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Bikeways and Pedestrian Facilities

The bicycle and pedestrian plan for Fairfield County, Ohio provides the framework for the development of safe and convenient bicycle and pedestrian system to major destinations, areas of the county and areas of interest outside the county boundary.

Proposed Goal

Encourage the development of a safe and context appropriate bikeway and pedestrian system for all users in Fairfield County including special populations.

Proposed Objective

Encourage a range of bicycle and pedestrian facilities connecting existing systems and destinations.

Proposed Policy:

- Support local communities in the development of a complete system of bikeways, pedestrian facilities, bicycle parking and safe crossings with emphasis on connecting existing local and regional systems, residences, schools, businesses and public places.
- Integrate efforts of planning, recreation, public works, public service and other departments of city and county government and other agencies that are involved in planning, construction or operational elements of the bikeway and pedestrian system.

Proposed Objective

Encourage a bikeway and pedestrian system that is cost-effective and minimizes cost without sacrificing safety and aesthetics.

Proposed Policy:

- Promote the economic benefits of bikeways and sidewalks to landowners to encourage support and participation in granting easements.
- Fairfield County should schedule expansions to the bikeway and pedestrian system to utilize funding opportunities through grants, new and redevelopment, capital improvements, infrastructure improvements, and utility projects.
- Identify bikeway, pedestrian and connecting route needs early in design phases of any public facility project and incorporate anticipated costs into the Capital Improvement Program.
- The bikeway and pedestrian system should be designed to utilize existing corridors and rights-of-way to reduce costs of land acquisition.

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Proposed Objective

Encourage a bikeway and pedestrian system that expands in parallel to county growth and provision of public services.

Proposed Policy:

- Fairfield County should amend the Fairfield County Subdivision Regulations to require pedestrian and bicycle facilities within proposed subdivisions.
- Fairfield County should encourage bicycle parking at County offices and public buildings.
- Fairfield County should implement the policy of “Complete Streets” as a guiding principle for infrastructure.
- Fairfield County should develop maintenance policies for roadside and separate pedestrian and bicycle systems to ensure safe, year-round access and operation.

Open Space and Greenways

Proposed Goals

Preserve natural, cultural and agricultural resources.

Provide adequate open space and recreation facilities throughout the County.

Proposed Objective

Protect water quality.

Proposed Policy:

- Develop riparian setbacks that allow for natural stream channel migration and prevent future damages to the waterway and surrounding areas.
- Ensure property owners and the public are educated on the importance of riparian and wetland buffers for protecting and enhancing water quality.
- Provide assistance and funding where possible to insure such corridors and setbacks reflect native grass and heritage species that are best suited to the continuation and preservation of such areas.

Proposed Objective

Encourage land use and development patterns which maximize the preservation and provision of natural areas, cultural resources and open space.

Proposed Policy:

- Develop programs, incentives and regulations for long term protection of critical resource areas, cultural resources and lands designated for protection by the 2002 Fairfield County Development Strategy and Land Use Plan.
- Protect woodlots and mature forests from fragmentation.
- Protect steep slopes which are undevelopable.

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- Protect and preserve ecosystems or habitats of rare, threatened or endangered species.
- Protect and preserve noteworthy land features including, but not limited to, waterfalls, gorges, caves, highly productive farmland, floodplains, flood pools, riparian corridors, scenic vistas, wetland areas that include man-made areas, green space buffers, and valuable historical and archaeological lands.

Proposed Objectives

Encourage development of a variety of parks and open space meeting environmental and recreational needs of County residents and visitors.

Promote open space connectivity.

Proposed Policies:

- Buffer adjacent, non-compatible land uses with parks and open spaces.
- Ensure adjacency between open spaces and parklands.
- Ensure public access to or public use of protected areas. Except where sensitive areas may be negatively impacted by such access.
- Encourage collaboration between various entities for land acquisition, development and maintenance of parks and open space.
- Ensure property owners and the public are educated on the importance and maintenance of parks and open space.