

1 YEAR · ONE RESULTS REPORT



GROW SMART · LIVE WELL · GO SAFELY



Commissioners
 Marilyn Brown
 Paula Brooks
 John O'Grady

BLENDON
COMMUNITY PLAN
 Blendon Township, Franklin County, Ohio



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Blendon Community Plan

Adopted May 11, 2010

Benjamin Weiner, *Project manager*
Matthew Brown
Louis Clayton

Blendon Year One Results Report

Completed by Patrick Hewitt
Graphic Design by Chelsea Weber
Published May 2011

BLENDON COMMUNITY PLAN

Blendon Township, Franklin County, Ohio

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WELCOME

On May 11, 2010 the Franklin County Board of Commissioners adopted the Blendon Community Plan.

The plan is a guide to achieve the community's desired future.

Three Themes: The Blendon Community Plan's recommendations are grouped into three themes: Grow Smart, Live Well and Go Safely.

Our Partners: In the year since the adoption of the plan, the Franklin County Economic Development and Planning Department worked with citizens, business leaders, elected officials, other County agencies and neighboring communities to accomplish the plan's recommendations.

The Report: This document is a report to the entire community on the progress of implementing the plan. On the following pages, find out how we've begun to transform the plan's recommendations into reality.

LIVE WELL

● RESULTS ACCOMPLISHED

Regulations revised to allow the construction of community gardens

Our office drafted new regulations allowing construction of community gardens on small lots. Now vacant or abandoned parcels can be used to grow fresh, local food.

Central Ohio Green Pact signed to support sustainable growth

Blendon Township demonstrated its commitment to environmental sustainability by signing the Mid-Ohio Regional Planning Commission’s Central Ohio Green Pact. The pact outlines actions for creating a more environmentally-friendly region. By signing the pact, Blendon Township commits to making Central Ohio more sustainable.

● RESULTS-IN-PROGRESS

Community garden to be built

Our office provided a grant to Blendon Township to establish a community garden. Located at the senior center, the garden will provide food for residents and skills for new gardeners.

Residents can apply for a garden plot at the township.



Community gardens provide fresh food, educational opportunities and gathering spaces



Clean Streams Northeast will protect Alum Creek from environmental damage

Clean Streams Northeast initiative to protect Alum Creek

Our department is developing zoning regulations to protect streamside areas of Alum Creek from environmental damage. By making minor adjustments to streamside development, we will help ensure a healthy waterway for the future.

After gathering public input, we intend to present the revised regulations to the Franklin County Commissioners later this year.

▶ KEY ACCOMPLISHMENT ◀

FARMERS MARKET ESTABLISHED

Blendon Township established a farmers market at the senior center to provide healthy food to residents and to encourage community interaction.

The township continues to seek new vendors for the market, which begins its second year in July.

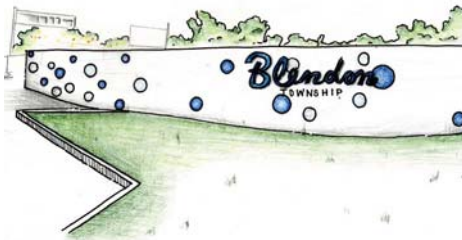


The farmers market at the Blendon Township Senior Center sells locally grown fruits and vegetables, connecting residents with area farmers

LIVE WELL

Sunbury Road barrier to become community amenity

As part of the Blendon Parks Master Plan, residents envisioned a new look for the barrier along Sunbury Road near State Route 161. In the future, the barrier will be a point of community pride that welcomes visitors to Blendon Township.



The Sunbury Road barrier will become a vibrant gateway into the Blendon community

○ RESULTS FORTHCOMING

Blighted homes to be demolished

We are helping to revitalize neighborhoods throughout Franklin County by demolishing abandoned or unsightly houses. These cleared sites can then be used for productive purposes such as community gardens or new homes.



Clearing blighted properties encourages new growth in existing neighborhoods

Demolition will begin following site selection and acquisition, application for demolition by the townships and availability of federal funds.

Parks Master Plan part B to further study community parks

Building on the success of the first parks master plan, we will continue with Blendon Parks Master Plan part B. In part B, we will draft designs for the remaining Blendon Township parks.

By establishing preferences for these parks, Blendon Township can realize its vision for a better, more family-friendly park system.



Designs for the Sunbury Woods Commons and the Park at Hempstead and Dempsey incorporate hiking trails, shelters and sledding hills



▶ KEY ACCOMPLISHMENT ◀

PARKS MASTER PLAN UNDERWAY

During the Blendon Community Plan, residents repeatedly asked that area parks be redesigned.

As a result, we worked with residents to reimagine Ridgewood, Sunbury Woods Commons, and Hempstead & Dempsey Parks in the Blendon Parks Master Plan part A. Now, these parks can be rebuilt according to residents' desires.

GROW SMART

● RESULTS ACCOMPLISHED

Home occupations right-sized

Our department established new zoning rules to limit conditional home occupations within residential neighborhoods. The rules restrict intense commercial uses, creating safer communities, lessening traffic on residential roads and minimizing conflict between adjacent land uses.

AWARE Manual used to guide construction of accessible, environmentally friendly homes

Franklin County and the city of Columbus developed the AWARE Manual (Accessible, Water conservation, Air Quality, Resource conscious, Energy efficient) to

guide the construction of greener, more accessible homes.

The manual outlines recommendations for everything from the width of doorways to energy efficiency techniques. With the manual, we aim to construct houses that are environmentally friendly and accessible to all.

● RESULTS-IN-PROGRESS

Smart Growth Overlay completed, awaiting official adoption

The Smart Growth Overlay modifies design standards for building location, landscaping and parking. Simple changes make future development more attrac-

tive and accessible to pedestrians and motorists alike.

We anticipate adoption of the Smart Growth Overlay for Cleveland Avenue, Morse Road, Westerville Road, Sunbury Road, Executive Parkway, and Valley Quail Boulevard South in late Spring 2011.



The Smart Growth Overlay will encourage vibrant, mixed-use neighborhoods

▶ KEY ACCOMPLISHMENT ◀

FACADE IMPROVEMENTS TO BEAUTIFY CORRIDOR

Our office is funding a façade improvement program along Westerville Road. We will provide matching grants to businesses that make substantial improvements to their building frontages. New façades will complement upcoming road improvements to create an attractive corridor.



Before



After

The façade improvement program will aid businesses in remaking a vibrant Westerville Road

GO SAFELY

● RESULTS ACCOMPLISHED

New sidewalks installed

New sidewalks were installed along Executive Parkway and Harbin Drive. These sidewalks will create safer routes between residential neighborhoods and the jobs, retail and parks of Blendon Township.



New sidewalks along Executive Parkway connect residents with shopping, transportation and jobs

Bicycle signage installed on Paris and Buenos Aires Boulevards

Blendon Township is designating signed shared roadways on Paris and Buenos Aires Boulevards.



Sharrows make roads safer for bicyclists and drivers

Signed shared roadways make roads safer by alerting drivers with markers and signs identifying the street as a bicycle route.

Sidewalks repaired for safer travel

Our office provided \$100,000 for sidewalk repairs in Blendon Township. Matching those funds with \$30,000 in local money, the township repaired sidewalks throughout the Huber Ridge neighborhood. The sidewalk repairs are making pedestrian travel easier and safer.

○ RESULTS FORTHCOMING

Connection from Huber Ridge to Alum Creek Trail sought

Our office is working to connect the Huber Ridge neighborhood to the Alum Creek Trail. We are teaming with local officials to design and fund a new pedestrian bridge across Alum Creek.



The Blendon Community Plan included visions for a pedestrian-friendly, walkable Westerville Road

▶ KEY ACCOMPLISHMENT ◀

SIDEWALKS AND BIKE LANES TO BE CONSTRUCTED ON WESTERVILLE ROAD

Westerville Road will become more walkable and bike-friendly in the Ohio Department of Transportation's upcoming reconstruction of the corridor. Our office worked with ODOT and MORPC to ensure that the road improvements included the sidewalks and bike lanes residents envisioned in the community plan.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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Special Thanks to Bryan Rhoads for his help in completing the Blendon Community Plan Year One Results Report



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