

# Comprehensive Plan

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W O R T H I N G T O N

DRAFT MAY 11, 2026

PLACEHOLDER COVER  
TO BE DESIGNED



**Worthington Together**

Our City, Our Plan, Our Future

**ADOPTION RESOLUTION TO BE ADDED**

**LETTER TO THE COMMUNITY TO BE ADDED**

**ACKNOWLEDGEMENT TO BE ADDED**

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OHIO  
HISTORICAL  
MARKER

WORTHINGTON  
HISTORIC DISTRICT

(Continued from other side)

The Worthington Historic District has evolved over more than 200 years from the center of a small village to the hub of a suburban community. The district includes numerous architectural styles: Federal, Greek Revival, Gothic Revival, Queen Anne, American Four Square, Colonial Revival, Cape Cod, and vernacular styles. The Worthington Historic District, framed by North, South, Morning, and Evening Streets, encompasses the original village. The district was added to the National Register of Historic Places in 2010.



CITY OF WORTHINGTON  
OLD WORTHINGTON ASSOCIATION  
THE OHIO HISTORICAL SOCIETY  
2012

116-25



# Introduction

In 2025, the City of Worthington launched Worthington Together, a process to shape the community's future and update the City's 2005 comprehensive plan. The Worthington Together process carried forward the community engagement momentum that began with the Vision Worthington plan, adopted in 2021. The plan builds on Vision Worthington's community values by outlining actionable steps the City can take to improve the quality of life for residents, workers, and visitors.

## WHAT IS A COMPREHENSIVE PLAN?

A comprehensive plan is a long-term guide that expresses a community's values and aspirations. It is the broadest public policy document a community can create for its future physical development, incorporating input from residents, businesses, subject matter experts, and others. It sets a vision for the City's future, establishes principles and desired strategic priorities for topics such as land use, housing, economics, parks, and transportation, and outlines specific actions to achieve those strategic priorities. The plan is a tool for preparing for change and serves as both a business plan and a guidebook for decision-makers to create predictability within the community.

Worthington's comprehensive plan is regularly used to guide many City decisions, including budgeting, zoning, regulations, and infrastructure investment. The plan will be implemented over time through capital improvements, development approvals, city budgets, departmental work programs, economic incentives, private development decisions, and other measures.

## CHAPTER ORGANIZATION

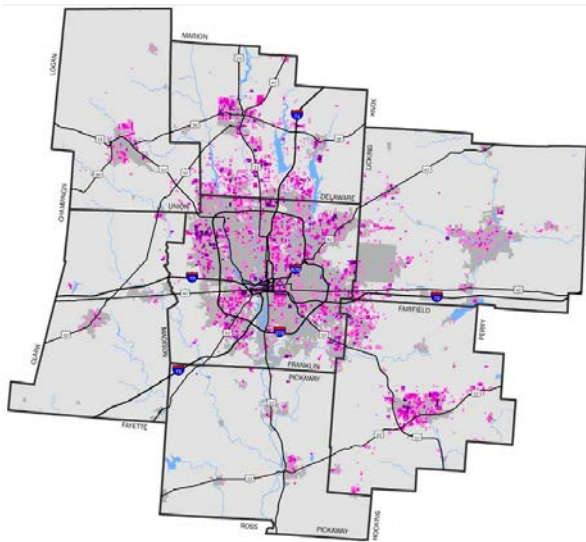
- What is a comprehensive plan?
- Worthington Today
- The need for a new plan
- Vision Worthington
- Plan Structure
- Guiding Principles
- Process
- Planning History
- Key Existing Conditions and Trends

## WORTHINGTON TODAY

Worthington is a well-established first-ring suburb with a strong sense of place, a historic downtown, and a well-established tradition of planning. The community has maintained a stable population of approximately 15,000 residents since 2000, supported by high-quality public services, excellent schools, generous park space, and an attractive character that has made it one of the most desirable communities in Central Ohio. Increasing home values reflect the community's desirability and the strength of its neighborhoods.

At the same time, the Central Ohio region is experiencing significant change. The seven-county region is projected to add more than 550,000 residents by 2050, driven by major private investments, a growing job market, and increasing migration from across the country and abroad. The Columbus MSA is expected to average over 14,300 new jobs per year through 2050. This growth brings both opportunity and pressure, which Worthington is well-positioned to manage with a community-driven plan.

### HOUSEHOLD GROWTH 2020-2050



Source: MORPC Regional Transportation Plan

## THE NEED FOR A NEW PLAN

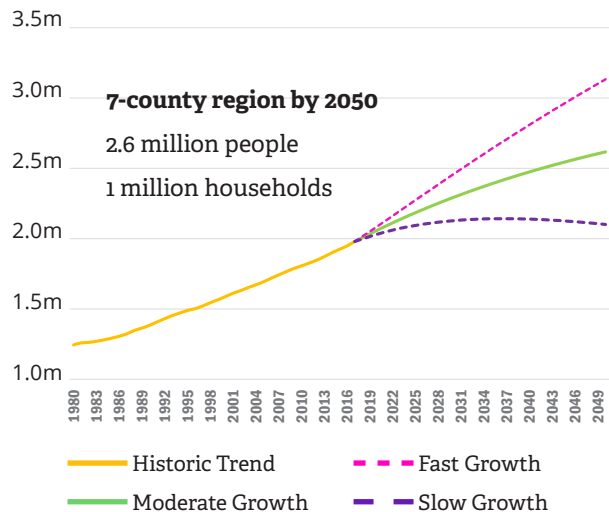
Worthington last completed a full update of the comprehensive plan in 2005.

Since that time, portions of the plan have been revised, and more narrowly focused plans have been adopted (e.g., the Northeast Area Plan, the Wilson Bridge Corridor Study, the Bicycle & Pedestrian Master Plan, and the Parks Master Plan). Given the changing and continually evolving national, regional, and local conditions, now is the time to lay a foundation for achieving broad policy goals.

The new plan will build upon Vision Worthington, adopted in 2021, reflect changes that have occurred within and around the City over the past 20 years, and set the direction for the City's development in the coming years. This plan is built on the community's values, needs, and aspirations.

Now is the time to update Worthington's comprehensive plan. Worthington Together builds upon the momentum of Vision Worthington and the many plans and investments that have come before it, providing a clear path forward for the community's development in the years ahead.

### 7-COUNTY POPULATION PROJECTIONS



## VISION WORTHINGTON

*Vision Worthington* was a community visioning effort led by a visioning committee comprised of Worthington residents appointed by City Council. It was a citizen-led process with broad community engagement, culminating in the adoption of eight vision statements across seven vision areas in March 2021. The visions highlight the community's values and describe the community's desired future. Vision Worthington focused on overarching interests to pursue over the long term.

The comprehensive plan did not start from scratch; it incorporated the vision statements as direction since the inception of the planning process. The guiding principles, plan topics, strategic priorities, and actions were all directly shaped by the momentum started from the visioning process.



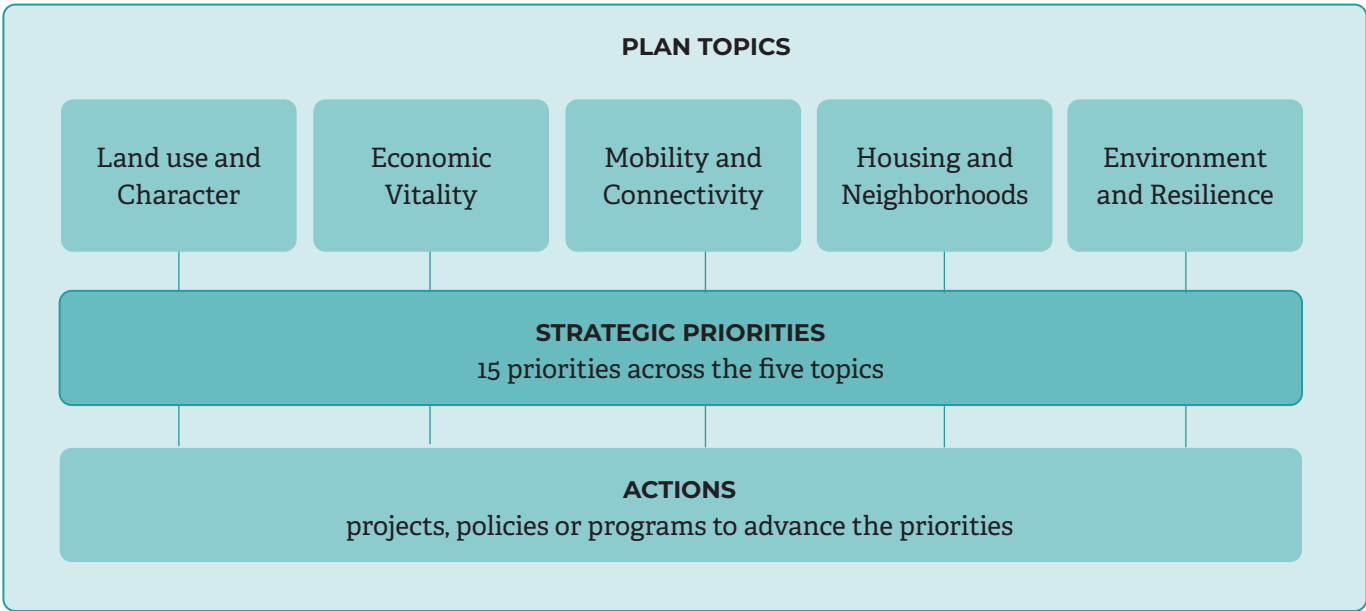
*More information about Vision Worthington can be found at [worthington.org/visioning](http://worthington.org/visioning)*

# Plan Structure

*Worthington Together* carries forward the momentum initiated by Vision Worthington. The City's seven vision statements are supported by the plan's ten guiding principles, which provided direction for the plan. The essential themes from the three rounds of community input are reflected in the plan's 15 strategic priorities and XX actions, organized across five topics.



**GUIDING PRINCIPLES**  
10 principles shaping direction



**OPPORTUNITY AREAS**  
guidance for areas where change is anticipated, encouraged, or should be strategically managed (see page 8)

**IMPLEMENTATION**  
summary of actions with timing and other expectations

## GUIDING PRINCIPLES

Principles describe the intent about “how” (generally) and “where” (conceptual location) growth and development in Worthington should occur in the future. They are based upon community input and reflect several mutually reinforcing themes, including the type, quality, appearance, pattern, character, and organization of development; environmental quality; efficient use of infrastructure; and expanding connectivity and mobility choices. The principles were prepared with the community committee following the first round of public input. They were later refined through the planning process and guide the plan's recommendations.

### **As Worthington develops, it is our intent that:**

#### **1. The City’s unique character is strengthened.**

We will respect and build upon the cherished character of historic places and create a strong sense of place in other areas. The specific character, expressed through building design and materials, public spaces, landscaping, signage, lighting, historic preservation, and public art, will vary between different areas, but it will be intentional, context-appropriate, and contribute to community pride.

#### **2. Growth focuses on underperforming commercial, office, and industrial areas.**

We will pursue intentional redevelopment for aging retail/office areas, older industrial districts, and corridor reinvestment sites. We will encourage other corridor areas to evolve in character through incremental, opportunity-driven redevelopment and phased infrastructure and public-realm upgrades. When developing vacant land, we will look to preserve meaningful green space to complement new buildings so the area doesn’t feel overbuilt.

#### **3. Walkable mixed-use places, with uniqueness and purpose, are created.**

We will shape new places that combine shops, restaurants, services, employment space, diverse housing, and a high-quality, pedestrian-scale public realm, converting large blocks and surface parking lots into connected streets and walkable blocks in targeted nodes and corridors.

#### **4. A broader range of housing serves the community.**

We will broaden housing types and price points, preserve and encourage reinvestment in naturally occurring affordable housing, and encourage accessible, age-friendly homes; so young people, families, and long-time residents can reside here through every life stage. New housing will be focused on reinvestment areas, corridors, and mixed-use nodes.

#### **5. The character of established neighborhoods is honored while accommodating growth.**

We will help established neighborhoods maintain their character while corridors evolve, supporting context-appropriate infill and additions, requiring transitions in scale at neighborhood edges, encouraging preservation and reinvestment in existing homes, and limiting traffic on neighborhood streets.

#### **6. Major destinations are connected by safe walking, biking, and transit.**

We will close sidewalk gaps, expand trail connections, improve crossings, calm traffic, expand bikeways, enhance streetscapes, and integrate COTA (and potential bus rapid transit or BRT) with land use—linking Old Worthington’s Central Business District with schools, parks, employment areas, and new development along High Street, SR-161, and the regional trail network.

## 7. The City's parks and public spaces are enhanced.

We will enhance the quality, accessibility, and utilization of existing parks and civic spaces and, where appropriate, deliver new public spaces as part of redevelopment, so these places reflect community values for nature, culture, education, and civic life.

## 8. Development and the public realm demonstrate environmental stewardship and resilience.

We will protect natural systems (riparian areas, woodlands, steep slopes), expand the tree canopy, apply green infrastructure and on-site stormwater management, promote energy-efficient buildings and site design, and encourage native plants, recycling, and composting as baseline expectations for all significant projects.

## 9. Business corridors are modernized to support a resilient economy and workforce.

We will expect new employment-focused mixed-use development in key corridors. In the High Street and Wilson Bridge Road corridors, new mixed-use office development should serve as the primary use, with complementary uses that support the viability and vibrancy of these areas. In the Northeast Area, we will pursue clean and flexible light-industrial and innovation space, provide small-business and incubator opportunities, and create smaller mixed-use nodes to serve these employment areas.

## 10. Redevelopment supports long-term fiscal responsibility.

We will use land and infrastructure efficiently, right-size utilities, evaluate life-cycle costs, and align land use with service costs, creating a citywide mix of uses that strengthens Worthington's long-term finances and capacity to deliver outstanding services.

## DEFINITIONS

**Green Space.** Green space is the broad category that includes any park, natural preserve, or other undeveloped space, such as lawns and yards. These spaces do not have to be publicly accessible.

**Park Space.** Park space refers to all publicly accessible green spaces, including both active and passive spaces. Active spaces are programmed with a specific purpose, like a playground or sports field, while passive spaces are unprogrammed, like a trail. These spaces could be publicly or privately owned as long as they are open to anyone.

**Public Realm.** The public realm refers to all publicly accessible outdoor spaces, including streets, sidewalks, plazas, parks, and civic spaces, that are open and available to everyone, regardless of ownership.

**Mixed-Use.** Development that combines two or more uses, such as retail, office, and residential, in a single building or on a single site. Mixed-use development supports walkability by placing everyday destinations in close proximity and can strengthen a city's tax base by layering uses on underutilized land.

**Infill.** Development that occurs on vacant, underutilized, or previously developed land within an existing built-up area, rather than on undeveloped land at the urban edge.

**Green Infrastructure.** Stormwater management systems that use natural processes, such as rain gardens, bioswales, permeable pavement, and tree canopy, to filter and absorb water on site. Green infrastructure is distinct from gray infrastructure like pipes and detention basins and from green space, which refers to vegetated areas more broadly.

**Naturally Occurring Affordable Housing (NOAH).** Existing privately owned rental housing that is affordable to moderate-income households because of its age, size, or condition. NOAH is often the first housing stock lost to rising rents or redevelopment pressure.

## STRATEGIC PRIORITIES

The ten guiding principles on the preceding pages describe what Worthington values and where change should occur. The 15 strategic priorities below translate those principles into direction for action, organized across the plan's five topics. Each priority is supported by specific implementation actions found within its chapter.

### LAND USE AND CHARACTER

- 1. Comprehensive Zoning & Development Code Reform**
- 2. Catalyze and Strategically Support Mixed-Use Redevelopment**
- 3. Enable Incremental and Coordinated Mixed-Use Redevelopment**

### ECONOMIC VITALITY

- 4. Support great places and spaces that people want to live, work, shop, and eat**
- 5. Target industries that support Central Ohio's development focus and the context of Worthington's opportunity areas**
- 6. Ensure Worthington proactively strengthens its economic development capacity**
- 7. Establish clear policies and procedures for the use of incentives and other economic development tools**

### MOBILITY AND CONNECTIVITY

- 8. Adopt and Implement the Updated Thoroughfare Plan**
- 9. Advance Active Transportation as a Core Network**
- 10. Prioritize and Plan Complete Streets Studies and Safety Improvements**
- 11. Coordinate and Advocate for Transit Improvements**

### HOUSING AND NEIGHBORHOODS

- 12. Support Neighborhood Character and Support Reinvestment in Existing Housing**
- 13. Expand Housing Options in Targeted Locations**

### ENVIRONMENT AND RESILIENCE

- 14. Lead by Example in Environmental Stewardship and Resilience**
- 15. Update the Parks and Recreation Master Plan**

## OPPORTUNITY AREAS

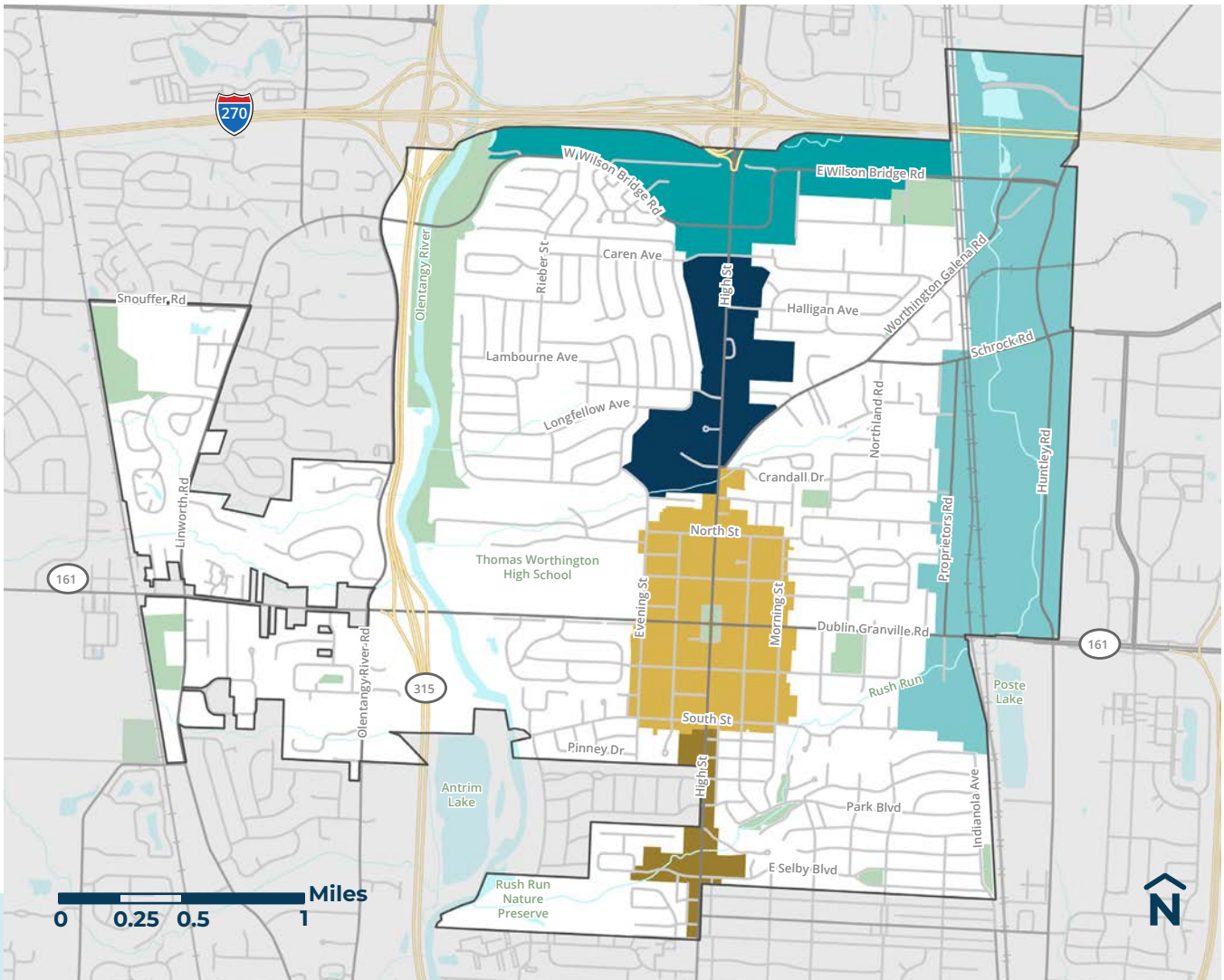
This chapter provides geographic guidance for areas where change is anticipated, encouraged, or should be strategically managed. These areas build upon the Citywide Strategic Priorities and translate them into place-specific direction.

Each Opportunity Area includes:

- Strategic Role
- The Area Today
- Strategic Direction
- Public Space, Land Use and Character
- Mobility and Connectivity

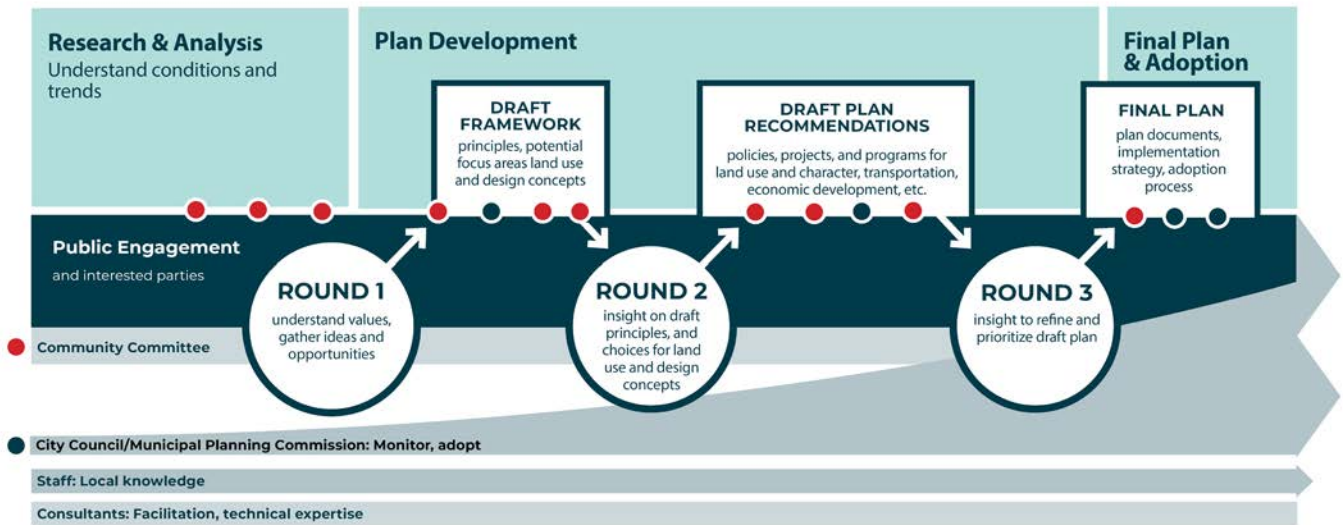
The Opportunity Areas are:

-  **WILSON BRIDGE**
-  **NORTH HIGH**
-  **OLD WORTHINGTON**
-  **SOUTH HIGH**
-  **FORGE FIELDS / NORTHEAST**



# Process

The planning process for *Worthington Together* was iterative, inclusive, and representative of the community, with each round of public engagement built directly on the community's previous input. The plan was shaped by quantitative analysis of existing conditions and input from the community. City Council received formal updates on the plan's progress throughout the 24-month process. A community committee was appointed to oversee *Worthington Together*, and every step was made highly visible to the public.



## Community Committee

A diverse group of 18 community members was appointed by City Council to provide guidance and direction regarding the plan process and substance. The committee members were either nominated or selected through an open application process that yielded many talented, passionate, and qualified individuals. The committee members collectively represent many interests, geographic areas, professions, and demographic groups within the City's population. The committee served as advocates for the plan, attended 10 official meetings, and assisted with the three rounds of public engagement. Their direction and input were essential to creating this plan.



## Public Input Round 1 (The Launch)

The first round of engagement, called The Launch, was designed to introduce Worthington Together to the community, build on the community values from Vision Worthington, and gather initial topical and location-based ideas to inform the planning process. Activities were the same across all formats and included asking participants what they treasured about Worthington. An interactive mapping activity had participants mark opportunities for change and improvement, indicate the type of opportunity (housing, transportation, commercial centers/corridors, or placemaking/quality of life), and provide reasoning for the selections.

During the first round of engagement, 801 participants shared a total of 1,055 treasures and 3,098 places marked on the map. The results were shared with the community committee and the public and were used to create the plan's guiding principles and identify the opportunity areas.

Format for the first round:

- The Launch in-person event was held on June 11, 2025.
- The Launch webinar was held on June 26, 2025.
- Online activities were available on the project website from June to August 2025.
- Small group meetings hosted by the community committee were held from July to August 2025.



### COMMUNICATION & OUTREACH EFFORTS

The overall goal of public engagement was: “to ensure that participation in the comprehensive plan process is a choice for anyone who cares about the future of Worthington.” To ensure the plan reflected all demographic groups, civic networks, and geographic areas of the community, three distinct rounds of public engagement were implemented across multiple formats. The strategies utilized to energize the public and ensure engagement was a success involved:

- A project brand, Worthington Together, and graphic identity
- A project website: <https://worthingtonttogether.org>
- Word-of-mouth to bring people into the process
- Social media posts and targeted social ads yielding over 12,000 impressions
- Presentations to community groups
- Village Talks (print and e-news)
- Emails to 370+ subscribers
- Emails to schools, city boards, and commissions
- Business cards
- Village Green sign
- Flyers at city facilities and events
- Speaker series
- Social group and interested party presentations

## Public Input Round 2 (Community Choices)

The second round of engagement, called Community Choices, was designed to gather insights into the draft guiding principles and the key questions that emerged from the first round of public engagement. Activities were the same across all formats and included asking participants to rate and respond to draft statements of intent and character images for the identified opportunity areas. In addition, participants were provided with three concept maps of the Central Opportunity Area to review, rate, and respond to.

During the second round of engagement, 820 participants shared a total of 2,854 comments across all activities. The results were shared with the community committee and the public and were essential in creating the plan's recommendations.

Format for the second round:

- The Community Choices in-person engagement event was held on November 12, 2025.
- The Community Choices webinar engagement event was held on November 20, 2025.
- Online activities were available on the project website from November to December 2025.



## Public Input Round 3 (Community Review)

The third round of engagement was designed to share the full draft plan with the community and prepare for implementation. Activities were the same across all formats and included reviewing and commenting on the plan's future character and land use map, the opportunity area statements of intent, and the recommendations. The full draft plan was made available to every participant.

During the third round of engagement, XX participants shared a total of XX comments across all activities. The results were shared with the community committee and the public and were essential in refining the plan document in preparation for implementation.

Format for the third round:

- The ??? in-person engagement event was held on XX.
- The ??? webinar engagement event was held on XX.
- Online activities were available on the project website from XX to XX.

**DETAILS TO BE ADDED**

## Speaker Series

Worthington Together included a three-part speaker series. Three speaker series events were held, at which experts discussed their experiences related to community planning. These events helped inform the community about trends and forces shaping the Central Ohio region and Worthington, provided opportunities to learn from other communities, and helped frame discussions about policies for Worthington. These three events included:

1. **Central Ohio Today: Understanding a Period of Incredible Growth & Change.** This was a speaker event on July 23, 2025, at which Michael Wilkos (The Columbus Foundation and United Way of Central Ohio) discussed regional change, with a focus on housing.
2. **Quality of Place.** This was a panel event on October 1, 2025, at which Jamie Greene (Planning NEXT) hosted a discussion with Kelly Dannenfelser (Franklin, Tennessee), Herb Koehler (Granville, Ohio), and Letty Schamp (Hilliard, Ohio) about communities that have created and nurtured quality places over time with changing demographics and market forces.
3. **Economic Development.** This was a panel event on October 27, 2025, at which David Collinsworth (Management Advisory Group LLC) hosted a discussion with Joe Hayek (Worthington Enterprises), Matt McCollister (One Columbus), and Ashley Solether (ULI Columbus) about the role economic development and fiscal responsibility play in community development, with a focus on balancing high-quality public services with a healthy and diverse tax base.

## Interested Parties

At several stages in the process, the planning team and City Staff discussed the plan with local interested parties. The interested parties provided focused input from individuals and groups with specific, locally based, professional knowledge. Discussions were designed to gain insight into local knowledge and discuss the plan's opportunity areas.

These parties included:

- Worthington City School District
- Students from Worthington Kilbourne and Thomas Worthington High Schools
- Local businesses and property owners
- Regional organizations (One Columbus, COTA, MORPC, and the Building Association of Central Ohio)
- The City of Columbus
- Worthington Green Team
- The Worthington Partnership
- Worthington Alliance for Responsible Development (WARD)
- Building Worthington's Future (BWF)
- Project Community Park Worthington (PCPW)
- Friends of the Lower Olentangy Watershed (FLOW)
- Worthington Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Board
- Parks and Recreation Commission



## PLANNING HISTORY

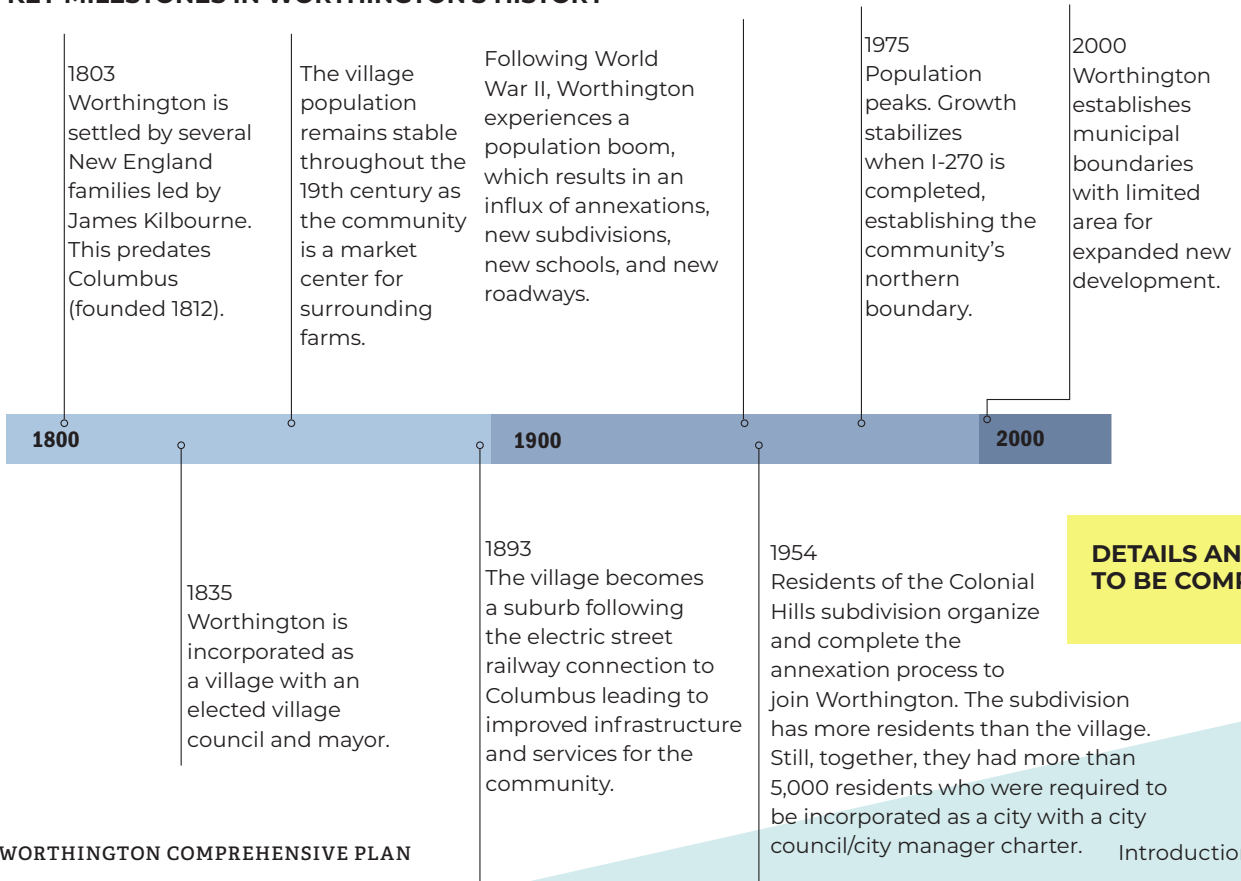
Worthington predates Columbus itself. The community was settled in 1803 by a group of New England families led by James Kilbourne, and from the beginning it was designed with intention: a central public square platted for religious, educational, and civic purposes, surrounded by lots and streets laid out in the tradition of a New England town. The village was named in honor of Thomas Worthington, one of Ohio's first senators and a future governor, who helped identify the land. That original design instilled a sense of order, identity, and civic life that still shapes the community today.

Worthington was incorporated as a village in 1835 and remained a stable agricultural market center through the 19th century. The connection of an electric streetcar line to Columbus in 1893 marked the beginning

of its transition from a rural village to a suburb, bringing improved infrastructure and drawing new residents. Growth accelerated dramatically after World War II, when a wave of annexations, new subdivisions, new schools, and new roads transformed the community. By 1954, the recently annexed Colonial Hills subdivision alone had more residents than the original village, and together they crossed the 5,000-resident threshold that required incorporation as a city. Worthington adopted a city council and city manager form of government that it has maintained since.

The community's physical boundaries were effectively established with the completion of I-270 in 1975, which set the northern edge of the city and ended the era of major annexation. Population peaked around that time and gradually declined through 2010 before modest growth resumed, driven by infill and a

### KEY MILESTONES IN WORTHINGTON'S HISTORY

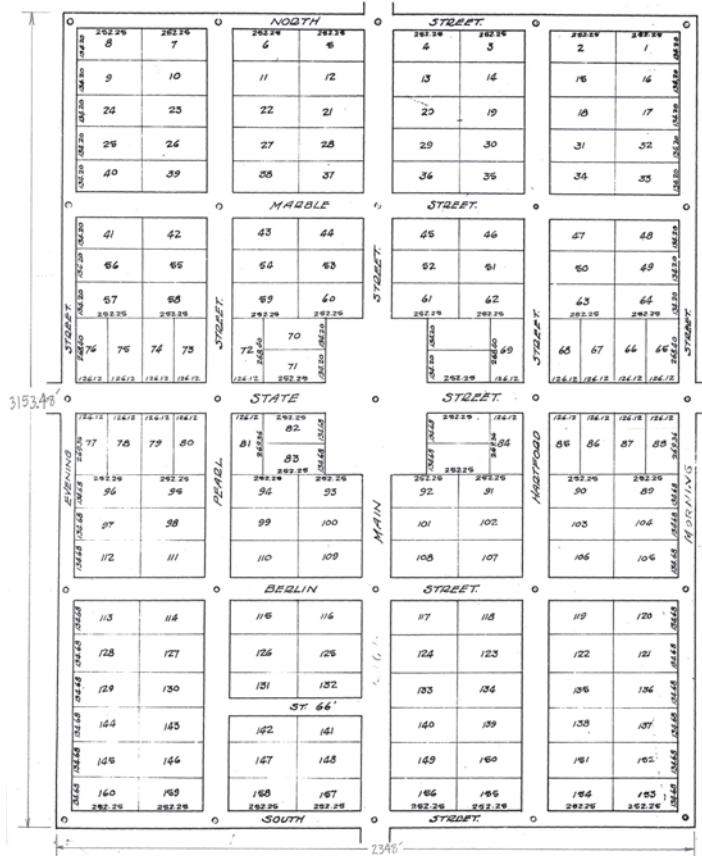


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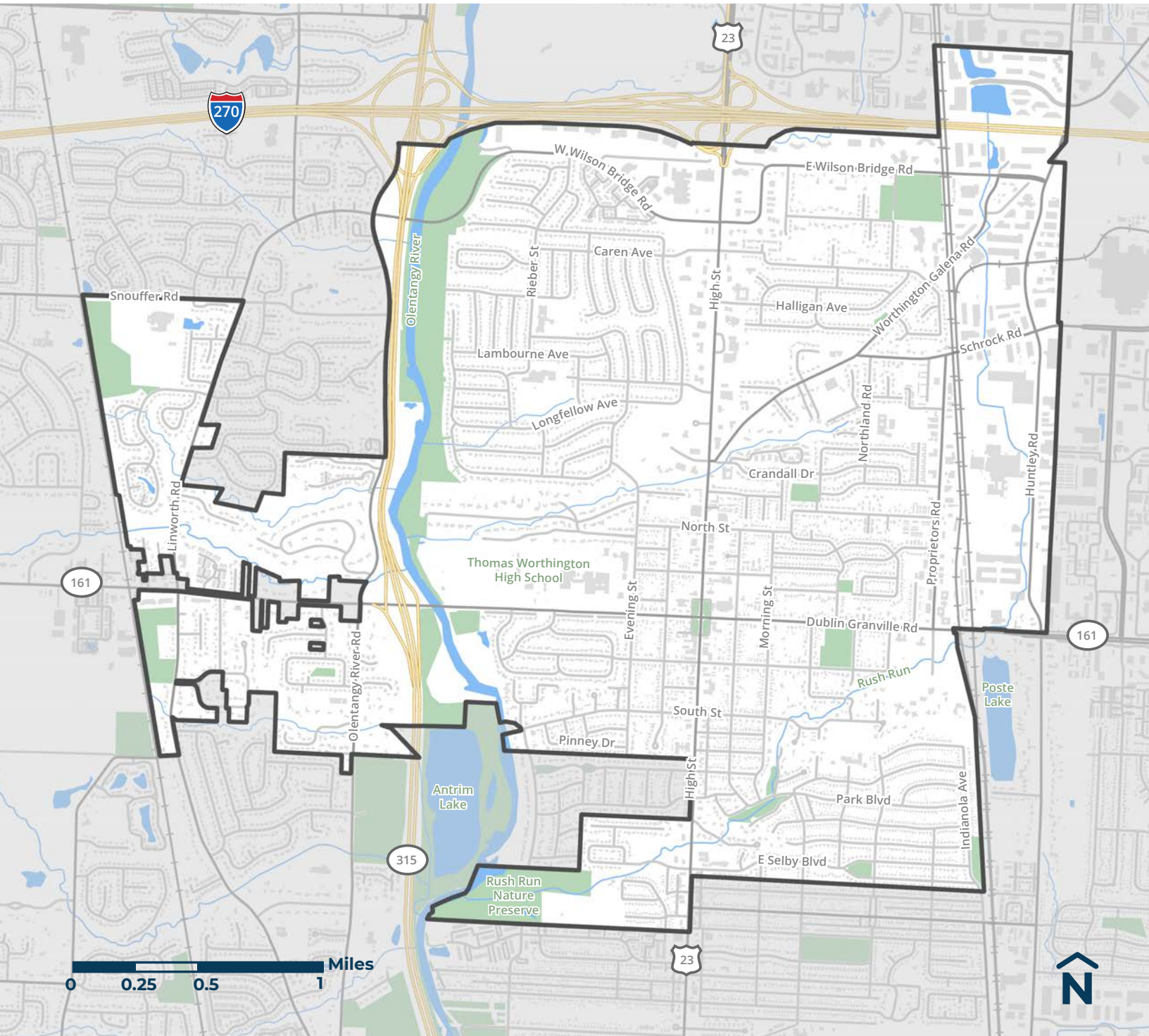
small number of new multifamily and senior living developments. Worthington has been fully built out for nearly half a century, which means that planning here is not about accommodating growth at the edges but about managing reinvestment, change, and quality within an established community.

Worthington has a long tradition of formal planning. The 2005 Comprehensive Plan guided the community for two decades and spawned a series of focused plans and studies, including the Wilson Bridge Corridor Study (2011), the Bicycle and Pedestrian Master Plan (2019), the Vision Worthington community visioning effort (2020), the Parks Master Plan (2017), the Northeast Area Plan (2024), and the Housing Needs Assessment (2024). Worthington Together builds on that foundation, updating the community's policy framework for the years ahead and reflecting the changes in the region and the city over the past twenty years.

Map of the original plat of the city



*A New England-type village was platted around a central public square designated for religious and educational purposes and a spot for community gatherings. The village was named in honor of Thomas Worthington (one of Ohio's first senators and a future governor), who helped locate the land that became Worthington.*



### PLAN AREA

The plan area encompasses the City of Worthington's boundaries, approximately **5.6 square miles**. The current population of the City is **14,804 people** across **6,126 housing units** (MORPC estimates, 2025).

### Legend

- City Boundary
- Water
- Parks and Green Space

## KEY EXISTING CONDITIONS AND TRENDS

**Worthington Together was informed through a highly data-driven technical analysis of the community's existing conditions in relation to regional trends.** The findings of this analysis were assembled in a snapshot report (see Appendix XX for more), which was made publicly available on the project website early in the process. The following is a summary of that analysis. Additional relevant findings and maps are located in each topical chapter.

### **A community that is growing older, more affluent, and slowly more diverse.**

Worthington has a population of approximately 14,200 residents in 6,100 households, spread across 5.6 square miles. After a gradual population decline from the 1970s through 2000, the City has added residents since 2010, modest growth of about 3 percent, driven primarily by infill and the development of a small number of apartment and senior living facilities.

**The community's demographic profile has shifted meaningfully since the last plan.** The median age is now 42.4, and more than one in five residents is over the age of 65, a share that has grown by more than a third since 2010. At the same time, the 35–44 age cohort has grown, suggesting that young professionals are increasingly choosing Worthington. Single-person households have increased while households with children have declined, consistent with regional trends toward smaller household sizes.

**Worthington is considerably more educated and more affluent than Franklin County as a whole.** Nearly 73 percent of residents over age 25 hold a bachelor's degree or higher, nearly twice the county rate, and the median household income of \$124,700 is roughly 70 percent higher than the county median. These characteristics reflect a community with high expectations for services, amenities, and quality of place.

**The City is less racially and ethnically diverse than the surrounding region.** Approximately 9 percent of residents identify as non-white, compared to nearly 40 percent in Franklin County. That share has grown since 2010, and the community's Vision Worthington statement explicitly calls for creating conditions that increase diversity and remove barriers for people of all ages, abilities, and income levels. A small but meaningful share of residents — approximately 18 percent of households, earning less than \$50,000 per year, and roughly a third of renters are considered cost-burdened. These households have distinct housing needs that the plan is designed to address.

### **A built-out community with limited land for new development.**

Worthington is largely developed, with the community's boundaries effectively established since I-270's completion in 1975. Few open tracts of land remain. Future growth and reinvestment will rely on infill construction and the redevelopment of underutilized commercial, office, and industrial areas.

**An aging commercial and office inventory.** Worthington has approximately 2.5 million square feet of office space, the majority of which was built before 1979 and less than 1 percent of which was built in the 21st century. Aging commercial corridors and office parks represent the community's greatest opportunity for reinvestment and transformation, and

**ADD A FIGURE OR TWO  
TO MAKE PAGE MORE  
INTERESTING**

modernizing this inventory is a fiscal priority, not just an economic development goal.

**Growing demand for a broader range of housing.**

Worthington is largely characterized by single-family neighborhoods developed in the 1960s and 1970s. Residential homes are in high demand but supply is constrained, and home prices and rents are higher here than in surrounding areas. Addressing the need for diverse housing types and price points, including missing middle and workforce housing, will be essential to ensure that Worthington remains a community for all ages and life stages. The plan supports concentrating new housing in the City's identified opportunity areas, where it can be integrated with walkable mixed-use environments rather than introduced into established neighborhoods.

**A strong local economy with opportunities to evolve.**

Worthington hosts approximately 15,000 jobs, with healthcare-related services as the largest sector and professional and technical services driving recent growth. Income tax collections have grown by 49 percent over the past decade, though when adjusted for inflation real revenue growth has been modest. Approximately 97 percent of those jobs are filled by people living outside the City, and the commercial tax base faces pressure as office vacancies and an aging building stock challenge long-term fiscal stability. A focused strategy targeting industries that match Worthington's

competitive advantages of quality of place, a skilled workforce, and proximity to the regional core, is essential to sustaining economic vitality.

**A transportation network that needs to catch up with community priorities.**

The City's Thoroughfare Plan was last updated in 2005 and no longer reflects current approaches to street design, multimodal accommodation, or the relationship between roadways and land use. This plan introduces a new context-based classification system and updated street typologies to guide future roadway design. Traffic forecasts indicate increased congestion during peak hours by 2050. COTA service is concentrated along High Street with limited east-west connections, and sidewalk gaps remain in several residential neighborhoods. Closing those gaps, expanding protected bicycle facilities, and aligning street design with the character of surrounding land uses will be central to achieving the community's mobility goals.

**A strong foundation of parks and natural resources, and a community that cares deeply about both.**

Worthington's parks, green spaces, and tree canopy are among its most valued community assets, and public input confirmed that residents have strong views about protecting and improving them. The City meets or exceeds most of the benchmarks established in the 2017 Parks and Recreation Master Plan, and many of that plan's recommendations have been carried out. But the planning process revealed that the community's expectations for parks, recreation, and open space have evolved, and that the 2017 plan is due for an update.

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