



# State of the City:

City Council: 21 February 2023

Woo-23







## City of Wooster 2023 Goals:

1. **Renovation of Fire Station #1** – *beside City Hall*
2. **Connecting Wooster with Milltown/Melrose Bike Path**
3. **Park Improvements:** *Freedlander Chalet | Clear Creek Park Playground, Pickleball Courts | Christmas Run Pool Decision?*
4. **Safety Infrastructure:** *W. Liberty Streetscape | Oak Hill/Oldman Roundabout*
5. **Utilities Improvements to Water & Waste Water Plants**  
– *Filters | Headworks | reactors | digester | receiving*
6. **Promote Housing and Planned Community Growth**
7. **Strengthen Economic Development Plans & Initiatives**
8. **Complete Dix Expressway & Melrose Road Improvements.**



# 1. Fire Station One Upgrades



▲ *Fire Station 1 Expansion Starts Summer 2023*

*North Parking Lot  
Established to Support  
2023 Expansion ▼*

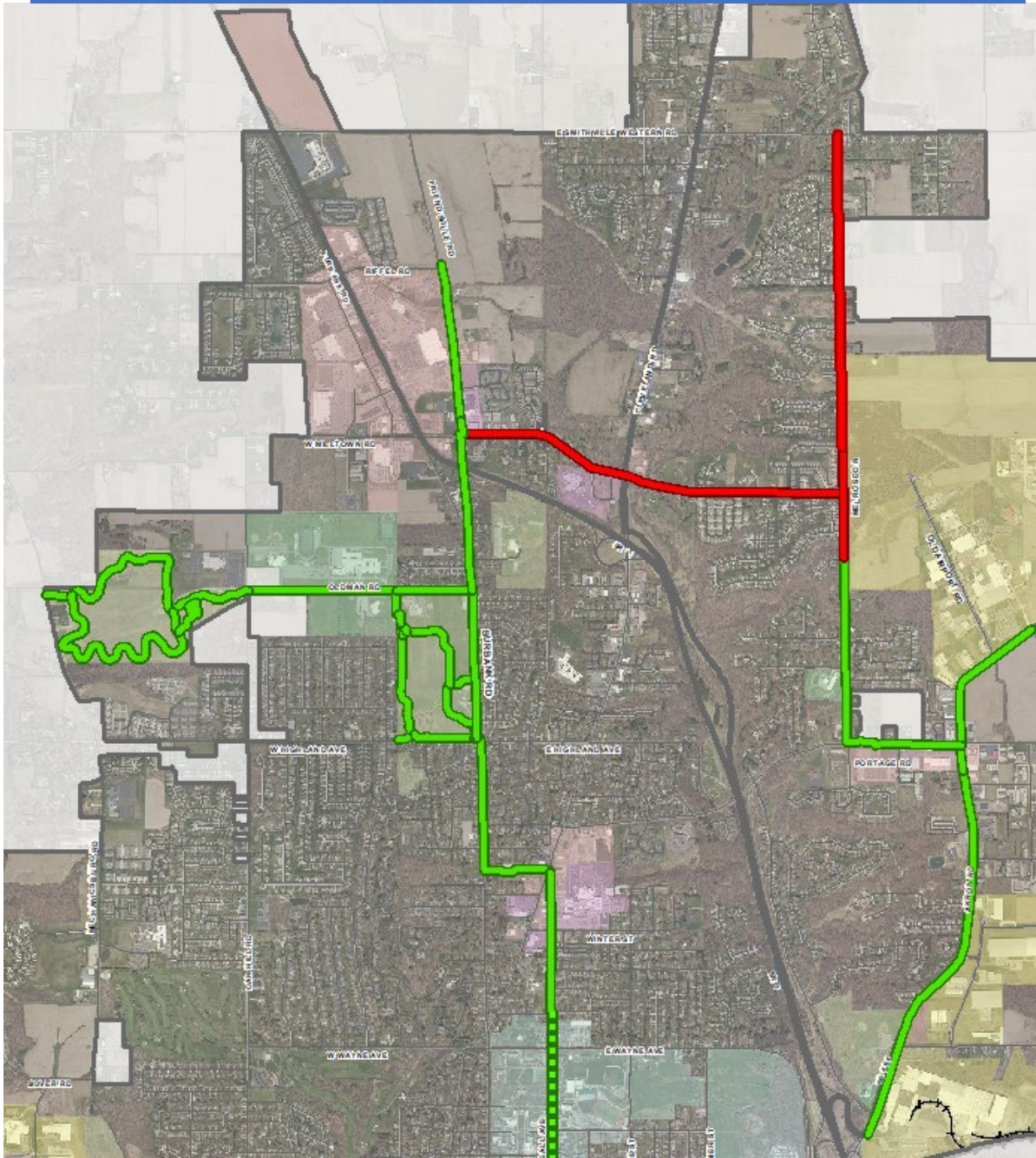




## 2. Connecting Wooster with Milltown / Melrose Bike Paths

◀ *+13 Miles of Connected Trails*  
*Includes 2.7 Miles of New Bike Trail shown in RED*

*Funded primarily through ODOT*  
*Thank you for supporting the grant!* ▼





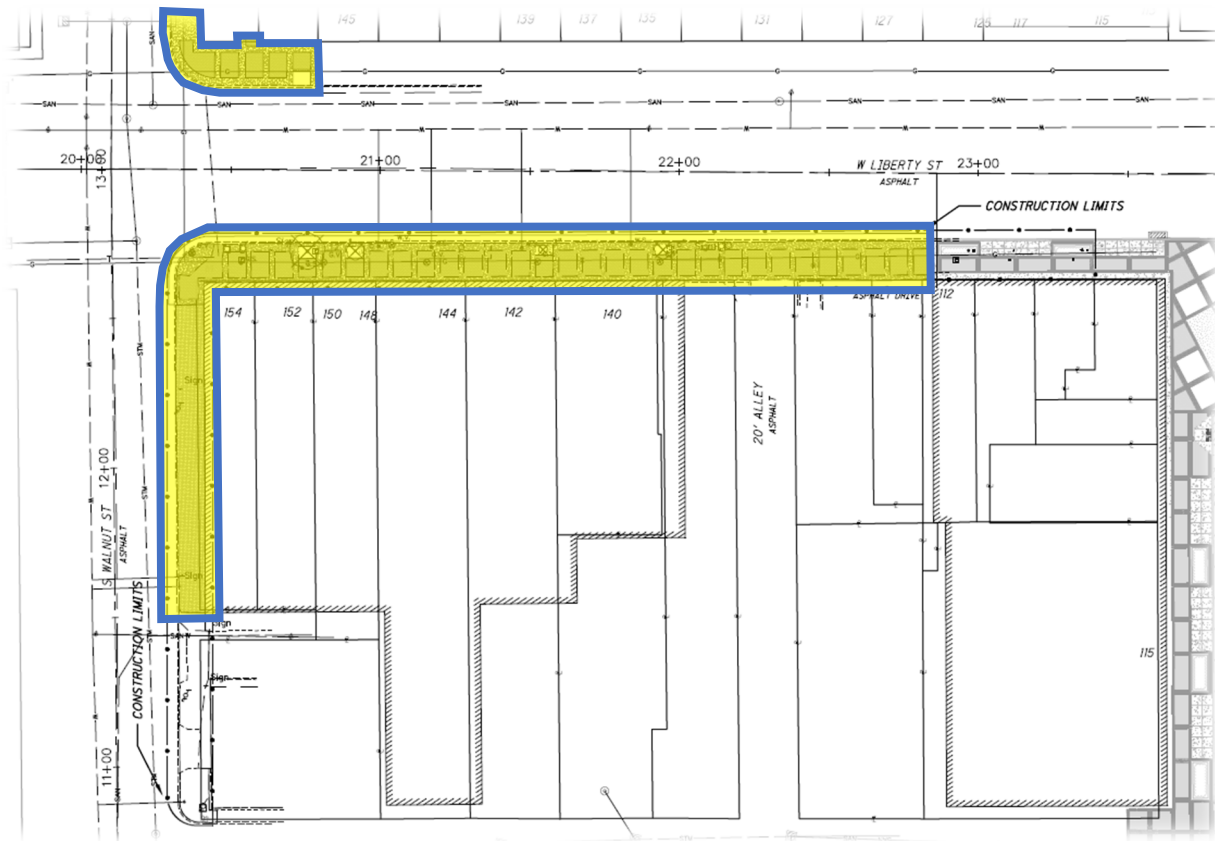
### 3. Park Improvements



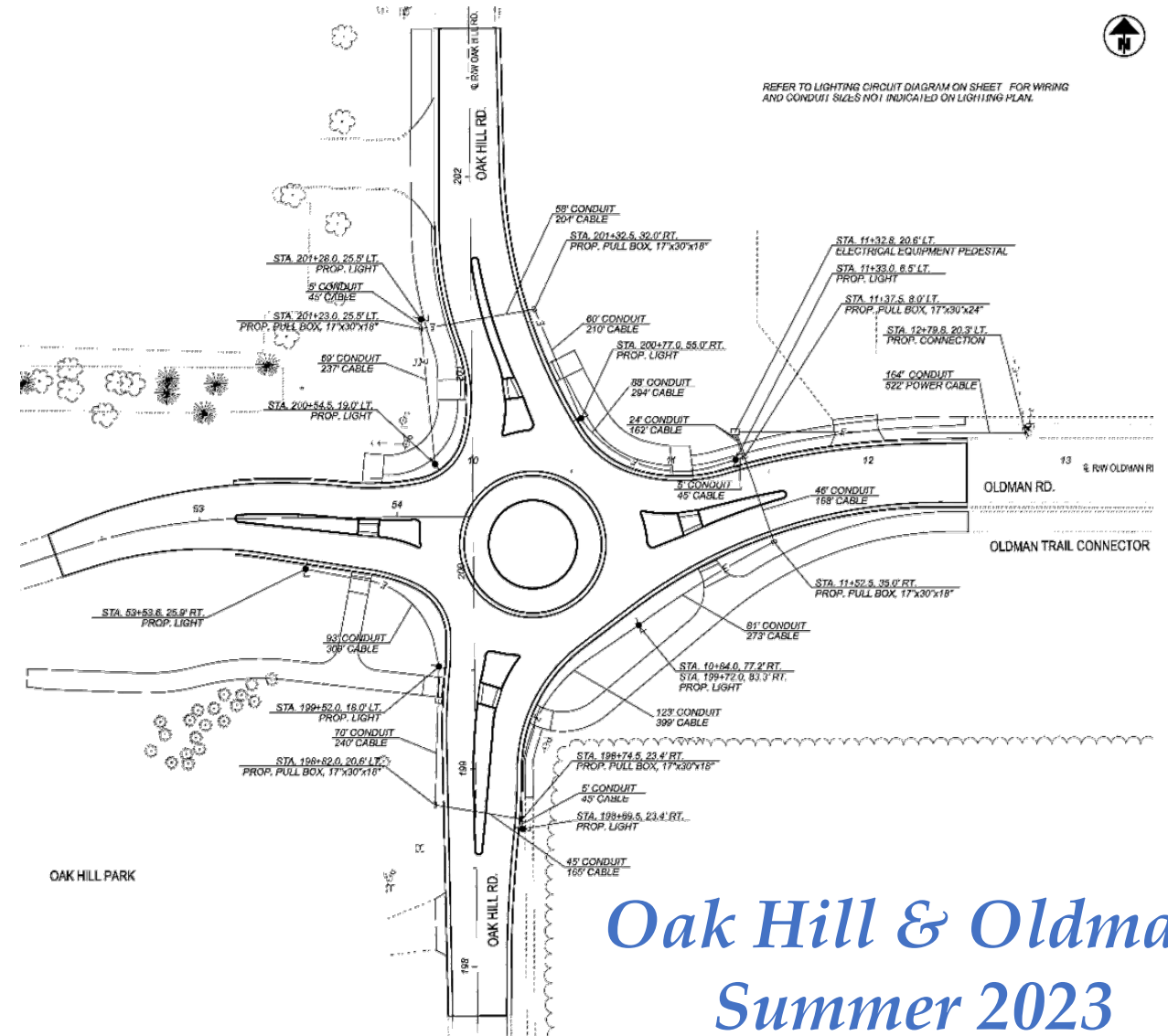
- ▲ *Clear Creek Park Playground*
- ◀ *Christmas Run Pool Decision?*
- Also . . .*
  - *Freedlander Chalet Entry & Patio*
  - *Pickleball Courts*



## 4. Safety Infrastructure



*W. Liberty Street  
New Streetscape*



*Oak Hill & Oldman  
Summer 2023*



## 5. Water & Waste Water Plant Expansion

- *Water Plant Media Filters*
- *Wastewater Headworks*
- *Vertical loop reactors*
- *Digester updates*
- *Feedstock receiving*









# 7. Strengthen Economic Development Plans & Initiatives

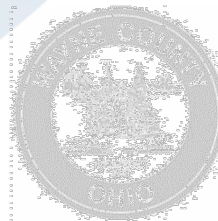
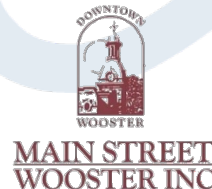
- *Work to get City, County, and partner agencies moving forward together*
- *Continue planning for necessary growth of important land acquisitions*

# #7

**WOOSTER  
MICROPOLITAN  
ECONOMY IS TOPS  
IN OHIO**



*Collaboration With  
Community Partners:*





# 2023 – Back on Top! Policom Ranking

In Ohio	2023 Micropolitans	In Nation
1 <sup>st</sup>	Wooster	7 <sup>th</sup>
2 <sup>nd</sup>	Celina	45 <sup>th</sup>
3 <sup>rd</sup>	Mount Vernon	74 <sup>th</sup>
4 <sup>th</sup>	Wapakoneta	99 <sup>th</sup>
5 <sup>th</sup>	Sidney	100 <sup>th</sup>
6 <sup>th</sup>	Norwalk	106 <sup>th</sup>
7 <sup>th</sup>	Wilmington	120 <sup>th</sup>
8 <sup>th</sup>	New Philadelphia-Dover	128 <sup>th</sup>
9 <sup>th</sup>	Marietta	135 <sup>th</sup>
10 <sup>th</sup>	Zanesville	136 <sup>th</sup>



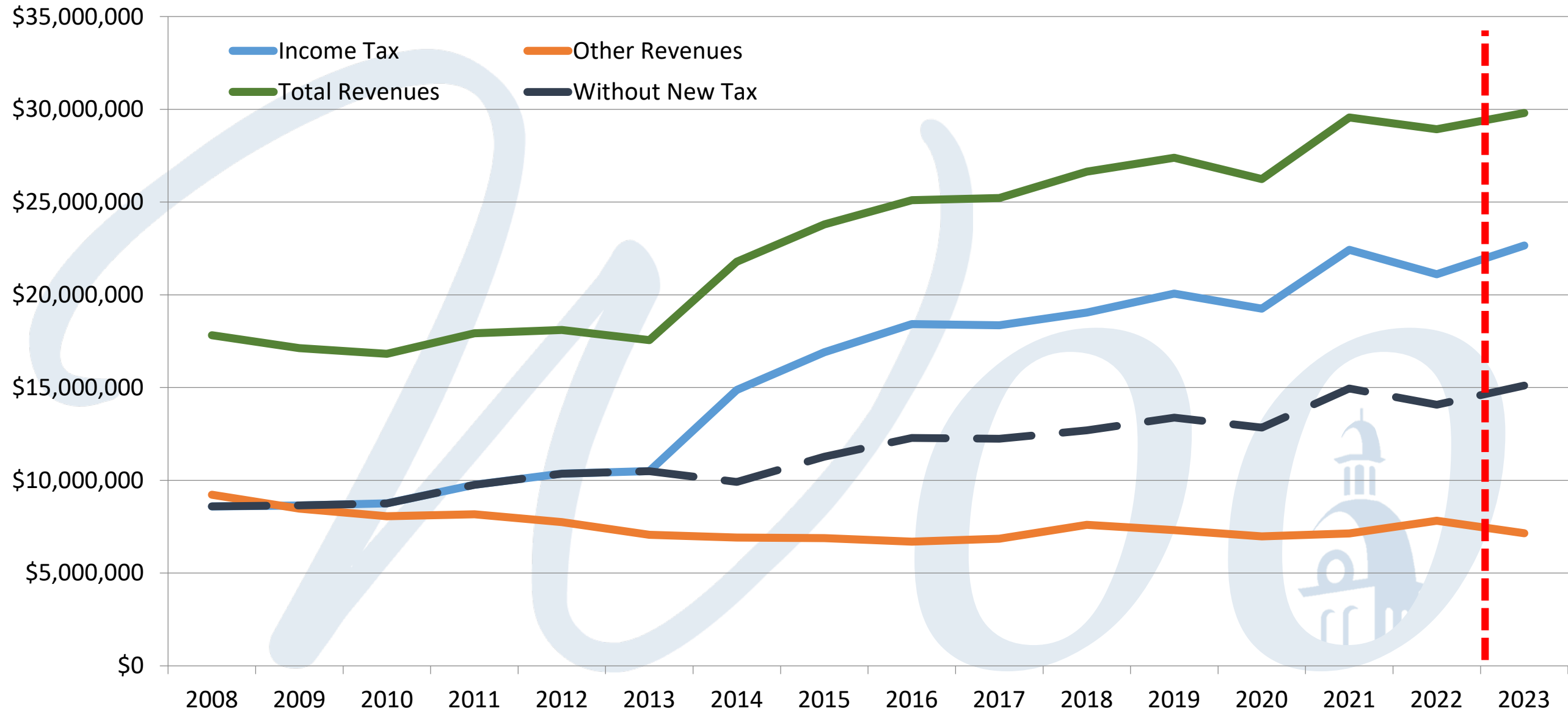








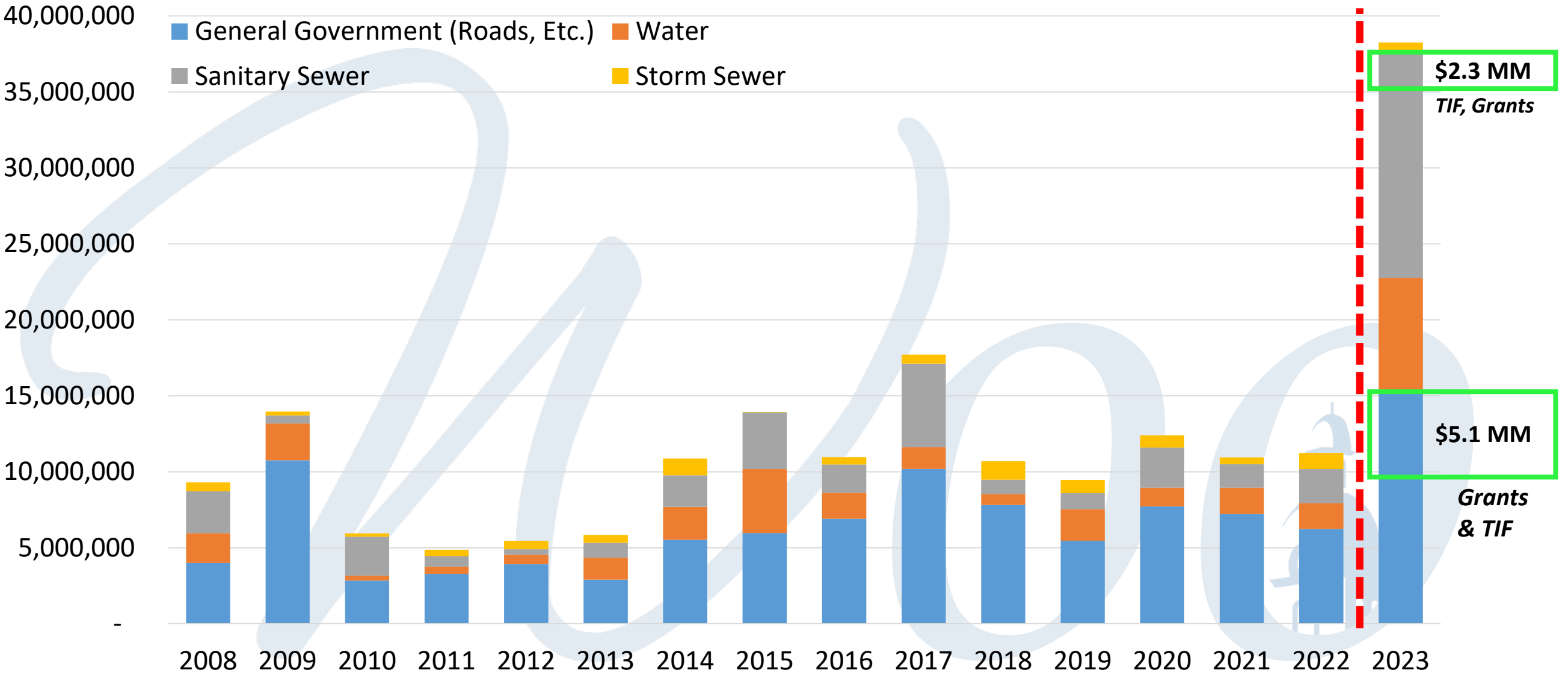
# Revenues For Services







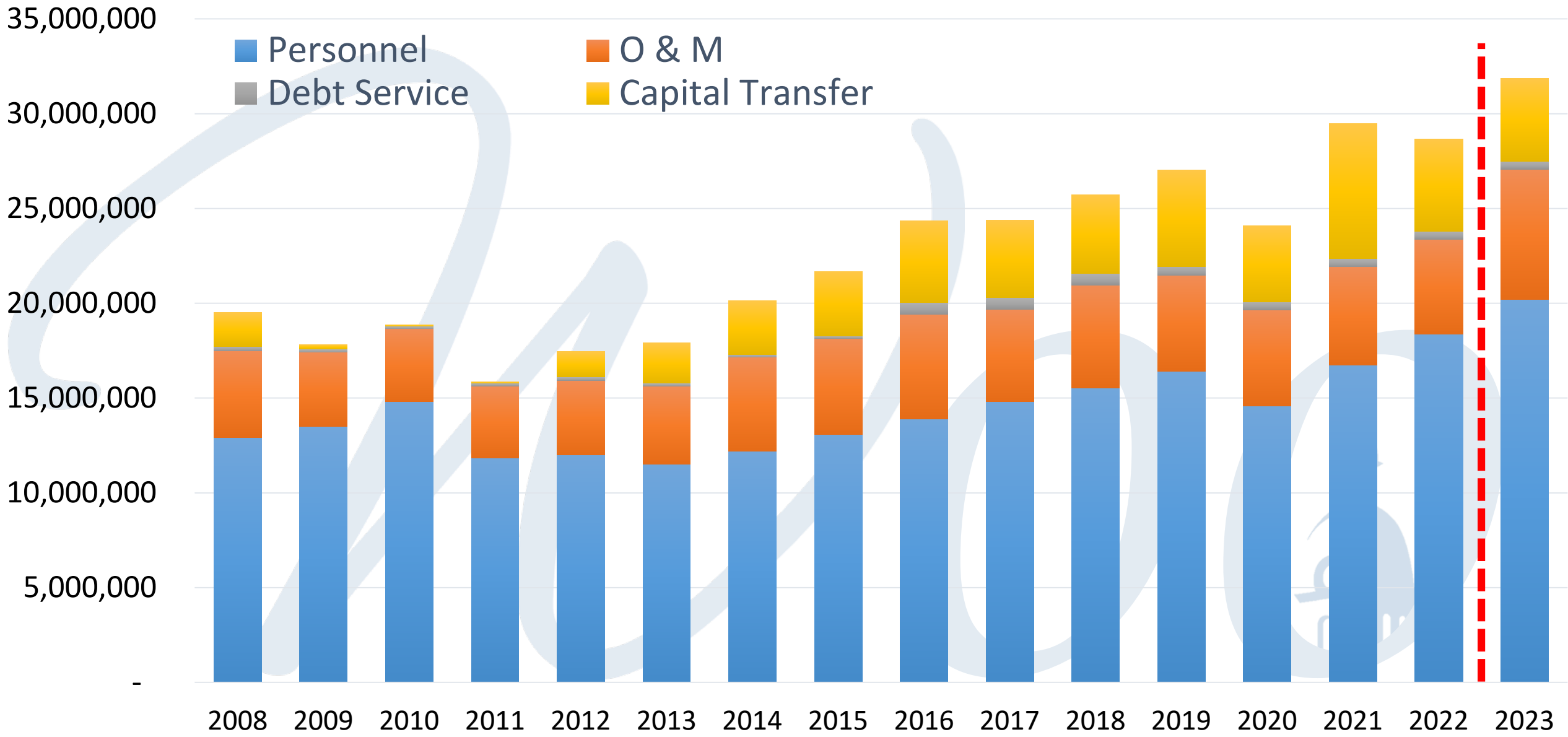
# City Capital Investment







# City 2022-2023 Finances





# Clear Creek Park & Arbor Day



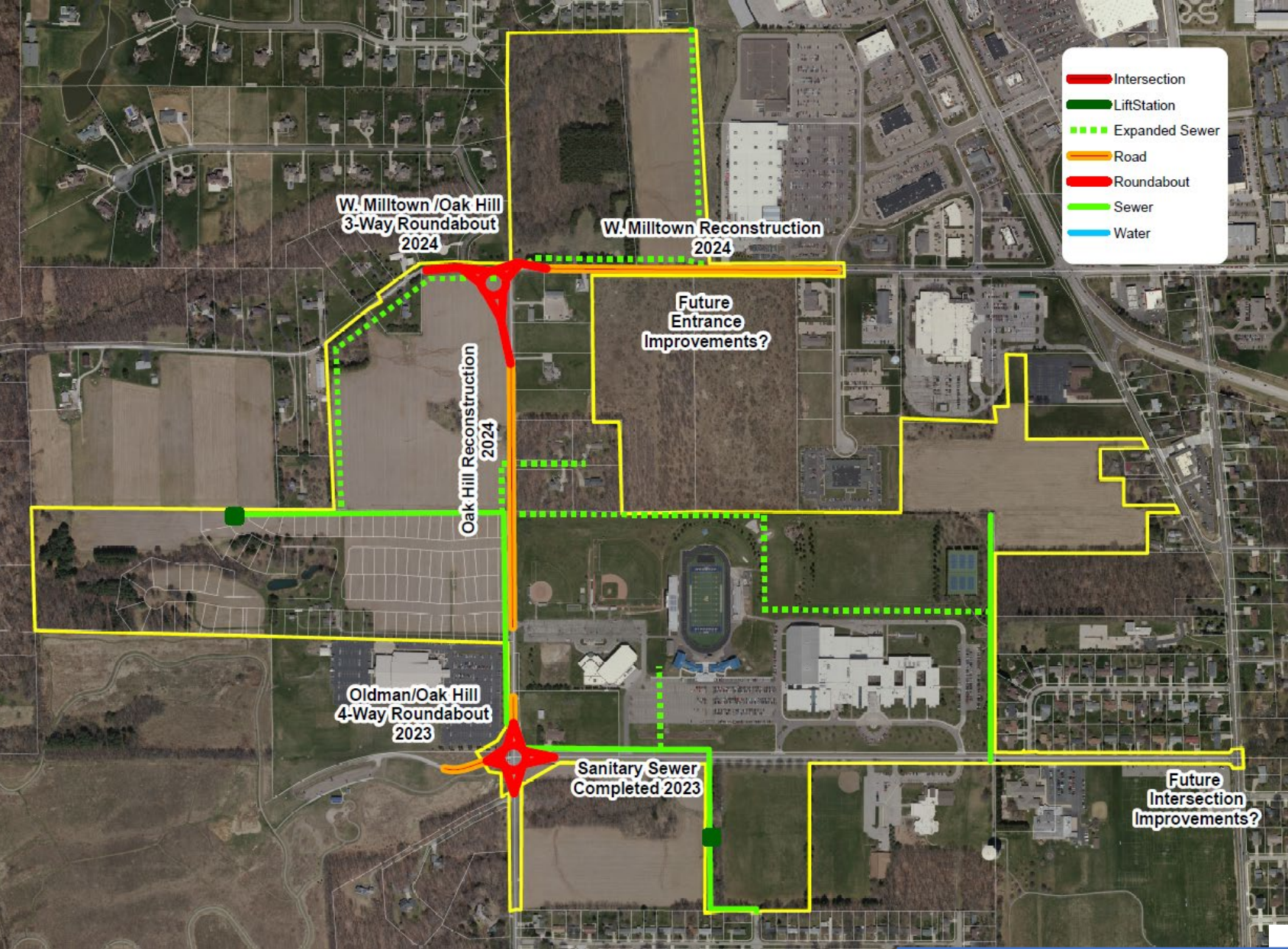
46<sup>th</sup> Year awarded  
Tree City USA  
designation



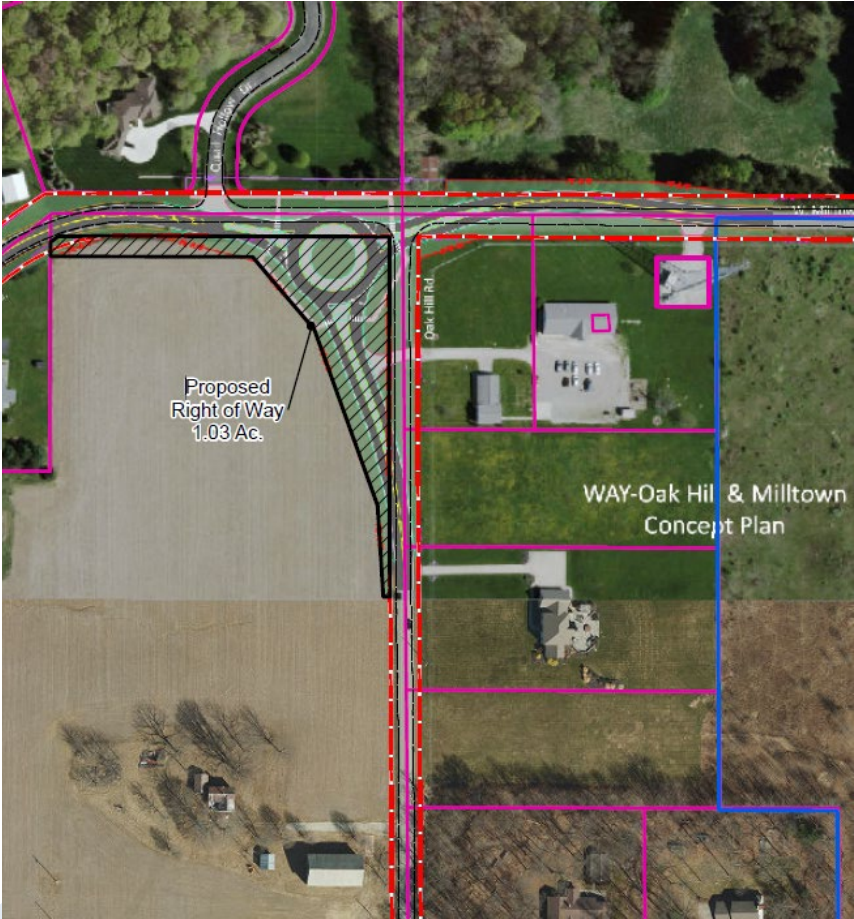




# Oak Hill TIF District Established



*Program Saving Wooster Taxpayers ~\$9MM*



*W. Milltown & Oak Hill Summer 2024*



# One Million Square Feet of New Industrial Space



1. **Wooster Brush Company** +608,000sf
2. **Federal Express** +210,000sf
3. **Daisy Brand** +40,000sf
4. **Schaeffler** +80,000sf
5. **Frito-Lay** +198,000sf



*Over 400 New Job Opportunities Allowing Wooster Families to Stay and Thrive*





# New Retail Options







# Spring Run Taking Root





# Celebrating New & Old

**Clear Creek Park Opens**



**Liberty Beall Project**



**Alice Noble Ice Arena  
20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary**



**Bogner Construction  
Celebrates 125 Year**



**Beef O'Brady's**



**E&H ACE Hardware**



**Caribou Coffee**

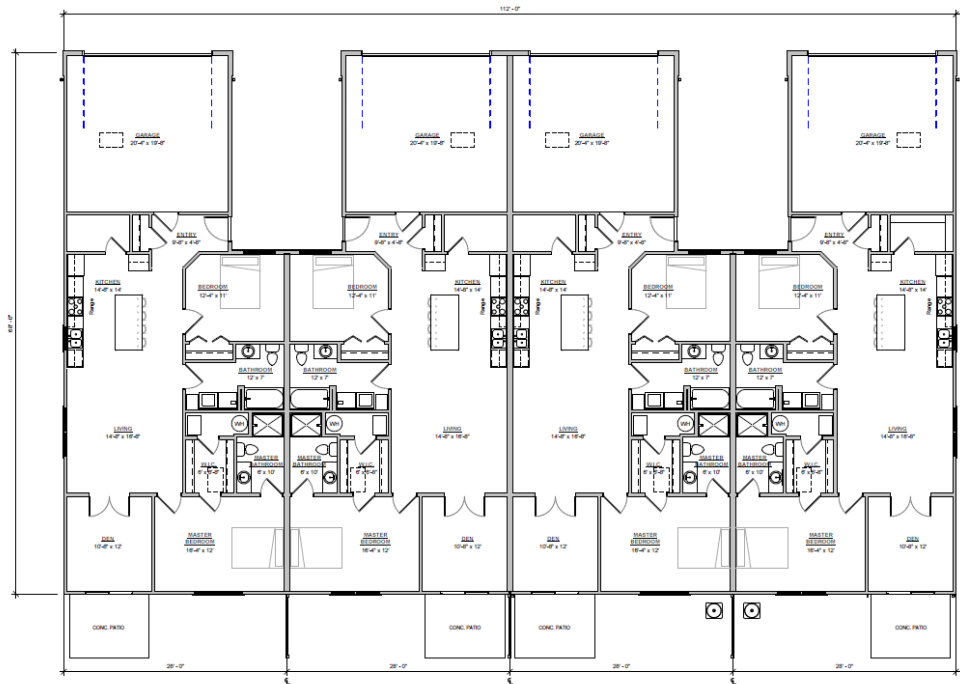


**New Housing (Noble Dr.)**





# Melrose Housing Development – Starting this Spring



FLOOR PLAN  
3/16" = 1'-0"

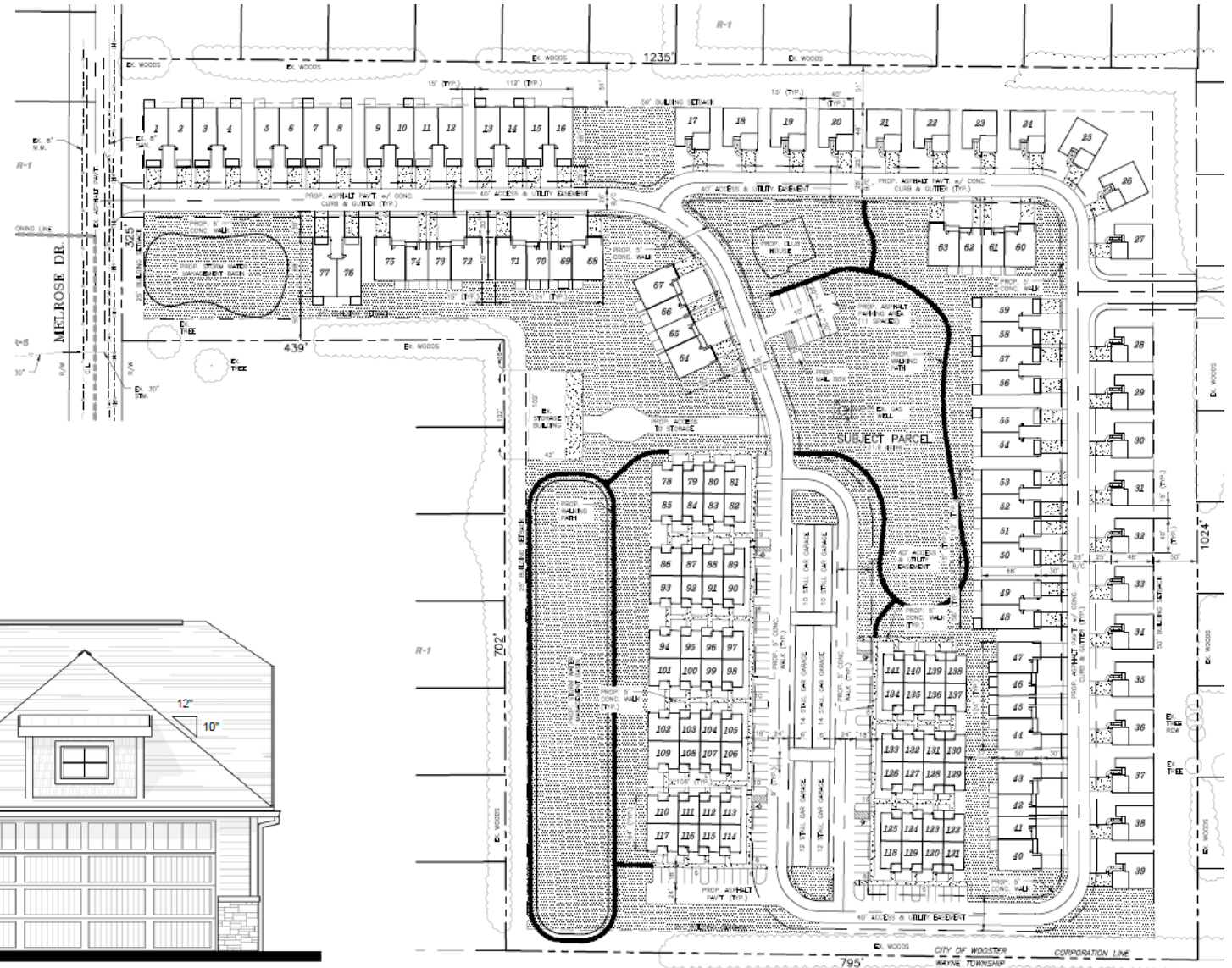
BUDGET AREA  
RIDGE FINISHED  
RIDGE UNFINISHED  
RIDGE TOTAL

1,300 SF  
400 SF  
1,700 SF



FRONT ELEVATION  
3/16" = 1'-0"

3/16" = 1'-0"



UN-ZONED



# WPD Honors



▲ *Chief Fisher honored by  
Wooster Chamber  
Distinguished Alumni Award*

◀ *Jordan Telquist  
Award of Merit Commendation*

*Don Hall* ▶  
*Officer of the Year*



## SHARING OHIO'S BEST

**Wooster  
Police Department**  
December 2022 Agency of the Month

"Congratulations to the Wooster Police Department for their selection as the December, 2022 Agency of the Month! Their well-rounded programming for citizen involvement has made them a great choice for this recognition. They have shown that they have established strong community relations within their community, and have allowed themselves to step out of the enforcement role to engage their community one on one. The Ohio Association of Chiefs of Police's Community Relations and Engagement Committee is excited to showcase Wooster's commitment to excellence."



# WCH Award Winning Community Hospital



merative  
100 Top  
Hospitals®  
2022





# Community Celebrations

## Downtown Events & Programs

**THURSDAY 8/25**  
**ED MARTHEY**  
piano  
**6-8PM!**

**FRIDAY 8/26**  
**ONE MAN BAND**  
70's, Country, Rock

**SATURDAY 8/27**  
**THE CICONETTI BROTHERS**  
original rock, pop, blues, indie

Sponsored by *Steve & Chris MATTHEW*  
Historic Downtown Wooster Square  
Provided in Partnership with the City of Wooster

*Main Street Music*

**FREE CONCERTS!**

**MAIN STREET WOOSTER INC**

**KIDS' DAY, 2022**  
**FUN IN THE SUN!**

Petting Zoo, Snow Cones, Firetrucks,  
Popcorn, Games, Crafts, Slime, Free  
Giveaways and more!

**JUNE 4TH 1P TO 4P**

**SHAKE, RATTLE & ROLL**  
AT OUR Dinkley Doughter Dance  
**NOVEMBER**  
5TH, 2022  
Wooster Community Center  
AGES 3-13 | TICKETS \$45  
TICKETS NOW AVAILABLE!

AMERICA'S PREMIER  
LYRIC THEATER FESTIVAL

**OHIO  
LIGHT  
OPERA**

**44<sup>TH</sup> SUMMER  
SEASON**



Woosterfest





# A Community Committed to Service

## 2022 Friends of Philanthropy

WCCF ▼



Congrats Judy &  
Richard Seaman



## Rotary Flies +2,000 Flags.

Now celebrating 15 Years!



## Kiwanis Ohio Convention ▼



Wooster Welcomes  
the State!

## Wooster Lions ▼



## Supporting Shelter For All ▼

### SEVERE WEATHER SHELTER

The Severe Weather Shelter will open

**Friday January 13th,**

**Saturday January 14th, &**

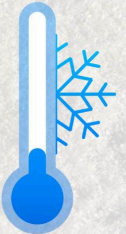
**Sunday January 15th, 2023**

as temperatures are predicted to dip below 25 degrees.

The shelter will be open at 6PM and close at 8AM the next morning. The shelter is open to anyone needing to escape the elements.

Guests arriving at the shelter are asked to use the **Family Life Center** door of the Salvation Army which faces Ohio Street. Must check in by 10PM.

A meal will be served at 6:30PM

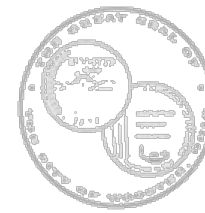


## Exchange Club Celebrates Our Freedoms





# Comings and Goings



*Wooster City Council  
Upholding Community Service*



*Thank You  
Stan Popp*



*Hello  
Deb Catlett*



*Thank you  
Dave Silvestri*



*Hello (Again!)  
Jon Ansel*



*Thank you  
Marty Starkey*



*Hello  
Rob Wells*



*Thank you  
Dr. Bolton & Dr. Webster*



THE COLLEGE OF  
**WOOSTER**



*Hello  
Dr. McCall*



# A Look Back

Announced October 2017



November 2017  
Edition >>>



Wooster Secures Ohio's Best  
Hometown Award



≡ **Money** | Best Places to Live 2017  
| In Partnership With **realtor.com**



No. 37 Wooster, Ohio



37<sup>th</sup> Best Place To Live in USA



Window Wonderland & Award  
November 17, 2017

*2017 brought many accolades. Our residents celebrated with us at the Window Wonderland.*



# 2013 Income Tax Proposal



The City of Wooster

## Proposed Earned Income Tax:

- Potential .5% increase
  - Approx .25% towards retaining services
  - Approx .25% towards capital improvement projects
- New earned income tax rate would be 1.5% - still amongst the lowest in Northeast Ohio
- City Council voted unanimously in January 2013 to place the issue on the May 2013 ballot



The City of Wooster

## Income Tax facts

Annual Salary	City Income Tax Monthly Increase 0.5% in 2013	State Income Tax Decrease (2004 to 2011)	Difference
\$ 25,000.00	\$ 10.42	\$ (12.34) -22.1%	\$ 1.92
\$ 50,000.00	\$ 20.83	\$ (33.55) -21.7%	\$ 12.72
\$ 75,000.00	\$ 31.25	\$ (56.30) -21.4%	\$ 25.05
\$ 100,000.00	\$ 41.67	\$ (82.46) -21.5%	\$ 40.79

- City Income tax funds are used to pay for Police, Fire, Infrastructure Maintenance and Recreation Programs – In the City of Wooster
- More bang for your buck at the local level



The City of Wooster

## Income Tax Rates in Comparable Ohio Cities

City	2000 Pop	2010 Pop	Tax Rate
Wooster	24,811	26,119	1.00%
Medina	25,175	26,678	1.25%
Sandusky*	27,844	25,793	1.00%
Green	22,817	25,669	2.00%
Barberton	27,957	26,550	2.00%
Garfield Heights	30,734	28,849	2.00%
Hilliard	24,230	28,435	2.00%
Shaker Heights	29,405	28,448	2.25%
Hudson	22,439	22,262	2.00%
Kent	28,161	28,904	2.00%
Maple Heights	26,156	23,138	2.50%
Willoughby	22,621	22,268	2.00%
Upper Arlington	33,686	33,771	2.00%
Mason**	22,016	30,712	1.00%

\* - Home of Cedar Point Amusement and Waterparks  
\*\* - Home to Kings Island Amusement and Waterparks

City	2000 Pop	2010 Pop	Tax Rate
Riverside	23,545	25,201	1.50%
North Olmsted	34,113	32,718	2.00%
South Euclid	23,537	22,295	2.00%
Oxford	21,943	21,371	2.00%
Fairborn	32,052	32,352	1.50%
Avon	11,446	21,193	1.75%
Alliance	23,425	22,322	1.75%
Ashland	21,265	20,362	1.50%
Mansfield	49,346	47,821	1.75%
Brunswick	33,434	34,255	1.35%
Massillon	31,580	32,149	1.80%
Canton	80,806	73,007	2.00%
North Canton	16,369	17,488	1.50%
Findlay	38,967	38,000	1.25%
Wadsworth	18,437	21,567	1.4%

*The recession of 2008-2010 and the reduction of state funding made a request for an Income Tax increase necessary.*

*Without this increase, our city would not be in the shape it is now. We are fiscally secure, our infrastructure is continually updated and we've been noticed by outside entities as a great place to live and work.*

*Thank you to those who had the foresight and the diligence to make the income tax increase a reality.*



The City of Wooster

## What is an Earned Income tax?

An earned income tax is a tax levied as a percent of earned income.

### What is Taxed?

- Wages
- Tips
- Self-employed earnings
- Partnership income
- Rental income
- Business Net Profits

### What is Not Taxed:

- Interest
- Dividends
- Capital gains
- Pensions
- Annuity income
- Unemployment
- Income from estates
- Social Security benefits



# Schaeffler Gears Up



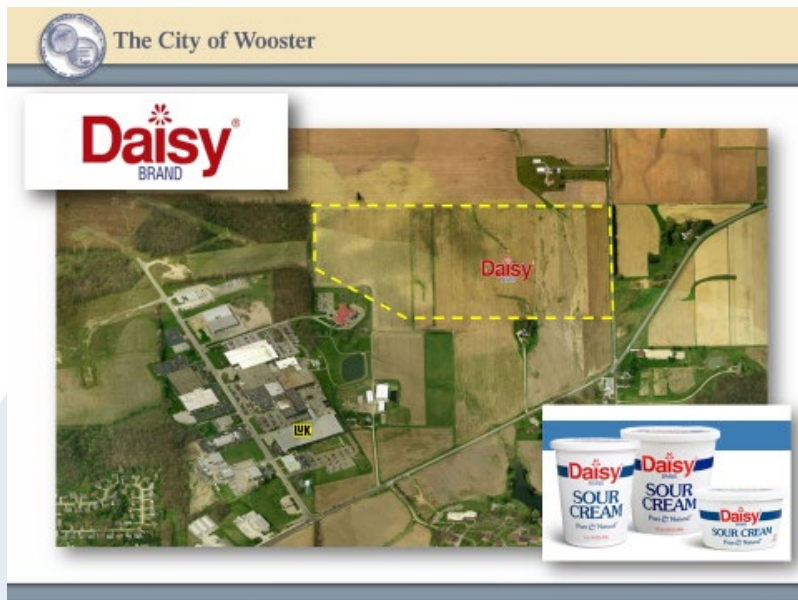
*Schaeffler (aka LuK) has been a valuable partner throughout the years.*

*They remain one of our top employers and are continually expanding.*





# “A Little Dollop of Daisy”



Daisy first announced they were coming to Wooster in 2013.

Since then they have discovered what a good fit they are with our community and continue to expand.





# Gojo – From Hospitals to Homes....



*GOJO renovated the Rubbermaid facility in 2015 and has been growing ever since.*

*During COVID, News Anchor, Lester Holt, came to Wooster to highlight GOJO and their efforts to slow the spread. 2021*





# Wooster Innovation Park



AVAILABLE SITE IN NORTHEAST OHIO

## Wooster Innovation Park West



*The purchase of 5L Farms with 138 acres in 2020 became Wooster Innovation Park.*

*This piece of land was an essential piece to keep Wooster moving forward and creating a future of opportunity and employment for our residents and community.*



# New Dispatch - WARCOG



Inaugurate New Dispatch Service

*The idea of our own dispatch center began to formulate in 2014.*



*After joining forces with Ashland & Orrville, the new dispatch center WARCOG opened in July 2016.*

WOOSTER-ASHLAND REGIONAL COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS



City of Ashland  
206 Claremont Ave.  
Ashland, Ohio 44805



City of Orrville  
207 N. Main St.  
Orrville, OH 44667



City of Wooster  
538 N. Market St.  
Wooster, OH 44691

The City of Wooster

## The Daily Record

www.the-daily-record.com The local news source for Wayne & Holmes counties United We Stand

Vol. 114 No. 11 Tuesday, June 18, 2013 50 cents daily, 42 cents delivery

### Inside

#### Council discusses new 'COG'

Wooster, Ashland work together to provide better dispatching services

By STEVEN BROSZAK Staff Writer

WOOSTER — The city's administration said the idea of forming a council of governments (COG) with the city of Ashland is a way to provide better service for its taxpayers, and develop, for the purpose of dispatching services.

But the question remained: What is the role the Wayne County Commissioners will play, as they originally were the third player to establish a consolidated dispatching center?

Ashland and follow at large council member Jim Uhlir, both questioned members of the administration on the county's role moving forward. They asked if this was com-

mitted to the county commission and if they could get a statement on their stance on this.

In the study commissioned by the two cities of Ashland and Wooster, the county commission split the cost of a feasibility study equally three ways. The study was performed by Cleveland State University

to determine if a consolidated dispatching center was legal and could be done.

It was determined to be feasible, according to the 2011 study, but when it was pitched to other entities across Wayne County, the smaller entities balked at the idea because

See Pg. A3 — COG

#### Landmark coming down

#### Signs of growth emerge

By BOBBY WARREN Staff Writer

WOOSTER — The presence of the BioHio Research Park on the campus of the Ohio Agricultural Research and Development Center presents some special opportunities for Wooster, Wayne County and Northeast Ohio.

Sharon Brannan, president

#### Region

##### Excavator hired

Holmes County Fair awards bid, fee to be announced.

Page A6

#### Agriculture

##### Bank catering to Amish community

Mount Hope bank branch operating a little differently.

Page B4



Dispatch Center Quality  
Best Ever for Wooster!





# Safety Service Building – Fire & Police

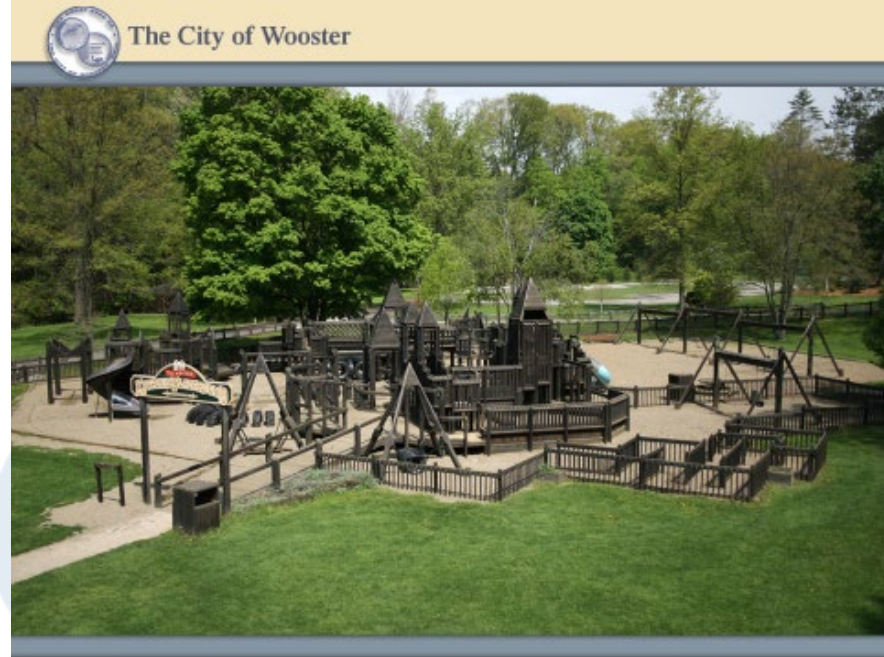


*After many years of planning, the Safety Center opened in Fall 2018.*





# Christmas Run Park Playground



Beginning in 2015, the concept to revamp Christmas Run Park began. Completed in 2017, the park is a favorite for kids of all ages.



# Goodbye Freedlander's – Hello Merchant Block



*After 125 years, Freedlander's shut their doors. Investors demolished the building in 2011 to make way for Merchants Block.*





# Downtown Streetscape



2018 State of the City  
Wooster

## 2. Downtown Improvements



## Goal #1: Downtown SW Quad Streetscape



2021 State of the City  
Wooster

Completing the Square in 2021

FOLLOW US @ CITY OF WOOSTER

## STATE OF THE CITY 2020 SE QUAD PROJECT BUILD-OUT THIS SUMMER



## SW Quad Complete!



State of the City: Woo-22





# Beall Avenue Streetscape





# Leaving a Legacy

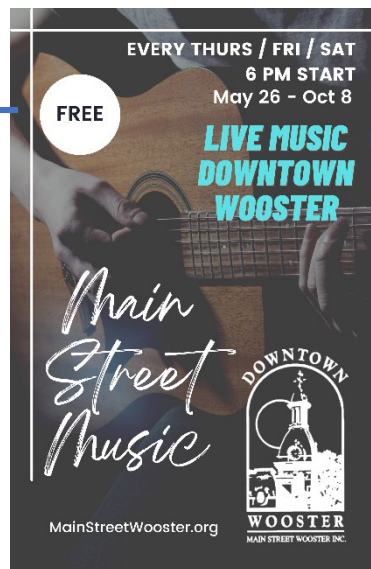


**Thank You Sandra!**  
Over 30 years of  
vision, hard work and  
determination to  
make downtown a  
vibrant hot spot in  
Northeast Ohio.



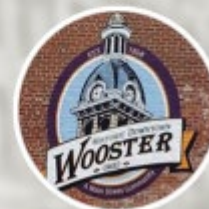
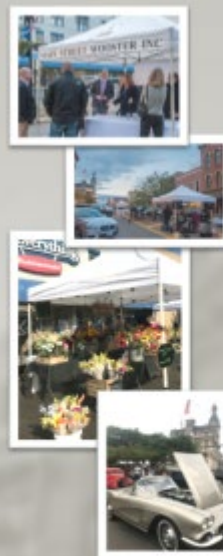
Wooster  
2019 State of the City

Sandra Hull Leaving a Legacy



STATE OF THE CITY  
2020  
Wooster

MAIN STREET  
WOOSTER HONORS SANDRA HULL



STATE OF THE CITY  
2020  
Wooster

SHANNON WALLER  
LEADS MAIN STREET WOOSTER





# Development on Market Street



STATE OF THE CITY  
*2020*  
**Wooster**

A NEW FUTURE  
FOR MARKET STREET ...

## Rea & Associates Inc + Weaver Custom Homes



2021 State of the City  
*Wooster*  
2021

Rebuilding N. Market Street





# What a Beaut! Freedlander Chalet



**Freedlander Chalet**



2021 State of the City  
Wooster

New Facelift for Wooster's Chalet



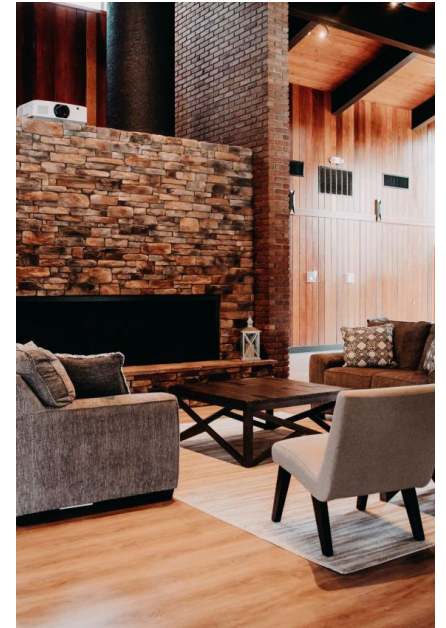
Wooster  
2019 State of the City

Freedlander Chalet Almost Ready  
For a grand Re-Opening



*The Chalet is a gem. A perfect setting for any event.*

*2023 will see improvements to the patio and outdoor area.*



STATE OF THE CITY  
2020  
Wooster

CHALET OPENING  
NOW AVAILABLE FOR BOOKING



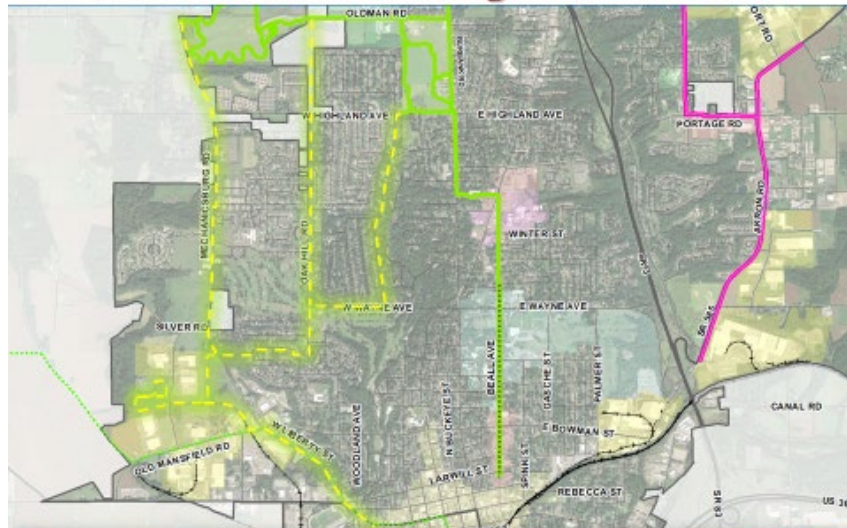
# Bike Trail Connections – Ride On!

**Wooster Bike Trail Loop Progress**

- Phase I FUNDED
  - \$712,500 Grant Secured
  - Will connect Oak Hill Park to College of Wooster and Downtown via Oldman Trail and Kinney Property
- 1-Mile of Dedicated Trail
  - Burbank and Beall Ave
- 1-Mile of Bike Lanes
  - Beall Ave
- Phase II & III in Planning
- Statewide Bike Trail Planning Underway

1. Multi-Purpose Trail Loop

## Goal #8: Connect West Side Neighborhoods & Parks



Multi-Purpose Trail Connector

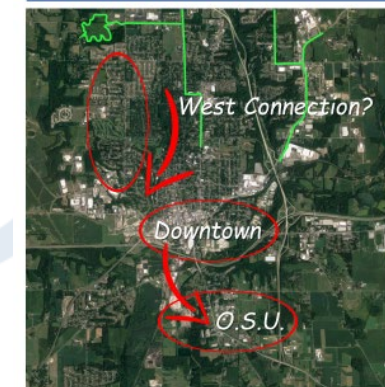
## Goal #4: Connecting the Loop!



1.3 miles added to Wooster Loop in 2020. Milltown & Melrose next!



## 4. Wooster Bike Trail



State of the City: Woo-22



# Thank you to the Team



*Jonathan Millea, Andrea Dordea, Lynne DePaulo, Mayor Breneman & Joel Montgomery*





*THANK YOU!*

*&*

*Questions?*

