Lakes (speed enforcement, clean-up, too many boats)

What Residents Said, In Their Own Words...



“Let us remain a refuge from city life.”

“We would appreciate senior living facilities.”

“Taxes are too high for the services we receive.”

“Thank you for involving us as citizens in this decision making process.”

“Poorly maintained homes with junk, debris, cars in yards detrimentally affect not only the neighboring homes but the ENTIRE community.”

“Keeping it small and more rural is rare now, so we should try to be one of the nice small towns.”

“My experience with Police and Fire has been outstanding.”

“I’d love to see more activities for children of all ages.”

“I think there’s room to update and move forward without losing the rural “country feel” that is New Franklin.”

“I really like the atmosphere of New Franklin and the small town feel is why we moved here.”

“We love the Memorial Parade and activities like that truly give New Franklin the all American small town feel.”

“We have a great community don’t screw it up!”

“The 619 corridor looks shabby at the moment with unused building structures & empty lots etc.”

“Some business growth & infrastructure like broadband to keep the community up to date with modern times without sacrificing charm!”

“Each year the road dept. does a phenomenal job on road maintenance – summer & winter...”

“I absolutely love New Franklin. Its close enough to shopping yet so country like at night.”

“Can we please get a grocery store!!”

“The tax burden, mostly for the schools, is completely out of line with any of the neighboring communities.”

Planning Workshops

Three planning workshops were held during 2023 (January, February, March) for a deeper dive on the issues from the Visioning Session. The workshops were held at Gather at the Lakes Event Venue with the venue generously donating the space and the city providing refreshments. These planning workshops included Land Use, Economic Development, and Parks/Recreation and will be reviewed in detail in this chapter with all notes captured from the workshops in **Appendix H**.

Workshops were publicized extensively through letters to the editor, emails, newspaper releases, flier distribution, and personal invitations to steering committee members contacts and personal invitations from the Mayor to New Franklin business owners, Zoning Boards, School Board, School Superintendents (4, 1 for each district), Parks Commission, and Tudor House Commission (a total of 183 people through this channel).

After a welcome by the steering committee chair and brief presentation by the consultant, participants worked with steering committee members stationed at each table to review specific questions to facilitate conversation at each table related to the specific planning element.

Planning Workshops

Join Us, New Franklin!
PUBLIC INPUT WORKSHOPS

Your City. Your Voice.
 Share your ideas for the future of New Franklin.
 Learn More at NewFranklin.org

WORKSHOP #1
Current & Future Land Use
 Thursday, January 26, 2023 6-8 pm

WORKSHOP #2
Economic Development
 Tuesday, February 7, 2023 6-8 pm

WORKSHOP #3
Parks & Recreation
 Thursday, March 9, 2023 6-8 pm

ALL WORKSHOPS WILL BE HELD AT
gather at the lakes
 EVENT VENUE
 4315 MANCHESTER ROAD

**COMPREHENSIVE PLAN
 PUBLIC INPUT WORKSHOPS**

Add your voice and ideas to the efforts to build a better community for the future. During the workshops, the City's consultant (Kleinfelder, Inc.) will lead a brief discussion about the work that has already been completed including a review of the recent survey results. The majority of the time will be spent discussing planning elements. The information from this meeting will be fundamental to the development of the Comprehensive Plan, which will include goals and action steps to help shape the future of the City of New Franklin.

All New Franklin residents are invited and encouraged to attend! Light refreshments will be served.

Questions?
 Contact Katie Smith, Communications Manager, City of New Franklin
 330-882-4324 ksmith@newfranklin.org



Planning Workshops



Workshop #1 Current & Future Land Use

Land use is the process of organizing the use of land to meet the occupant’s needs while respecting the capabilities of the land. Land use guides future actions of a community, presents a vision of the future with long-range goals and objectives for all activities, and plans how people utilize land for socio-economic activities. All planning elements are related to land use and were reviewed below from this workshop.

The four questions asked at tables included:

1. Where are these conflicts with land use (e.g. residential next to industrial)?
2. What would improve your quality of life related to land use?
3. Where should changes be made to existing land use?
4. What actions should be taken? By whom?

Current & Future Land Use Comment Summary

Conflicts	Improve	Changes
Buffers -ag and industrial, industrial scattered -commercial and industrial -residential and industrial	Grocery store, farm store More variety on Manchester Sidewalks on Manchester, locally to schools, main streets Identified center of New Franklin, lack of town center, identity	No more storage units
Houses too close around Lakes	Utilize resource like the Tudor House	Better advantage of Lakes
Landfill (Vanderhoof) near ag and res	Keep greenspace	Change R-L to CD
Ward 1- residential vs greenspace (golf course) Residential vs entertainment Residential vs mixed use	No more storage units	Restrictions on short term rentals (Air B&Bs)
Pollution- water, light, sound (residential and entertainment uses)	Water/wells/sewer- forced vs voluntary	Education for residents on zoning
	Shared bike lanes in Ward 1, 2	Increase efficiency of underused land (farmer’s market, co-op farming)
	Setting expectations for land use and enforcement	Pay for services with higher tax base
	Use existing land more effectively	Lakeside code enforcement
	Lake side of golf course, single family only	Limit outbuildings
	Improve property values for increasing tax base with industry to support	Over 55 residential near NW NF
	Downtown Manchester old historic homes, junk yard, property maintenance	
	Label, connecting of trails	
	Explore bike lanes	



Action Items for Current and Future Land Use include:

- Additions to the zoning code (e.g. windmills, solar farms), modification/ review (focusing on pollution and protection)
- Rezoning of land, organized high density 55+ housing with sewer
- Promote owner-occupied residential
- Secure State, Federal grants for sewers, internet expansion
- Creation of a master plan
- Do something with school property on 619
- Save golf course (note: purchased by developer with plans to develop “the water 9” and leave the rest as a public golf course)
- Remove old septic systems/zombie houses
- Protect wetland conservation efforts/ define what property owners can do in conservation district (+1)
- Add paddleboard, kayak launches
- Complete voter’s study
- Support existing businesses
- Active recruitment of small businesses along Manchester Road corridor
- Promote commercial/industrial zones with tax incentives, sewer, and related jobs
- Address school traffic, riding bikes to school may help

Planning Workshops



Workshop #1 Parks, Recreation, Greenspace

The four questions asked at tables included:

1. What types of greenspace/park and recreational activities are missing or need more/less of?
2. What would improve your quality of life related to greenspace/parks and recreation?
3. Where should expanded or new greenspace/parks and recreation go?
4. What actions should be taken? By whom?

Parks, Recreation, Greenspace Comment Summary

Conflicts	Improve	Changes
Questions on Towpath connector	Increasing taxes is not a solution	Plan for and utilize areas of redevelopment (razed schools)
Access to bike trails, ADA accessible spaces	Family-centric parks	Prevent loitering, crime
Have enough, no bike path from existing Towpath	Towpath is far from New Franklin, long walk to State Park, 2 miles uphill	Utilize current properties not being used effectively
Environmental Conservation Area	More signage to and marketing of existing parks	Expand behind middle school, new around Cleveland Massillon Road
	Promote Sisler heritage, restrooms at Sisler	
	Make Bollas Park into usable space (playground, facilities, trail), Improve Craftsman and State Parks	
	Using the space	
	Painted bike lanes, more walking/ biking trails/bike path to parks and Towpath connector	
	More sidewalks	
	Marketing, events	
	Lighting at Lakes, street lights	
	More destination vs open on Lakes, more family-friendly activities besides Lakes	
	More park entrances	
	Continue Tudor House concerts/ activities	
	Rifle range, turf youth athletic fields, swimming pool, playgrounds, splash pad, outdoor entertainment, senior citizen center/activities, recreation soccer fields, community gardens	

Action Items for Parks, Recreation and Greenspace include:

- West side community gardens, farmer's market in rural settings
- Allocate resources and zone appropriately
- Better maintenance of existing parks, recreation, greenspace
- Handicapped accessible playgrounds
- Keep commercial development limited to one area (e.g. Manchester Road)
- No more car washes
- Dog Park
- Seasonal pavilion/marketplace at former school stadium, community garden
- Form a committee to investigate use of underutilized land



Planning Workshops



Workshop #1 Agriculture

The four questions asked at tables included:

1. What types of agricultural activities are missing or need more or less of?
2. What would improve your quality of life related to agricultural uses?
3. Where should expanded or new agricultural uses go?
4. What actions should be taken? By whom?

Agriculture Comment Summary

Conflicts	Improve	Changes
No ag zoning, but allow in R1, R2, CD	Supportive of hobby farms (5+ acres)/ ag-tourism (smaller than Hale Farm)	Regs about home growing marijuana
Difficult to break up large farms	Community gardens (+2), farmer's market (+1)	Additional agricultural uses in south/ west New Franklin, Tudor House, Bollas Park, Kempell Cove, Grace Bible Church
Care of water services	City promotion/marketing of local farmer produce	Community garden spaces
	Support/keep what have	Wine, produce, eggs, no anti-chicken regs
	Vineyards, feed collectives on city-owned land	Local produce, meat, forming community group to help hobby farms
	More organic farms, hobby farms, aquaponics	
	Winery, brewery on bike trail, cluster locations for tours	
	Agri-tainment places (e.g. hayrides, corn mazes)	
	Horse stables	
	County-fair type event	



Action Items for Agriculture include:

- Farmer's market
- Pegasus Farm type, establish to promote/teach farming, work with schools
- Community trip to farms
- Community Ag Bureau
- Winery
- Talk to local businesses about utilizing green space for community garden
- Some means to preserve ag land, tie into farmer's market and leverage on social media
- Residential lots close to residential housing
- Limit agriculture only to low density residential
- No need to add additional agriculture, does not add significant tax revenue
- Quality enforcement of zoning

Planning Workshops



Workshop #1 Residential

The four questions asked at tables included:

1. What types of housing is missing or need more or less of?
2. What would improve your quality of life related to residential uses?
3. Where should expanded or new residential uses go?
4. What actions should be taken? By whom?

Residential Comment Summary

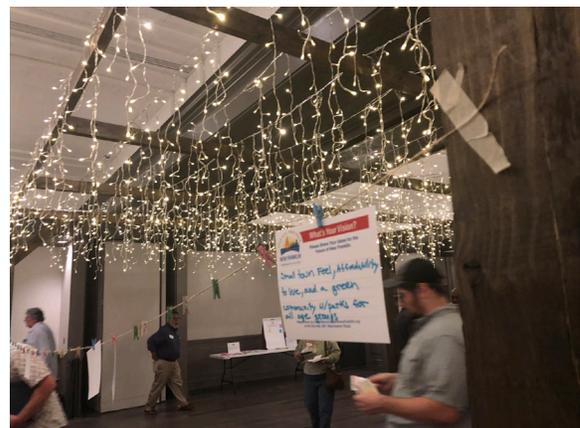
Conflicts	Improve	Changes
Senior housing is missing	More independent senior living, multiple types of houses (+2)	Zoning changes required
No parcels under 2 acres	No apartment complexes/restrict apartments (+2)	Planning Commission Review
Any higher density housing is dependent on sewer	Housing that attracts younger people	No industrial next to residential, even with buffering
	Missing senior housing, single-family housing on small lots (+1)	Small business/commercial ok near residential
	Less lakefront high density	Anywhere 2+ acre per lot is available
	Negotiate with ODNR to charge for utilizing lake launch ramps	Limit number of shed/outbuildings per lot
	Fill in drain ditches	Senior housing
	Low density	Blended neighborhoods, smaller and larger mix
	Less short-term rentals, restrictions on Air B&Bs	Water & sewer for quality of life, increase property value
	Lower taxes	More policy to enforce ordinances
	High end ranch homes, high end homes at golf course (\$450k+)	
	Revenue generating through taxes	
	More single-family .5, 1-3 acre lots	
	Developer paid for sidewalks in new single-family and senior developments	
	Code enforcement	



Action Items for Residential include:

- Enforcement/fines for neighbors who do not take care of property
- City has power to control trashed properties
- No endless yard sales, fee permits required
- Air B&Bs regs needed with registry, tax rate, no party houses (+1)
- Zoning (+1), zone for desired outcomes
- Development Plan
- Limit/enforce street parking
- Street traffic lights at S. Main & Yager and Florian & Wilmar
- Snow plowing dead end streets
- Tear down old school behind Manchester Admin Building (by football field) (note torn down summer 2023 to be grassy area and remain property of the Manchester School District)
- Locate these types of housing in Ward 1 (Renninger, Pin Oak)
- Locate at old school property behind Manchester Admin Building
- Like well water, but think could get rid of septic to preserve aquifer
- Promote planned communities in zoning code with preferential consideration in process
- Approach developers to negotiate with landowners, recruit developers for desirable deals (+1)
- Identify/brand gateways into New Franklin, beautify
- Enforce current residential codes, no business in residential

Planning Workshops



Workshop #1 New Land Use Regulations

The four questions asked at tables included:

1. What types of land use regulations are missing?
2. What would improve your quality of life related to land use regulations?
3. Where are new land use regulations needed?
4. What actions should be taken? By whom?

New Land Use Regulations Comment Summary

Conflicts	Improve	Changes
Dump on Vanderhoof	New land regs, update codes/ordinances and enforce with fines (+1)	Reduce housing density on Lakes
Enforcement of current zoning and modifications to zoning to meet needs of current infrastructure	Safer environment for community	Rooftop wind-generating windmills
Solar farm concern, but good means to implement	Enforcement of existing regs, property maintenance, remove/fix eyesores (+1)	Review/modify current zoning laws
	Businesses on Manchester Road, street appearance (+1)	Dump on Vanderhoof Road, higher visual standard
	Balance private property rights and whose development standards using	Currently complaint driven
	Need decent restaurants, grocery stores	“Think Tank” alternative thoughts/ideas/innovation
	Impact studies for development, environmental issues	Community outreach, education
	Standards for lighting, site furnishing	Reduce 619 speed limit, 35 mph at golf course
	Stay with simple zoning for easy understanding (+1)	
	Neighborhood specific or property size inclusion	



Action Items for New Land Use Regulations include:

- Protect historical
- Review/modify current zoning laws by planning commission and city council, zoning controls
- Property maintenance enforcement by council, few houses are big nuisances
- Council to up its game financially with incentives
- Use ring road, not stack all commercial with curb cuts
- Industrial areas, large commercial areas
- Traffic calming devices
- HAWK signals and better crossing for pedestrians
- Light at Main & 619
- Gateways
- Town centers
- Beautification committee, pride in ownership
- Allow secondary garage to increase size
- Increase speed limit on Vanderhoof near PPG
- Inform public of fact finding, take care of issues called to attention

Planning Workshops



Workshop #2 Industrial Economic Development

Economic development is a required element in most comprehensive planning efforts. Economic development can be described as progress in an economy, qualitative measure of this progress, and enhancement of factors of productive capacity (land, labor, capital, technology). Simply stated, economic development helps pay the bills. Nationally, communities are constantly working to increase tax base to help fund services and programs as well as to provide goods and services that residents need. Economic development is important for job creation, industry diversification, business retention/expansion, economy fortification, tax revenue, and quality of life.

The four questions asked at tables included:

1. What type of industrial, commercial, retail businesses are missing?
2. What would improve your or the city’s quality of life related to industrial, commercial, retail businesses?
3. Where should these industrial, commercial, retail businesses be located?
4. What actions should be taken? By whom?

Industrial Economic Development Comment Summary

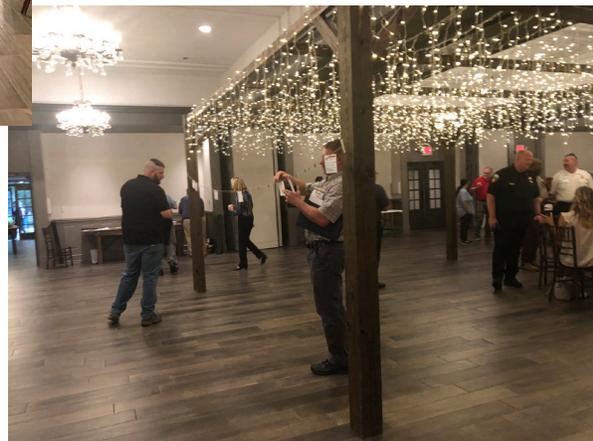
Missing	Improve	Where Located
Light manufacturing, fabrication (+1)	Pros- jobs, products, increased revenue/ services Cons- noise, waste, traffic	Develop on reclaimed sites
Career development program, trade school (+1)	Animal feed business	On or near state routes (consolidated in one industrially zoned area, protect natural resources more efficiently)
Small business incubator	Business investing in community sponsorships, events	Where they have what they need (infrastructure)
Employees working under one roof/location	Employment	Towpath trail
Little more eco-friendly, do not create pollution	Taxes	Old school admin building
Closer to SR 21	Personal investment	Manchester Road (+1)
Green energy (solar)	Maker’s space	Empty buildings
Small manufacturing	Innovation hub	SR 619, SR 21
Furniture making	Marijuana	Transportation access
High end grocery, pharmacy, winery	Hydroponic farm	
Large area related to PPG	Quality of life maintained better by small business/industry	
Resist creeping growth of industry	Increase ratio of private employers	
Current zoning address location	Access off of SR 21	
PLCC Welders for modular home building	Light manufacturing	
Injection molding (Akron U)	Industrial integrated into environment and community	
Work/life balance, work from home	Service businesses to support the larger businesses	
	Retain population	



Action Items for Industrial Economic Development include:

- Target who has been interested in supply chain expansion
- City to study need (+1)
- Need local realtor aligned with our planning foresight and direction
- Fewer onerous regulations for small businesses/manufacturing
- Does the city have the capital to get infrastructure?
- Decide on types of industrial developments we want and do not want
- City-rezone
- Low-interest loans/city-backed
- Approach business owners/developers, meeting with landowners, city planners to solicit (+2)
- How to advertise New Franklin
- Form “brain trust” to develop ideas, economic development board (+1)

Planning Workshops



Workshop #2 Commercial/Service/Office Economic Development

The four questions asked at tables included:

1. What type of industrial, commercial, retail businesses are missing?
2. What would improve your or the city’s quality of life related to industrial, commercial, retail businesses?
3. Where should these industrial, commercial, retail businesses be located?
4. What actions should be taken? By whom?

Commercial/Service/Office Economic Development Comment Summary

Missing	Improve	Where Located
Succession planning	Locate closer so not have to drive elsewhere	Along State Routes, repurpose older buildings
Employee stock ownership program	Help with transit times, quality of life, PLCC to keep talent here	Manchester Road between Vanderhoof and Renninger
Contractor offices (septic, electricians, HVAC, plumbers, equipment operators)	Help establish businesses to help people age in place (+1)	West of Manchester Road
Doctors Office (medical, urgent care, lab) (+4)	Use for recreational space	Focus on Manchester Road, SR 93 Corridor (+2)
Pet services, pet training (+1)	Define city center before developing businesses	SR 619, SR 619 East, and West of SR 93 (+1)
Central offices	Coffee shop, restaurants, bait shop	Near State Park
Infrastructure	Farmer’s market, local produce, central location	Main Street
Home delivery, home improvement, childcare, post office/service	Businesses attract employees who are residents	
Office space		
Home health, nursing, physical therapy (+1)		
Business incubator		
Tech jobs		
Micro greens		
Solar		
Activities for families		
Senior living		
Manchester Bell Store model		
Grocery (+1), drug store, dollar tree, bakery, laundromat, print shop, massage, Lakes guides, restaurants		



Action Items for Commercial/Service/Office Economic Development include:

- Inventory of existing commercial businesses and then attract other businesses that serve demographics
- City to study need for types of businesses
- Low-interest loans
- Government, South Summit Chamber of Commerce
- Consolidate commercial businesses to ensure their survival

Planning Workshops



Workshop #2 Retail Stores/Restaurants Economic Development

The four questions asked at tables included:

1. What type of industrial, commercial, retail businesses are missing?
2. What would improve your or the city’s quality of life related to industrial, commercial, retail businesses?
3. Where should these industrial, commercial, retail businesses be located?
4. What actions should be taken? By whom?

Retail Stores/Restaurants Economic Development Comment Summary

Missing	Improve	Where Located
Grocery (+5), pharmacy/drug store (+2), dispensary, doctors, dentist, lab	Tax benefits, support (self-sustaining) local (+1), shop local (+1)	Concentrate with other businesses
Restaurants- sit down, Chinese, seafood, taco place/Mexican, Middle Eastern, diner (+4), bakery (+1), coffee (+3), ice cream	Shorten errand runs to enjoy other aspects of community	Vicinity of parks
Wineries (ag-related) (+3), distillery (+1), brewery	Easy in and out parking	Manchester corridor
Fitness	Cluster businesses	Towpath trail area
Destination place	Comradery, sense of community (+1)	Nimisila/Manchester
Hunting, clothing, sporting goods stores, outdoor recreation, boutique shops	Quality products	SR 619 behind Fisherman’s
Event, banquet facility/club	Need city to market buildings or areas	SR 93, near State Park
Farmer’s market (+2)	Respect local businesses before attracting more of that type of business	SR 619 Vanderhoof
	Recreation for kids and seniors	Farmer’s market at Nimisila & Manchester or school
	Senior day care	
	Sidewalks and bike trail by schools	
	Variety/specialty businesses	



Action Items for Retail Stores/Restaurants Economic Development include:

- Business owners, realtors, city planners involved
- Need infrastructure
- Levy
- Zoning
- Get involved with Chamber
- Map out underutilized or vacant buildings or lots
- Communicate with school board on upcoming vacant buildings
- Administration involved
- Promote New Franklin's strengths, resources, character
- Joint administration, citizen, business owner, high school students and younger resident economic development board
- Increased cost of services vs. increased revenue from departments

Planning Workshops



Workshop #2 Infrastructure/Utilities related to Economic Development

The four questions asked at tables included:

1. What types of infrastructure and utilities are missing related to industrial, commercial, office, and retail?
2. What could improve an existing business or future business quality of life related to infrastructure and utilities?
3. Where should infrastructure and utilities be improved or located?
4. What action should be taken? By whom?

Infrastructure/Utilities related to Economic Development Comment Summary

Missing	Improve	Where Located
Sidewalks (+1), pedestrian access in commercial areas	Developer relationships	Along business/commercial/industrial corridors
Bike friendly roads	Underground utilities where feasible	Along commercially zoned areas
Sewer, water, commercial septic (+6), extend water to Nimisila, current water/sewer plans to match planning areas	Businesses could run more efficiently, make more cost effective for businesses (+1)	As needed/appropriate
High speed internet (+2)	Attract businesses	Manchester Road high density areas
Public transportation/ ADA accessibility (+1)	Improve existing businesses (with water, sewer, chamber, non-profit)	
Road loop, freeway access	Pedestrian traffic	
Solar	Cheap power	



Action Items for Infrastructure/Utilities related to Economic Development include:

- City infrastructure through grants/grants for transportation, funding, planning (+1)
- Partner with surrounding communities
- Better “Welcome to New Franklin” signs
- Center turn lane on SR 93

Planning Workshops



Workshop #2 Housing/Transportation related to Economic Development

The four questions asked at tables included:

1. Are there housing and transportation improvements that are needed related to existing economic development?
2. Are there housing and transportation improvements that are needed related to future economic development?
3. Where should these housing and transportation improvements be located?
4. What action should be taken? By whom?

Housing/Transportation related to Economic Development Comment Summary

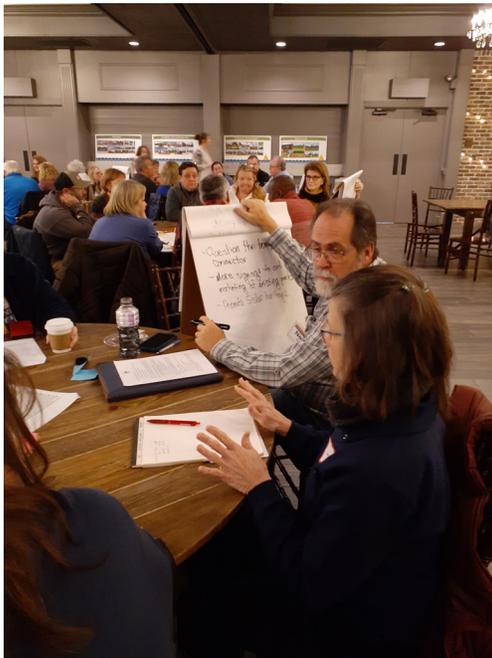
Missing	Improve	Where Located
Real estate agents to determine need	Additional housing would be needed, utilized, but do we really want it?	Vacant land
Assist developer with marketing/ research	Depends on infrastructure	Develop SR 93 corridor with water/ sewer
Just improve what have	Rental (Air B&B) registration program	Improvements to roads to handle increased light industrial (but will increase municipal services)
Slowly, sustainable, calculated economic development	Public transportation	Depends on infrastructure
Senior housing (55+) (+1)	Sidewalks	Manchester, Nimisila (+1), Center, Turkeyfoot, Main, Comet
Controlled growth (all types) that maintains the community	Urban planning as development occurs	Everywhere
Public transportation/ ADA accessible (+1)	Concern that busing would invite potential trouble	Senior living near planned community center, SR 93
Bike lanes (+1) for bikes, golf carts	Utilize retiring school properties as senior housing	Wherever space
Main Street/ over and back on SR 93	Senior housing, multi-generational housing	A Lakes entertainment district
Zoning enforcement	Electric car infrastructure	Park district
No roundabouts		
New, small, owner occupied properties to age in place		

Action Items for Housing/Transportation related to Economic Development include:

- SR 93 Beautification (landscaping, regulate signage, setbacks)
- Prefer asphalt to chip and seal
- City needs relationship with commercial developer to bring in light industrial/service
- Find out what residents want and what they are willing to pay for
- Federal grants, explore grants (+1)
- Chamber, local government
- Development



Planning Workshops



Workshop #3 Parks & Natural Resources, Public Lands, Open Spaces

The four questions asked at tables included:

1. What are some of New Franklin’s best natural resources?
2. Which public lands need to be better preserved? Better access?
3. In what ways could the city’s parks and greenspaces teach about environmental protection?
4. What actions should be taken? By whom?

Parks & Natural Resources, Public Lands, Open Spaces Comment Summary

Best Natural Resource	Preservation of Public Lands/ Better Access	Parks/Greenspace to Teach Environmental Protection
Towpath (State-owned) (+3)	Rather good currently	Coordinate between city, Metroparks, and schools
Portage Lakes State Park (State-owned) (+3)	Curb appeal of park land	Teach kids to garden in public garden, sell produce at Farmer’s Market with competitions
People	Better utilization	Earth Day event with schools
Lakes (+3)	Natural meadows/forest	Informational booths (like Metroparks)
Expansive land, land, and open space (+1)	Maps, marketing, signage, events	Use county knowledge
Farmland	Clean marsh in front of city hall (plan already in place)	Facebook for awareness
Wildlife	No light pollution	Identify greenspaces with signage
Trees/woods (+1)		Marsh by city hall

Action Items for Natural Resources/Public Lands/ Environmental Protection include:

- Continue to expand and improve Sisler/Manchester Middle School facility
- Improve Lockhart
- Non-profit/city council to acquire, lease location
- Improve website info on parks, directions, amenities, grills
- Parks Committee should do outreach
- Committee to organize needs



Planning Workshops



Workshop #3 Park Amenities

The four questions asked at tables included:

1. What park amenities do you currently use most?
2. What amenities are missing in the city's parks?
3. Where or at which parks would you add these amenities?
4. What would "inclusive" amenities and facilities look like to you?

Park Amenities Comment Summary

Amenities Used Most	Amenities Missing	Where/Which Parks Need Amenities
State Park (+2)	Pavilion at Sisler	Sisler (+1)
Tudor House events (+1)	Bathrooms (+4)/ ADA Port a Pots / concessions	Lockhart (+1)
Towpath (+1)	Playground at Sisler, at Bollas	All city parks
Sisler Park	Water fountains	
City parks, but only when kids play sports there	Inclusive playgrounds	
Walking path	Benches (+2), picnic tables	
Lakes	Lighting (motion-sensor, dawn to dusk)	
Sports	Picnic pavilions	
Athletic fields	ADA active space, accessibility (+1), ramps	
Pickleball and tennis courts	Farmer's Market, vendors fairs, concerts, outdoor yoga	
	Year-round facility/flexibility	
	Noise from Tudor House is issue (+1)	
	Walking paths	
	Signage	



Action Items for Park Amenities include:

- Flat surface
- Benches
- Adaptive playground, accessible playground (+1)
- ADA accessible, senior accessible park (+1)
- Paved paths, accessible paths (+1)
- Railings
- 4 seasons building/community center
- Gardens
- Bathrooms, ADA accessible
- Like patriotic flags on poles
- Need a community Christmas Tree Lighting at city hall

Planning Workshops



Workshop #3 Pedestrian & Bike Access

The four questions asked at tables included:

1. What are your thoughts on pedestrian and bike access to and within the parks?
2. Where should bicycle and pedestrian pathways connect to and from in the city?
3. What is your idea of “bike friendly” roadways (lanes, separate pathway)?
4. What are your thoughts on a connector trail from Portage Lakes State Park to Vanderhoof Trail Head?

Pedestrian & Bike Access Comment Summary

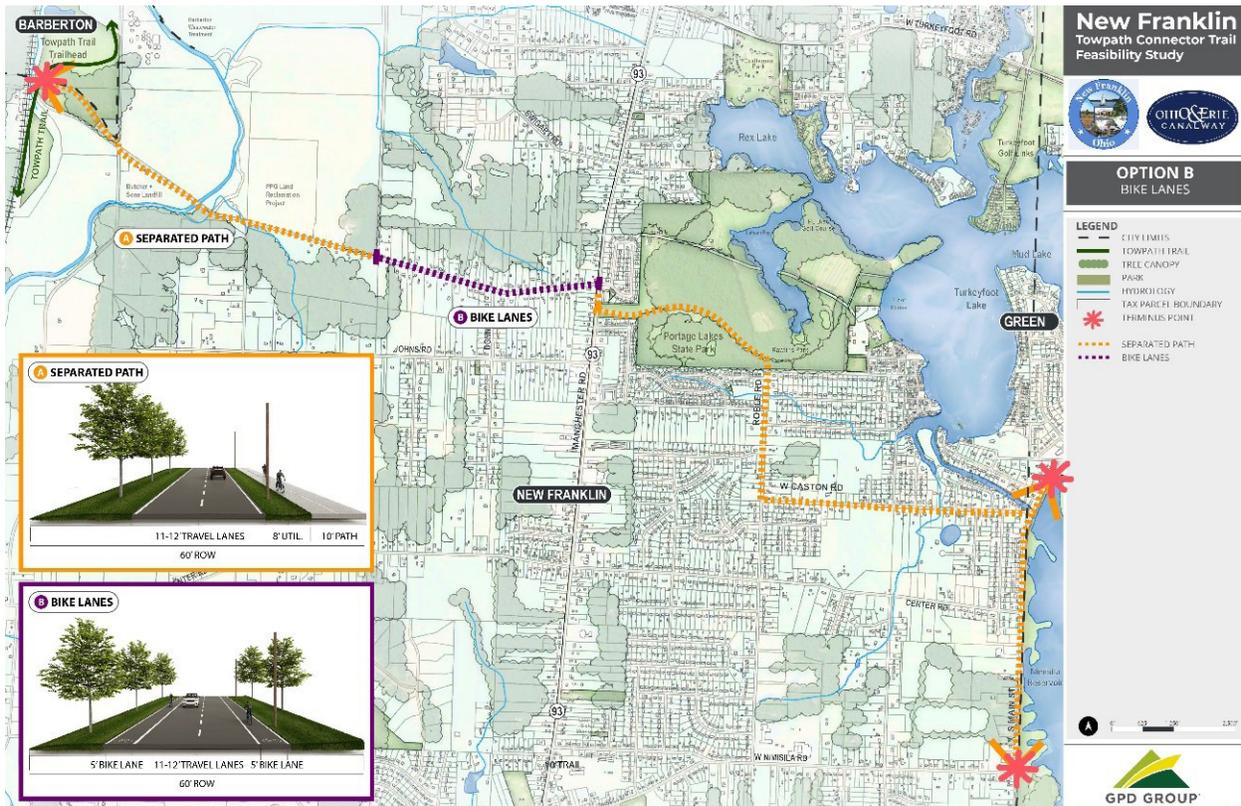
Thoughts of Pedestrian & Bike Access To/Within Parks	Where Should Pedestrian & Bike Pathways Connect	Idea of Bike Friendly Roadway
Access is fairly good	As they are	Not sharing, current is fine
No new bike path, sidewalks	Bike lanes/sidewalks on main access to parks	Add bike lane to roads
More signage, marketing based on amenities	Bike lanes to school	Separate pathway is safer
Handicapped access/play equipment on all parks	Connect from State Park to Nimisila Reservoir and Nimisila to connect schools and on Center Road	
Sensory park		
Unsafe to bike to park		
Need to create accessible areas		
Paved paths best, would increase usage		
Pro blue trails in parks		
Conflicted/indifferent outside park		
Seems pretty bike friendly, keep off Main & Manchester		
Expense of adding lanes to main roads		
Lots of concern about proposed New Franklin Trail Plan, taking people’s front yard and if w/s comes back through?		

Connector to Trail from State Park to Vanderhoof Trail Head

- Big waste of money (+5), if happens state should be responsible for costs
- Tunnel/bridge/lights to safely pass on Manchester Road
- Yes connect the trail
- More in favor of bike trails on all roads to the Towpath (Center & Vanderhoof)
- Like idea of State Park to Nimisila Reservoir access

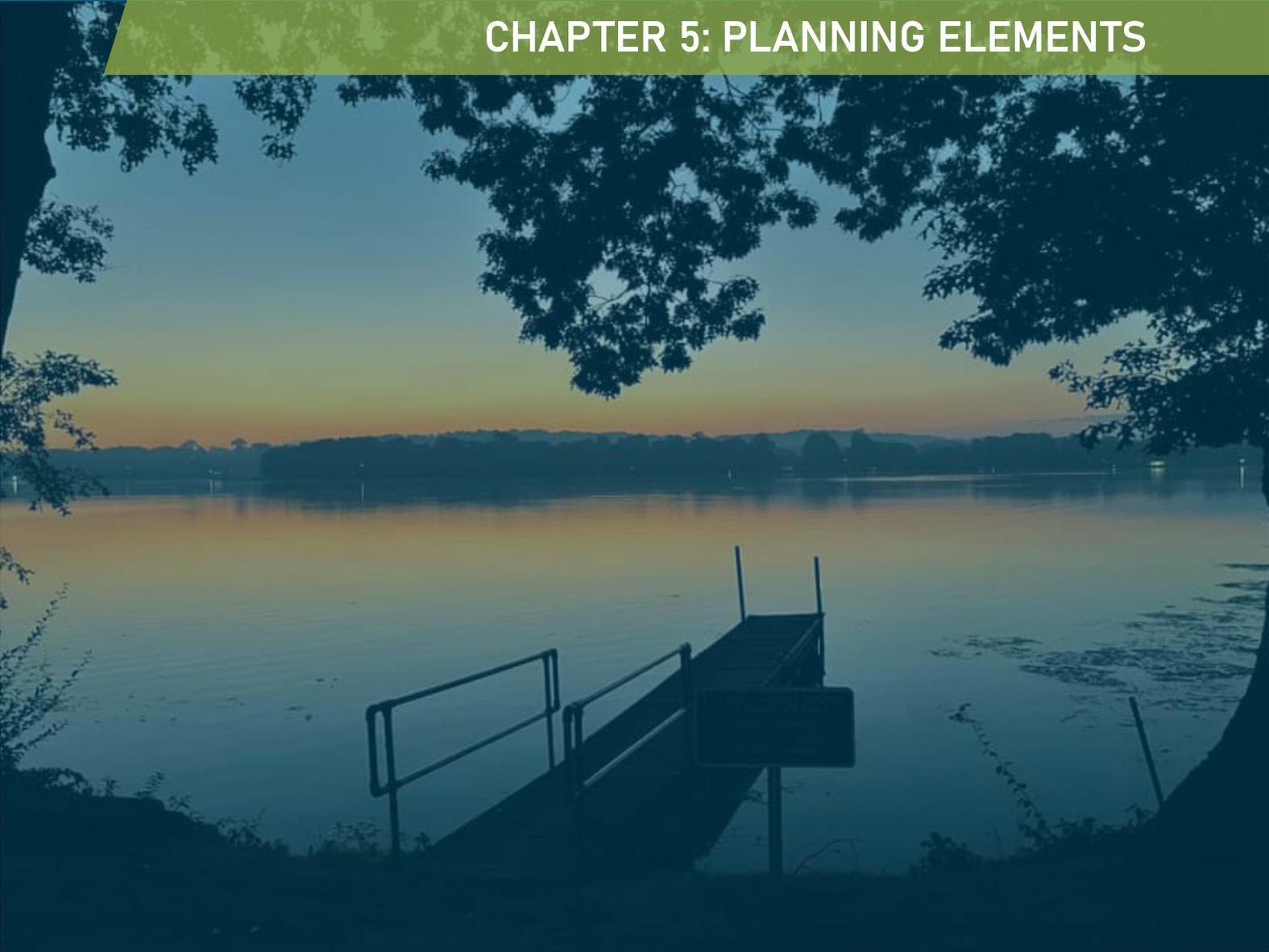
Proposed State Park to Vanderhoof Trail Head

New Franklin Trail Plan (as outlined in map below) includes a 10' separated path 8' from the edge of the road starting from Vanderhoof Road trailhead along Vanderhoof Road east to Rex Hill Road where the 10' path transitions into 5' bike lanes on both sides of road parallel to 11-12' travel lanes until Manchester Road where the bike lanes terminate and transitions back into a separated path going south until turning into Portage Lakes State Park using emergency access path to continue south on Roble Road until turning on W. Caston Road reaching Nimisila Reservoir. All pathways and lanes are either on PPG property or in rights-of-way. The plan involves no public taking of private lands.



Sample Bike Trail Option

CHAPTER 5: PLANNING ELEMENTS



CHAPTER 5: PLANNING ELEMENTS

Land Use

Land use is the process of organizing the use of land to meet the landowner’s needs while respecting the capabilities of the land. Land use planning is important to guide future development of a community, based on a vision of the future with long-range goals and objectives for all types of activities. The future land use plan describes how the community will guide development for its socio-economic needs and quality of life amenities. Often, there is confusion between land use and zoning. Land use is the categorization of the various types of uses on the land (the uses that currently exist on the land such as residential, commercial, and industrial), while zoning is the establishment of certain rules regarding existing and future uses of land based on a comprehensive plan that includes an adopted future land use plan.

Land use planning goals are important in any community. According to the American Association of Retired Persons (AARP), these goals should include connectivity for all modes (of motorized and non-motorized transportation), a variety of housing/ prices, economic development, parks/recreation spaces, entertainment, and services. Proper land use is important in that it impacts everyone in the community including how far residents travel to services, traffic, sights, sounds, smells, and even economic vibrancy. Land use practices have far-reaching and long-lasting implications for any community.

Land Use Regulations

In order to achieve a vision for a community related to planning, land use regulations are important enforcement tools. Examples include zoning, design review, and property maintenance.

Once land use is agreed upon, certain legislation can be adopted and can include zoning, overlay districts, and design review standards. Updates to all three of these land use tools were discussed during the planning process in order to arrive at the vision for the City of New Franklin.

The municipal zoning code is the single most important tool available to shape the form and character of future development and as mentioned previously, the city is currently working on an update to its code.

In a Livable Community, people of all ages can ...



Zoning

A local law that defines how buildings can be constructed on a lot and how land can be used.

Overlay Districts

A tool that is layered over the top of existing zoning that usually introduces an additional standard or regulation along some feature.

Design Review Standards

A tool of local land-use regulation for the evaluation of the design of a proposed development or building, utilizing legislatively adopted design standards and guidelines (that may include architectural, streetscape, landscape, or other aesthetic components), considering comments by the affected public.

What We Heard...

Survey Respondents Say

- New Franklin is described as suburban (65%)
- Maintaining rural character is important (36%)
- Want to see commercial development as an additional form of revenue (51%). Comments also included agricultural (25%), residential (20%), industrial (14%), and no development (25%)
- It is important for the city to enforce property maintenance for property upkeep (71%)
- 75% are aware of the city website, 72% are aware of the council meetings, 62% are aware of community events, but only 27% are aware of the rezoning process

Workshop Participants Say

Workshop participants identified land use conflicts between residential and agricultural, commercial, industrial, active greenspace, entertainment, and mixed use as well as the Vanderhoof land fill near agricultural and residential. Conflicts with water, light, and noise were also mentioned between residential and entertainment uses.

Improvements for land use included more variety (e.g. more grocery, farm stores and less storage units), sidewalks, bike lanes/bike paths, labeled/connected trails, preserve greenspace, identify a town center, utilize existing resources (e.g. Tudor House, historic homes), property maintenance/improve property values/tax base, and using existing land efficiently.

Workshop participants identified changes to land use such as increasing efficiency of underutilized land, better advantage of Lakes/Lakeside code enforcement, education on zoning/changes in zoning, restrictions on short-term rentals, no more storage units, increase tax base to pay for services, limit outbuildings, and new over 55 residential in northwest New Franklin.

What Does It Mean...

New Franklin residents value their rural environment, agricultural uses, and any environmentally sensitive areas. However, some future growth is expected and should be planned for. Buffering is important, especially between residential and other uses, along with enforcement of the noise and property maintenance ordinances. Any new development (commercial, industrial, and residential) should utilize existing vacant buildings before any greenspace is utilized. While some additional residential is desired (especially for the aging population), the type and design should fit with the current residential offerings in the city. The existing Zoning Code is currently being examined for updates; however, with the adoption of this plan, it should be reviewed again to ensure it aligns with the recommendations of this plan.

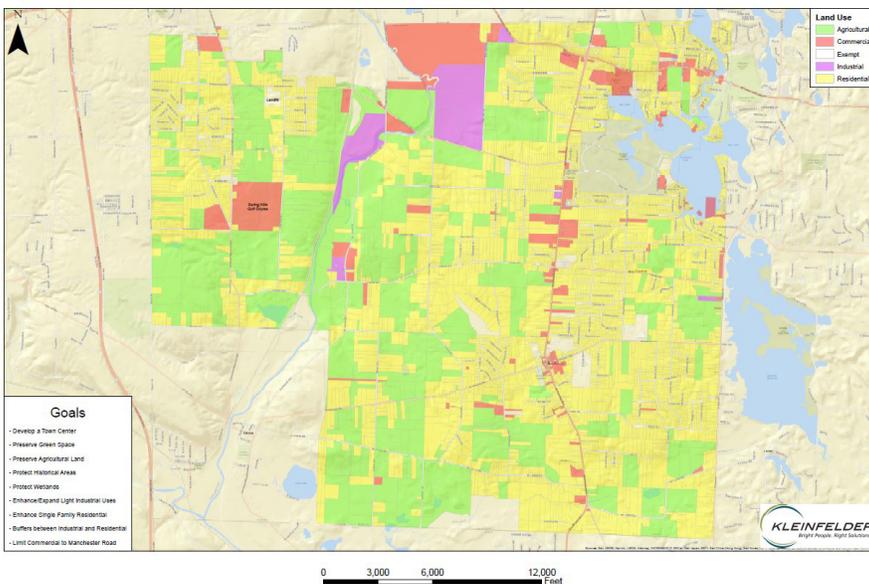
The American Planning Association identifies “Smart Growth” as that which supports choice and opportunity by promoting efficient and sustainable land development, incorporates redevelopment patterns that optimize prior infrastructure investments, and consumes less land that is otherwise available for agriculture, open space, natural systems, and rural lifestyles. It typically allows for the same amount of development that would have taken place under uncontrolled growth but uses a more compact design and directs development to locations where it is more efficient to provide public services and away from open space and agricultural land. It is not a single tool, but a set of planning principles that work with local conditions to achieve better development patterns. This is similar to “conservation design” mentioned in public input process and should be applied to development and redevelopment in New Franklin.

Future Land Use

Land Use Map Suggested Items from Public Input

- Sidewalks from city hall to city limits, bounded by north of Renninger and Sturgeon, south of Pearlman and Yeager
- Bike lane from city hall to Towpath Trail along Center Road (north and south of Center Road)
- Farmer’s market along Manchester between Center and Renninger Beautify Manchester Road, area north of city hall
- Improvements to Tudor House and Lakes housing
- School campus at Manchester & West Nimisila
- Recruit small businesses along Manchester Road from Pearlman to Portage Lakes State Park entrance
- R-2 anywhere west of Manchester Road
- Keep greenspace at the golf course, no high density housing
- Add trails (note: trail added), playground, grills, toilets (note: added), community gardens, create a real park near Tudor House
- Zone R-1 where currently commercial at NE Border of New Franklin, south of Turkey Foot Road S

City of New Franklin | Future Land Use Map



Core Principles of Smart Growth include:

1. Efficient use of land and infrastructure
2. Creation and/or enhancement of economic value
3. A greater mix of uses and housing choices
4. Neighborhoods and communities focused on human-scale, mixed-use centers
5. A balanced, multi-modal transportation system providing increased transportation choice
6. Conservation and enhancement of environmental and cultural resources
7. Preservation or creation of a sense of place
8. Increased citizen participation in all aspects of the planning process and at every level of government
9. Vibrant center city life
10. Vital small towns and rural areas
11. A multi-disciplinary and inclusionary process to accomplish smart growth
12. Planning processes and regulations at multiple levels that promote diversity and equity
13. Regional view of community, economy, and ecological sustainability
14. Recognition that institutions, governments, businesses, and individuals require a concept of cooperation to support smart growth
15. Local, state, and federal policies and programs that support urban investment, compact development, and land conservation
16. Well defined community edges, such as agricultural greenbelts, wildlife corridors, or greenways permanently preserved as farmland or open space

APA Policy Guide on Smart Growth, April 14, 2012

Parks, Recreation, Greenspace, Natural/Cultural Resources

According to the Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), encouraging healthy physical activity is related to providing access to nearby parks, trails, and open spaces. The National Recreation and Park Association (NRPA) has documented that property values tend to increase the closer a parcel is to trails and parks. Providing parks, trails, and open space is a win-win for a community as it encourages physical activity keeping residents healthy and happy and increases the community's tax base. Parks, recreation, and natural/cultural resources are important because they contribute to the overall livability of a community and promote active lifestyles, health benefits, and community wellness in all ages. In addition, they can also:

- strengthen people's appreciation for nature and conservation
- attract residents and visitors
- improve property value (as a desired amenity)
- remove carbon dioxide from the atmosphere (trees)
- provide a connection space for residents, neighbors and create safe gathering place
- conserve open space, wild areas

What We Heard...

Survey Respondents Say

- 72% of respondents were **satisfied** with the city's **parks**
- 15% of respondents were **not satisfied** with the city's **parks**
- 46% of respondents were **satisfied** with **adult recreation**
- 26% of respondents were **not satisfied** with **adult recreation**
- 29% of respondents were **satisfied** with **senior recreation**
- 26% of respondents were **not satisfied** with **senior recreation**
- 44% of respondents were **satisfied** with **youth recreation**
- 18% of respondents were **not satisfied** with **youth recreation**
- Related to parks and recreation, respondents felt the city should consider future improvements on
 - Towpath & Vanderhoof (39%)
 - Multi-Purpose Parks (38%)
 - Open Space, Natural Areas (37%)
 - Restrooms (28%)
 - Playgrounds (26%)
 - Water Recreation (25%)
 - No Improvements (17%)

- Accessibility/Inclusive Improvements (14%)
- Sports Fields (9%)
- Respondents felt the city should spend funds on
 - Park Facilities (20%)
 - Recreation for Youth (13%)
 - Recreation for Adults (10%)
 - Recreation for Seniors (10%)
 - Adding Bike Lane/ Multi-Purpose Paths (9%)

Workshop Participants Say

Workshop participants identified conflicts with questions on/concerns with needing the Towpath connector, while others thought access to bike trails, ADA accessible space, and environmental conservation areas were important. Improvements included walkability/accessibility issues (sidewalks, bike lanes, walking/biking trails/paths, Towpath connector), family-centric parks with lots of amenities, utilizing existing space, continued use of the Tudor House, but make improvements at Bollas, Sisler, Craftsman Parks, as well as State Park and Lakes. Concern was voiced that increasing taxes is not a solution and the distance to the Towpath and State Park may be an issue. It should be noted that a new pavilion was built at Sisler and opened in September 2023.

The majority of workshop participants agreed that the Towpath and Lakes were the best natural resources, even if state owned. Trees/woods, land, farmland, wildlife, open space and even people were also listed as best natural resources. Better utilization and marketing/signage/events/social media were all listed as ways to provide better access. Coordination with schools, city, and Metroparks were listed as ways to teach environmental protection through community gardens, farmer's market, earth day events, information booths, and growing competitions.

The majority of workshop participants agreed that the park amenities they used most were the State Park, Tudor House, Towpath, and City Parks. Specifically, walking paths, sporting events, athletic fields, and pickleball/tennis courts were mentioned. Missing amenities were listed as pavilion (+1) and playground at Sisler, playground at Bollas, bathrooms (+5), concessions, water fountains, inclusive playgrounds, ADA accessibility/bathrooms/ramps (+2), good walking paths, identification/signage, benches (+1), picnic tables, active spaces with farmer's market, vendors fairs, concerts, outdoor yoga, and year-round facility with flexibility.

Workshop participants were split on pedestrian and bike access to and within parks. Some felt that access was rather good, already bike-friendly, and no new bike path or sidewalks were needed. There were concerns about the expense of adding lanes to main roads and acquisition of right-of-way. Others felt that bike lanes/sidewalks (added to roads) were necessary on main access to parks, to schools, to roads, and trails because these types of connections were safer. This group felt it was unsafe to bike to the park and the parks are too small to bike around. Paved paths were the best solution to this group and thought they would increase park usage. One table mentioned they were pro-blue (water) trails in the park and that they were conflicted/indifferent outside of park. More signage, marketing based on amenities, handicapped accessible/play equipment in all parks, and a sensory park were all suggestions.

There were varying opinions on lighting, some thought parks should be lit from dusk to dawn, others thought they should have lights out at night or motion sensors. There were also a few participants who mentioned conflicts between the Tudor House and surrounding neighborhoods and the noise.

Changes recommended include plan for and utilize any areas of redevelopment (e.g. razed schools, area behind middle school) and use current properties effectively. Loitering and crime should also be prevented in these areas.

What Does It Mean...

Existing parks in New Franklin should be maintained, upgraded, or enhanced prior to any additional parks being created. Family friendly, accessible, multi-purpose parks with open space are desired. Restrooms, connecting parks with paths and trails, and playground equipment all were mentioned repeatedly. Future improvements at Towpath and Vanderhoof should be examined, being cognizant of necessary funding needs.

Agricultural

The agricultural feel is of great significance to the residents of New Franklin. While the economic impact of agriculture may be difficult to quantify, the rural character is an important piece to the quality of life in New Franklin. American Planning Association (APA) supports legislation that incorporates agricultural land preservation into long range planning consistent with principles of smart growth, as mentioned above.

What We Heard...

Survey Respondents Say

- New Franklin is described as rural (32%)
- Maintain rural character is important (36%)
- Develop more agricultural (25%) as source of additional revenue
- Develop a farmer's market to foster community (65%)

Workshop Participants Say

Workshop participants stated that there may be some conflict between agriculture and other uses in the R1, R2, and CD zoning classifications and with water services. A number of participants talked about improvements such as community gardens and farmer's markets, as well as agri-tourism and agri-tainment on a smaller scale to fit New Franklin and potentially on city-owned land.

Changes included updating regulations for home growing of marijuana (if legalized), additional agricultural uses in south/west New Franklin and including some privately-owned land areas, community garden spaces, community groups to help hobby farms and wine/produce/eggs.

What Does It Mean...

New Franklin wants to maintain its current rural feel by providing farming and greenspace to its residents. While there is not as much agriculture as there used to be, preserving large lots for hobby farming is still important, but should be balanced with potential commercial and residential development as well as environmental concerns. The small-scale farming could turn into more agri-tainment and/or agri-tourism.

Housing

A variety of housing at different price points is important to keep existing and attract future residents to New Franklin. While the city has experienced additional housing since the last plan, more diversity may be necessary in order to meet the housing needs of all ages and incomes. It was apparent that there was little support for high density, rental housing. Higher density may be considered for housing for the aging population (55+).

What We Heard...

Survey Respondents Say

- Want to see single-family homes on large lots (2+ acres, zoned R-1) (58%)
- Want to see senior housing options (40%), assisted living (42%), rented independent living (32%), and owner-occupied house/condo (31%) as the most chosen types of housing to consider for senior housing
- An acceptable home purchase price in New Franklin would be \$150,000-199,000 (44%)
- An acceptable monthly rental rate would be \$1,000-1,499 (41%)

Workshop Participants Say

Participants felt that senior housing is missing in the city. Some participants did not want to see residential parcels under two acres, while others recognized that higher density housing is dependent on sewer and senior housing may be more dense than current residential.

Improvements listed include more senior housing (multiple types), no apartment complexes, housing that attracts younger people, housing on smaller lots and larger lots, high-end homes/high-end ranch homes, developer paid sidewalks, code enforcement, and restrictions on Air B&Bs/ less short-term rentals. It is interesting to note that nationally, younger people are more interested in rental townhome and apartment type living than single-family homes to purchase.

Changes mentioned include zoning changes, planning commission review, property enforcement, no industrial next to residential (even with buffering, but small business/commercial is ok), anywhere 2+ acre per lot, limit number of outbuildings, senior housing, blended neighborhoods (smaller and large houses), and water and sewer for quality of life.

What Does It Mean...

Single family housing on larger lots is supported, as long as it takes into account environmentally sensitive areas and use of land to preserve greenspace. Senior housing and a variety of housing options/prices for the younger population is also desired. With these types of housing, they are typically on smaller lots and have more density. Any proposals will need to be thoroughly discussed by the planning commission and council. Conservation design principles could be used in housing by encouraging devoting areas of the potentially buildable land area to undivided, permanently protected open space.

Economic Development

Economic development is important to the City of New Franklin in that any focus on this must balance the need to continue to offer goods/services that residents want and collect income tax on employees to pay for these services with the rural nature of the community.

Industrial and commercial businesses are important in comprehensive planning in that these businesses provide important tax revenue for the city and important services for residents and visitors. A strong industrial and commercial tax base can lead to enhanced services and increased tax base.

What We Heard...

Survey Respondents Say

- 67% wanted to utilize existing vacant buildings for economic development, 61% want to attract new businesses, 52% want to retain existing businesses, and 8% want to do nothing for economic development
- 70% felt the city should increase its revenues by attracting more small businesses (less than 20 jobs) to bring in more taxes. 50% of respondents said should attract more larger businesses (20+ jobs) to bring in more taxes
- Would support more businesses if they:
 - Maintain character of community (78%)
 - Provide more jobs (76%)
 - Provide more services (75%)
 - Majority of respondents **will not** support more businesses if they create more traffic
- Majority wanted to see small employers located generally along Manchester between Center and Nimisila Roads and larger employers located generally along Cleveland- Massillon Road and Vanderhoof Road
- Majority wanted to see restaurants located generally along Manchester Road between Center and Nimisila Roads and south of Turkey Foot Road
- Did not want to see any of these developments in any of these areas (10-11%)
- Majority happy with safety services, quality of life, snow plowing, traffic, road maintenance, schools, parks, housing affordability
- Majority not happy with grocery store options, shopping opportunities, and dining options

Workshop Participants Say

Participants wanted to have a comprehensive list of the businesses in the city so they could determine what is needed for recruitment of any additional businesses. Light and small industrial would be supported, as long as it is located away from residential and commercial development and concentrated along state routes and into existing vacant buildings. Additional commercial and retail development was also supported, again recommended along state routes and into existing vacant buildings. Those commercial service and retail businesses listed repeatedly as missing included grocery, pharmacy, medical offices, restaurants, and wineries. Infrastructure improvements should be completed as needed for these businesses. Slow, sustainable, calculated growth was mentioned a number of times.

What Does It Mean...

Participants acknowledge that some economic development is necessary, especially to maintain the existing services and grow additional services. Any industrial or commercial uses should be steered to existing underutilized or vacant buildings first, so as not to take existing greenspace. This will all be dependent on current and future infrastructure availability. Existing businesses should be retained, and small businesses should be a city focus, paying attention to diverse business types and what is actually missing in New Franklin. Incentives may be necessary, and development should be focused on existing industrial and commercial areas in order to maintain the small town, rural feel. Controlled growth would be necessary.

Transportation

Transportation connects residents and visitors to economic opportunity, social activity, and community services areas. It allows people to move around and travel to work, school, stores, and other places that they want to go. Transportation planning serves the area economically, socially, and improves the quality of life for residents and visitors. Public transportation is also important in that it reduces traffic congestion, pollution, and the number of cars on the road, which improves the overall quality of life. It also contributes to the economic and physical health of those individuals who rely on it to get to and from daily activities and resources.

What We Heard...

Survey Respondents Say

- Support using tax dollars for asphalt road improvements (69%), drainage improvements (32%), sidewalk and street light improvements (25%)
- Felt road maintenance was most important for the city to spend taxes on (63%)

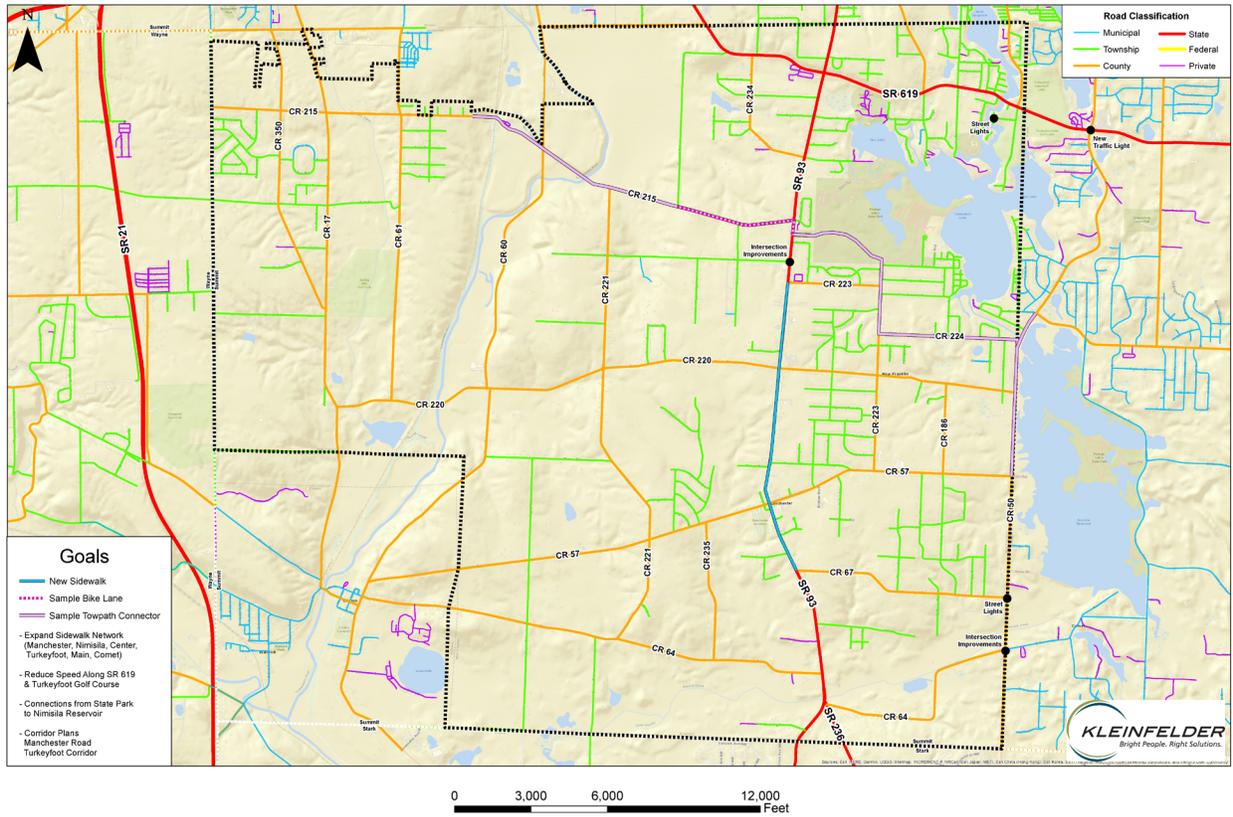
Workshop Participants Say

Participants mentioned the importance of sidewalks, ADA accessibility, bike lanes, and overall improvements necessary to handle any increased industrial, commercial, and residential development. An overall SR 93 beautification project was discussed, as well as the possibility of providing public transportation. Participants prefer asphalt treatment to the chip and seal process for the roads.

What Does It Mean...

The two main corridors (Manchester/SR 93 and West Turkeyfoot Lake Road/619) in New Franklin should be identified as areas for planned expansion and enhancement, including beautification and safety/enforcement improvements. Gateways and wayfinding should also be examined for the city. Multi-modal transportation for pedestrians, bicyclists, and vehicles is important and better connections are needed to all areas of the city.

City of New Franklin | Transportation Map



Sample Bike Lane



Sample Gateway with Branding



Sample Crosswalk, Gateway Branding



Sample Intersection

Infrastructure/Utilities and Public Safety/Services

Infrastructure and utilities are important to everyone who lives, works, and plays in the city. Infrastructure typically includes roads/transportation, sidewalks, water, sewer, and storm. Utilities typically include electric, gas, internet, and alternative energy. Infrastructure and utilities are also important when reviewing land use to ensure they can support existing and proposed land uses. Public and safety services are also an important necessity for existing residents.

What We Heard...

Survey Respondents Say

- Continue with private sewer (54%) and private wells (60%)
- Some want city-wide sewer and water levies (20-22%)
- Thumbs up to utilities (56% of online respondents)
- The following were most important for the city to spend taxes on:
 - Road maintenance (63%)
 - Emergency medical services (63%)
 - Police service (62%)
 - Fire protection (61%)

Workshop Participants Say

Participants mentioned the importance of multi-modal transportation again, sidewalks, safe bike routes, and public transportation. Any boundaries for recommended water, sewer and commercial septic upgrades should follow the planning area boundaries. High speed internet was important, but not necessarily as a public utility. Solar was also mentioned as an opportunity. State and federal grants should be pursued for both infrastructure and utility improvements.

What Does It Mean...

A connected community is important with broadband, human connections, asphalt road paving, sidewalks, bike lanes, and parks. Infrastructure and utilities improvements may be necessary to achieve this connected community. These improvements may also be necessary for an official “town center” gathering area. While water/sewer may be a hot button topic, there should be a middle ground that residents and businesses can agree to, with water and sewer along main roads and/or in commercial/ industrial areas.

Community Facilities/Public Facilities/Services

Communities across the country take steps every day to preserve and protect their core, centers, or historic downtowns. A center is important because it is the heart and soul of a community. It can be the preservation of the past, an indicator of larger social and economic trends, a community gathering place, and an economic development generator. A typical downtown is considered the living room of a community or “third place” where residents and visitors gather besides their homes or places of work. In fact, many communities who have lost their downtowns look to replicate them by building outdoor lifestyle centers. Public facilities and services are paramount to a strong quality of life.

What We Heard...

Survey Respondents Say

- Community could be fostered through
 - Farmer’s Market (65%)
 - Outdoor Entertainment (50%)
 - Better Use of Existing Community Assets (40%)
 - Community Gathering/Event Center/Town Center (39%)
 - Craft Fair/ Maker Market (31%)
 - Food Truck Court (28%)
 - Seasonal Holiday Gift Market (28%)
 - Community Garden Space (20%)
 - Car Shows (17%)

Workshop Participants Say

The idea of a community gathering area or town center concept was discussed. Participants want to utilize the Tudor House to its fullest potential, as well as have a farmer’s market (to tie into the rural character of the community) and a community garden. It was determined that all of these items would promote community. Strong public facilities and services are very important to residents.

What Does It Mean...

A town center should be designated with programmed activities to draw residents and visitors. A farmer's market and/or community garden could be at this location. A focus on public facilities and services is important, specifically the Tudor House, Parks, Trail, and Towpath, Fire, EMS, Police, snow removal, and leaf pick up. Communication between the city and residents on facilities, events, and spending should be continued.



Sample Farmer's Market

Quality of Life

Now more than ever, residents are choosing where they live based on the overall quality of life, not just related to a job, house, or school district. A quick internet search can give potential residents a glimpse of the quality of life in a community.

What We Heard...

Survey Respondents Say

- Happy with safety services, quality of life, snow plowing, traffic, road maintenance, schools, parks, housing affordability
- Not happy with grocery store options, shopping opportunities, and dining options
- Would encourage others to live in New Franklin (78%)

Workshop Participants Say

Participants pointed to a small-town feel, neighbors/people, variety of housing, strong infrastructure, and rural atmosphere as all important characteristics of New Franklin that contribute to a strong quality of life.

What Does It Mean...

All planning should remember this lens of the current quality of life in New Franklin. Through any development, maintaining what residents have in New Franklin will be important. A focus on safety in the community and in the schools is important, along with relationships with neighbors. Planning must also recognize the many visions, but one community mentality.

CHAPTER 6: IMPLEMENTATION



CHAPTER 6: IMPLEMENTATION

Building a highly livable and desirable community is hard work. It takes vision, commitment, partnerships, and civic leadership. Community-building efforts must be sustained over the long-term. Without exception, all highly desirable and successful communities share the common trait of making conscious choices about community development, and then executing steps toward goals, bridging planning with results.

This concluding chapter identifies the major action items from the Comprehensive Plan and identifies timeframes (short term 1- 2 years, mid-term 3-4 years, and long term 5+ years) and responsible parties to move forward in implementing the plan’s vision and recommendations. These action items will guide City Council and Administration as they prioritize finite financial and human resources.

To address the plan’s implementation and the prioritization of projects, we recommend that the Mayor and Administration review the plan’s action items and develop an annual work plan based on current available resources, manpower, cost, and project timeframe. This work plan should be reviewed and updated on a yearly basis delineating the items that have been completed, the items that are no longer applicable, and the actions that have not yet been started. Reviewing and updating this work plan on a yearly basis ensures that the city will be continuously working on implementing the vision and action items of this plan.

The items below were taken from what was heard at the Public Visioning Session/Public Vision Cards, the survey, and the three workshops (specifically actions to be taken and items missing in small group discussions).

“ Plans are only good intentions unless they immediately degenerate into hard work. ”

Peter Drucker

Current & Future Land Use

Current & Future Land Use	Where Heard	Time Frame	Responsible Party	Where Located/What Look Like	Potential Funding
Plan for low maintenance residential units appropriate for aging population	Public Visioning Survey Workshop #1	Short- Mid-Term	City Private Property Owner Private Developer	-Walkable, near commercial, recreational uses -Not high-density senior housing -Updated zoning code to dictate senior housing	N/A
Work towards filling vacant properties (commercial, industrial, residential) or underutilized properties	Public Visioning Survey Workshop #1	Short-Mid-Term	Private Developers City Building Owners	-City-wide -No vacant houses -No vacant buildings -Map out vacant and underutilized buildings/land -Form a committee to work on bringing buildings up to code, full utilization	N/A

Current & Future Land Use	Where Heard	Time Frame	Responsible Party	Where Located/What Look Like	Potential Funding
Plan for the expected future growth of the community	SC Vision Public Vision Cards	Short- Mid-Term	City Private Developers Landowners	-City-wide -Sustainability, employment, investment	N/A
Plan for the location of water/sewer treatment areas once waterline/ sewer services are planned	Public Visioning	Short-Long Term	Appropriate governing bodies Private Property Owners Developers	-Along main roads -New developments -Near Lakes -Along business/ commercial/industrial corridors as needed	N/A
Encourage green space in the city and protect environmentally sensitive areas	Public Visioning Survey	Short-Long Term	City Private Property Owner Private Developer	-Comet & Manchester -Pocket Parks, New Neighborhood Parks, or Adopt a Space (Consultant Recommendation)	ODNR, Private Developer
Update zoning (districts/ classifications), modernizing terms, adding new uses, and retaining key agricultural areas	SC Vision	Short-Long Term	City Planning Commission	-City-wide (note zoning code update is currently underway)	N/A
Work toward a family-friendly community	SC Vision Public Visioning Workshop #1 Workshop #2 Workshop #3 Survey	Short-Long Term	City	-City-wide -Walkable, sustainable -Stable, affordable with gentle growth -Great place to live, work, and gather	N/A



Current & Future Land Use	Where Heard	Time Frame	Responsible Party	Where Located/What Look Like	Potential Funding
Examine zoning code to ensure it works for existing and future vision of New Franklin and implementation of Comprehensive Plan	Public Visioning Workshop #1 Workshop #2	Short-Long Term	City	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Solar, Wind, EV Charging, Air B&Bs, Pollution/Protection, Planned Communities, Yard Sales, On-Street Parking, Accessory Dwelling Units -No business in residential -Update sign code -Consider adding Building Design Standards -Increase size of accessory units e.g. Secondary Garages, storage units, etc. -Tailor ag based on population density -Review zoning enforcement over animals/livestock -Keep zoning simple for easy understanding (note zoning code update is currently underway)	City
Enforce noise ordinances and property maintenance for residential areas for a clean, quiet, well-maintained community	Public Visioning Vision Card Survey Workshop #1	Short- Long Term	City	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -City-wide -Program for condemned/unkept properties (disabled vehicles, number of sheds/outbuildings) -Enforce noise violations for motorcycles, fireworks, bars, lake activities, and gunfire -Enforce with fines -Standards for lighting 	N/A

Parks, Recreation & Open Spaces

Parks, Recreation & Open Spaces	Where Heard	Time Frame	Responsible Party	Where Located/What Look Like	Potential Funding
<p>Improve information on city website detailing parks, locations, and amenities</p> <p>Improve outreach, promotion</p>	Workshop #2	Short Term	City Parks Committee	<p>-City-wide</p> <p>-Complete a park inventory, update website</p> <p>-Continue Parks Committee outreach to advertise parks, organize what is missing in inventory at each park</p>	City
<p>Use parks and open spaces as teaching places and utilize social media to publicize, advertise</p>	Workshop #3	Short Term	City Metroparks Schools Residents	<p>-City-wide</p> <p>-Teach gardening in community gardens, sell at Farmers Market</p> <p>-Host growing competitions, Earth Day events, informational kiosks, pollinator studies</p> <p>-Use Metroparks knowledge</p>	City Metroparks Schools Volunteers
<p>Connecting trail between State Park and the Towpath Trail via Vanderhoof Road</p>	<p>Survey</p> <p>Public Visioning</p> <p>Workshop #3</p>	Short-Mid Term	State City Ohio & Erie Canalway Coalition	<p>-Connections made using road right-of-way, not private property</p> <p>-Bike trails on all roads to the Towpath (Center & Vanderhoof)</p> <p>-State Park to Nimisila Reservation</p> <p>-Tunnel/bridge</p> <p>-Lights to safely pass Manchester Road</p>	ODNR ODOT Capital Budget Foundations

Parks, Recreation & Open Spaces	Where Heard	Time Frame	Responsible Party	Where Located/What Look Like	Potential Funding
<p>Maintain, upgrade enhance, and install additional facilities at existing parks (prior to creating new parks/ recreation/open areas for overall curb appeal and more family centric)</p>	<p>Survey Workshop #1 Workshop #2 Workshop #3</p>	<p>Short-Long Term</p>	<p>City Non-Profits Youth Sports Organizations</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -All City Parks -Bollas Park (playground, facilities, trail) -Sisler (restrooms, promote heritage, pavilion) -Lockhart -Farmers Market -ADA accessible restrooms -ADA accessible playgrounds -Signage -Sensory park -Blue trails -Flat areas -Benches, picnic tables -Concessions -Wheelchair accessibility -Paved/accessible paths, trails, railing (ADA & Senior accessible) -Gardens -4 season building/community center/ pavilion/outdoor entertainment/space for farmers markets, vendors, fairs, concerts, outdoor yoga -More park entrances -Lighting (motion sensor or timer) -Recreational soccer, baseball, softball fields (Turf all-purpose athletic fields for youth) -Splash pad/pool -Water fountains -Dog Park -Rifle range -Specific recreational survey what need, upgrade, and how pay for it 	<p>ODNR Capital Budget Foundations</p>

Parks, Recreation & Open Spaces	Where Heard	Time Frame	Responsible Party	Where Located/What Look Like	Potential Funding
Preserve existing open space, when possible	Workshop #1 Workshop #3	Short-Long Term	City Non-profits	-Identify natural meadows, forests, respecting private property -Sign areas and encourage usage (Consultant Recommendation)	ODNR Capital Budget Foundations
Create multi-purpose parks with open, natural feel and recreational areas for families	Public Visioning Survey Workshop #1	Mid-Long Term	City Non-Profits Metroparks	-Secure open areas of land abutting other recreational uses (Consultant Recommendation)	ODNR Capital Budget Foundations Not tax burdening
Examine recreational development that supports a more pedestrian-focused access to include walking and biking	Workshop #1 Workshop #3 Survey	Mid- Long Term	City	-Connect existing bike paths (bike lanes/sidewalks on main access to parks, schools) -Explore connections from State Park to Nimisila Res and Nimisila to connect to the schools and on Center Road -Include safe bike paths -Enforcement of traffic control (speeding)	ODNR ODOT Capital Budget Foundations
Examine stronger relationships with State Park, enforcement of rules for safety, health	Workshop #1	Mid-Long Term	City State Park Non-profits	-Lighting at Lakes -Negotiate with ODNR to charge for utilizing lake launch ramps -Improve boating and non-boating activities, kayak, paddleboard launches -Enforcement of lake traffic speed, safety enforcement, clean up -Improve wayfinding signage and connections with City (Consultant Recommendation)	N/A

Agriculture

Agriculture	Where Heard	Time Frame	Responsible Party	Where Located/What Look Like	Potential Funding
Balance agricultural feel with agricultural uses and residential uses	Public Visioning	Short-Term	City	-Study, survey varying agricultural uses	N/A
Preserve large lots for hobby farming and continue to preserve large plots of land. Balance with environmental concerns with fertilizer run off, lakes/ponds	Public Visioning	Short-Long Term	City Property Owners	-Support hobby farms/ag tourism/ ag- tainment -Promote farmers selling products with map, city promotion -Like Hale Farm on smaller scale -Vineyards, feed collectives	USDA
Keep the rural, country feel with farming, greenspace, and township feel, however balance with those who want less farming or no farming	Vision Card Survey	Short- Long Term	City Residents Property Owners	-Limit ag only to low density residential -Keep residential lots close to residential housing -Quality enforcement of zoning -Complete cost benefit analysis of land uses to determine what adds more tax base	N/A
Create Farmers Co-op, compost facility, recycling/chipping/ mulching, solar farms, Pegasus Farm Type (educational), aquaponics, organic, horse stables, county-fair type event	Workshop #1 Workshop #3	Mid-Long Term	City Community Ag Bureau Schools Non-profits	-Non-profit/city acquire, lease location	USDA Non-profits ReWorks DOE

Housing

Housing	Where Heard	Time Frame	Responsible Party	Where Located/What Look Like	Potential Funding
Support development of single-family homes ensuring any development completed takes into account environmentally sensitive areas	Public Visioning Public Vision Cards Survey Workshop #1	Short-Term	City Landowners Private Developers Real Estate Agents	-Entire city -Larger acreage lots -Owner- occupied -Variety of housing options/prices (for younger people) -Some planned, smaller lot neighborhoods -Blended neighborhoods with smaller and larger homes -Neighborhood specific or property size inclusions	N/A
Support thoughtfully designed housing	Public Visioning Workshop #1 Workshop #2	Short Term	City Planning Commission Real Estate Agents Private Developers	-Ward 1 (Renninger, Pin Oak) -On school property behind Manchester Admin Building -Develop 93 corridor with water/sewer -By Nimisila -Near entertainment district, park district -Zone R-1 where currently commercial at NE Border of NF, south of Turkey Foot Road S -Environmentally sensitive development -Determine need, assist developers with marketing/ research -Slow, sustainable, and calculated -Maintain nature of community -Impact studies for development, environmental issues -Through zoning code	CRA
Support the development of senior housing, at least on a smaller scale at first	Public Vision Cards Survey Workshop #1 Workshop #2	Short-Mid Term		-Near any type of proposed town center/community center -Rt 93 -Existing empty lots -Utilize retiring school properties -Specific types could include assisted living, nursing home, owner-occupied senior housing/condo, luxury independent living apts, rented independent living, apts, and rented single residence/condo -New small, owned properties (like tiny homes) to age in place	N/A



Economic Development

Economic Development	Where Heard	Time Frame	Responsible Party	Where Located/What Look Like	Potential Funding
Create Business Advisory Council (“brain trust”)/ economic development board	Workshop #2	Short Term	City Elected and Administration Chamber Schools Realtors Developers Business Owners Property Owners Residents/ Younger Residents Students Planners	-Make sure not include all govt officials -Link with South Summit Chamber of Commerce -Determine what existing businesses need to stay and expand in city -Invite developers and landowners to participate (“match making” between available land and projects)	SBA
Improve facades along Manchester Road	Workshop #1	Short Term	City Private Property Owners	-Manchester Road -Encourage façade improvements, property clean up, but balance with private property rights	CRA Non-profits Inflation Reduction Act
Develop list of all businesses (commercial, office, industrial, retail, restaurant) in the city	Workshop #2	Short-Mid Term	City	-Directory for existing and future residents/businesses -Use as attraction tool, analyze/ determine what is missing and use to attract businesses that serve targeted demographics	N/A

Economic Development	Where Heard	Time Frame	Responsible Party	Where Located/What Look Like	Potential Funding
<p>Utilize vacant and existing properties prior to encouraging new buildings for small industrial and commercial businesses</p> <p>Ensure protection of environmentally sensitive areas with development and redevelopment</p>	<p>Public Visioning</p> <p>Workshop #1</p> <p>Workshop #2</p> <p>Survey</p>	<p>Short-Mid Term</p>	<p>City</p> <p>Private Developers</p> <p>Existing and New Businesses</p> <p>Realtors</p> <p>School Board</p> <p>Planners</p>	<p>-On or near state routes (93, 619), where they have what they need (infrastructure/transportation access)</p> <p>-Manchester Road Corridor</p> <p>-Empty buildings</p> <p>-Consolidated in one industrial zoned area</p> <p>-Determine need and types for industrial, commercial development</p> <p>-Recruit developers, local realtors for commercial/industrial businesses</p> <p>-Survey specifically for economic development types</p> <p>-Map vacant and/or underutilized land by property owners, work with property owners to ascertain plans</p>	<p>JobsOhio</p> <p>CRA</p>
<p>Examine regulations, incentives, infrastructure/utilities needed for business recruitment</p>	<p>Workshop #2</p>	<p>Short- Mid Term</p>	<p>City Developers</p>	<p>-Access to State Routes via Eastern Road</p> <p>-Streamlined business attraction, retention, incentives (low-interest loans), zoning</p> <p>-infrastructure for increased retail</p> <p>-Levy, grants (including federal for transportation)</p> <p>-Partnerships with surrounding communities</p> <p>-Cost benefit analysis of increased cost of services vs increased revenues from development</p>	<p>JobsOhio</p> <p>ODOT</p> <p>TIF</p> <p>CRA</p> <p>JEDD</p>



Economic Development	Where Heard	Time Frame	Responsible Party	Where Located/What Look Like	Potential Funding
<p>Retain and attract small businesses (retail, restaurant, commercial, service)</p> <p>Some growth is desired, but evaluate repetitive multiple businesses</p>	<p>Public Visioning</p> <p>SC Visioning</p> <p>Public Vision Cards</p> <p>Survey</p> <p>Workshop #1</p> <p>Workshop #2</p>	<p>Short-Long Term</p>	<p>City</p> <p>Private Developers</p> <p>Business Owners</p> <p>Landowners</p> <p>Realtors</p> <p>Chamber</p>	<p>-On or near State Routes (93 and 619)</p> <p>-Towpath Trail</p> <p>-Near State Park</p> <p>-Main Street</p> <p>-Concentrate /consolidate with other businesses in certain locations (like Manchester Road) for one stop shopping</p> <p>-Restaurants (local, sit down, dine- in, Chinese, Taco Place/Mexican, Middle Eastern, Seafood),</p> <p>-Additional retail (shopping)</p> <p>-Small grocery store</p> <p>-Coffee shops, wineries (ag related), distillery/brewery</p> <p>-Seasonal businesses</p> <p>-Clothing, boutique shops</p> <p>-Sporting goods, outdoor recreation store</p> <p>-Doctors/dentist/lab, pharmacy/drug store</p> <p>-Animal feed business, hydroponic farm</p> <p>-Maker's spaces/incubators, innovation hub</p> <p>-Marijuana/dispensary</p> <p>entertainment</p> <p>-Ice cream</p> <p>-Small town business center</p> <p>-Service businesses to support larger businesses</p> <p>-Provide additional incentives</p> <p>-Branding of NF strengths, resources, character</p> <p>-City to market buildings or areas</p> <p>-Walkable area for businesses</p>	<p>CRA</p>

Economic Development	Where Heard	Time Frame	Responsible Party	Where Located/What Look Like	Potential Funding
Examine recruitment of new industrial businesses	Public Visioning Workshop #2 Survey	Short-Long Term	City Private Developers Business Owners Landowners Realtors Chamber	-Small businesses (less than 20 jobs) along Manchester, between Center and Nimisila (From Survey) -Large businesses (more than 20 jobs) along Cleveland Massillon at Vanderhoof (From Survey) -Light manufacturing, career development program/specialized trade school (PLCC Welders), small business incubator, green energy, small manufacturing, food processing, distillery/winery/locally grown products, bakery, furniture making, technology, light fabrication, injection molding (University of Akron)	JobsOhio CRA SBA
Work to balance small town feel with business development	SC Visioning Vision Card Workshop #2 Survey	Short-Long Term	City Private Developers Realtors Chamber	-Any additional business expansion/ attraction should maintain character of community, create more jobs, and more services without significant increased traffic, with modest increased costs, and little to no change in the character of the community	N/A
Market New Franklin as great place to live, work, and play	Workshop #2	Short- Long Term	City Residents Realtors Private Property Owners	-Branding campaign in print and online targeted to attract businesses	City



Transportation

Transportation	Where Heard	Time Frame	Responsible Party	Where Located/What Look Like	Potential Funding
Implement a gateway and wayfinding system, using New Franklin brand	Consultant Recommendation based on Public Vision Cards Workshop #1 Workshop #2	Short Term	City	-Gateways at SR 93/619 intersection, SR 93/236, S. Main/W. Caston, Cleveland-Massillon Rd./Vanderhoof Rd. -Enhanced Welcome to New Franklin signs	City
Address traffic and speeding issues within the city	Survey	Short Term	City	-City-wide -Speeding enforcement -Traffic studies	N/A
Examine intersections for safety improvements	Public Visioning Workshop #1 Workshop #2	Short-Mid Term	State City	-South Main and Comet and Manchester and Johns -HAWK Signals and better crossing for pedestrians, as warranted -Smart intersections	ODOT
Examine Manchester Road to Towpath trail spur and other connections needed for better access	Public Visioning Workshop #3	Short-Mid-Term	City Ohio & Erie Canalway Coalition State	-Vanderhoof Rd. east to Rex Hill Rd., Manchester Rd., Roble Road, W. Caston Rd. to Nimisila Reservoir -Pathways/lanes are on PPG Property or in rights-of-way	ODOT ODNR
Examine alternative transportation around schools to alleviate congestion	Public Visioning Workshop #1	Short-Long Term	City Schools	-Around schools (Manchester Buildings) -Biking, walking, carpooling and related infrastructure to support -Further traffic studies are needed	ODOT
Plan for expansion of and enhancement to Manchester Road and 619 Corridors as additional commercial growth occurs for increased traffic, additional businesses, zoning. Consider overlay zoning to control curb cuts, enhance landscaping, and to restrict land uses	Public Visioning Public Vision Cards Workshop #1 Workshop #2	Short- Long Term	City Business Owners Landowners Developers	-Improvements could be located at Manchester, Nimisila, Center, Turkeyfoot, Main, Comet -Sidewalks (pedestrian friendly) -Land uses -Beautification project (landscaping, streetscaping, regulate signage, setbacks) -Circle around area north of City Hall -Improve roads to handle increased growth (turning lanes, access roads)	City ODOT

Transportation	Where Heard	Time Frame	Responsible Party	Where Located/What Look Like	Potential Funding
Examine shared bike lanes	Workshop #1 Workshop #2	Mid-Long Term	City	-In Wards 1, 2 -Bike lanes/painted bike lanes for bikes, golf carts -Surveyed residents are not supportive of city funded bike infrastructure -Council should examine survey results specific to bike lane support by ward	ODOT Private Grants
Ensure existing and future public transportation needs are being and will be met	Workshop #1 Workshop #2	Mid-Long Term	City, Metro RTA	-Near employment or retail/commercial centers -Expand with ADA accessibility -Create bus stops	County



Infrastructure/Utilities

Infrastructure/Utilities	Where Heard	Time Frame	Responsible Party	Where Located/What Look Like	Potential Funding
Create infrastructure to support small “town center”	SC Visioning Survey	Short Term	City Private Developers State	-SR 93 & Center Road(near Admin Building/Fire Department) -Sidewalks, benches, landscaping, gazebo (Consultant Recommendation)	City ODOT ODNR Capital Budget
Work for more connected community (broadband, human connections, sidewalks, bike lanes, parks)	SC Visioning Public Vision Cards Workshop #2	Short- Mid Term	City Non-Profits Private Developers	-New development requirements should reflect this -Require, request empty conduit in utility/road projects	ARPA ODOT ODNR
Continue to asphalt roads when possible	Survey Workshop #2	Short-Long Term	City	-City-wide -Capital Improvements Program to include asphalt of roads instead of chip and seal	City (Survey supported spending public funds on road maintenance) County ODOT
Focus on additional large scale infrastructure, ensuring any environmentally sensitive areas are protected	Public Visioning Cards Survey Workshop #1 Workshop #2	Short- Long Term	City Private Developers State	-Study drainage issues in the city -Street lights -Underground utilities where feasible -Along commercially zoned areas, business/commercial/industrial corridors -Loop roads when necessary -Freeway access -Solar	City ODOT Capital Budget EPA TIF DOE Federal Tax Credits

Infrastructure/ Utilities	Where Heard	Time Frame	Responsible Party	Where Located/What Look Like	Potential Funding
Explore infrastructure to make the city pedestrian and bicycle friendly	Workshop #1 Workshop #2	Short-Long Term	City Private Developers MPO	-Sidewalks -Bike lane -Near/by schools -Along business/ commercial/ industrial corridors and commercially zoned areas -Pedestrian access in commercial areas	City Private Developers Survey residents on funding
Work to remove polarization on water/ sewer issue, work for middle ground. Look at alternative funding sources for water/sewer expansions	Public Visioning Public Vision Cards Survey (54% said continue with private sewer and 60% continue with private well) 20-22% want city wide Workshop #2	Mid-Long Term	City County State Private Developers	Water & Sewer -Along main roads -New developments -Near Lakes -Along business/commercial/ industrial corridors as needed -Extend to Nimisila -Match current water/sewer plans to match targeted areas for economic development -Complete resident survey on public water and sewer as issue is pretty split with some wanting well/septic and others wanting public water/ sewer and concerned with older septic systems near the lakes -Under economic development, participants were more likely to say water, sewer missing and would improve quality of life if available for businesses (attract businesses, run more efficiently, more cost effective, improve existing)	State EPA Concern with resident costs



Community Facilities/Public Facilities/Services

Community Facilities/Public Facilities/Services	Where Heard	Time Frame	Responsible Party	Where Located/What Look Like	Potential Funding
Promote existing assets, like the Tudor House, Parks, Trail, and Towpath for residents and visitors as well as foster community	Vision Card Survey	Short Term	City State Chamber	-Marketing campaign, like Find It Here, Heart of It All and coordinate with State (Consultant Recommendation)	City State Chamber
Continue communication with residents on taxes collected and taxes spent and utilize this plan for prioritization	Vision Card Comments Survey Workshop #1 Workshop #2	Short Term	City County	-Address taxes too high or too high for services comments -Open communication on spending prioritization -Inform public of fact finding, issues -Complete study to determine what residents want related to infrastructure and what willing to pay for	N/A
Develop a farmers' market and a community garden to foster community in New Franklin and provide goods/services/ events for residents and visitors	Public Visioning Survey Workshop #1 Workshop #2 Workshop #3	Short-Mid-Term	City Non-Profit Local businesses	-Rawlins/Bollas Park -State Park -City Hall Lawn -Tudor House -West side of town -Underutilized land at existing businesses -City-owned land for community gardens	City Foundation USDA Volunteers
Fully utilize the Tudor House as a community/ civic center, but have plan in place for noise and recognize natural setting	Public Visioning Workshop #1	Short- Mid Term	City Non-Profits	-Tudor House	City Foundation
Utilize current infrastructure and natural resources, ensure current infrastructure aligns with zoning	Vision Card Workshop #1 Survey	Short-Mid-Term	City	-Update zoning to reflect recommended future land use and current infrastructure (Consultant Recommendation note currently underway)	N/A

Community Facilities/Public Facilities/Services	Where Heard	Time Frame	Responsible Party	Where Located/What Look Like	Potential Funding
Focus on public services	Public Visioning Visioning Card Survey (support spending public funds on safety services)	Short- Long Term	City	-City-wide -Fire/EMS, police, snow removal (specifically on dead end streets), and leaf pick up	City
Work to be sustainable for cost of living, affordable to live in New Franklin	Vision Card	Short- Long Term	City	-Complete cost benefit analysis for sustainability and affordability prior to embarking on additional development (Consultant Recommendation)	City
Designate a “town center” and work to improve this area as a place for residents and visitors to gather	Vision Card Workshop #1 Workshop #2 Workshop #3 Survey	Mid-Term	City Non- Profit Partners Consultants	-Rawlins/Bollas Park -City Hall greenspace -Structure with benches, tables -Could serve as space for outdoor entertainment, community events, craft fair/makers market, seasonal events (Christmas Tree Lighting, Parades, patriotic flags) -Feasibility study for recreation/ community center for recreational for all ages, community events, and senior services	City Capital Budget, State Capital Fund



Quality of Life

Quality of Life	Where Heard	Time Frame	Responsible Party	Where Located/What Look Like	Potential Funding
Promote many visions, one community instead of four separate school districts	Public Visioning Survey Workshop #1	Short Term	City Schools Residents	-A “New Franklin” identity, celebrate the history and highlight and protect historic homes and structures	N/A
Distribute printed newsletter with community calendar of events	Consultant Recommendation based on paper survey responses Survey	Short-Mid-term	City	-Printed, mailed materials (Consultant Recommendation) as population participating in this planning process responded better to mailings	City
Cultivate small town feel, relationships with neighbors, and inclusion	Vision Card	Short- Long Term	City School Residents	-City-wide -Quarterly community events (Consultant Recommendation) -Neighborhood events, watch programs (Consultant Recommendation)	N/A
Continue to focus on safety of community and schools	Public Vision Cards Workshop #2	Short- Long Term	City Schools	-City-wide -Continue levels of public safety	City Schools
Maintain what the city has, stay small, quiet	Public Vision Cards Survey	Short-Long Term	City Residents	-City-wide -Utilize this lens when looking at any increased development (Consultant Recommendation)	N/A
Continue to brand New Franklin as a peaceful, comfortable, thriving, family-oriented, beautiful, spacious, and inviting community	Consultant Recommendation based on Public Vision Cards Survey	Short- Long Term	City Schools Consultant Residents Schools	-Develop city tagline to compliment city logo (Consultant Recommendation) -Utilize city tagline and logo on all city correspondence, vehicles, signage, merchandise (Consultant Recommendation)	City