

8. IMPLEMENTATION

This Plan is meant to be a working document that results in enhancements to the Wooster community. In a sense the Plan presents a “blueprint” for action that provides direction and assists decision makers with short and long range choices. Implementation of the objectives and actions presented in this Plan will take the coordinated effort from multiple parties. The tables in this chapter provide guidance to responsible parties to ensure the implementation of this Plan. This chapter is meant to be

accessed frequently by these parties so they understand their role in the future of Wooster.

Each action on the following pages is shown with the responsible parties that are to carry out that action as well as the time frame. For more detailed description of each objective and action, please refer to the individual Plan Elements in previous chapters of this document.

8.1

land use objectives

■ = Responsible Party

ST = Short Term (1-3 years)

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	TIME FRAME	WOOSTER LEADERSHIP	PLANNING AND ZONING	CITY ENGINEER	PARKS AND REC	POLICE	FIRE	CODE ENFORCEMENT	WAYNE COUNTY	WEDC	MAIN STREET WOOSTER	CHAMBER OF COMMERCE	COLLEGE OF WOOSTER	OARDC	WOOSTER COMM HOSPITAL	PRIVATE LAND OWNERS
Objective LU.1 Continue to Enhance Downtown																
Action LU.1.1 Encourage new higher density development where appropriate to support new businesses and residential growth.	ST/MT	■	■								■					■
Action LU.1.2 Support new mixed use development that combine ground floor retail with upper story offices and housing.	ST/MT	■	■								■					■
Action LU.1.3 Continue to support retail activity within pedestrian areas, especially outdoor seating areas for restaurants.	O		■	■							■					
Action LU.1.4 Consider the establishment of an Downtown Business Improvement District (BID) to provide enhanced services that strengthen the district.	MT	■					■				■	■				■
Action LU.1.5 Continue to investigate off-street parking options and implement short to mid-term parking solutions with a focus on Liberty Street.	ST/O	■									■	■				■
Action LU.1.6 Support Main Street Wooster in marketing the downtown and promoting new economic growth.	ST	■									■	■				
Action LU.1.7 Identify areas in and around the downtown that can be developed as new public space (e.g. plazas, gardens, pedestrian malls in alleys, etc.).	MT		■		■						■	■				
Action LU.1.8 Explore alternative truck routes to eliminate truck traffic within the downtown and residential areas.	LT			■		■										

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Action LU.1.9 Enhance the gateways into and within the Downtown area such as those located on Columbus, Market, and Liberty streets.	ST		■	■												
Action LU.1.10 Support the development of a new dynamic entertainment node in the Downtown.	MT									■	■					■
Action LU.1.11 Create a redevelopment 'tool box' that can be used to market downtown development opportunities (e.g. tax abatements, tax increment financing, etc.).	O	■														
Action LU.1.12 Upgrade streetscape improvements completed in 1993.	LT/O	■		■							■					■
Action LU.1.13 Create a culture campus in Downtown that integrates the library, Red Cross, and Wayne Center for the Arts.	ST/MT	■									■					■
Action LU.1.14 Create a detailed redevelopment plan for East Liberty Street.	ST	■	■	■							■					■
Objective LU.2 Promote continued economic growth along the 585 Corridor through newly planned light industrial and manufacturing, research and development, and office space.																
Action LU.2.1 Identify sites that can accommodate new commercial, office and industrial development along the 585 Corridor.	O	■								■						
Action LU.2.2 Enhance the Portage and 585 intersection with gateway features, cross walks, improved street and sidewalks to create a welcoming gateway into the community.	ST/O			■												
Action LU.2.3 Consolidate public and private signage to minimize the visual impact from pedestrian and vehicular viewsheds.	LT		■	■			■									■
Action LU.2.4 Create special architectural and site controls for business park and light industrial development along the 585 Corridor to help grow a distinct image and brand for the area.	LT		■							■						■

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Action LU.2.5 Improve Akron Road to enhance traffic flow and support future economic growth.	ST/O		■													
Action LU.2.6 Incorporate walking and biking trails connecting to local and regional trails as part of future public and private sector developments.	ST	■	■									■	■			
Action LU.2.7 Actively market the Rubbermaid site to attract future development.	O	■							■							
Action LU.2.8 Maintain a strong and viable infrastructure network to support future economic growth.	O	■	■													
Objective LU.3 Promote new residential development that includes traditional neighborhood characteristics.																
Action LU.3.1 Consider permitting small-scale neighborhood commercial development as part of large-scale master plan developments.	MT		■													
Action LU.3.2 Create standards that require high quality pedestrian-oriented streets incorporating sidewalks, street trees, lighting, and tree lawns within newly developed residential areas.	ST	■	■	■												
Action LU.3.3 Create standards, or modify existing standards to allow for a mixture of housing types.	MT		■													
Action LU.3.4 Encourage connections among neighborhoods via roads, sidewalks and multi-use paths.	O		■	■												
Action LU.3.5 Actively pursue the redevelopment of non-conforming trailer parks.	O	■	■													
Action LU.3.6 Review the zoning code and make changes that will allow for and incentivize traditional neighborhood development.	MT		■				■									

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Objective LU.4 Improve rental housing.													
Action LU.4.1 Improve and expand code enforcement efforts.	O												
Action LU.4.2 Continue to support neighborhood improvement efforts by community members and groups.	O	■											
Action LU.4.3 Create a Neighborhood Improvement District to strengthen code enforcement and support neighborhood improvements.	O	■											
Action LU.4.4 Provide incentives for redevelopment of properties.	MT/O	■											
Objective LU.5 Expand housing opportunities.													
Action LU.5.1 Create incentives that encourage moderately priced housing options in and around Downtown.	MT/O	■	■										
Action LU.5.2 Support “downsized” housing options for residents.	O	■	■										
Action LU.5.3 Provide a menu of incentives to support interior and exterior renovation of older housing stock.	ST/MT	■											
Action LU.5.4 Promote new residential on vacant and underutilized sites within developed areas.	ST/O	■	■										
Objective LU.6 Enhance and plan for the area around the Hospital.													
Action LU.6.1 Work with the hospital to enhance and brand the streetscape and intersections near the hospital campus.	ST/MT	■											
Action LU.6.2 Encourage new mixed-use development around the hospital that supports hospital activities and serves neighboring residential areas.	ST/O		■										

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Objective LU.7 Responsibly manage growth outside the City limits.													
Action LU.7.1 Extend the City boundary only when the expansion will result in new targeted economic growth, or serve to accomplish other goals and objectives of the Comprehensive Plan or other City policies.	O	■	■	■									
Action LU.7.2 New residential expansion should be designed in a cluster or conservation style development pattern.	ST/MT	■	■										
Action LU.7.3 Ensure new annexations can be served by city utilities.	O			■									

8.2

transportation objectives

■ = Responsible Party

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Objective TR.1 Make Wooster a better connected and walkable city.

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Action TR.1.1 Revise City Code to allow for and encourage a walkable mix of uses and amenities throughout Wooster.	ST/O	■	■	■												
Action TR.1.2 Revise City Code and standards to require new development to build/incorporate multi-use paths on primary and secondary roadways.	ST/MT	■	■	■												■
Action TR.1.3 Support the development of complete street practices as new roadway infrastructure is planned and built.	ST	■		■												
Action TR.1.4 Continue to repair and expand the existing sidewalk network.	O	■	■	■												
Action TR.1.5 Connect Downtown, the OARDC, the College of Wooster, and the Wayne County Fairgrounds with multi-use trails and bicycle lanes.	ST/MT/ LT/O	■	■	■								■	■	■	■	
Action TR.1.6 Continue to participate in ODOT's Safe Routes to School program.	MT	■		■												
Action TR.1.7 Implement the recommendations of the Transportation Implementation Project included in the City's Capital Improvement Plan.	LT/O	■		■												

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Objective TR.2 Facilitate the flow of traffic and parking in and around the City.

Action TR.2.1 Explore opportunities to route truck traffic away from Downtown.	ST			■														
Action TR.2.2 Continue to consider the implementation of roundabouts instead of traffic lights as part of future intersection improvements.	ST/O	■		■														
Action TR.2.3 Improve awareness and access to public parking through a comprehensive wayfinding strategy.	ST	■		■						■		■						
Action TR.2.4 Traffic light timing and intersections with “No turn on red” restrictions should be evaluated.	O			■														

Objective TR.3 Promote alternative modes of transportation.

Action TR.3.1 Continue to plan local bikeway and trail connections that complement and tie into regional and statewide systems (e.g. the Ohio Trails and Greenways Plan, Ohio to Erie Trail).	ST/O	■	■	■					■					■				■
Action TR.3.2 Create standards to promote bike facilities (e.g. racks or shelters) for all new commercial and public developments.	MT		■															
Action TR.3.3 Develop a comprehensive bikeway network in Wooster that connects places of commerce, entertainment, neighborhoods, and institutions. Sharrows can be used as a short term strategy to identify the network for routes where funding is not available to create bike lanes or multi-use trails.	ST/O	■		■						■		■	■					

8.3 parks, recreation, open space objectives

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Objective PR.1 Preserve and expand open space areas.																
Action PR.1.1 Promote the incorporation of open space in areas that are underserved.	O	■	■		■											
Action PR.1.2 Support the development of the OARDC and the BioOhio Research Park through planned improvements to the area and low-impact land use planning around the complex.	ST/MT	■	■										■			
Action PR.1.3 Create standards to promote conservation style development to encourage preservation of natural areas.	ST/MT	■	■		■											
Action PR.1.4 Require all new developments to create or dedicate park space or usable open space as a community amenity.	MT	■	■		■											■
Action PR.1.5 Promote the dedication of passive open space as part of future development with the goal of creating a greenway network around and through the City.	LT/O	■	■		■											

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Objective PR.2 Be a leader in environmental stewardship

Action PR.2.1 Promote sound environmental practices through sustainable zoning and engineering standards.	ST/O	■	■	■															
Action PR.2.2 Support programs which encourage the community to learn about and experience nature and natural resources (e.g., agricultural or watershed resource center).	O	■		■	■													■	
Action PR.2.3 Support and promote green building standards as part of both public and private developments.	ST/O	■	■																
Action PR.2.4 Work with local groups such as the OARDC or Trout Unlimited to make improvements to Grosjean Park that will enhance access and serve as a destination for environmental education and/or outdoor recreation.	MT				■													■	
Action PR.2.5 Work with the Wayne County Sustainable Energy Network to promote environmental stewardship in the region.	O	■																	■

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Objective PR.3 Maintain and enhance the existing park network.													
Action PR.3.1 Ensure new development near Little Apple Creek maintains naturalized, publicly accessible, passive park space.	O		■		■								■
Action PR.3.2 Identify low cost opportunities to create new park space in the western and northeast areas of the community with a focus on neighborhood parks.	O		■		■								■
Action PR.3.3 Consider developing the Melrose Drive water tower site into park or open space.	MT	■		■	■								
Objective PR.4 Partner with the private sector, local organizations, and civic groups to help support new and existing park spaces, programming, and public events in the City.													
Action PR.4.1 Work with local organizations such as the Chamber of Commerce, Main Street Wooster, Wayne Center for the Arts, and others to promote and expand local events.	O	■			■	■	■				■	■	
Action PR.4.2 Collaborate with the Wayne County Fair Board to enhance the image and character of the area.	LT	■							■		■		
Action PR.4.3 Partner with the private sector (service clubs) to enhance and maintain existing park space.	O	■			■								

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Objective PR.5 Protect and enhance the Little Apple Creek greenway.														
Action PR.5.1 Protect the riparian areas along the Creek.	O		■	■										■
Action PR.5.2 Create new recreational and educational amenities and activities along the Creek.	O		■	■										■
Action PR.5.3 Support the creation of a "Friends of the Little Apple Creek" group for fundraising and volunteer labor, promotion, and security.	O			■				■					■	■
Action PR.5.4 Work with Trout Unlimited to create or attract an angling or conservation event.	ST/O			■										

8.4 utilities + public services objectives

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Objective US.1 Ensure the expansion and improvement of the City’s infrastructure is a priority when making future planning and policy decisions.

Action US.1.1 Implement the recommendations of the Water Distribution System General Plan.	O			■										
Action US.1.2 Plan for the expansion of the water delivery system through the placement of new water tanks and towers in areas of inadequate coverage and/or low pressure.	O			■										
Action US.1.3 Continue to separate combined storm and sanitary systems as part of regular maintenance and planned infrastructure projects.	O			■										

Objective US.2 Promote ‘green’ stormwater management methods when improving or expanding the existing stormwater management system.

Action US.2.1 Promote ‘green’ street standards as a method of reducing stormwater runoff.	O		■	■										
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Objective US.3 Encourage above ground stormwater facilities with dual purposes including naturalized open spaces and public recreation.

Action US.3.1 Amend applicable City Codes to strongly encourage consolidated stormwater facilities that provide service to all parcels within a subdivision.	O		■	■																■
Action US.3.2 Encourage the improvement of above ground stormwater facilities and surrounding open space to allow its dual function as public recreation space.	O		■	■	■															■
Action US.3.3 Create a policy to encourage developers to build a more diversified collection of flood water and stormwater storage and treatment facilities.	O		■	■																

Objective US.4 Develop projects, programs, policies, and procedures to enhance the overall quality of the local watershed.

Action US.4.1 Identify ditches and streams throughout the City and develop recommendations as for whether these streams should be protected, restored, or reconstructed.	LT/O		■	■																
Action US.4.2 Restore ditches and streams that are recommended to be restored and place them in a conservation easement to protect these investments.	O	■		■				■												■
Action US.4.3 Little Apple Creek should be enhanced and promoted as a unique environmental asset in the community.	O	■	■		■															

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Objective US.5 Emergency services should be carefully expanded to ensure resident’s health and safety.

Action US.5.1 Enhance police coverage and presence in and around the Downtown during evening and night hours.	ST/O	■				■				■	■					
Action US.5.2 Identify new areas within the community to build new, relocate or expand stations for fire, police, or related operations.	ST	■				■			■							

Objective US.6 Code enforcement should be a focus in and around the Downtown.

Action US.6.1 Focus on property maintenance issues in older neighborhoods around the Downtown.	ST/O		■						■							■
Action US.6.2 Create educational materials that inform residents about City property maintenance code.	ST								■							
Action US.6.3 Work with the local community leaders to develop a community service/clean-up day to assist homeowners who are seniors or disabled with property maintenance. As part of this event, the City should consider providing dumpsters or trash receptacles to support the neighborhood and the community in their clean-up efforts.	ST	■							■		■					■
Action US.6.4 Target repeat property maintenance offenders and work with the prosecuting attorney to develop short-term compliance strategies.	O								■	■						