



HOPKINS COUNTY COMPREHENSIVE PLAN

PREPARED FOR THE
HOPKINS COUNTY JOINT PLANNING COMMISSION



2014

TAYLOR
SIEFKER
WILLIAMS
design group



cwc LATITUDES LLC

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Acknowledgments - 1
Chapter 1: Introduction - 7
Chapter 2: Vision & Goals - 19
Chapter 3: Land Use - 29
Chapter 4: Transportation - 59
Chapter 5: Facilities & Utilities - 85
Chapter 6: Economic Development - 109
Chapter 7: Housing & Neighborhoods - 145
Chapter 8: Community Identity - 159
Chapter 9: Parks & Open Space - 175
Chapter 10: Environment - 189
Chapter 11: Implementation - 215
Appendix A: History - 265
Appendix B: Demographics - 277
Appendix C: Public Participation - 293
Appendix D: Individual Community Goals & Objectives - 311

■ This plan was created to define the direction for Hopkins County's future. It would not have been possible without the support of the following: acknowledgements

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The Hopkins County Joint Planning Commission (HCJPC) is a joint governmental agency established in 1967 that works with its members on land use planning.

Member Communities:

- Hopkins County
- City of Madisonville
- City of Earlington
- City of Hanson
- City of Dawson Springs
- City of Mortons Gap



Hopkins County Joint Planning Commission

Staff and Commissioners:

Ted Adkins	Director HCJPC
Cynthia Young	Planning Assistant HCJPC
Tim W. Thomas	Chair HCJPC
Kim Harper	Vice-Chair HCJPC
Karen McKnight	Treasurer HCJPC
Anita Black	Finance Director HCJPC
Janet Wyatt	Secretary-HCJPC
Greg Hefton	Commissioner
Lisa Lee	Commissioner
Ronnie Creekmur	Commissioner
Robert Cain	Former Commissioner
Terry Bowman	Former Commissioner/Mortons Gap City Council
Jarrett Brown	Former Commissioner

Planning Committee Members:

Kim Ezell	Hopkins County GIS Coordinator
Lee Lingo	President Chamber of Commerce
Gerald Cook	Economic Development – Director
Dr. Judith Rhoads	Madisonville Community College – President
Debbie Todd	Home Builders Association/Madisonville Zoning Administrator
Tricia Noel	Hopkins County Tourism
James Harrison	Citizen at large /Nortonville City Council
Jared Drennan	Citizen at large
Linda Zellich	Board of Education – Superintendent
Andy Rideout	Hopkins County Extension Office
Karen Rodgers	Banking Industry-First United Bank
Mike Franklin	City of Madisonville Administrator/ Parks
Judge Donald Carroll	Hopkins County Fiscal Court
Mayor Jenny Sewell	City of Dawson Springs
Mayor Mike Seiber	City of Earlington
Mayor Charles Young	City of Hanson
Mayor David Jackson	City of Madisonville
Mayor Frank Stafford	City of Mortons Gap
Shaun Roberts	Hopkins County Magistrate
Mark Lee	City of Madisonville Council
Chris Phelps	City of Mortons Gap Council

Key Person Interviews

Mayor Jenny Sewell, City of Dawson Springs
Teresa Anthony, Hanson Business Owner
Judge Donald Carroll, Hopkins County
Mayor Mike Seiber, City of Earlington
Mayor David Jackson, City of Madisonville

Focus Groups

Public Safety:

Chief Wade Williams
Chief Steve Stoltz
Sherriff Frank Latham
Frank Wright
Jon Luck
Darwin Rideout

Transportation:

Kevin McClearn
Marci Cox
Bill Jackson
Craig Morris
Dr. Joe Roe
Craig Morris

Consultant Team**Taylor Siefker Williams Design Group**

Amy Williams, AICP, Project Manager
Scott Siefker, ASLA, AICP, Principal-In-Charge
Nathan Bush, Planner
Dave Foster, ASLA, Designer

**Bell Engineering**

Josh Karrick, ASLA, AICP, Senior Planner

**CWC Latitudes**

Ed Curtin, FASLA, RLA, Economic Development



HOPKINS COUNTY COMPREHENSIVE PLAN

Introduction

1

CHAPTER

1

INTRODUCTION

[INSIDE THIS CHAPTER]

This chapter provides an outline of the overall structure of the Hopkins County Comprehensive Plan.

- Purpose
- Standards
- History & Setting Overview
- The Planning Process
- How to Use This Document
- Key Terms and Phrases



Communities are constantly interacting with and responding to changing factors that relate to quality of life at the local level. Sometimes these changing factors are focused around local shifts, while others are responding to regional and national trends. Population demographics will shift, the economy will respond to new markets, technologies will improve, and preferences will change for services and housing. These changes will inevitably influence current and proposed uses of land, capital improvements, and existing property.

As we look into the future, we can choose to merely react to change or ***anticipate and direct*** the changes that occur. When engaging in a comprehensive planning process, the community is both responding to changes that have occurred and planning for change that the community would like to occur in the future.

HOPKINS COUNTY JOINT PLANNING COMMISSION

Participating members
include:

Hopkins County
City of Dawson Springs
City of Earlington
City of Hanson
City of Madisonville
City of Mortons Gap

Hopkins County is home to several individual communities looking at their future. Although they are individually focused on improvements benefiting their residents, they also recognize that the collective future of the county will largely be built upon cooperating efforts of all communities and their residents, businesses and services. The comprehensive planning process provides a holistic strategy which brings together anticipated changes and community aspirations.

The Hopkins County Joint Planning Commission (HCJPC) is a joint-governmental agency that works with its members on land use planning. HCJPC, in coordination with the cities of Hopkins County, has partnered with residents, elected officials and community stakeholders to develop this plan to address the county's future. The planning process was open to all communities and cities within Hopkins County. However, the focus of this planning effort is on the participating member communities of HCJPC.

PURPOSE

The Commonwealth of Kentucky establishes the requirement for and purpose of a comprehensive plan (KRS-100.183). The primary purpose of a comprehensive plan is to articulate a broader vision and establish guiding principles and policies for the future growth and development of an entire community. It does not focus on the needs and desires of one property owner, business or neighborhood. Comprehensive plans are intended to be broad in nature. This provides community leaders with the flexibility to implement the community-wide vision, goals and objectives while responding to changing community conditions that are likely to occur over the life of the plan. A comprehensive plan is not intended to dictate a community's budgeting process, but can be used to inform efforts and projects.

STANDARDS

The Kentucky Legislature has developed specific requirements and minimum content for a comprehensive plan (KRS-100.187). The elements of a plan, at minimum, should include:

- A **statement of goals and objectives**, which shall serve as a guide for the physical development and economic and social well-being of the planning unit;
- A **land use plan** element showing proposals for the most appropriate, economic, desirable, and feasible patterns for the general location, character, extent, and interrelationship of future use of public and private land;
- A **transportation plan** element showing proposals for the most desirable, appropriate, economic, and feasible pattern for the general location, character, and extent of the channels, routes, and terminals for transportation facilities for the circulation of persons and goods in the future;
- A **community facilities plan** element showing proposals for the most desirable, appropriate, economic, and feasible pattern for the general location, character, and the extent of public and semipublic buildings, land, and facilities in the future.

HISTORY & SETTING OVERVIEW

Hopkins County was formed in 1806 from parts of Henderson and Christian Counties and named for General Samuel Hopkins. The County is located in the western portion of the Commonwealth of Kentucky. Hopkins County is within the Madisonville Micropolitan Statistical Area and is near several Metropolitan Statistical Areas in the region including: Evansville, Owensboro and Clarksville, TN.

Hopkins County's economy has historically been tied to resource extraction (1,613 employees), specifically coal, and farming. More recently, the economy has transitioned to be a mix of manufacturing (2,251 employees), health care & social assistance (2,822 employees), retail trade (2,216 employees), services (examples are accommodation & food; 2,544 employees) and trade, transportation & utilities (3,676 employees).¹

Some of the major employers in Hopkins County include healthcare facilities, local education, mining, and parts manufacturing. Specific companies in order of local employment are listed below.²

- Baptist Health Madisonville – 2,240 employees
- Alliance Resource Partners – 1,224 employees
- Hopkins Co. Schools – 1,004 employees
- Carhartt Customer Service Center – 650 employees
- GE Aircraft Engines – 635 employees
- Madisonville Community College – 330 employees

Population growth was rapid (21%) between 1970 and 1980. As of 2010, population growth has leveled and Hopkins County is home to a population of 46,920 people. A full summary of the existing conditions can be found in *Appendix A: History* and *Appendix B: Demographics*.

THE PLANNING PROCESS

The Hopkins County Comprehensive Plan was initiated by the Hopkins County Joint Planning Commission with the intent of serving as the community's guide for future development over the next 20 years.

Throughout the planning process, there was extensive public participation. Feedback was obtained through a Planning Committee, public meetings and workshops, "Meetings in a Box" with community interest groups, and online surveys and was used to assist in establishing the decisions and recommendations of this plan. The ideas and concepts were developed on the community's input and expressed desires. A full summary of public input can be found in *Appendix C: Public Participation*.

The framework of the plan serves as a foundation of the planning process used in creating this plan which was guided by four key questions. These questions include:

- Where are we now?
- Where are we going?
- Where would we like to go?
- How do we get there?

¹ 2011 County Business Patterns, U.S. Census Bureau

² 2013-14 Madisonville-Hopkins County Economic Development Corporation

The following graphic outlines the planning process used for developing this plan.

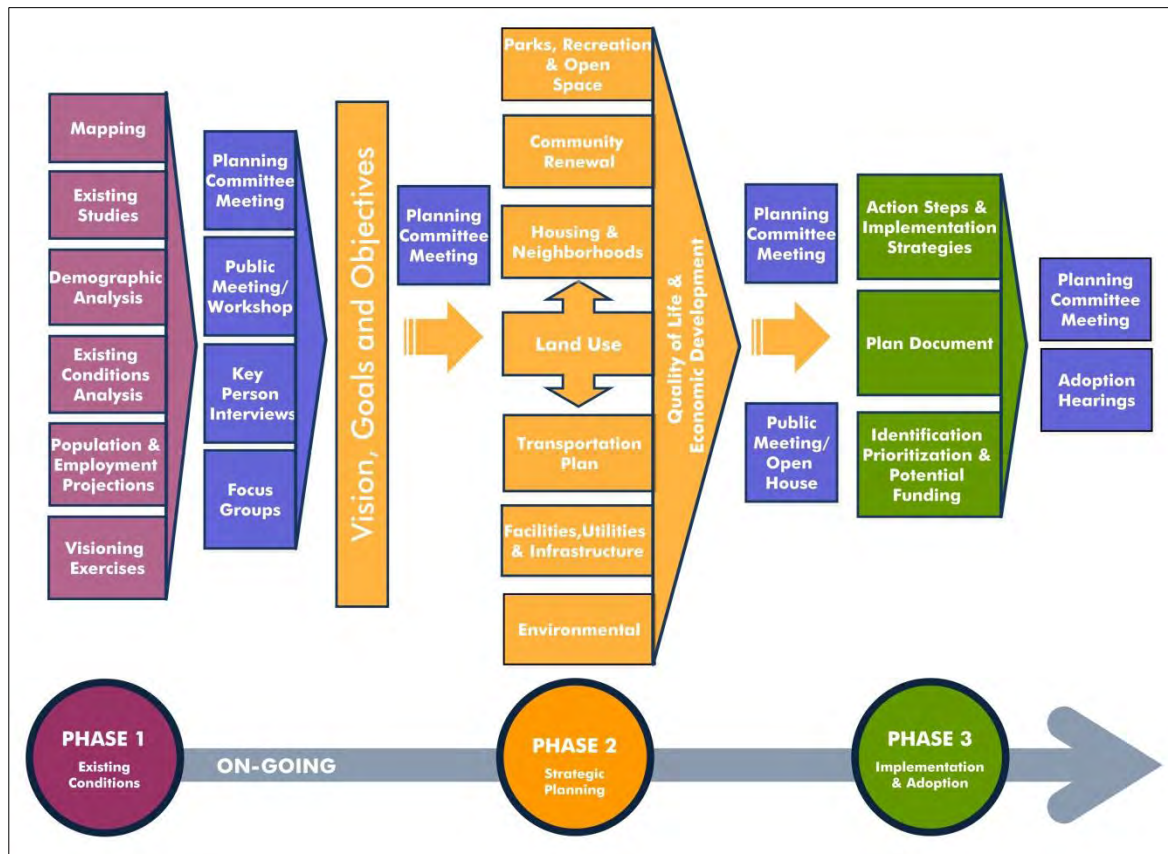


Figure: Planning Process Diagram

HOW TO USE THIS DOCUMENT

This plan is the guiding document by which officials, decision makers, developers and residents can reference as development occurs. As such, the Hopkins County Comprehensive Plan should serve as the community's guide for future development and be the basis for all decisions about the location, quality and quantity of future growth and its supporting infrastructure. Additionally, this plan is intended to be a flexible document and broad in nature. It should respond to changes or unforeseen circumstances that reinforce the vision and goals defined by the community.

The following chapters define the vision, goals, & objectives, describe the elements of the plan, present the research and analysis of the demographics and economic characteristics of Hopkins County. It also presents the implementation plan – a tool to improve the community through actionable steps – and establishes a timeline for achievement. The chapters of this comprehensive plan include:

Chapter 1: Introduction – This chapter provides a brief overview of Hopkins County’s history and setting as well as Kentucky Revised Statutes (KRS) requirements, the planning process and framework of the plan document. It also includes an explanation of how portions of the plan are intended to be used and definitions for key terms.

Chapter 2: Vision & Goals – This chapter provides the foundation for all of the plan’s elements. The overall goals and objectives defined in this chapter should be used to find common ground in the discussion about land use, future development and how implementation should be accomplished.

Chapter 3: Land Use – The land use chapter is the central focus of a comprehensive plan. This chapter will outline the location and quantity of growth in Hopkins County. It includes growth and land use strategies for the county, the rationale behind land use decisions, future land use maps and a description of each land use category.

Chapter 4: Transportation – This chapter coordinates future state funded projects and local needs for all forms of transportation in Hopkins County. This includes functional classifications, roadway improvements as well as bicycle and pedestrian projects.

Chapter 5: Facilities & Utilities – The utilities and facilities element identifies the current inventory and future strategies for utilities and facilities such as water, sewer, electric, gas, solid waste, emergency services, telecommunications, healthcare services, and education. These utilities and facilities are coordinated with the future growth pattern.

Chapter 6: Economic Development – This element includes strategies and policy recommendations that relate to job creation, development opportunities, and funding strategies as they relate to economic development.

Chapter 7: Housing & Neighborhoods – This chapter highlights the existing residential areas and discusses strategies and tools to make the county’s neighborhoods stable and vibrant.

Chapter 8: Community Identity – The community identity element focuses on reinforcing the identity of Hopkins County as well as the individual cities through gateway enhancements, wayfinding, historic preservation and streetscape improvements.

Chapter 9: Parks & Open Space – This chapter assesses the existing park and recreation facilities within Hopkins County in addition to identifying future strategies for parks and open spaces.

Chapter 10: Environment – The environment element discusses the geology and geologic resources within the county. Additionally soil types, prime farmland, air quality, land cover, hydrology, abandoned and active mines are reviewed. Future strategies relating to the environment are also included.

Chapter 11: Implementation – This chapter is used to identify and prioritize tasks necessary to accomplish the plan's overall vision, goals and plan elements. Action steps are outlined in implementation tables which include a brief description of the action and identify responsible party(ies) & partners, potential funding source(s), and appropriate timelines. Specific plan goals associated with each action step are also referenced.

Appendix A: History – The historical events significant to Hopkins County and each city are included in this appendix.

Appendix B: Demographics – This appendix includes demographic and socioeconomic information about the population in addition to housing and economic factors in Hopkins County.

Appendix C: Public Participation – This section reinforces the elements presented in the various chapters by providing a summary of the public participation process. Exercise results gathered during the Planning Committee meetings and public workshops are also included.

Appendix D: Individual Community Goals & Objectives – Each member community prioritized the goals of this plan. Following this, each community tailored each goal and corresponding objectives to their individual community. This appendix contains the individual prioritization, goals and objectives for each member community.

KEY TERMS AND PHRASES

Action Plan – Specific steps that are recommended by the plan and are important to understand in order to effectively use the document and implement the plan's vision

Goal – A broad statement that supports the vision while adding a specific area of focus. Goals are usually lofty in scope yet attainable within the planning horizon of 20 years.

Key Person/Stakeholder – A person who is in some way responsible for implementing the plan, in whole or in part, or has a vested interest in the outcome of the plan.

Objective – A statement that adds a level of specificity to the goal without identifying the individual actions that must be taken for implementation. Objectives are generally measurable so that the community can monitor implementation progress.

Planning horizon – The period of time the plan intends to address community development or the community's vision. This plan uses a 20-year planning horizon. KRS-100 requires a review every five years to address any changes in the community.

Policy – A definite course or method of action to guide present and future decisions. Policies can be legislative or administrative in approach.

Planning Committee – A group of people chosen to represent a cross-section of the community and guide the comprehensive planning process. They serve as liaisons between the community, the consultant, and staff during the planning process.

Vision – A broad statement describing the desired future of Hopkins County.



HOPKINS COUNTY COMPREHENSIVE PLAN

Vision, Goals & Objectives

2

CHAPTER 2

VISION, GOALS & OBJECTIVES

[INSIDE THIS CHAPTER]

This chapter provides the foundation for all future decisions regarding the Hopkins County Comprehensive Plan.

- Vision Statement
- Goals & Objectives



■ Hopkins County's Comprehensive Plan vision, goals and objectives were developed through input from the Planning Committee, residents, business owners and various governmental departments and leadership.

It is important to understand the purpose of each statement, goal or objective listed in this chapter. A vision, usually written in the present tense, is a broad statement which communicates where the county would like to be in the future. Goals, like vision statements, are broad in nature but usually provide a level of specificity which seeks to give purpose or define results. Goals are lofty, but attainable within the planning horizon. The planning horizon for Hopkins County's comprehensive plan is 20 years, or 2035. Finally, plan objectives provide a level of specificity to each goal and often provide direction necessary to reach a goal.

Implementation or action steps put the goals and objectives in motion and name specific tasks, responsible parties, and the appropriate timeframes to complete each step. Action steps for the Hopkins County Comprehensive Plan can be found in *Chapter 11: Implementation*.



Figure: Hopkins County Scenic Views

VISION STATEMENT



The Vision for Hopkins County is centered on uniting its **diverse cities and scenic countryside** while building upon the community's geographic **location** for future **growth**.

From providing **utilities** for expanding businesses to presenting residents with new and fun **entertainment, arts, cultural and recreational opportunities**, Hopkins County will support planned and pro-active growth for the future. A **comprehensive and responsive** educational base will meet the needs of a **dynamic workforce**. Residents will enjoy a **diverse job base** that attracts and retains business and industry while supporting new business formation.

The County will provide optimal community and neighborhood connectivity through **roads, trails and sidewalks** to serve residents and visitors. Capitalizing on the **opportunity for tourism**, the County will work to **express the character, history and identity** of this community through the built and natural environment. As Hopkins County achieves its goals, the community will implement **strategic policies** that continually create a successful future.



GOALS & OBJECTIVES

The following goals & objectives are over-arching to include the county as a whole. Each member community has individually prioritized and tailored each goal and corresponding objectives to their individual community. The priorities, goals and objectives for each community can be found in *Appendix D: Individual Community Goals and Objectives*.

1

Designate **LAND USE** to provide suitable locations for future growth in Hopkins County.

- a. Develop a program for adaptive reuse of abandoned mining areas or land that is now unbuildable due to previous mining activity.
- b. Preserve prime agricultural land within Hopkins County for agricultural purposes.
- c. Provide for industrial growth in strategic locations.
- d. Protect the integrity of wetlands, floodplains and other natural resources by limiting development in these areas.

- e. Provide for a variety of housing types, including senior living, affordable living and new growth areas and multi-family.
- f. Reinvest in aging housing areas to promote redevelopment.
- g. Provide for planned growth at interchanges along I-69.
- h. Encourage mixed-uses within the urban areas.

2

Diversify the **JOB BASE** to provide economic development opportunities.

- a. Expand the existing job base to focus on industrial, manufacturing, technical and related industries.
- b. Place a priority on occupying empty industrial buildings before new development.
- c. Promote the agricultural-business industry to support local farmers and promote tourism.
- d. Retain existing businesses and industry and support their expansion and growth.
- e. Create an environment supportive of small business creation and development.

3

Provide ample **UTILITY** capacity to existing development before future growth areas.

- a. Improve the existing water and sewer capacities to serve existing and future development.
- b. Replace aging water and sewer infrastructure that is failing or outdated.
- c. Place a priority on providing water and sewer capacity to industrial growth.
- d. Enhance coordination efforts between the multiple water and sewer providers.
- e. Continue to improve drainage and flooding issues.
- f. Improve cellular service and internet service throughout the county.

4

Develop necessary **FACILITIES** and adequate personnel levels.

- a. Support necessary and appropriate personnel levels for all emergency management staff, including fire and police.

- b. Analyze existing fire district boundaries to determine the best manner to serve residents and businesses.
- c. Build a training facility for all emergency management departments, including fire, police, and EMS.
- d. Update and modernize school facilities while maintaining local community identities.
- e. Evaluate spillway and dam development options for reservoirs through the county.
- f. Continue to develop regional sports complex and enhance other recreational facilities.
- g. Encourage growth and re-vitalization of the existing library to accommodate trends in use and in technology.
- h. Promote arts and cultural opportunities for residents to enjoy.

5

Provide a functional **TRANSPORTATION** network for commerce, commuters, and recreation.

- a. Complete road improvements throughout the county, including road widening where needed.
- b. Provide bicycle and pedestrian connections throughout the county with a focus on connecting neighborhoods and parks.
- c. Preserve the functionality of the roadway network by ensuring new development does not overburden the system.
- d. Implement access management guidelines near the I-69 interchanges to protect the level of service of existing roads.
- e. Implement practices to alleviate congestion with a focus on the urban areas and near schools.
- f. Support public transit/bus service for those without private transportation and the elderly.
- g. Evaluate the need for and impacts of a new bypass near Madisonville.
- h. Promote the relocation of CSX railroad line out of downtown Madisonville.
- i. Enhance the airport with additional hanger space and maintenance facilities.

6

Promote and develop a unified **CHARACTER & IDENTITY** for Hopkins County.

- a. Develop entry points or gateways into Hopkins County that are reflective of the community.
- b. Create a unified vision for the county as a whole.
- c. Reinforce the identity of cities or neighborhoods through identification signage.
- d. Create a wayfinding system to help visitors navigate to major destinations.
- e. Continue to promote and market Hopkins County to increase tourism.
- f. Emphasize Hopkins County as a place with a small town atmosphere with countryside beauty.
- g. Preserve and restore the historically important sites and build upon Hopkins County's character.
- h. Break the threshold of 50,000 residents in order to market Hopkins County as a larger community.

7

Expand and improve **RECREATIONAL & ENTERTAINMENT** opportunities.

- a. Expand the existing park system to meet the needs of future growth.
- b. Encourage growth of retail and shopping opportunities.
- c. Encourage new and support existing dining opportunities that serve residents and visitors.
- d. Provide opportunities and options for youth entertainment.
- e. Support arts and cultural activities for residents and visitors of all ages.
- f. Promote private recreational opportunities that increase tourism.

8

Foster an **EDUCATION** system which supports the marketplace and the communities in which they serve.

- a. Work with educational institutions and major employers to create programs that match market needs for jobs.

- b. Expand the college to include more programs and potential four-year programs.
- c. Support the creation of a technology center that aids learning at all levels and ages.
- d. Encourage facility locations that promote communities, reduce traffic congestion, and accommodate multi-modal transportation.

9

Generate **POLICIES** which enhance the quality of life for all communities within Hopkins County.

- a. Evaluate the need for annexation adjacent to the incorporated cities.
- b. Evaluate the need for zoning around incorporated areas.
- c. Promote a county-wide recycling program.
- d. Increase efficiency and reduce duplication of services in governmental agencies.
- e. Develop a beautification and cleanliness program countywide.

Notes

Use this space to track the progress of activities that further the accomplishment of goals and objectives over the planning period.



HOPKINS COUNTY COMPREHENSIVE PLAN

Land Use

3

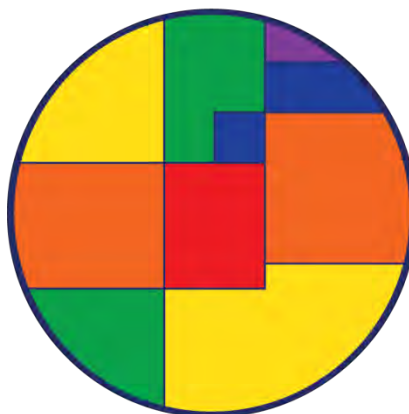
CHAPTER 3

LAND USE

[INSIDE THIS CHAPTER]

This chapter outlines the location and quantity of growth in Hopkins County.

- Geographic Considerations & Development Constraints
 - Topography & Soils
 - Floodplains & Wetlands
 - Mined Areas
 - Agricultural Districts & Prime Farmland
- Development Patterns
 - Existing Land Use
 - Historic Districts & Properties
 - Existing Zoning
 - Expansion Areas
- Location Criteria for Future Land Uses
 - General Criteria
 - Agricultural / Open Space Criteria
 - Single-family & Multi-family Residential Criteria
 - Commercial Criteria
 - Industrial Criteria
- Future Land Use Plan
 - Methodology
 - Future Land Use Map
 - Future Land Use Descriptions



Land use is perhaps one of the most crucial elements of a community. Land use determines how many people access a site and the way they access the site. It can provide jobs or entertainment, and equally important, it can determine the character of a community. Land use is a key part of this comprehensive plan and forms the base for many other elements. Goals related to land use can be found in *Chapter 2: Vision & Goals* and action steps for implementation can be found in *Chapter 11: Implementation*.

ENVIRONMENTAL CONSIDERATIONS & DEVELOPMENT CONSTRAINTS

While many areas of the county may appear like prime locations for new development, there are many physical and environmental constraints within Hopkins County. These considerations can prevent all development, restrict particular types of development, or require multiple precautionary measures before development occurs. The following outlines environmental considerations that should be incorporated into land use decisions. Development within environmentally sensitive areas should strive to preserve natural features, scenic areas, woodland habitats, wetlands and wildlife. The natural beauty and proximity to these features make Hopkins County ideal for many outdoor activities. Additionally, economic development and tourism opportunities can build upon the preservation of these features. A detailed analysis of the existing environmental features can be found in *Chapter 10: Environmental*.

TOPOGRAPHY & SOILS

Topography can create a picturesque setting with rolling hills but can also pose obstacles or barriers for development. Steep slopes require more site work and therefore increase construction costs for all types of development. Land that has slopes should incorporate appropriate site measures before development is allowed. Steep slopes can pose immediate construction and

development challenges such as long-term slope stability, runoff, and other natural degradation issues. Areas with steep slopes (greater than 20% should have appropriate site measures before development. These areas should also be considered to be left in a natural state or be utilized for park or recreational activities.

Soils also play a major role in the ability to develop land. Soil types are related to landforms of an area and are typically classified according to their color, texture, structure and other properties. Each soil type can support different types of development and therefore should be considered during the development review process. Land that contains soils rated as “unstable”

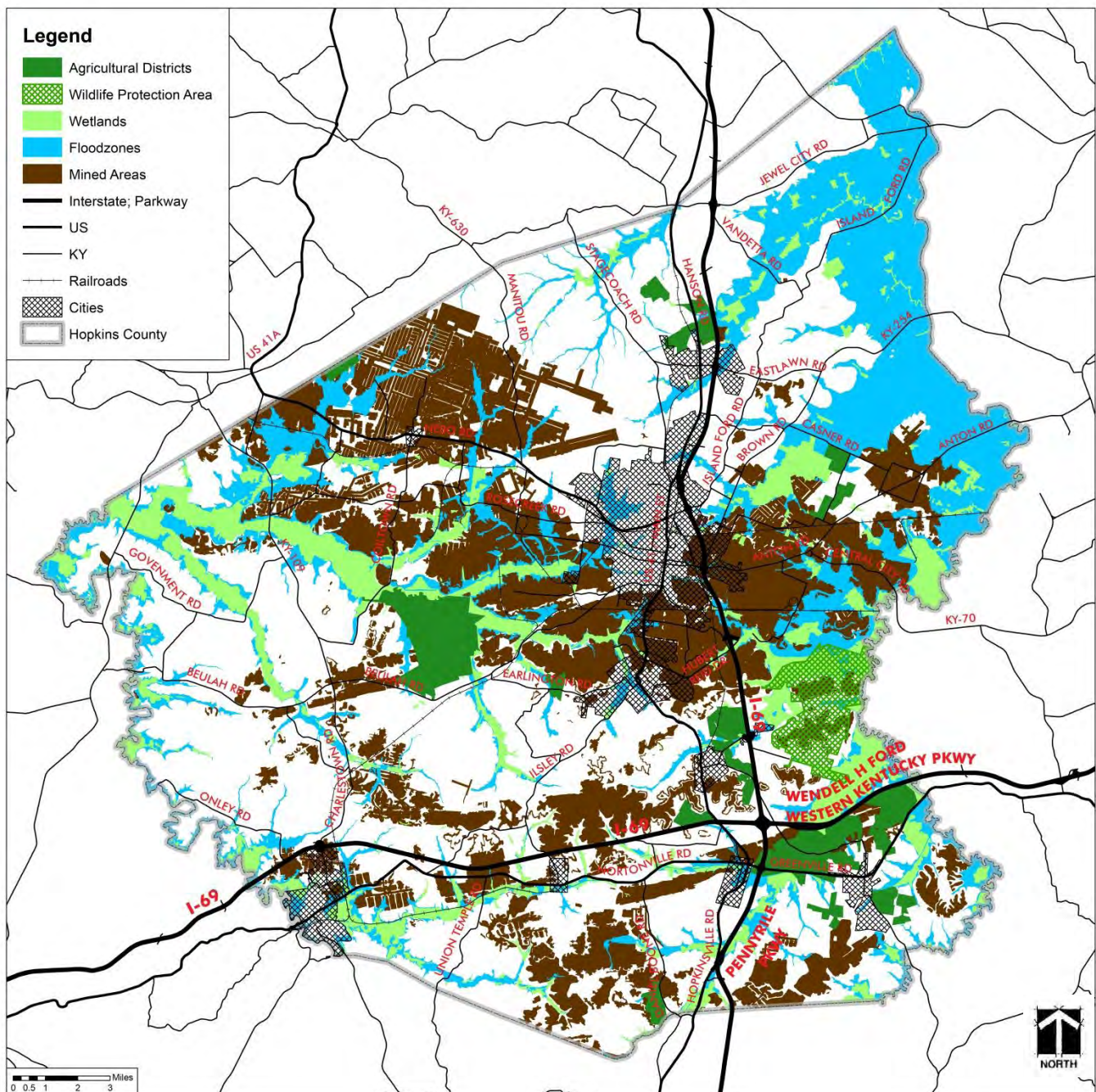


Figure: Development constraints within Hopkins County

should be developed cautiously. Proper soil analysis should be undertaken by a geotechnical engineer before potentially unstable soil is considered for development.

FLOODPLAINS & WETLANDS

Hopkins County contains many rivers, streams, and other water bodies that play an important role in the ecological system. These water features also define the floodplains and wetlands within the county. Maintaining the integrity of floodplains and wetlands can help to limit potential property losses and damages due to flooding events. Approximately 95,360 acres of floodplains exist within the County (about 27% of all land) as well as about 33,533 acres of wetlands (9.5% of all land). Where development can occur within either of these areas, it should take precautionary measures to ensure safety and also consider the environmental impact of development.

MINED AREAS

The county has large areas through the middle and southern portions that are active mines as well as land that has been mined in the past and is now abandoned. Approximately 201,494 acres of land have had some type of mining activity within the County (about 58% of all land). The mining activities in these regions consist of both surface mining and underground mining. Active mine permits still cover large areas along the western edge of the county and just east of Madisonville. Areas that were previously undermined should be evaluated on a case by case basis to determine the type of previous mining and future stability of the land.

AGRICULTURAL DISTRICTS & PRIME FARMLAND

Prime farmland is becoming increasingly rare in Kentucky and therefore should be conserved when possible. Kentucky passed the Agricultural District Act in 1982 to protect prime and other farmland within the state. There are currently 18 agricultural districts within Hopkins County totaling 12,606 acres (about 3.6% of all land). This land can be considered prime farmland with a high level of crop production. Land enrolled in Kentucky's Agricultural District Program cannot be annexed or condemned without mitigation; it is also taxed at the agricultural tax rate. However, participation is voluntary and a landowner may withdraw land at any time without penalty or without jeopardizing the status of the existing agricultural district. Therefore, these areas are really only a short-term preservation solution.

DEVELOPMENT PATTERNS

The existing land use patterns of a community can provide insight on market conditions and forces, help identify new growth areas and provide a basis for determining where land uses should be located in the future.

EXISTING LAND USE

Existing land uses are influenced by many factors, including zoning ordinances and market demands. The county's approximate 347,000 acres are being utilized in a variety of ways, including:

- Agricultural/Natural..... 87.4%
- Residential7.4%
- Mining2.5%
- Commercial 0.9%
- Institutional/Civic 0.7%
- Park 0.4%
- Industrial 0.2%
- Unclassified 0.2%
- Water 0.2%
- Multi-Family 0.1%

Hopkins County – The unincorporated areas of the county are largely dominated by agricultural and mining land uses. Residential, commercial and industrial development occurs in areas adjacent to the incorporated cities and along the primary roads. The largest amount of residential development within the unincorporated county is concentrated in the unincorporated area between Madisonville and Earlington as well as the unincorporated area between Madisonville and Hanson.

Dawson Springs – The existing land uses within Dawson Springs primarily include residential and commercial development. Commercial is concentrated along Highway 62 and Highway 109 and residential is primarily located in the areas adjacent to these two highways. An industrial park also exists at the northeast intersection of Highway 62 and Highway 109. Institutional and multi-family land uses are scattered among the developed areas of the city with agricultural and open space along the outskirts of the community. Dawson Springs' land uses are also influenced by the Tradewater River and surrounding recreational, wildlife management and park areas.

Earlington – The majority of commercial land uses are located along Highway 41 and Highway 112 and residential development is generally located within the core of the city and the urban street grid. Earlington has a large amount of open space due to the Loch Mary Reservoir. Institutional uses are scattered throughout the developed areas with agricultural land in the north and east portions of the city.

Hanson – Commercial development within Hanson is concentrated in the downtown with larger commercial developments adjacent to the Pennyriple Parkway (VF Factory Outlet & Carhartt). Residential uses radiate outward from the intersection of Highway 41 and Highway 260. The Western Kentucky Veteran’s Center is also a significant land use along Highway 260. Institutional uses are located towards the core of the city and agricultural and open spaces are located towards the outskirts of city limits.

Madisonville – Madisonville has both urban and suburban land use patterns. The city’s center (Highway 41 and Highway 70) is dominated by commercial and institutional land uses. The Town Square/County Courthouse, Hopkins County Judicial Center, Madisonville City Hall and other government facilities are all located within the Central Business District (CBD). Outside of the CBD, commercial uses are primarily along or adjacent to the primary roadways. Residential land uses radiate out from the CBD with higher densities located closer to the city’s core. Industrial land uses are concentrated in the industrial park along Nebo Road and the intersection of the Pennyriple Parkway and Highway 281. Institutional uses are scattered throughout the city and open space and recreational areas are focused around Lake Peewee and Dr. Festus Claybon Park in the northwest, Spring Lake in the west, and City Park and Grapevine Lake Park in the southeast.

Mortons Gap – Mortons Gap is dominated by residential development with multiple institutional uses throughout the city. Commercial uses are concentrated around the interchange of the Pennyriple Parkway and the remaining land uses are agricultural or open space.

Nebo – Residential is the primary land use in Nebo with commercial uses along Highway 41A. Institutional uses are scattered throughout the city with some agricultural/open space in the northwest portion of the city.

Nortonville – Commercial development is concentrated along Main Street (KY-2083) and the US-41/US-62 intersection. The area around the US-41/US-62 intersection also has Institutional, Residential, and Recreational uses. Other residential land uses are located throughout the city. Additional institutional uses, including City Hall, City Park, and Library/Museum are located on the old Nortonville School property.

St. Charles – Residential is the dominant land use followed by agricultural land uses concentrated in the northern portion of the city. Very little commercial exists within the city.

White Plains – Commercial areas are primarily located along Highway 62 and Highway 813. Residential and scattered institutional land uses consume the remaining areas of the city.

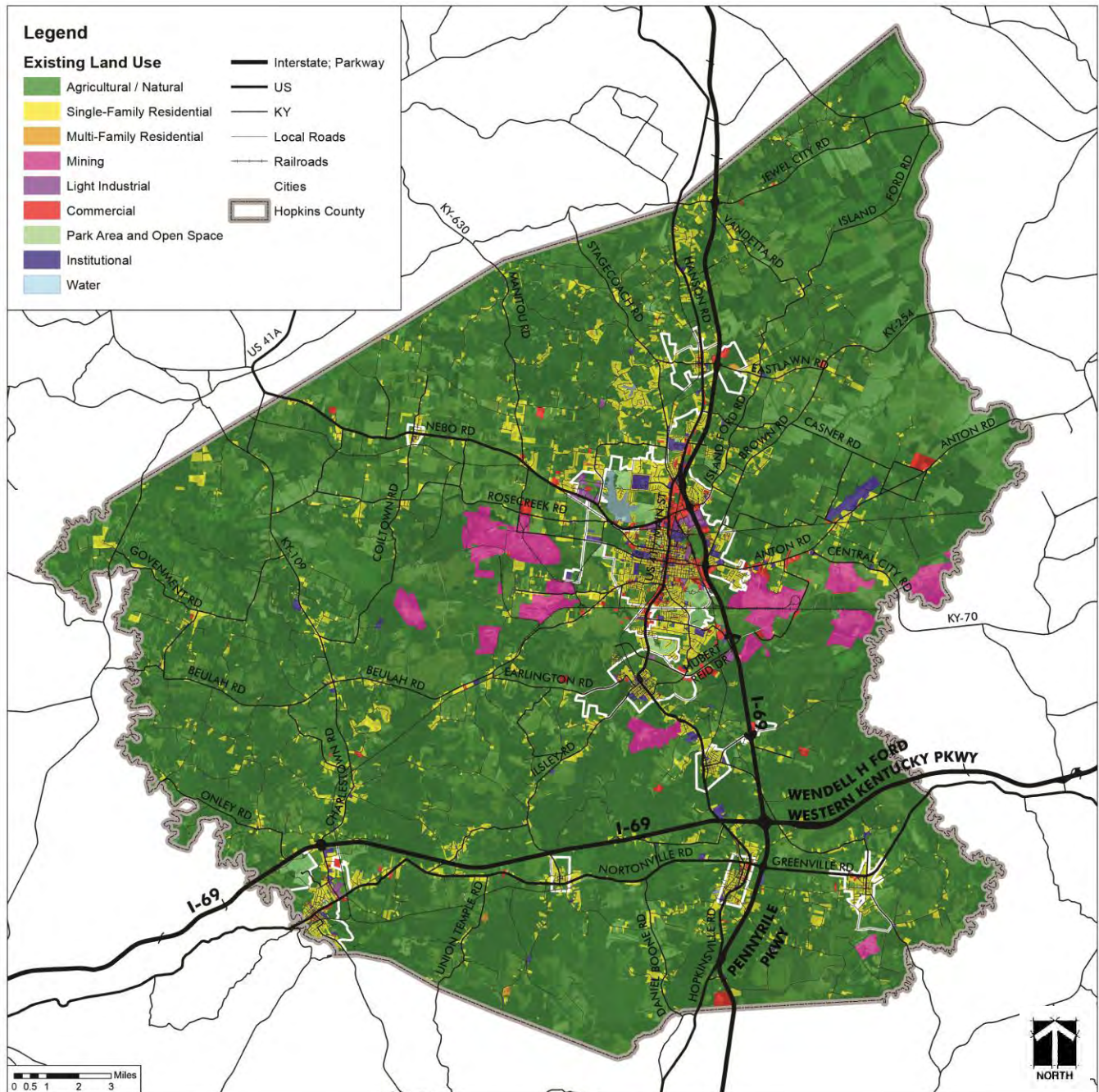


Figure: Existing land uses within Hopkins County

HISTORIC DISTRICTS & PROPERTIES

Historic properties and districts bring character and identity to a community. Once demolished or forgone in condition, these elements that define a community can never be replaced. Hopkins County has many properties that are listed on the National Register of Historic Places, the official list of historic places across the county that are worthy of preservation. The National Register is administered by the National Park Service under the Secretary of the Interior and includes districts, sites, buildings, structures and objects that

are significant in American history, architecture, archeology, engineering and culture. Owners of private property listed in the National Register have no obligation to open their properties to the public, to restore them or even to maintain them. Local ordinances can establish restrictions on these properties.

Owners can do anything they wish with their property provided that no Federal license, permit or funding is involved. Because properties in Hopkins County are listed on the National Register of Historic Places, additional funding opportunities are available to property owners, including tax incentives for rehabilitation, federal preservation grants, and state preservation grants and tax programs. The following properties and sites are listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

HISTORIC ITEM	LOCATION
“Indian Kettles”, 6999 BC to 500 BC	Archaeological site, Nebo
“Atkinson-Larkins Mound,” 10999 BC to 1500 AD	Archaeological site, White Plains
Un-named, 6999 BC to 500 BC	Archaeological site, Hanson
Un-named	Archaeological site, Hanson
Beulah Lodge, 1908	KY 70, .5 mile W of junction with KY 109
John Cox House “Sarahlawn Farm”, 1875	KY 502, .5 mile N of Nebo
Cranor School, 1914	Buttermilk Rd, .2 mile SE of junction with Hamby Rd
Darby House, 1886	301 W. Arcadia St, Dawson Springs
Dawson Springs Historic District	Dawson Springs Historic District Map
Bazle Edmiston House	KY 291, .2 mile W of junction with KY 109
Dr. Thomas Gardiner House, 1888	173 Sugg Street, Madisonville
Hamby Well Building	102 S. Main St, Dawson Springs
Hanson Historic District	West from US 41 to E. Railroad St, Hanson
John Harvey House “Harvey-Bassett House”, 1888	175 N. Seminary St, Madisonville

L.D. Hockersmith House, 1881	218 S. Scott St, Madisonville
Hotel Earlington	118 E. Main Street, Earlington
Beckley Jackson House “The Stagecoach Inn”	Route 1069, .2 mile S of junction with Jones Rd.
Gabriel Jennings House	KY 70, 1 mile E of junction with KY 291
W.W. Kington’s daughter’s House, 1911	109 Crooked St, Mortons Gap
Chittenden P. Lyon, Jr. House “Professor Hanson Boring’s Private School” or “Old Ship”, 1857	304 Union Street, Madisonville
Madisonville Armory	670 Park Ave, Madisonville
Madisonville Commercial Historic District	See Madisonville Central Business District Map
Hopkins County Historical Society Museum, 1926	107 S. Union Street, Madisonville
Frederick Miller House “Tinsley House”	US 62, 2.1 miles W of White Plains
Munn’s School, 1906	KY 70
North Main Street Historic District	200 & 300 blocks N. Main, Madisonville
Oakmoor “Oakmore”, 1903	E. Main Street, Earlington
Bradford Porter House	US 41A, 1 mile W of junction with KY 630
Turner Ruby House, 1901	264 S. Union St, Madisonville
Richard Salmon House	KY 112
James E. Slaton House, 1864	Hwy 1221
USPO “Hopkins County Government Center”, 1931	56 N. Main Street, Madisonville
Zion Brick Missionary Church	Crossroad Chapel Rd, 0.3 mile N of junction with KY 138, Hanson



Figure: Dawson Springs Historic District

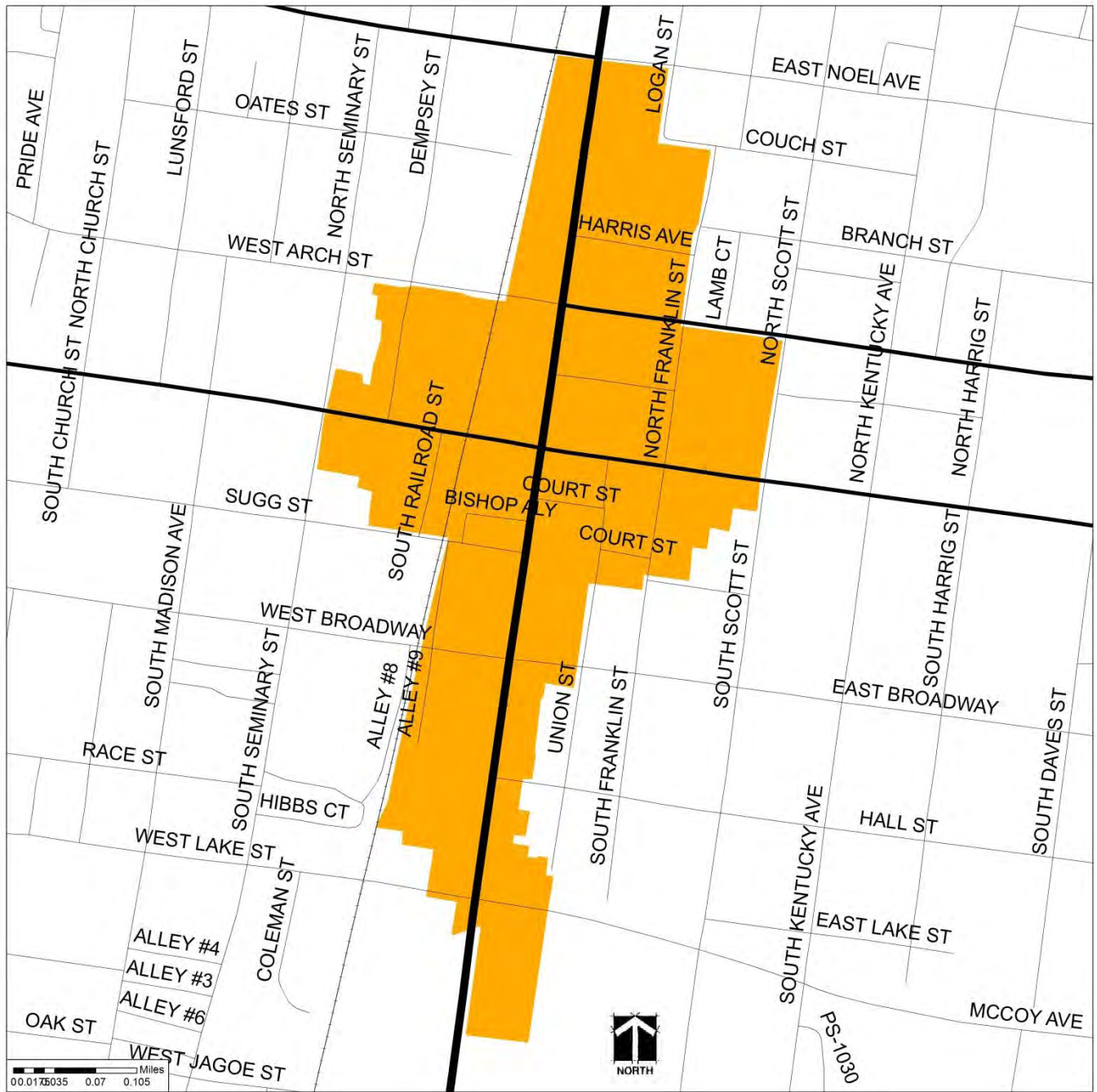


Figure: Madisonville Historic District



Photo: Sarahlawn Farm, 1875



Darby House, 1886



Photo: Ruby Laffoon House, 1863



Photo: L.D. Hockersmith House, 1881



Photo: The Stagecoach Inn



Photo: W.W. Kington's Daughter's House, 1911



Photo: Munn's School, 1906



Photo: Downtown Hanson



Photo: Morton House



Photo: Hopkins County Historical Society Museum

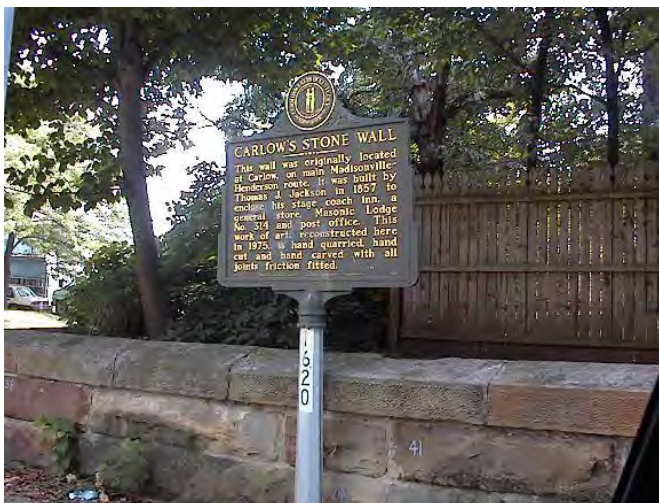


Photo: Historic Marker for Carlow's Stone Wall

Other historic properties exist within Hopkins County but are not included on the National Register. These properties are also important in telling the history and story of the community and include the following properties.

HISTORIC ITEM	LOCATION
Ruby Laffoon House, 1863	S Union St, Madisonville
Day Brothers Business, 1899	Corner of N Main & E Railroad Ave, Dawson Springs
McNeil Antiques, 1895	28 Sugg St, Madisonville
First United Methodist Church, 1923	E. Center and Scott St, Madisonville
Cumberland Presbyterian Church, 1920	200 W. Center St, Madisonville
Dawson Springs Bathhouse, 1915	519 E. Munn St, Dawson Springs
Lansdowne Bath House, 1925	Ramsey St, Dawson Springs
I.N. Day Residence, 1900	109 Hunter St, Dawson Springs
Immaculate Conception Catholic Church, 1888	Earlington
Prospect Missionary Baptist Church, 1910	Route 291 and Prospect Church Road
Kirkwood Springs Site	Kirkwood Springs Rd
Greenwood Holiness Church	Abbott Rd & KY 1338
Elm Grove United Methodist Church, 1894	Neelie Webb Road
Hopkins County Courthouse	10 S. Main St., Madisonville

Finally, Kentucky also encourages the preservation and revitalization of downtown areas through the Kentucky Main Street Program. This program is based on the four-point approach developed by the National Main Street Center, a division of the National Trust for Historic Preservation. Currently, Dawson Springs is the only participating Main Street Community within the county.

EXISTING ZONING

Five cities within Hopkins County currently have zoning and subdivision regulations, including Dawson Springs, Earlington, Hanson, Madisonville and Mortons Gap. Development in the unincorporated county is regulated by the subdivision control ordinance with the exception of White Plains. While the comprehensive plan identifies future land uses, it is the zoning ordinance that legally enforces land use controls in only the five cities.

The quality of development and the land uses proposed should be closely considered when a rezoning is requested. Local decision makers should look at the long-term impact and not settle for a lower quality development. When a property is developed or redeveloped, it is often 40 years, 50 years or even longer before the opportunity for a change in land use might occur again for that particular parcel. Considering the often long-term holding of a designated land use and the overall vision of this plan, future land use and zoning regulations should strive to support this plan.

The future land use categories intentionally do not match the zoning map and zoning districts; this leaves the flexibility needed for decision makers to respond to current market demands, changes or community needs in the future.

EXPANSION AREAS

As any community grows and changes, it should always look at logical and possible areas for new growth. The identified expansion areas are not strictly tied to the expansion of city limits, and they do not reflect the land area needed to support a population within a defined timeframe. Rather, they represent areas where growth is currently occurring or will likely occur over the next twenty years because of market demands and / or potential infrastructure improvements. Development in the expansion areas should be communicated and coordinated with adjacent cities.

Since zoning does not currently exist within the unincorporated county, development within the expansion areas cannot be regulated through local ordinances. Incentives can be offered to encourage the identified growth patterns outside of city limits. In addition, some land identified in the expansion areas is previously mined or located in an environmentally sensitive location (floodplain, wetland or agricultural district); development will be subject to limitations based on site-level geologic constraints.

The expansion areas would be a logical area to potentially expand zoning in the future. A large amount of growth is occurring in these areas that will impact each community.

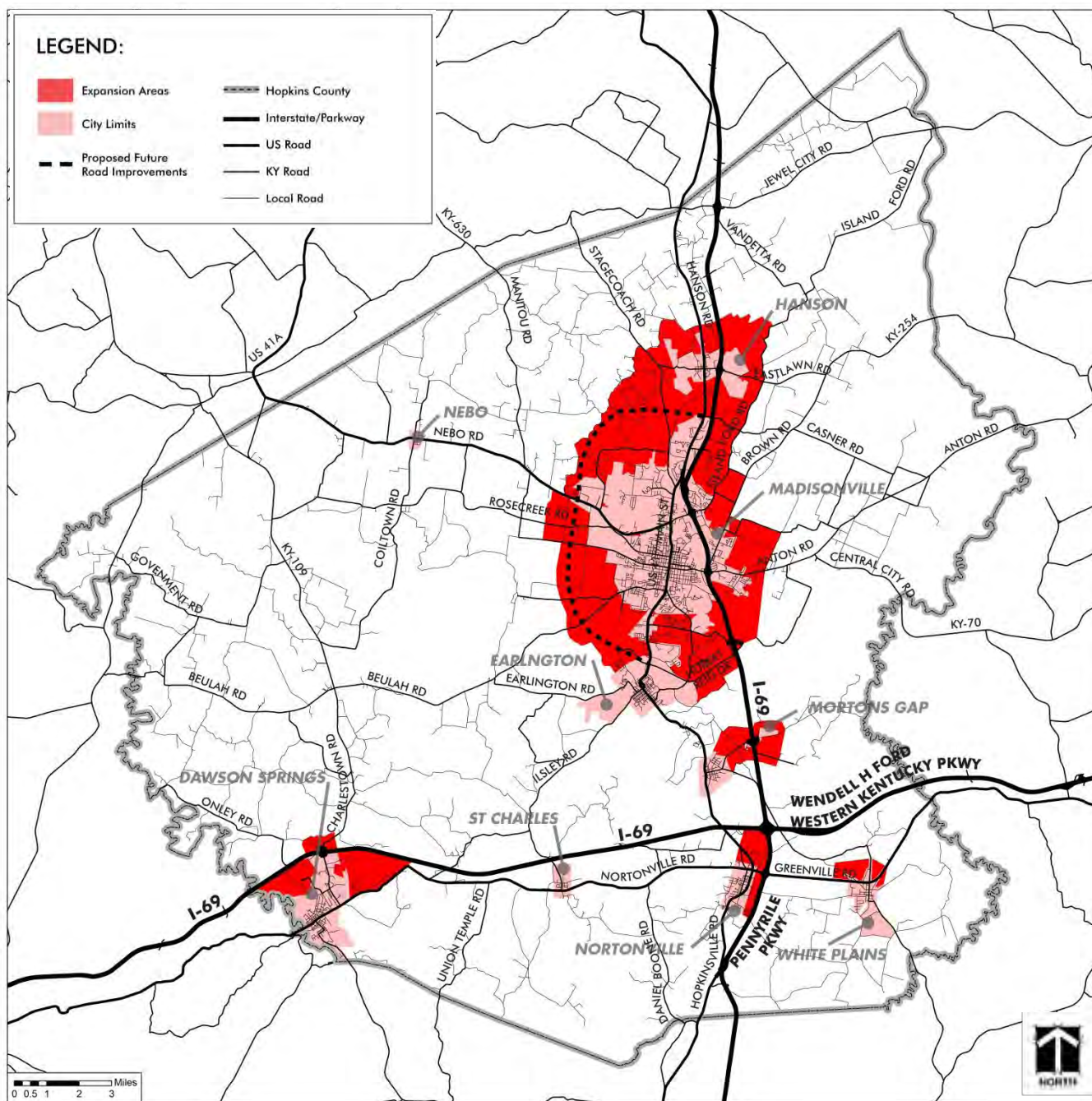


Figure: Expansion Areas

Dawson Springs

Dawson Springs is physically constrained by the Tradewater River, Christian and Caldwell Counties and the Pennyrile State Park to the south and west. The Western Kentucky Parkway (future I-69) also provides a development barrier to the north. The areas identified for expansion include the land between Highway 62 and the Western Kentucky Parkway. The area north of the future I-69 interchange is also included within the expansion area due to its development potential.

Earlington / Hanson / Madisonville

This expansion area was influenced by multiple factors. Existing residential development northwest of Madisonville established this area with high potential of further developing. Similarly, the areas east of Hanson, Madisonville and Earlington have existing residential, commercial and industrial growth and will likely continue to develop in the future. Finally the land west of Madisonville between Nebo Road and Highway 41 were included primarily because of the potential new bypass; if a new road was constructed, uncontrolled development would likely occur unless land use controls were adopted.

Mortons Gap

The primary influence of this expansion area was the new I-69 corridor and interchange. With projected increased traffic along I-69, this area could experience future growth. It would also better connect Mortons Gap to the interstate.

Nebo

Due to a lack of demand and current growth in Nebo, an expansion area was not identified.

Nortonville

With Nortonville's location at the intersection of the future I-69 corridor, Pennyrile Parkway and the Western Kentucky Parkway, this area could experience some future growth.

St. Charles

Due to a lack of demand and current growth in St. Charles, an expansion area was not identified.

White Plains

With the proximity to I-69, Pennyrile Parkway and the Western Kentucky Parkway, White Plains could experience some growth in the future. Expansion north of Highway 62 was identified.

LOCATION CRITERIA FOR FUTURE LAND USES

The following criteria is a tool to assist the Planning Commission, City Councils and other decision makers in creating policies regarding land use and new development. It is important to develop sound, consistent and comprehensive rationale to be used to determine the location of future land uses. The location criteria outline the measures used to create the Future Land Use Map. As market conditions, local needs and the economic environment change over time, this set of criteria can be used by local officials and decision makers to determine if a proposed future land use or rezoning is justified by this plan.

In making decisions regarding rezoning of property, approvals of subdivisions or planned unit developments, decision makers can use this tool to ask “Does the proposed land use change comply with the Future Land Use Map and meet the following location criteria?” Additionally, if the Future Land Use Map is updated, these criteria can be used to determine future updates.

GENERAL CRITERIA

- All development should be located adjacent to compatible land uses and incorporate proper transitions (such as land uses, densities, buffers, etc.) between non-compatible land uses.
- All development should avoid environmentally sensitive areas (floodplains, wetlands) or sites that are unsuitable for development (undermined areas, steep slopes and unstable soils).
- Adverse impacts on the environment should be considered and mitigated, including soil, erosion, water, air and other impacts.
- Development should focus on infill and underutilized areas that are already served by adequate utilities and infrastructure, including roads, sidewalks and other services.
- All development should be served by adequate water, sewer and other utilities; additionally all development should have proper infrastructure, such as roads, turning lanes, etc.
- All development should preserve the integrity of the roadway by incorporating access management practices and encouraging cross-development connections (ability to walk/drive between developments without accessing the primary roadway); development should also provide connections to future developments with stubbed streets or granting of easements or right-of-way.
- Design standards should be considered in specific areas that are highly visible.
- Electrical, phone and cable utilities should be placed underground if practical and feasible.

AGRICULTURAL / OPEN SPACE CRITERIA

- Prime farmland, open spaces, and woodlands should be protected from uncontrolled and unmanaged growth; “leap-frog” development should be discouraged.
- Discourage residential development near high-intensity agricultural uses, such as chicken and hog farms.
- Open space should be incorporated into each city to provide recreational opportunities for residents.
- Natural streams and other transportation corridors (such as rail lines) should be utilized for trails or other public access routes.
- Abandoned mine areas that are unbuildable should be repurposed for recreational and/or outdoor activities.

SINGLE-FAMILY & MULTI-FAMILY RESIDENTIAL CRITERIA

- A transition should be provided between single-family and multi-family housing.
- Subdivisions should allow for expansion and/or connection to adjacent development; connectivity between subdivisions should be encouraged.
- Subdivisions should avoid designs with one entry/exit point for emergency access.
- Sidewalks or paths should be encouraged within and between residential areas in addition to nearby retail or employment areas.
- Individual houses should not have direct access from a collector or arterial street where possible; frontage roads, subdivision streets or shared driveways should be encouraged for individual houses that gain access directly from a public right-of-way (other than local streets).
- Allow for incorporation of sound design techniques, such as cluster development or mixed-use developments, where appropriate.

COMMERCIAL CRITERIA

- Commercial development should gain access from a collector or arterial road. Local roads should not be used to directly access commercial developments.
- Commercial development should minimize curb cuts on roadways (access drives/points to private property from major roadway) and maintain a defined roadway edge with specific points for ingress/egress.
- Shared parking standards should be used for commercial developments that are adjacent and well connected.
- Mid to large-scaled commercial developments that generate higher volumes of traffic should have a common access point; access points should be at least 300 feet apart.

- Small-scaled commercial developments can be used as an appropriate transition between residential and larger-scaled commercial developments.
- Commercial development should reflect the character of the community by providing appropriate setbacks, parking, landscaping, and signage.
- Commercial development should take proper fire protection measures by connecting to a public water system.
- Allow for the creation of mixed-use communities that include both residential and commercial that are visually attractive and compatible in intensity, density and structural design.

INDUSTRIAL CRITERIA

- Industrial development should gain access from arterial roadways and shared driveways/access points should be encouraged.
- Industrial development should consider previous mining activities and practices if the area is suspected to be undermined.
- Industrial development should be located near multiple forms of transportation to have a broader appeal in potential tenants.
- Industry should be encouraged in locations that do not create land use conflicts and are not visually intrusive; industrial development should be concentrated in industrial parks or near similar uses.
- Industries that produce hazardous materials should have proper separation from public uses and residential areas.
- Sites that can accommodate industrial development should be preserved for future industrial growth. This would include sites that consider the following factors: floodplain location, topography, undermined status, transportation access and utility capacity.

FUTURE LAND USE PLAN

The Future Land Use Plan (map and accompanying text) provides direction for the Planning Commission and elected officials when making decisions about the location of future development. The land uses and densities identified in the Future Land Use Map do not reflect a current zoning classification. This intentionally leaves flexibility in the implementation of this plan to respond to current needs.

METHODOLOGY

The Future Land Use Plan was created based on public input from the public, Planning Committee, Hopkins County Joint Planning Commission and elected officials. Additionally the land use criteria, existing conditions, environmental considerations, previous plans, and best practices were used in developing a basis for land uses that best reflect the overall vision and

goals of this plan. As development occurs and market demands change, this plan should be revised and updated periodically.

The future land use areas and expansion areas do not reflect the land area needed to support the county's population within a defined timeframe. Hopkins County is growing and the geographic areas surrounding the incorporated cities are developing. Because the unincorporated county does not have zoning regulations that would limit growth in these areas, the Future Land Use Plan depicts where specified types of development are suitable in the expansion areas as well as the cities that are members of the Planning Commission. Future land uses in expansion areas are shown to help coordinate land use policies in areas that might develop. As development occurs, it can be encouraged in appropriate locations within the expansion areas through incentives.

FUTURE LAND USE MAP

The location of future land uses should support the collective, long-term vision of the plan. It should be noted that the Future Land Use Map does not change the current zoning map or ordinance; this plan does not rezone any individual properties. Additionally, some areas identified in the Future Land Use Map are previously mined or located in an environmentally sensitive location (floodplain, wetland or agricultural district); development will be subject to limitations based on site-level geologic constraints.

FUTURE LAND USE DESCRIPTIONS

Agricultural / Open Space – This future land use category is intended to include land that contains forests or agricultural activities, such as crop production, raising of livestock, fruit / vegetable production, and pasture land, as well as public/semi-public development including parks, cemeteries, and outdoor sports facilities. The purpose is to provide for substantial areas of contiguous farmland or areas in a natural state where little or no development has occurred. This classification also includes residential housing associated with farming.

Single-Family Residential – This classification includes detached single-family residential development in both the traditional street network (urban core, streets on grid pattern) and suburban / rural street network. Lot sizes may vary depending upon the character of the surrounding development with the purpose of creating stable and planned residential growth. This classification also encourages supported uses such as educational or religious facilities.

Multi-Family Residential – The purpose of this category is to provide multi-family residential development such as apartments, condos, or townhomes. This type of development is commonly closer to the urban core and within closer proximity to daily goods and needs. This classification also encourages supported uses such as educational or religious facilities.

Commercial – This broad category includes a range of commercial development serving the neighborhood level to regional level. Businesses may include downtown or suburban locations and include retail, offices, restaurants, and other service-oriented uses.

Industrial – The purpose of this classification is to provide locations for small and large-scaled light industrial and manufacturing development that support production industries. Uses could also include manufacturing, warehousing, production and technology-based industries. Due to the large amount of undermined areas within Hopkins County, areas identified as industrial have the potential of previous mining activity and therefore, should be confirmed on a site specific level.

Institutional / Public – This category includes areas of local government, schools, and municipal sewer/water facilities plus facilities that serve the vital community services, such as the hospital and police and fire departments. This use primarily consists of existing facilities and can incorporate new public facilities as they are built.

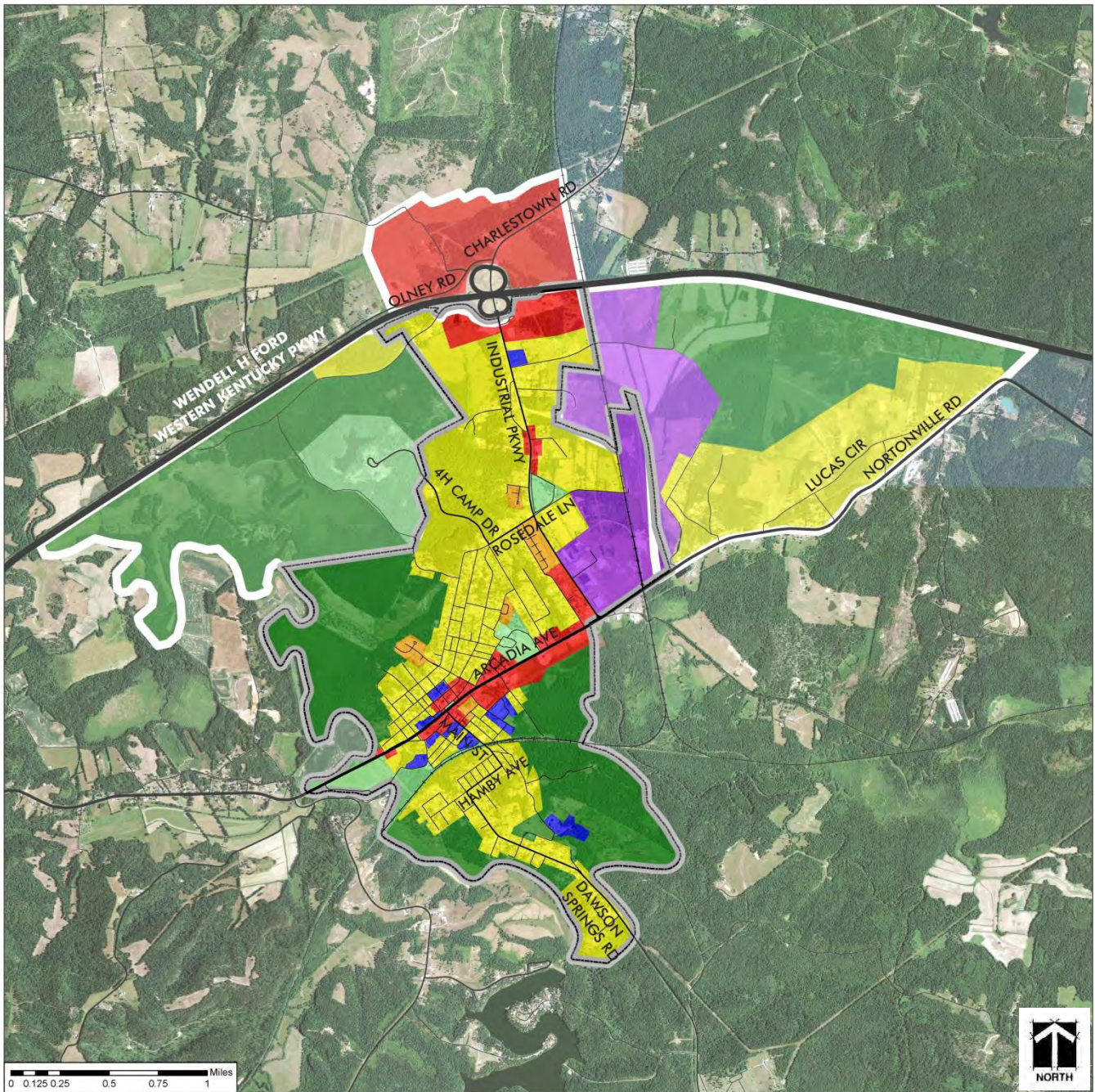
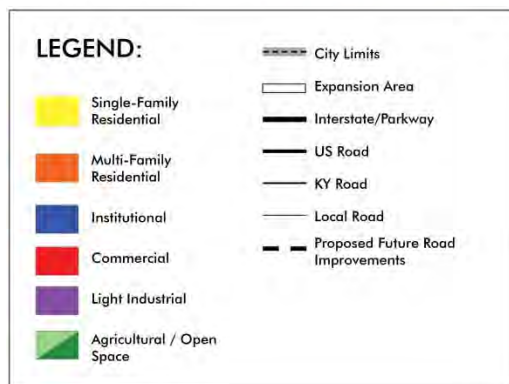


Figure: Dawson Springs Future Land Uses



DAWSON SPRINGS

FUTURE LAND USE MAP

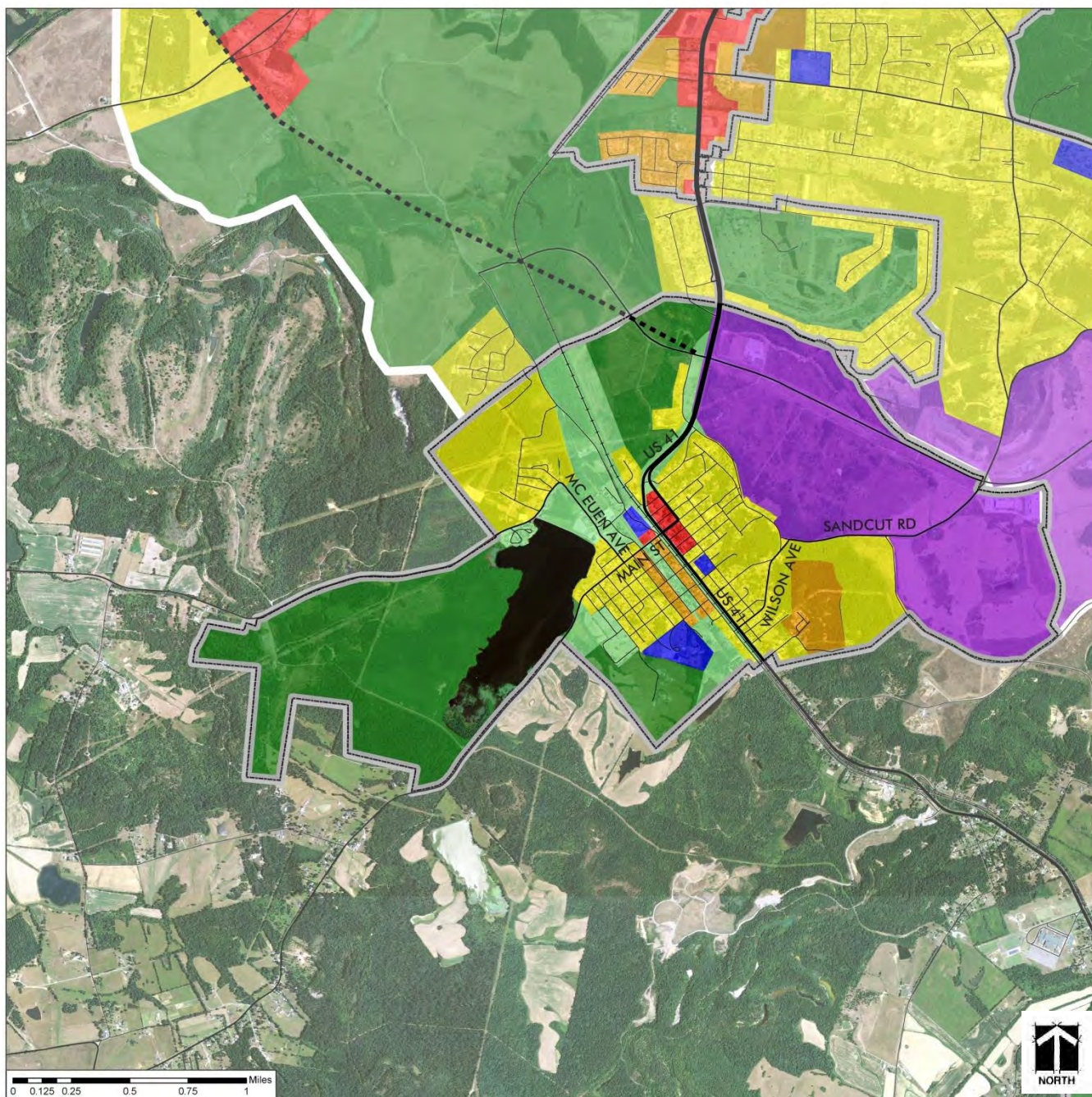


Figure: Earlington Future Land Uses

LEGEND:

- Single-Family Residential
- Multi-Family Residential
- Institutional
- Commercial
- Light Industrial
- Agricultural / Open Space

- City Limits
- Expansion Area
- Interstate/Parkway
- US Road
- KY Road
- Local Road
- Proposed Future Road Improvements

EARLINGTON

FUTURE LAND USE MAP

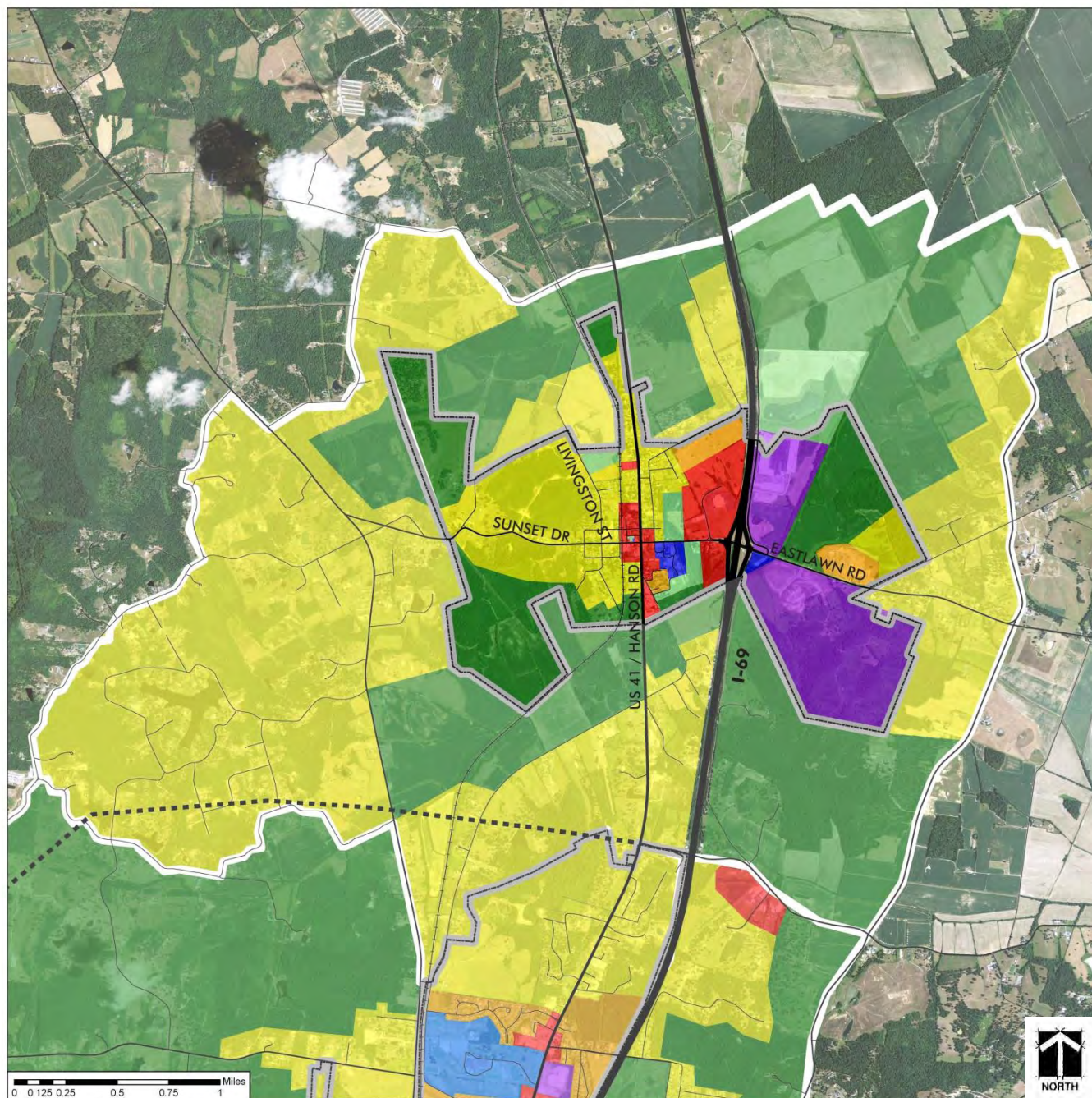


Figure: Hanson Future Land Uses

LEGEND:

- Single-Family Residential
- Multi-Family Residential
- Institutional
- Commercial
- Light Industrial
- Agricultural / Open Space

- City Limits
- Expansion Area
- Interstate/Parkway
- US Road
- KY Road
- Local Road
- Proposed Future Road Improvements

HANSON

FUTURE LAND USE MAP

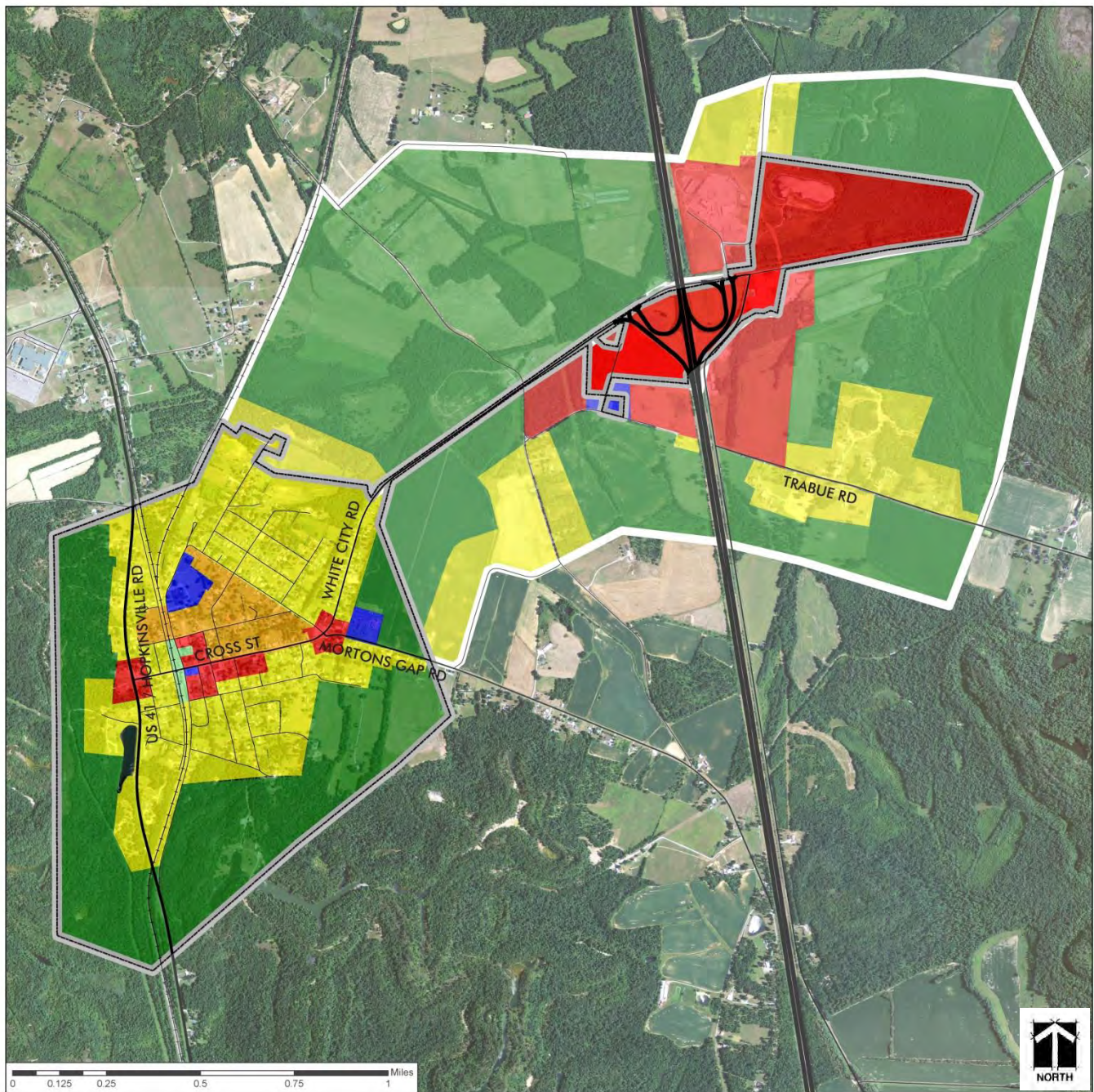


Figure: Mortons Gap Future Land Uses

LEGEND:

- Single-Family Residential
- Multi-Family Residential
- Institutional
- Commercial
- Light Industrial
- Agricultural / Open Space

- City Limits
- Expansion Area
- Interstate/Parkway
- US Road
- KY Road
- Local Road
- Proposed Future Road Improvements

MORTONS GAP FUTURE LAND USE MAP

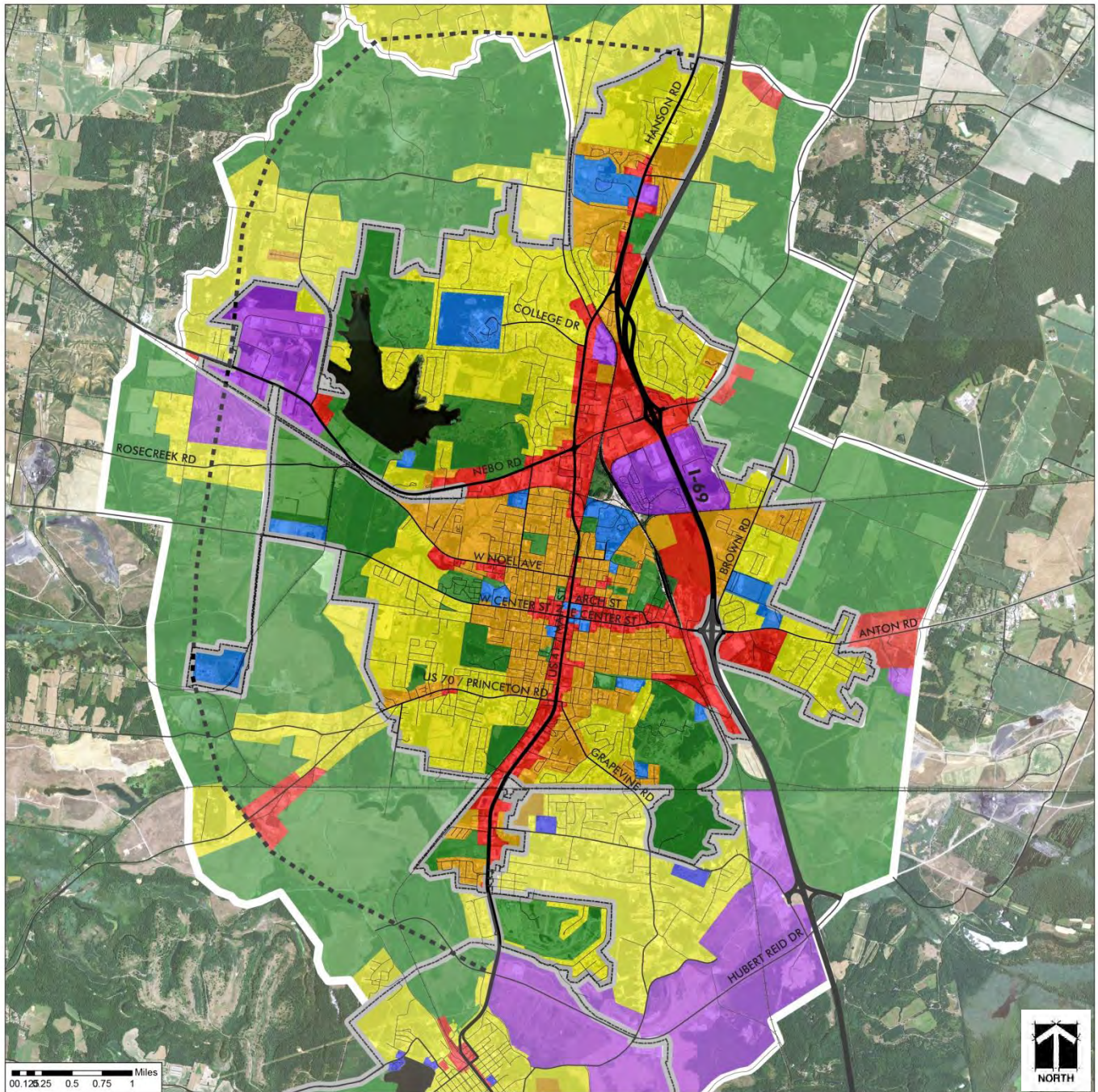
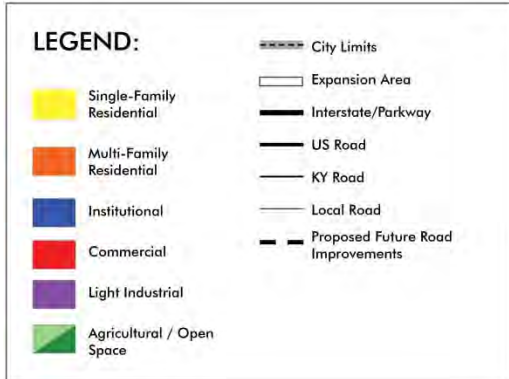


Figure: Madisonville Future Land Uses



MADISONVILLE FUTURE LAND USE MAP



HOPKINS COUNTY COMPREHENSIVE PLAN

Transportation

4

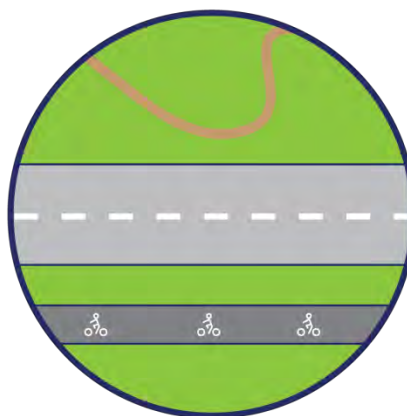
CHAPTER 4

TRANSPORTATION

[INSIDE THIS CHAPTER]

This chapter outlines the transportation systems and strategies for Hopkins County.

- Existing Network & Studies
 - I-69 Summary
 - I-66 Summary
 - US 41A Summary
 - Functional Classification
 - Traffic Counts
 - Multi-Modal
 - Coal Haul Road System
 - Railroads
 - Airports
- Transportation Strategies
 - Roadway Strategies
 - Congestion Mitigation Strategies
 - Access Management Strategies
 - Bike & Pedestrian Strategies
 - Air & Rail Strategies
 - Public Transportation Strategies



■ The Hopkins County transportation network is closely linked to the type and quality of development within the community. The transit network will influence the specific land uses because developments require specific types of access – such as goods and material delivery in commercial and industrial areas. As such, it is important for the comprehensive plan to assess the current transportation network and determine future needs based on the proposed future land uses. The transportation element of the comprehensive plan will evaluate the framework for the development of an integrated plan that meets all the transportation needs throughout the county.



Photo: CSX traveling on railroad

EXISTING NETWORK & STUDIES

The existing surface transportation network in Hopkins County consists of over 1200 miles of roadway. This system is maintained by multiple agencies with the State responsible for nearly 500 miles, Hopkins County responsible for nearly 450 miles, local municipalities responsible for nearly 200 miles, and the remaining roads (50 miles) are managed by private owners or the school system.

In 2014, the Pennyrile Area Development District, the regional transportation planning agency, issued the Regional Transportation Asset Inventory which includes an assessment of Hopkins County. The report identifies several key items for the evaluation of the network including: adequacy ratings comprised of three elements (condition, safety and service); major traffic generators; major freight users; intermodal connections; truck parking inventory; and a list of rail yards. The purpose of this report is to assist in capturing needs within the system for the possible inclusion into the Kentucky Transportation Cabinet (KYTC) Six-Year Highway Plan; the plan determines state and federal funding for roadway projects. Following are maps showing the Adequacy Ratings for Hopkins County and Madisonville as well as the Major Traffic Generators for Hopkins County.

ADEQUACY RATING PERCENTILE

Ratings with a higher percentage indicate roads which are in better condition in relationship to condition, safety and service.

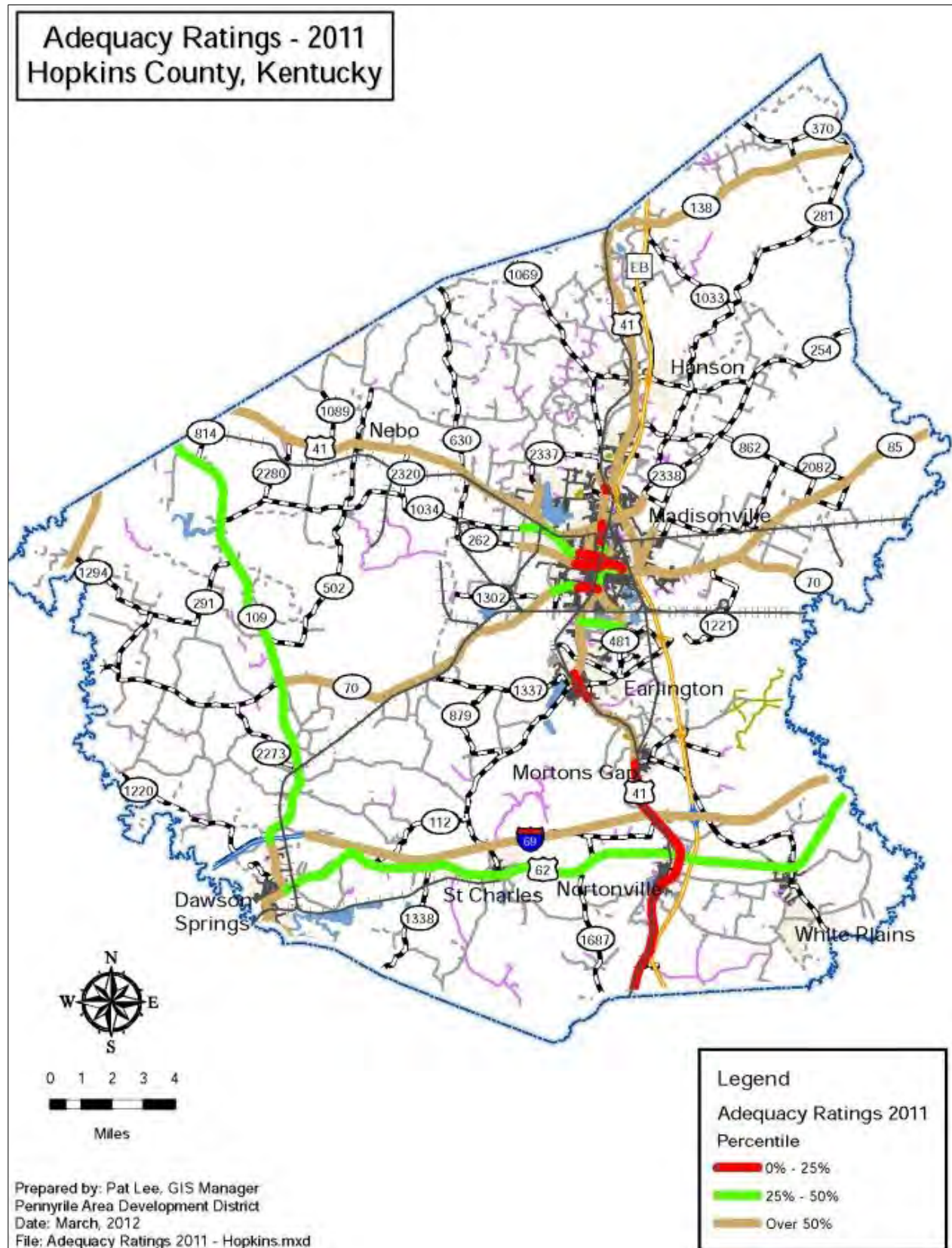


Figure: 2011 Adequacy Ratings for Hopkins County

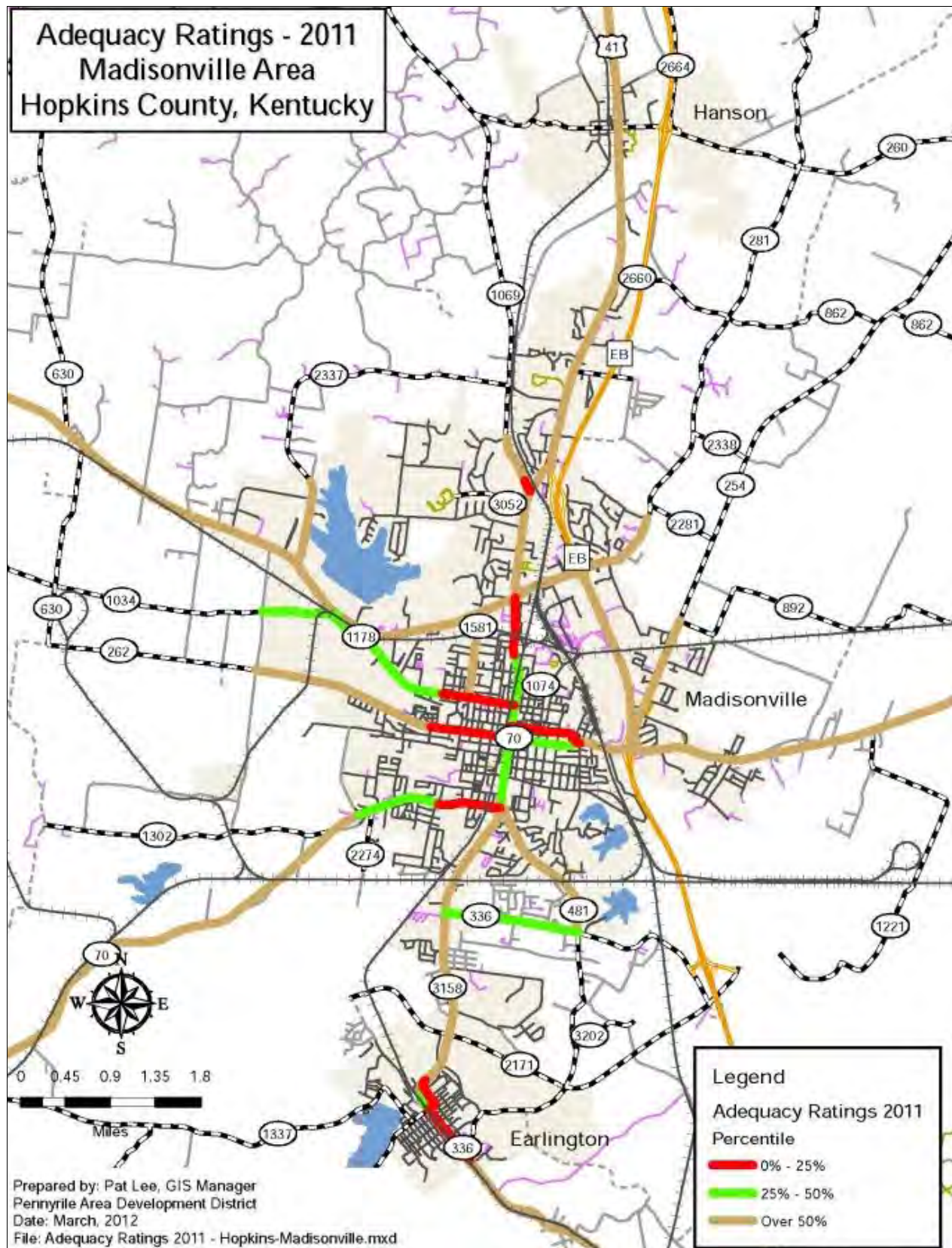
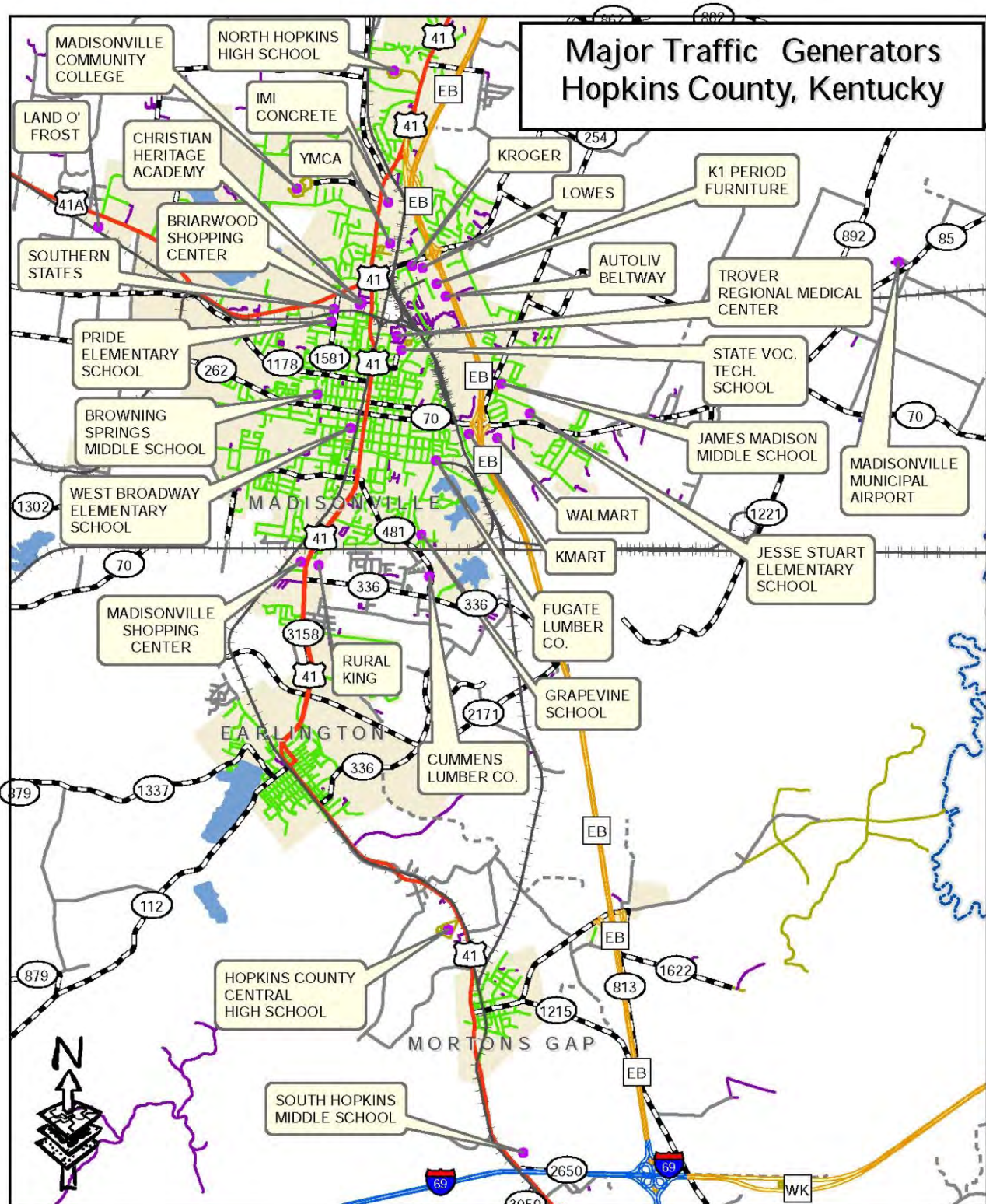
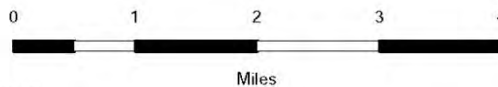


Figure: 2011 Adequacy Ratings for Madisonville



Prepared By: Pat Lee, GIS Manager
 Pennyrile Area Development District
 Printing Date: 3/22/2012
 File: Major Traffic Generators - Hopkins.mxd



INTERSTATE 69 SUMMARY

In 2005, KYTC updated the master plan for the I-69 corridor passing through this region. The report titled I-69: Eddyville to Henderson Corridor Planning Study details the necessary improvements needed to convert the existing Wendell H. Ford (Western Kentucky) Parkway and Edward T. Breathitt (Pennyrile) Parkway to meet federal interstate standards. The implementation of this plan is currently on-going with new construction occurring in 2014 at several of the major interchanges near Dawson Springs and at the intersection of the two parkways. Improvements to the other interchanges are scheduled to occur within the next four years.

PRIORITY CORRIDOR

Priority corridors are Congressionally designated as significant to the US.

I-69 Project Background

I-69 was one of several priority corridors identified by the U.S. Congress as part of the federal Intermodal Surface Transportation Efficiency Act (ISTEA) of 1991 and continued in subsequent federal transportation legislation.

- A national feasibility study was completed in 1995 by the Federal Highway Administration, which concluded that the future construction of I-69 from Canada to Mexico was economically feasible.
- The Corridor 18 Special Issues Study, completed in 1997, identified a Representative Corridor along the Parkway system in Kentucky, which best serves the purposes of Corridor 18 and yields the most benefits relative to facility costs.
- In recent years, KYTC has a goal to utilize as much of the existing infrastructure as possible. Thus, I-66 and I-69, would be routed along the state's existing Parkway system to the maximum extent possible.
- This KYTC study has integrated the national I-69 goals with the local needs and concerns identified for the Eddyville to Henderson segment. Preliminary project goals have been established to help form the basis of the project purpose and need for this I-69 Section of Independent Utility (SIU), as follows:
 - Maximize the use of the existing Parkways;
 - Serve local industry; and
 - Provide an improved facility for increasing truck traffic.

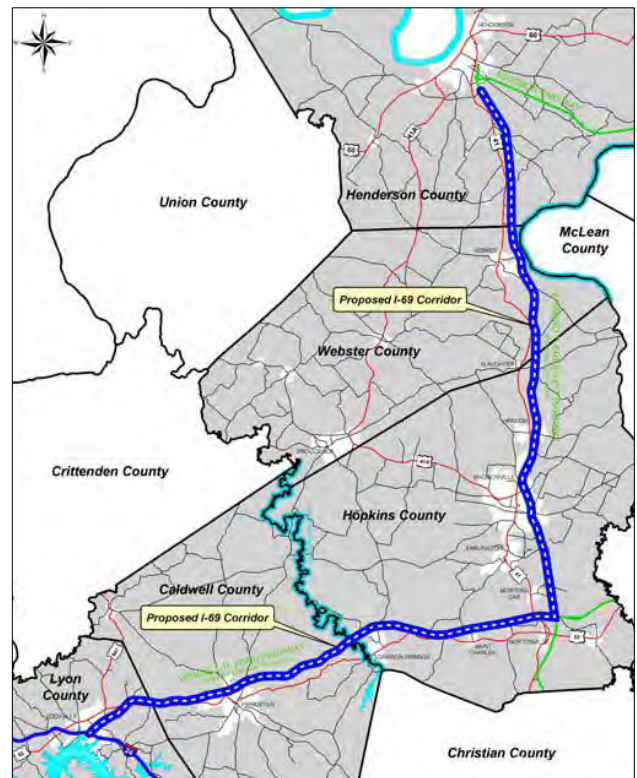


Figure: I-69 Alignment
Source: I-69: Eddyville To Henderson Corridor Planning Study Executive Summary; Kentucky Transportation Cabinet - Division of Planning; March 2005

INTERSTATE 66 SUMMARY

In 1995, Section 1105(c)(3) of ISTEA was amended and in Kentucky listed I-66 as centered on the cities of Pikeville, Jenkins, Hazard, London, Somerset, Columbia, Bowling Green, Hopkinsville, Benton and Paducah. The Southern Kentucky Corridor (I-66) would connect with the proposed King Coal Highway (also called I-73/74 North-South Corridor) in West Virginia. Studies were performed in 2004 and 2005 by KYTC focusing on the Western Kentucky portion of the project. Their determination concluded that adequate federal and local funding were not available to implement the project at this time. In the event the project starts to move forward again it will likely utilize the existing Parkway Corridor System and proceed with necessary improvements similarly to the I-69 process.

US 41A SUMMARY

In May of 2012, KYTC released the scoping study for the US 41A - Kingdom Hall Road to KY 670 improvements. The defined limits for this study extend from Kingdom Hall Road (MP 3.426) just west of Madisonville in Hopkins County to KY 670 (MP 1.324) in Webster County, a distance of 11.176 miles. For practical reasons detailed in the full report, this study also included the 800-foot section from Kingdom Hall Road east to Industrial Road. KYTC's purpose of this project was to:

- Provide an improved connector for Webster County to Madisonville
- Improve access to the Pennyrile / Breathitt Parkway
- Provide access to Future I-69

US 41A between Madisonville and Providence is a two-lane rural minor arterial roadway; it is included on the National Truck Network but not on the National Highway System. Work, shopping, freight shipments, higher education, and recreation trips constitute much of the travel on this route.

Issues along the study corridor include sight distance restrictions; narrow lanes and shoulders; curve and grade deficiencies; the communities of Manitou, Nebo, and Providence where development is close to the road; the CSX railroad which closely parallels US 41A in the east end of the study area, limiting roadway improvement options in that portion of the study area; abandoned and active coal mines, resulting in large and fully loaded coal trucks in the traffic stream; potential historic structures and archaeology sites; several large substations; overhead utilities, businesses with active or inactive underground storage tanks; a golf course; numerous residences and scattered churches and businesses. The study recommends completing spot improvements over the next 5-20 years along the corridor including; improving the 2-lane alignment between Nebo and KY 2280; installing an acceleration lane eastbound from KY 630 South in Manitou a distance of 1500 feet; and realigning of US 41A in Nebo to provide for left-turn lanes onto KY 502 north and south.

FUNCTIONAL CLASSIFICATION

The functional classification system defines roadways by primary use and volume of traffic. KYTC identifies the following for urban road types within Hopkins County.

Interstate Highway

Although not fully updated, the new I-69 corridor will serve as the major north and west connector across Hopkins County along with the Edward T. Breathitt Parkway and Western Kentucky Parkway. Defining and enhancing connections to I-69 is a major goal of KYTC. An Interstate Highway should have:

- Highest traveling speeds,
- Largest capacity for traffic volumes,
- Limited access and
- Divided highways with minimum of two-lane in each direction.



Edward T. Breathitt Parkway

Principal Arterials

Principal arterials carry the majority of the traffic load within Hopkins County. These roads are designed to serve high volume traffic movements while connecting major destinations with minimal access to adjacent properties. US 41, US 41A and US 62 fill this roll within the Hopkins County transportation network. Principle arterials should:

- Connect major traffic generators,
- Generally be multi-lane with minimal access points and
- Provide connections from I-69 into the local communities.



Photo: US 41 / Main Street

Minor Arterials

Minor arterials carry the majority of the traffic load within the cities of Hopkins County. Hanson, Madisonville, Earlington, Mortons Gap and Nortonville are along the US 41 corridor. Dawson Springs, Saint Charles, Nortonville and White Plains are intersected by US 62. These roads are designed to serve higher volumes of traffic while connecting major destinations with limited access to adjacent properties. Minor Arterials should have:

- Lower travel speeds,
- Generally be two to four lanes wide and
- Provide more access to adjoining properties.



Photo: US 70 / Anton Road

Urban Collectors

Urban collectors provide the majority of the connections through and around the Madisonville traffic network by linking neighborhoods, commercial areas and industrial zones. There are several urban collectors including KY 70, West Center Street, and McCoy Avenue. Urban Collectors should have:

- Lower speeds,
- Lower traffic volumes and
- Connections between neighborhoods.



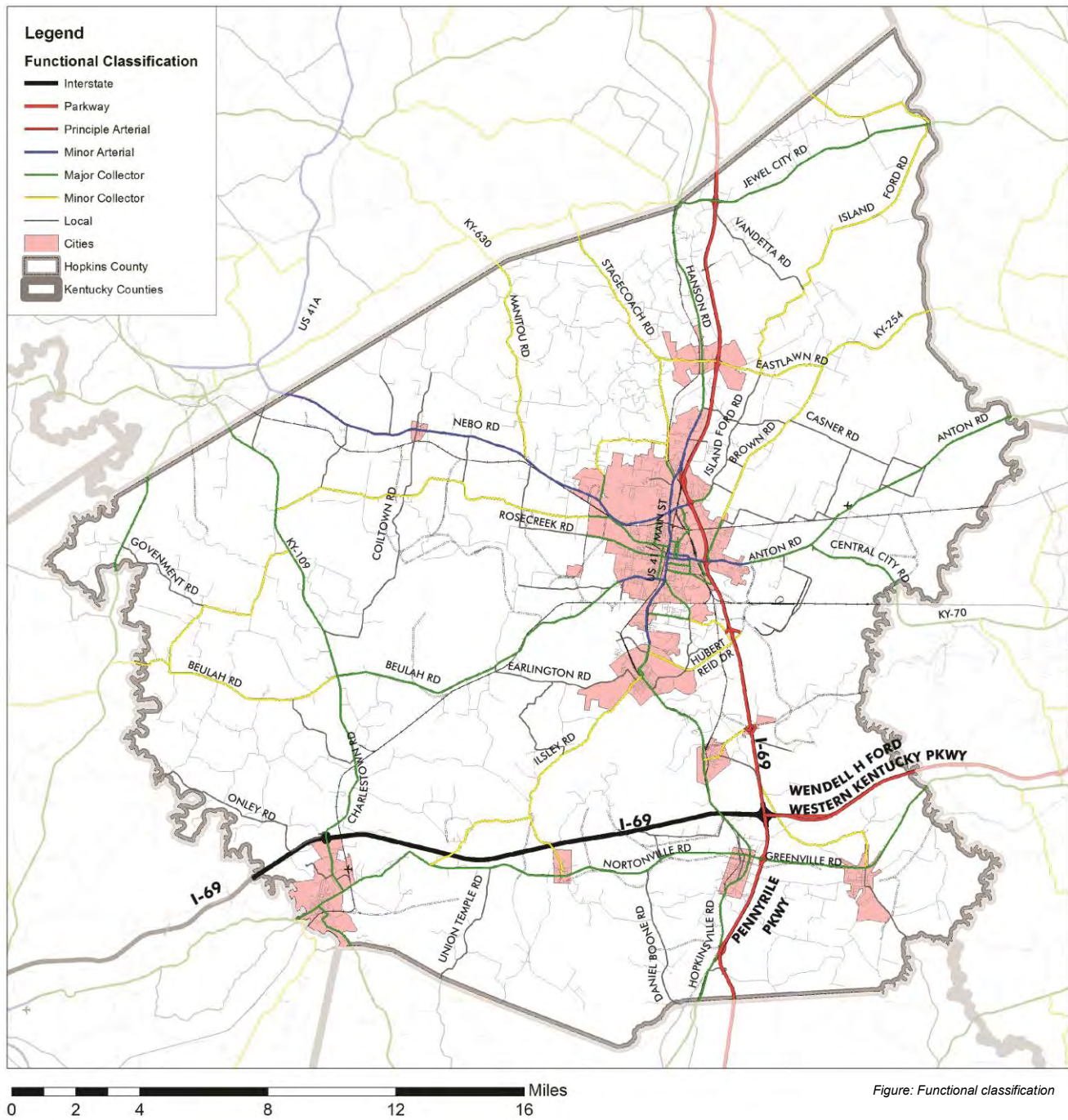
Photo: US 70

Local Streets

All other public roads and streets form the local street network. These roads generally include neighborhood roads and are designed for low speeds and lower traffic volumes. However, these roads also provide essential and emergency services to neighborhoods. Local Streets should have:

- Low speeds and
- Highest access to adjacent properties.

On the following page is a map of the functional classification.



TRAFFIC COUNTS

One of the best measures of the significance of a road segment and how it relates to the local transportation network is to perform a traffic count study. KYTC has a reoccurring program that measures the volume of traffic flowing on a given road. The Average Daily Traffic Volume (ADT) is an automatic count of the number of vehicles passing a given spot on the road during a 24-hour period.

According to the Kentucky Transportation Cabinet's 2012 data, the highest ADT for Madisonville is a segment of the Pennyriple Parkway from Hwy 70 to Hwy 281 with a count of 26,136 vehicles per day. The second highest is a segment of Center Street (Hwy 70) between the Pennyriple Parkway and Park Avenue having a count of 22,756 vehicles per day. Other counts of interest include:

- Hwy 41 from Hospital Drive to KY 281 (McDonald's) in Madisonville – 22,406 vehicles per day;
- Hwy 62 from Industrial Drive (Hwy 109) to Hospital Drive (Hwy 109) in Dawson Springs – 6,209 vehicles per day;
- Pennyriple Parkway from Hwy 62 to the Western Kentucky Parkway in Nortonville – 13,969 vehicles per day;
- Pennyriple Parkway from Hwy 813 to Trabue Road in Mortons Gap – 19,402 vehicles per day;
- Hwy 41 in Earlington from Hwy 2171 to Preston Bunch Lane – 9,669 vehicles per day.

The following maps identify the traffic counts and points of counts throughout the County.

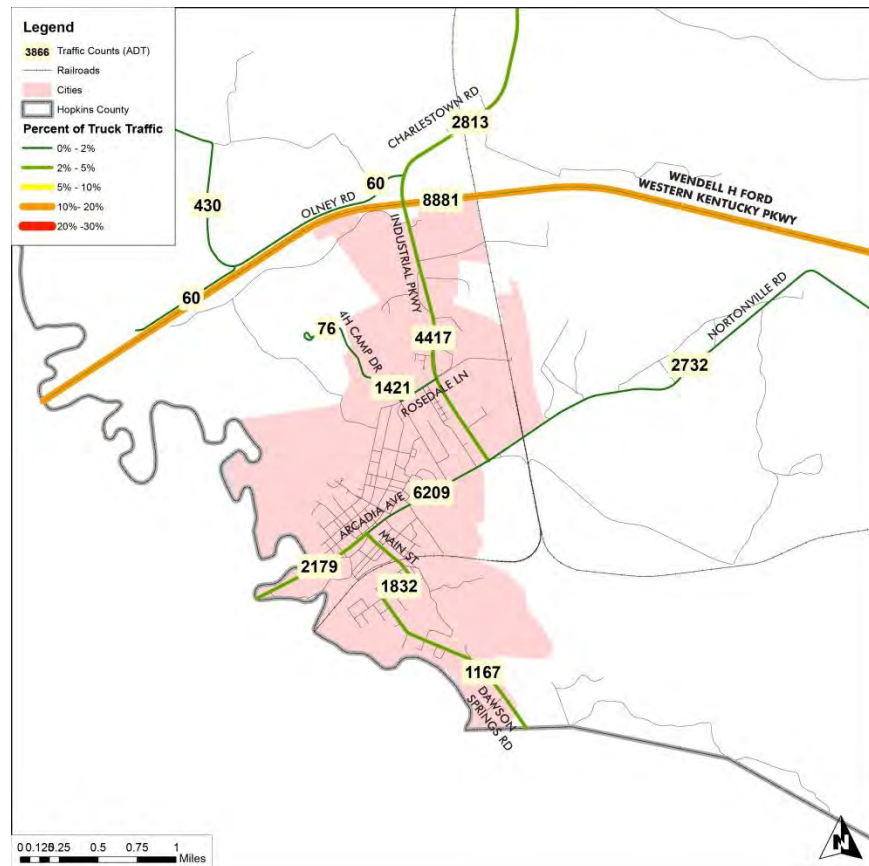


Figure: 2012 Dawson Springs Traffic Counts

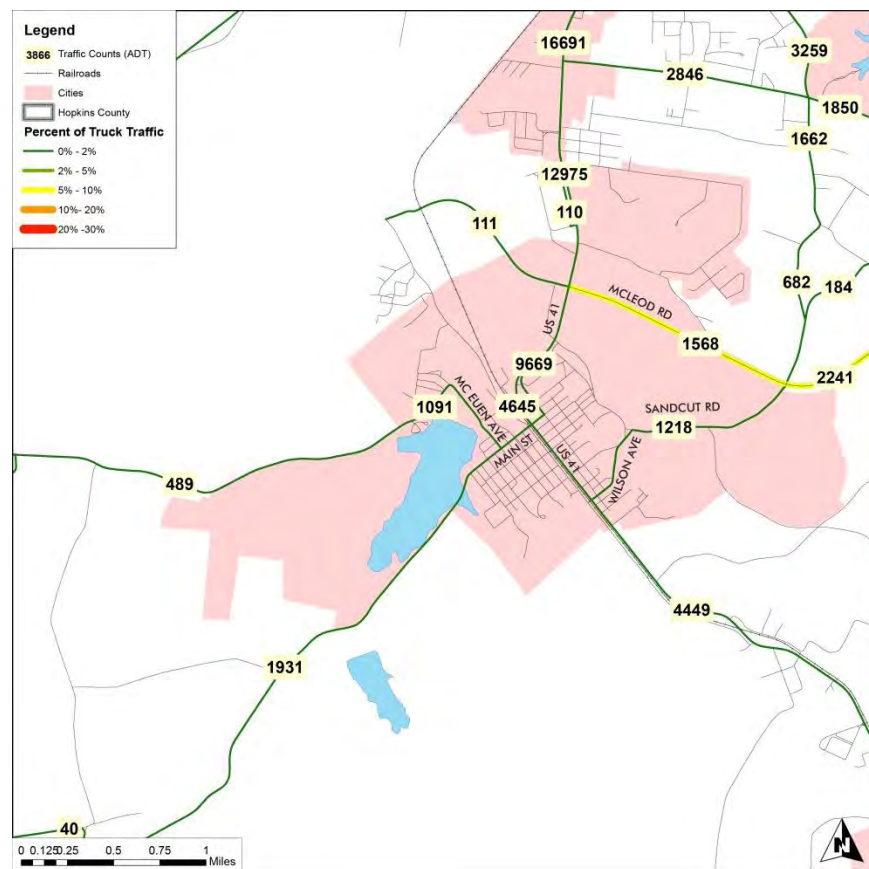


Figure: 2012 Earlington Traffic Counts

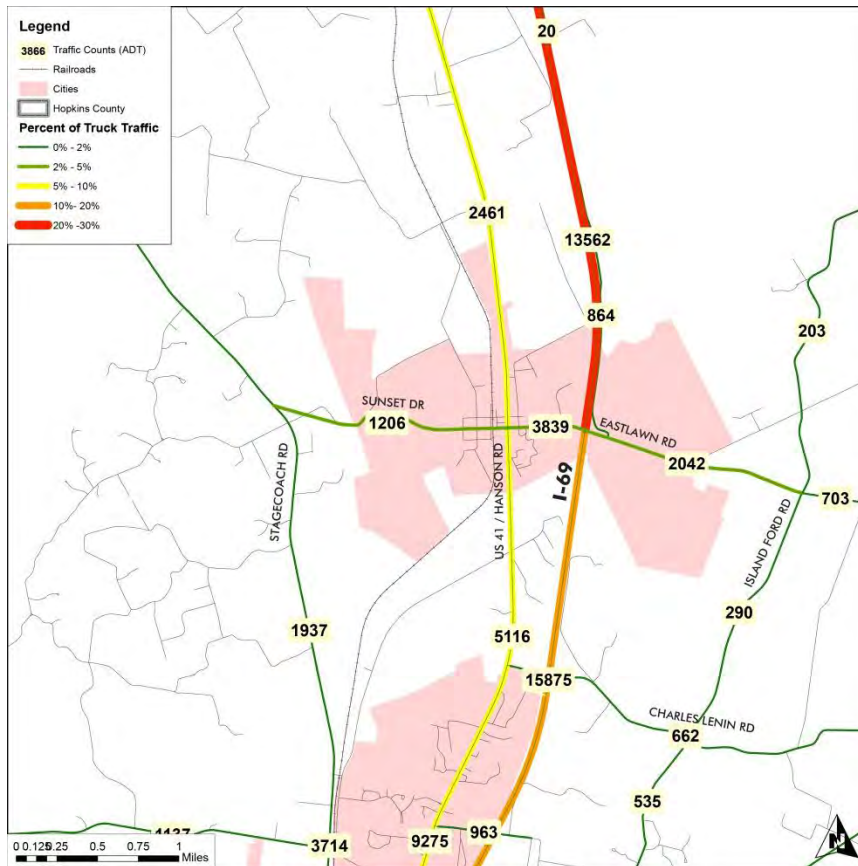


Figure: 2012 Hanson Traffic Counts

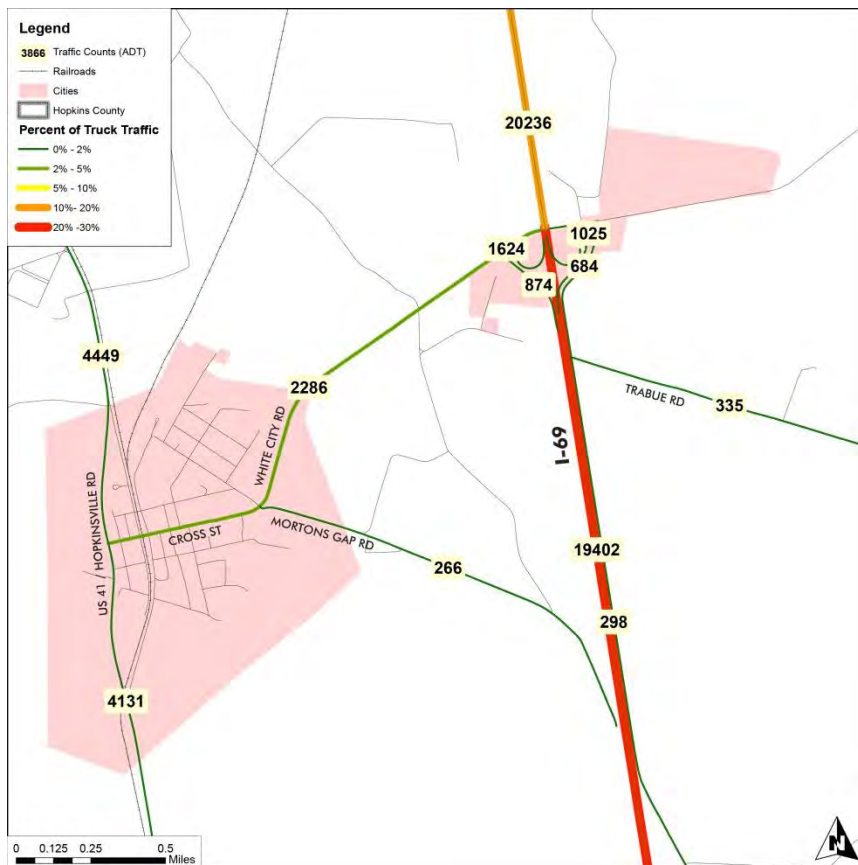


Figure: 2012 Mortons Gap Traffic Counts

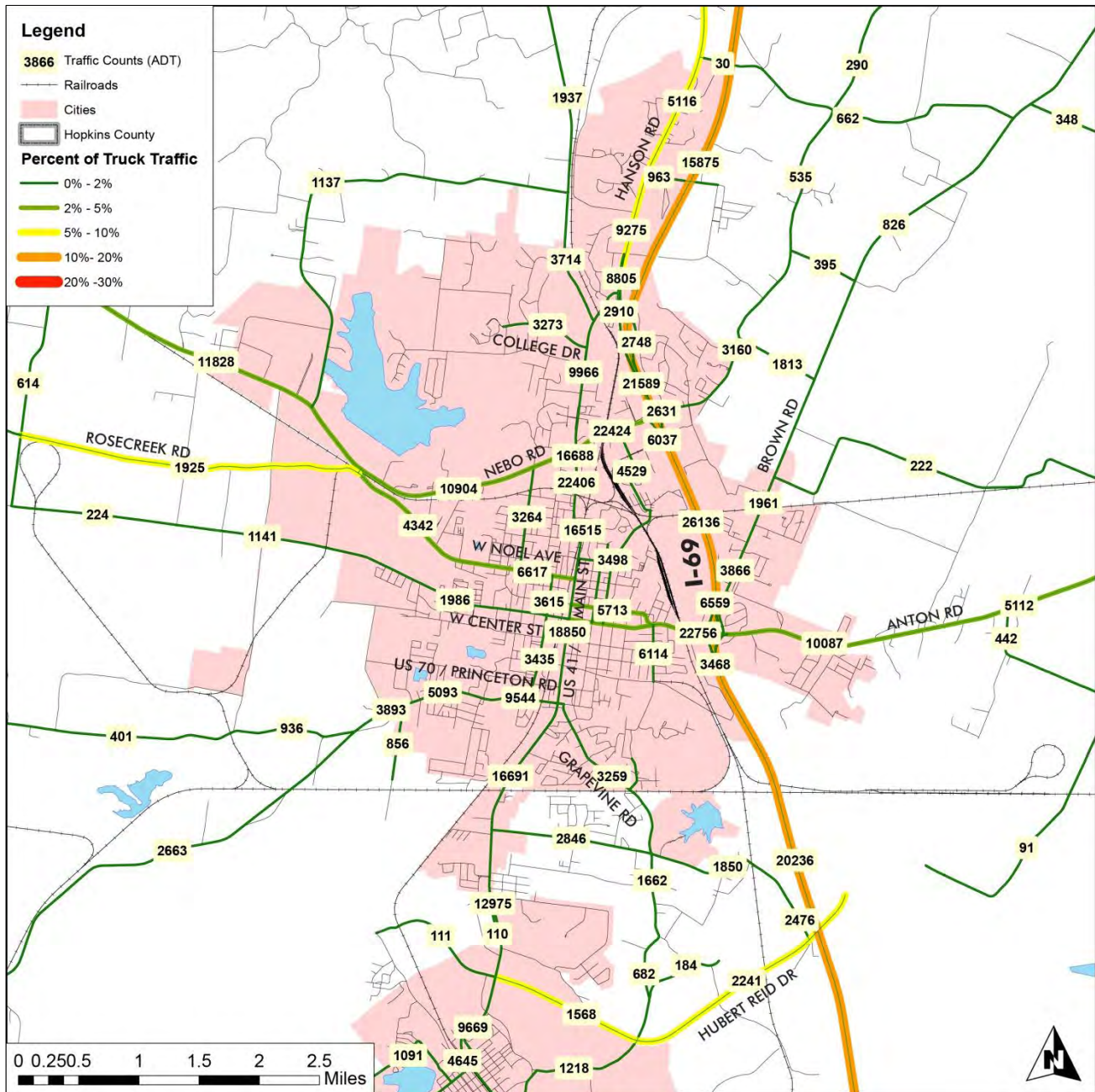


Figure: 2012 Madisonville Traffic Counts

MULTI-MODAL

Currently, the public transportation available in the county is provided by Pennyriple Allied Community Service (PACS). It serves the elderly and handicapped persons only and operates Monday-Friday with a requested call at least 24 hours ahead. At this time, the other bus service in Hopkins County is provided by Greyhound Bus Lines in Madisonville at 4765 Hanson Road (US41), just north of the Madisonville North Hopkins High School.

Dawson Springs is Kentucky's first "Kentucky Trail Town," part of an effort to promote and develop adventure tourism opportunities across the state. "Kentucky Trail Town" is a designation and assistance program administered by Kentucky's Office for Adventure Tourism that guides travelers to trails, food, lodging, campgrounds, museums, entertainment and other services. Dawson Springs is near several areas with outdoor attractions which include the Pennyriple Forest State Resort Park, Pennyriple State Forest, the Tradewater River and Tradewater Wildlife Management Area, Jones-Keeney Wildlife Management Area and Lake Beshear. While these destinations are outside of Hopkins County, Dawson Springs has become the hub for accessing these recreational areas. In addition, a 13-mile hiking and biking trail connects the state park to Dawson Springs and the 14,600-acre forest offers 50 miles of horseback riding and mountain biking trails along with the new equestrian campground. Currently, a mountain bike skills area is under construction at the state park as well. The city is also promoting cycling, and paddling on the scenic Tradewater River.



Photo: sidewalk

In addition to the trails near Dawson Springs, rails to trails studies have identified the following routes as possible conversion candidates: St. Charles-Ilse Trail connecting St. Charles and Ilse and the White Plains Trail (1.5 miles long). This eight-foot wide paved rail trail is located in White Plains.

COAL HAUL ROAD SYSTEM

The 2013 Coal Haul Road map identifies three main roads for coal transport; US 41A, US 41 and the Edward T. Breathitt (Pennyriple) Parkway. These three roads along with I-69 and Western Kentucky Parkway saw just over 3.8 million ton-miles of coal transported through Hopkins County in 2013.

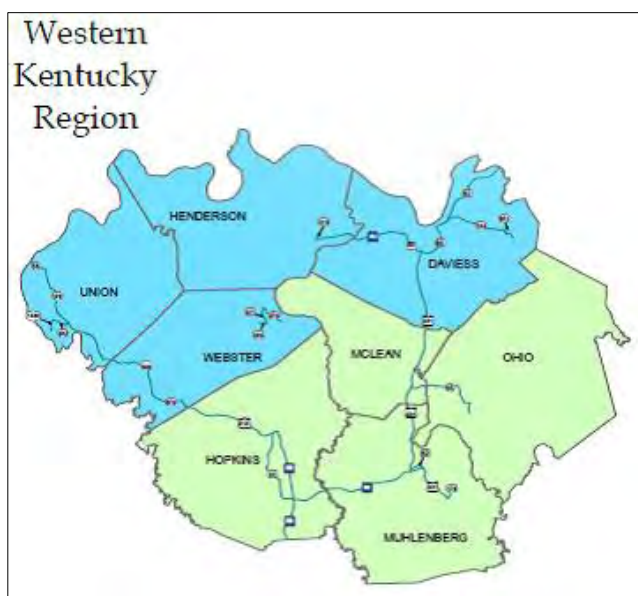


Figure: Designated Coal Haul Roads in Western Kentucky
Source: KYTC; 2013

RAILROADS



Photo: Railroad

There are approximately 180 miles of railroad contained within Hopkins County. These rail lines are owned and operated by two companies, CSX and P&L. CSX operates a rail yard in the northeast section of Madisonville (Atkinson Yards) near the hospital while maintaining nearly 90 miles of rail. P&L has over 70 miles of rail and operates the West Yard located on Princeton Pike. The remaining 20 miles of rail is owned by various private parties.

In 2012, a Rail Traffic Controller (RTC) study was completed for the north-south CSX rail line that runs through Madisonville and Hopkins County. The RTC objective was to evaluate the performance of the rail line if all rail traffic was rerouted around central Madisonville. The findings in the report indicate that there is sufficient capacity to reroute the train traffic out of central Madisonville if several improvements were made to the rerouting system. Costs are still being evaluated and no timeframe has been established to complete this effort.

AIRPORTS



Photo: Airport sign

The Madisonville Municipal Airport (MMA) site is just over 400 acres and has a 6,050 foot long, 100-foot wide runway and averages 51 flights per day. It is located six-miles northeast of Madisonville on KY 85. Currently, the airport is utilized by over 2,700 local operations and nearly 9,500 itinerant operations per year (take-off and landing would be two operations). The projected activity for 2013 is a total of 18,000 operations. Flights to and from MMA travel not just within the US but worldwide as well. The facility can serve business jet aircraft as well as general aviation.

MMA has Madisonville Flying Service (MFS) on site as the fixed base operation. MFS provides service for the 19 aircraft that are based at the airport. They provide fuel for all types of aircraft as well as a full maintenance facility. The terminal building was constructed in 1997. It provides computerized weather, lounge areas for pilots and passengers, as well as bathroom and shower facilities.

Flight Summary Statistics:

- 19 aircraft based at the airfield
- 56% transient general aviation
- 12% air taxi
- 23% local general aviation
- 3% military



Photo: Aircraft

The Tradewater Airport located in Dawson Springs is one of only a few remaining turf runways in the State. It is popular with flying enthusiasts looking to experience the grass runway.

TRANSPORTATION STRATEGIES

One of the most important subjects in any Comprehensive Plan is the future transportation plan. The transportation strategies listed below comprise recommendations that will ensure current deficiencies are remediated and that future demands on the transportation network in Hopkins County will be met.

ROADWAY STRATEGIES

The I-69 upgrades to the current Parkway system will enhance several of the interchanges in Hopkins County. These changes will allow for better access to and from the interstate and offer new opportunities for development at these locations. Beyond the Interstate, transportation throughout the county can be improved with a series of planned improvements to the primary and secondary arterials with key intersection and road widening projects. Developers should be required to make improvements to all roads impacted to their developments and require that multimodal accommodations be implemented.

In conjunction, there are several projects listed in the 2014 KYTC Six-Year Plan that will aid in the improvement of the transportation network. A summary of projects and estimated costs in this plan that will impact Hopkins County are listed below.

- US 41A Phase II Design and Right-of-Way. (2005HPP-KY 135) (See 2-137.01 for "STP" Component (\$2,879,680)
- Widen US 41A from Industrial Drive to Yorkwood Place (\$11,000,000)
- Widen US 41A from Yorkwood Place to US 41 / KY 281. (\$9,000,000)
- Study Possibilities for Improving Railroad Crossing On KY 1034 at US 41A, MP 11.336.(10CCR) (\$200,000)
- Reconstruct KY 85 from KY 70 East to Airport Road at Anton (\$9,410,000)
- Improve Ramp Configuration at the Existing I-69/Western Kentucky Parkway/Pennyrile Parkway Interchange (I-69 Corridor Improvement) (\$18,000,000)
- Reconstruct Elements of Existing Edward T Breathitt Pkwy (Pennyrile Parkway) Between MP 37.0 And MP 73.4 to Upgrade Geometrics to Interstate Standards (I-69 Corridor Improvement) (\$16,000,000)

- Center Street/Island Ford Connector Road in Madisonville: State Share to be Used North of the Railroad Tracks to Connect with KY 281. South of Railroad to be built by Others. (\$3,000,000)
- Replace Bridge On Ky-260 (Mp 2.14) Over Otter Creek; .20 Mi East Of Pennyrite Parkway; (\$1,140,000)
- Replace Bridge On KY 262 Over Greasey Creek 0.67 Mile East of Bean Cemetery Rd (\$900,000)
- Replace Bridge On KY 293 At The Caldwell/Hopkins County Line (\$2,050,000)
- Widen North Main Street From Hospital Drive to KY 281 (\$13,210,000)
- US 62; Three Lanes from Board of Education to City Park in Dawson Springs. (\$2,500,000)
- Construct a Left Turn Lane by Providing a Three Lane Curve on KY 3052. (\$2,760,000)
- Upgrade Morton's Gap Interchange at MP 37.07 to Interstate Standards (I-69 Corridor Improvement). (\$12,170,000)

CONGESTION MITIGATION STRATEGIES

Congestion mitigation techniques aid in the reduction of traffic related issues at key intersections and corridors within the county. The Future Transportation Plan identifies several intersections that would benefit from the principals of congestion mitigation such as at the US 41, US 41A and KY 281 intersection. In addition, improvements can be implemented along the Arch Street/Center Street/KY 70 corridor to improve travel flow and safety.

ACCESS MANAGEMENT STRATEGIES

Access management is a process where traffic flow is increased along a corridor while access to adjoining properties is decreased to improve safety and traffic flow. This takes land-use into consideration. This transportation plan recommends US 41, US 41A and KY 70 be evaluated for access management improvements within the city limits of Madisonville. Proper access management measures such as service drives, cross-development access, limited curb cuts, and signal timing should be analyzed to improve or maintain an adequate level of service on these roadways. While it is more difficult in built-out areas to reconstruct the site access with limited curb cuts or service drives, other access management measures should be implemented to improve roadway function. Evaluating signal timing, reducing the number of conflict points, consolidating driveway locations and requiring interconnected parking should also be considered.

For undeveloped areas, new development should be required to increase driveway spacing and shared driveways, utilize internal access roads, and incorporate cross-development access/interconnected parking areas to aid in reducing congestion and traffic conflicts.

BIKE AND PEDESTRIAN STRATEGIES

A system of multi-use paths can reinforce a pedestrian environment and provide outdoor recreation for residents. Through input gathered from the Planning Committee and public, there was a large desire to make Hopkins County more pedestrian and bicycle friendly. As a result, a multi-use path system should be developed to connect destinations and favorable routes for non-motorized traffic movement. This system would include, ideally, a ten to twelve-foot path where feasible. Where rights-of-way are limited, such as downtown, the path width could be reduced or incorporated as a bike lane. In addition, the careful planning of safe pedestrian crossings would improve safety for users. Bicycle and pedestrian facilities will need to be expanded to meet the demands of the changing demographics. Shared-use trails and walking paths can improve the quality of life in a community. This should be first evaluated as part of the “Connections Master Plan” strategy in *Chapter 9: Parks & Recreation*.

AIR AND RAIL STRATEGIES

Improvements to the airport should continue as identified in the 2013 Airport Capital Improvement Program. This includes upgrades for a Future T-Hanger, Runway 23 Extension, Precision GPS approach to Runway 23, access road turnaround, as well as a new 200-foot by 200-foot hanger.

Railroad improvements should continue to follow the RTC report recommendations to remove the rail traffic from central Madisonville. In addition, any newly abandoned rail should be converted to a shared-use trail for recreational use.

PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION STRATEGIES

PACS needs to continue to support the elderly and handicapped residents of Hopkins County through its on-demand pick up service. A second form of transit should be evaluated to see if service can be provided for commuters and non-drivers throughout Hopkins County. An in-town trolley bus system that would serve the residents and visitors of Madisonville should also be evaluated. In addition, regional routes should be explored to connect Madisonville to Henderson and Hopkinsville. These routes would enhance the economic opportunities of the region.

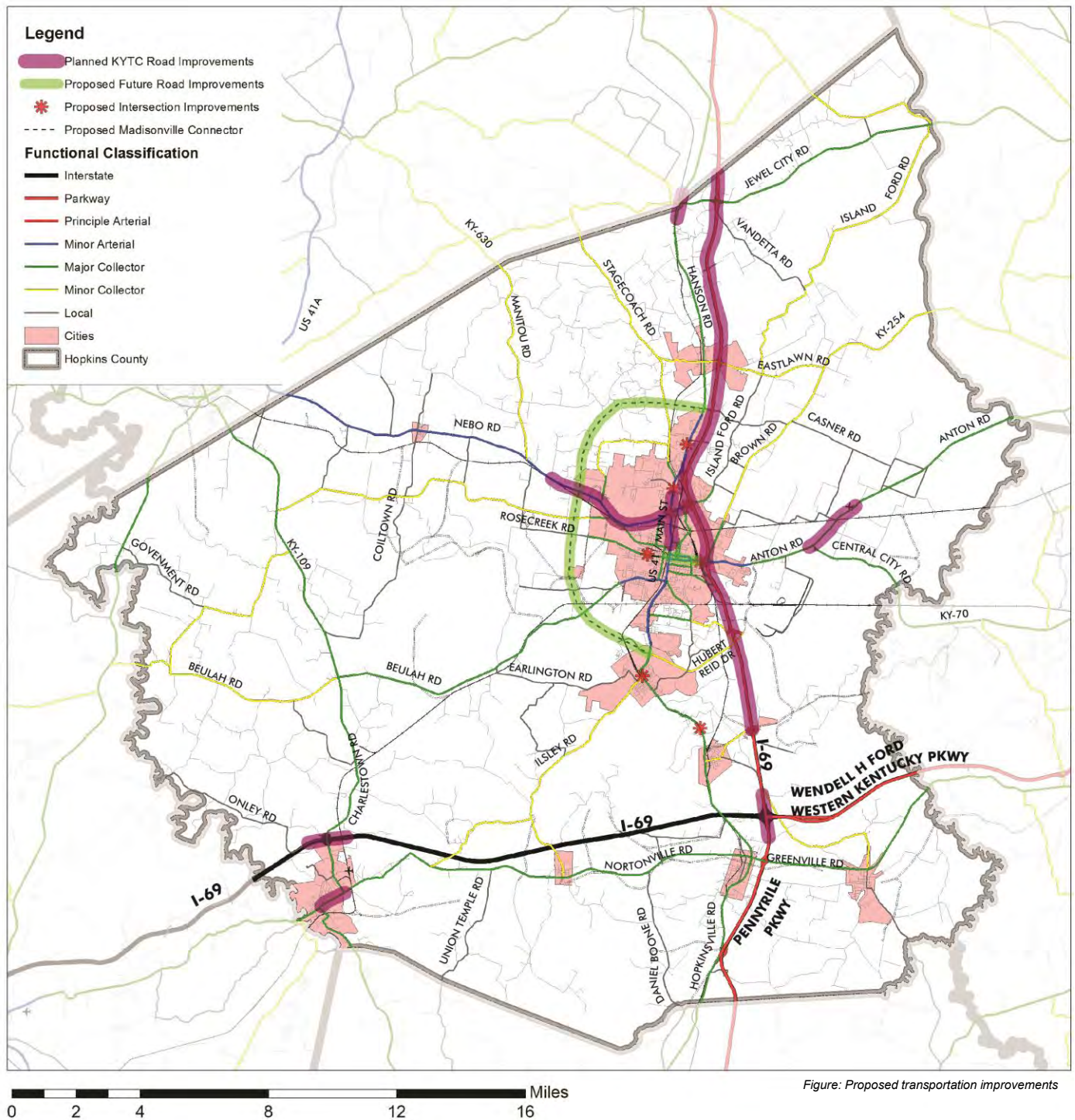


Figure: Proposed transportation improvements



HOPKINS COUNTY COMPREHENSIVE PLAN

Facilities & Utilities

5

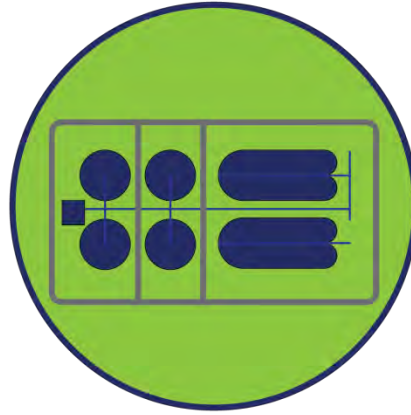
CHAPTER 5

FACILITIES & UTILITIES

[INSIDE THIS CHAPTER]

This chapter outlines the existing and future strategies for facilities, utilities and other public services in Hopkins County.

- Existing Facilities
 - Water System
 - Sewer System
 - Electric System
 - Gas Service
 - Solid Waste
- Emergency Services
 - EMS
 - Police Protection
 - Fire Protection
- Telecommunications
- Healthcare
- Education
 - Post-Secondary Education
- Facilities & Utilities Strategies
 - Utilities
 - Emergency Services
 - Education



■ Hopkins County is similar to other counties in the region with a growing need to update aging infrastructure and community facilities. The demands on these resources never slows, however waiting to replace a structure once it has failed is always more costly than planning ahead and developing a replacement implementation schedule.

Community facilities are often the anchors of the community and play an important role in the future development of a city. These public facilities are both amenities and services that contribute to maintaining the overall health of the community. They may include the following: emergency response teams, healthcare facilities, water and wastewater infrastructure and services, public schools, in addition to government owned and operated properties such as City Hall, business incubators, and parks. This element of the comprehensive plan analyzes existing facilities and the facilities needed to serve Hopkins County over the next twenty years.



Photo: Morton Gap City Hall

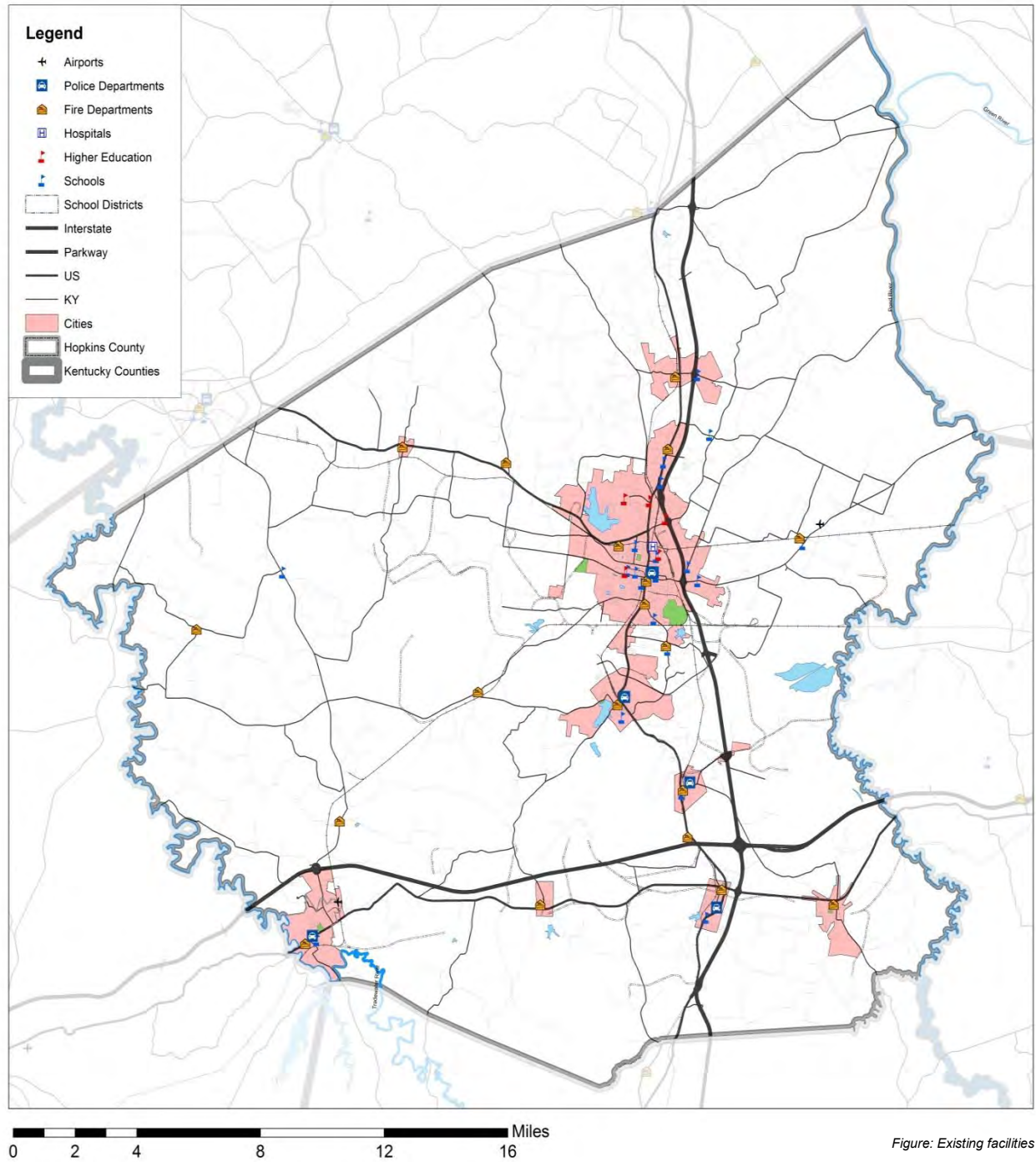
EXISTING FACILITIES

The following sections describe the existing conditions associated with the major utility and community facilities serving Hopkins County. The current state of infrastructure found in the county can be described as functioning adequately. However, there are many services especially in the water and wastewater sections that will need to be upgraded in the very near future.

WATER SYSTEMS

There are multiple water providers in the county. The largest single system is managed by the Madisonville Municipal Utilities (MMU) which has over 10,000 customer accounts. There are eight other systems that service the remaining portions of the county.

WATER SYSTEM	NUMBER OF CUSTOMERS	TREATMENT CAPACITY	AVERAGE DAILY PRODUCED
Dawson Springs Water & Sewer System (DS)	1,114	2.88 MGD	1.5 MGD
Earlington Water & Sewer Department	566	buys from SHWD	
Hanson Water System	477	buys from MMU	
Madisonville Municipal Utilities (MMU)	10,061	8.0 MGD	4.0 MGD
Mortons Gap Water Department	436	buys from SHWD	
Nebo Water District	1,573	buys from MMU	
North Hopkins Water District	1,245	buys from MMU	
Nortonville Water Department	859	0.43 MGD	0.19 MGD
South Hopkins Water District (SHWD)	2,871	buys from DS	
White Plains Water Department (WPWD)	635	0.17 MGD	0.10 MGD



SEWER SYSTEM

Below is a list of the active municipal wastewater systems in Hopkins County.

SEWER SYSTEM	NUMBER OF CUSTOMERS	TREATMENT CAPACITY	AVERAGE DAILY FLOW
Dawson Springs Water & Sewer System (DS)	867	0.36 MGD	0.30 MGD
Earlington Water & Sewer Department	530	sends to MMU for treatment	0.19 MGD
Hanson Sewer System	273	sends to MMU for treatment	0.05 MGD
Madisonville Municipal Utilities (MMU)	8,746	6.0 MGD	4.8 MGD
Mortons Gap Sewer Department	356	sends to Nortonville for treatment	0.09 MGD
Nortonville Sewer Department	537	0.75 MGD	0.27 MGD
White Plains Sewer Department	309	sends to Nortonville for treatment	0.045 MGD

SANITARY SEWER SERVICE	HOUSEHOLDS
Dawson Springs Water & Sewer System (DS)	867
Earlington Water & Sewer Department	530
Hanson Sewer System	273
Madisonville Municipal Utilities (MMU)	8,746
Mortons Gap Sewer Department	356
Nortonville Sewer Department	537
White Plains Sewer Department	309



Photo: Nortonville wastewater treatment

ELECTRIC SERVICE

Kentucky Utilities Company provides electrical power to approximately 11,500 customers in Hopkins County for a total usage of 260,000,000 KWH per year and 8,000 customers are serviced through the Madisonville Municipal Light Department.

Kenergy serves portions of northern Hopkins County with approximately 2,000 customers having a total usage of around 40,000,000 KWH per year. Kenergy has approximately 75 miles of transmission lines in Hopkins County.

GAS SERVICE

ATMOS Energy is the primary provider of natural gas to Hopkins County. The company currently has approximately 24 miles of distribution lines in the county and serves 12,650 customers across the county and in the communities of Earlington, Hanson, Nortonville, Beulah, Anton, Madisonville, and Dawson Springs.

SOLID WASTE

Hopkins County Fiscal Court provides Solid Waste Management to areas outside of municipal collection. Waste collection in Hopkins County consists of public and private waste collection systems, convenience centers, and transfer stations.

Solid Waste Disposal Convenience Centers are found in the following locations:

CENTER NAME	CENTER LOCATION
Ashbyburg	785 Onton Road, Slaughters
Charleston	2995 Charleston Rd, Dawson Springs
Dalton	4050 Dalton Road, Princeton
East Diamond	2530 Anton Road, Madisonville
Hanson	575 Veterans Drive, Hanson
Happy Lane	84 Happy Lane, Madisonville
Oak Hill	35 Oak Hill Circle, Nortonville



Photo: Recycling transfer station

Recycling – Yard waste is collected throughout the county at five locations and then taken to Madisonville Real Earth for composting. Madisonville operates a composting plant located on McCoy Avenue that turns garbage into compost at no charge to the public except for a loading fee. Madisonville Real Earth not only composts yard waste but also recycles mixed office paper. Other recycled material includes steel cans, cardboard, scrap metal, and glass.

Madisonville offers a voluntary single-stream curbside recycling program called iRecycle. It collects the following items; Plastic bottles, jugs & containers; steel, tin, bi-metal & aluminum cans; paper food boxes & containers, newspaper & inserts, magazines, catalogs, paperback books, shredded paper (bagged), envelopes, junk mail, white

paper, greeting cards, file folders, aluminum foil & pans, cardboard (max. 3-ft. pieces). Dawson Spring has a recycling collection center and there is also collection at convenience centers in the county.

EMERGENCY SERVICES

The County is served by fifteen fire departments, five police departments, the county sheriff's department, Kentucky State Police, and a private ambulance service.

EMS

Three full-time dispatchers work out of Central Dispatch taking both emergency (911) and non-emergency calls. One part-time dispatcher and one full-time dispatcher are at the Sheriff's Office taking non-emergency calls. All 911 calls go through Central Dispatch. Additional EMS services are provided by Medical Center Ambulance Services, a private service. They have 9 ambulances at two stations.

POLICE PROTECTION

Madisonville Police Department – The department employs 46 sworn officers and 18 non-sworn officers. It operates a motor vehicle fleet composed of eleven marked police cruisers, ten un-marked police vehicles, three Harley-Davidson motorcycles, six police mountain bikes, two K-9 patrol units, and one emergency response team van. The department provides Student Resource Officers jointly with the Hopkins County School District. This department also incorporates modern computer technology. In partnership with Hopkins County Schools, Madisonville Police Department, Student Resource Officers are provided.



Photo: Madisonville police

Dawson Springs Police Department – Dawson Springs currently has four sworn officers with a non-sworn clerk. There are five cruisers in service, all equipped with all police equipment, including moving radar, digital video cameras, and rifles. Future plans for Dawson Springs Police Department are to construct a new and larger facility, more officers, and update equipment.



Photo: Morton's Gap police

Earlington City Police Department – The City of Earlington is provided police services from the Hopkins County Sheriff's Department and the Kentucky State Police.

Mortons Gap City Police Department – Mortons Gap has one full-time officer with one cruiser.

Nortonville City Police Department – The Hopkins County Sheriff's Office currently covers the City of Nortonville.



Photo: Sheriff's Office

The Hopkins County Sheriff's Office – The office employs 45 including the Sheriff, 3 fulltime (FT) Detectives, 11 FT Road Deputies, 2 FT Court Security Officers, 18 part-time (PT) Court Security Officers, 1 FT School Resource Officer, 1 PT School Resource Officer, 1 FT Dispatcher, 1 PT Dispatcher, 1 PT Civil Deputy and 3 FT Civil Deputies. They operate twelve cruisers and respond to 911 and other calls for all areas of the county. Central Dispatch takes all 911 calls with 3 FT Dispatchers.

Kentucky State Police Post No 2 – Located along the Western Kentucky Parkway east of Nortonville, the State Police Post employs a total of 45 officers including: 1 arson investigator, 27 troopers, 6 detectives, 1 public affairs officer, and 1 street level detective. Three secretaries, 9 dispatchers, and 1 custodian round out the KSP No. 2 civilian staff. The State Police have a Regional Crime Lab located in Madisonville which employs 8 civilians. This lab analyzes evidence and conducts blood alcohol analyses for State Police Post Nos. 1, 2, 3, and 16. Counties served by the Crime Lab and these State Police Posts are those west of and including Allen, Barren, Butler, Edmonson, Hancock, and Ohio.



Photo: Madisonville fire

FIRE PROTECTION

The 15 fire departments provide coverage throughout Hopkins County; Madisonville, Mortons Gap, and Nortonville fire departments operate only within their respective corporate limits. Slaughters Fire Department in Webster County will assist Hanson City Fire Department in Hanson's coverage area.

Madisonville Fire Department (98 East Center St) – Madisonville Fire Department provides emergency services pertaining to fire, rescue, emergency medical assistance, hazardous materials response, and other various hazardous situations. Non-hazardous services include fire prevention training, building inspection and pre-fire surveys, and employee safety training, and education. Madisonville primarily responds within the corporate limits of Madisonville but does function as a mutual aid agency with all departments within Hopkins County depending upon availability of personnel and units.



Photo: Madisonville fire education trailer

The current staffing levels for the Madisonville Fire Department are below.

- (62) full time employees
 - 57 in Fire Suppression Division (19 per shift)
 - 1 Training Division Officer
 - 1 Fire Prevention and Education Division Officer
 - 2 Fire Administration Officers
 - 1 Receptionist

The department operates four stations within Madisonville:

- Station 1: 98 East Center Street (Headquarters)
- Station 2: 99 East McLaughlin Street
- Station 3: 810 Industrial Court
- Station 4: 5000 Hanson Road

The Madisonville Fire Department fleet consists of:

- 5 Fire Engines
- 2 Ladder Trucks
- 1 Brush Truck
- 1 Command/Rescue
- 1 Haz-Mat Unit and Trailer
- 1 Fire Prevention Unit and Trailer
- 3 Administrative Vehicles

Dawson Springs City Fire Department (200 W Arcadia Ave) – 25 volunteers and two part-time fire fighters who cover the area within Dawson Springs' city limits and five miles into Caldwell County. The department operates three tanker trucks, one transport pick-up and one rescue vehicle.

Earlington Fire Department (103 W Main St) – 18 volunteers who operate three pumper trucks and a rescue vehicle. The station serves a twenty-five (25) square mile area. Future plans are for a training center, a tanker truck and a brush truck.

Nortonville Fire Department (57 Nortonville Rd) – 15 volunteers. The department operates four trucks including two tankers (1 is three years old).

Mortons Gap Fire Department (103 Cross St) – One employee with many volunteers. The department operates three trucks equipped with standard firefighting equipment.

The White Plains Volunteer Fire Department (211 N Bob Bruce Dr) – 15 volunteers. The department operates the following vehicles: one brush truck, one tanker, and one pumper. An additional pumper is owned by the City but is non-operational due to its age (the first fire fighting vehicle purchased for the City).



Photo: Hanson volunteer fire department

Hanson City Fire Department (53 Sunset Dr) – Has the largest service area of the 16 departments. The department's service area includes the City of Hanson and the entire northern tip of Hopkins County. Department personnel consist of 25 volunteers. The department operates the following vehicles: 2 fire trucks, 1 brush truck, one 5,000-gallon tanker and 1 rescue truck. Future plans are to purchase a new pumper, acquire new clothing for fire fighters, and update equipment.

Nebo Volunteer Fire Department (8820 Nebo Rd) – 20 volunteers. The department operates one tanker, one brush truck and one pumper.

St. Charles Volunteer Fire Department (115 Washington St) – 25 volunteers. Equipment consists of a 1983 pumper, a 1991 pumper, and a 1994 1-ton brush truck.

Manitou Volunteer Fire Department (450 Manitou Rd) – 15 volunteers with two engines and services Manitou and a small surrounding area.

Anton Volunteer Fire Department (180 Hicklin Rd) – 7 member board of directors and 26 firefighters. Their equipment consists of a 1984 Mack pumper, a 1972 Ford pumper, a 1971 International Loadstar 1700 tanker, a 1976 Chevy tanker and a 1970 General Products tanker.

Charleston Volunteer Fire Department (3680 Charleston Rd) – 25 volunteers, one engine, one tanker, and one brush truck.

Grapevine Fire Department (2225 Grapevine Rd) – 22 volunteers, one tanker, one engine, and one van.

Richland Volunteer Fire Department (6310 Beulah Rd) – 25 volunteers who respond to an average of 50 calls per year within an 80 square mile district. The equipment available consists of: 1986 pumper, 1995 tanker, 1988 tanker, 1979 brush truck, and other tools/equipment.

South Hopkins Volunteer Fire Department (8920 Hopkinsville Rd) – 20 volunteers, one engine, two tankers, and one combination pumper/tanker.

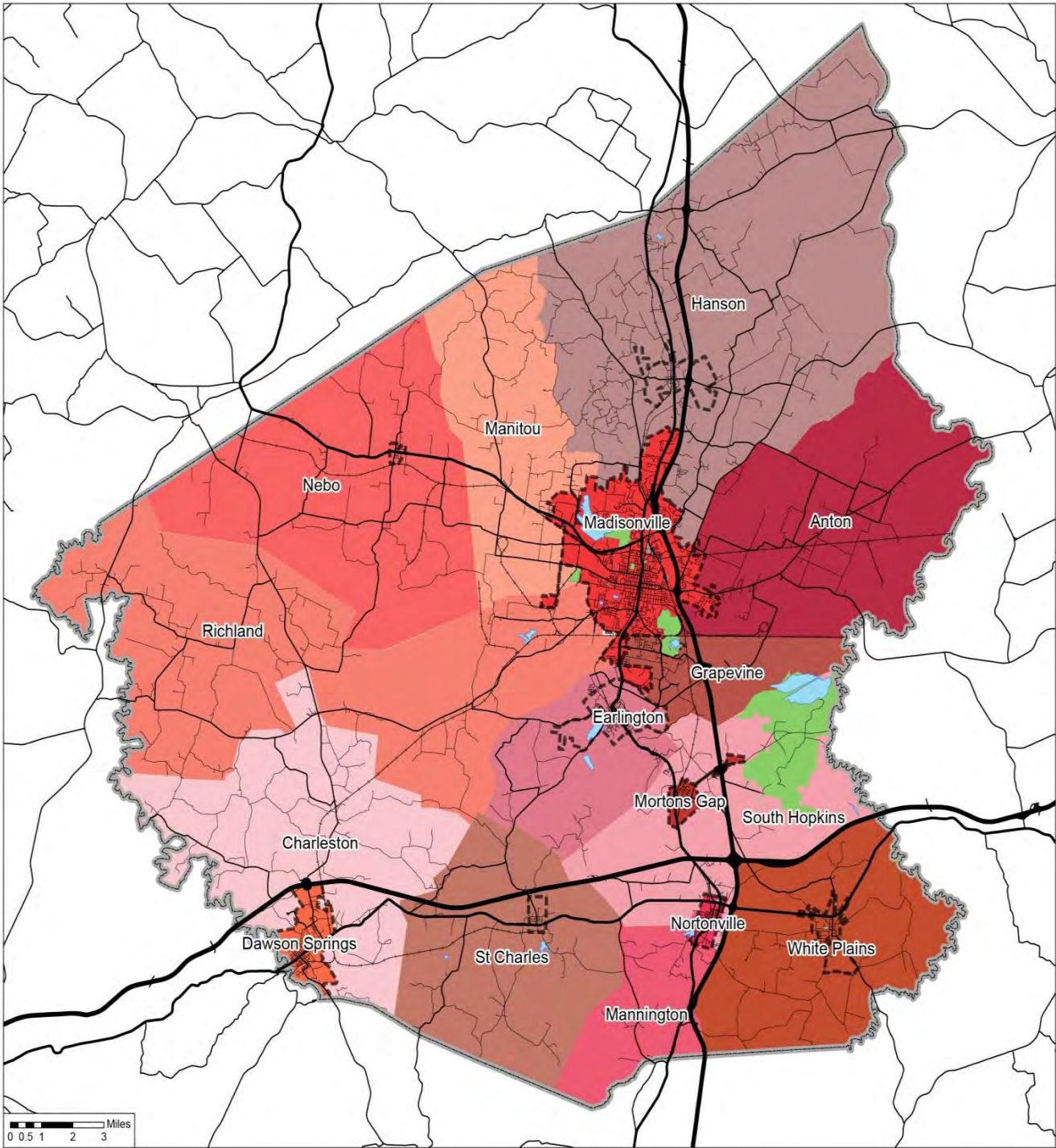


Figure: Fire Districts

TELECOMMUNICATIONS

Telephone, radio, television, and the internet constitute Hopkins County's telecommunications system. Phone and broadband access are offered by A&T, Time Warner and Mediacom. The figures below indicate coverage areas for telecommunications services.

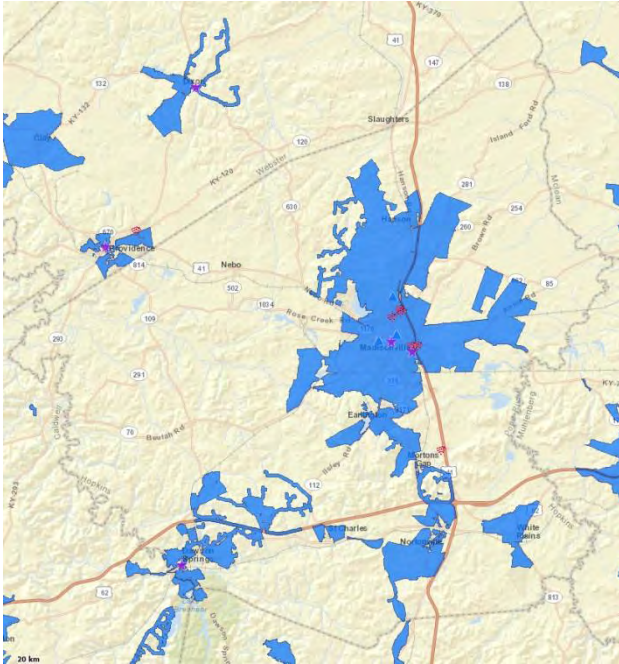


Figure: cable service

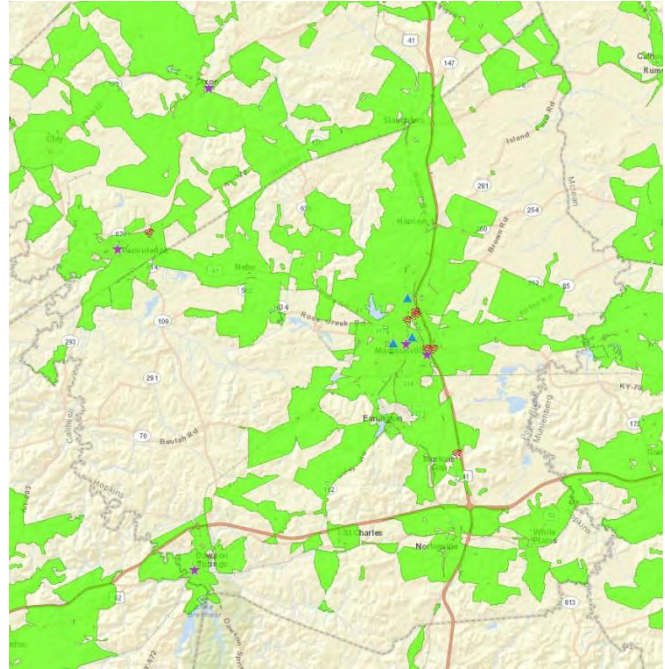


Figure: DSL service

HEALTHCARE

Baptist Health Madisonville, an integrated health provider in Western Kentucky, is comprised of more than 100 primary care and specialist physicians; a 410-bed hospital; Baptist Health Medical Associates, with eight outpatient clinic locations in the region; and an Education and Research Division. Its centers of specialized medicine include the Merle M. Mahr Cancer Center, the Baptist Health Women's Care, the Jack L. Hamman Heart & Vascular Center, and Baptist Health Sports Medicine & Rehabilitation.

The Merle M. Mahr Cancer Center has advanced treatment capabilities including Linear Accelerators, Dedicated CT Simulator, Intensity Modulated Radiation Therapy, Image Guided Radiation Therapy, and Low Dose Brachytherapy. Services also include Medical Oncology, Chemotherapy, Infusion Services, and state of the art imaging including; Pet/CT, MRI/Breast MRI, Digital Mammography, Stereotactic Breast Biopsy, and Ultrasound Biopsy.

Multicare Madisonville is located in the historic Bailey Mansion—over 100 years old—standing on a 10-acre campus. The mansion now offers a warm, homelike setting to patients and visitors. Since 2006 Multicare has been a part of Owensboro Health.

Additional Medical/Care Facilities –

Hopkins County has nine convalescent centers with 800 beds including: Dentists/dental, chiropractic clinics, mental health clinic, and Outwood Res-Care, a residential facility for the mentally handicapped, are available. Western Kentucky Forensic Science Center is located in Madisonville.

- Baptist Health Madisonville
- Merle M. Mahr Cancer Center
- Outwood Res-Care
- Multicare Specialists and Associates
- Hopkins County Community Clinic
- Owensboro Health Multicare – Madisonville
- Concord Health Systems: Dawson Springs Health & Rehabilitation Center (Dawson Springs), Tradewater Health and Rehabilitation



Photo: Baptist Health Outpatient Center



Photo: Multicare Specialists and Associates

Center (Dawson Springs), Ridgewood Terrace Health and Rehabilitation Center (Madisonville)

- Brighton Cornerstone Health Care nursing home
- NHC Health Care – nursing home

The Hopkins County Health Department provides clinical preventive health services including medical, nursing, nutrition, social education and environmental interventions designed to assist individuals and communities in obtaining and maintaining an optimal level of wellness, medical and social services to the area. Its services include family planning, prenatal care, immunization, sexually transmitted disease tests, diabetic screening, blood pressure screening, cancer screening, and the WIC nutrition program for pregnant women, nursing mothers, infants, and children. In addition, physical therapy and speech therapy are available. The Health Department also provides school nurses in each of the Hopkins County Schools.

Medical Center Ambulance Service, Inc. provides ambulance service. Emergency calls are accessed through the community 911. Service is provided throughout Hopkins County as well as outside the County on an “as available” basis.

EDUCATION

The Hopkins County Schools has thirteen schools and two alternate schools with a total student population of nearly 7,200 students. The district has more than 1,000 employees and a working annual budget of \$60 Million. More than 3,900 students regularly ride the bus to school each day. The cafeterias serve 2,239 breakfasts and 4,651 lunches each day with elementary students receiving free meals through the Community Eligibility Program.



Photo: West Broadway Elementary School

SCHOOL	ATTENDANCE (2012-2013)
Earlington Elementary	320
Grapevine Elementary	333
Hanson Elementary	568
Jesse Stuart Elementary	530
Pride Elementary	451
Southside Elementary	423
West Broadway Elementary	418
West Hopkins (P-8)	462
Browning Springs Middle	419
James Madison Middle	545
South Hopkins Middle	438
Hopkins County Central HS	858
Madisonville North Hopkins HS	1,067
Alternate Day Treatment	17
HCS Academy	54

The Dawson Springs Independent School District is fully accredited by the Kentucky Department of Education and serves approximately 700 students. The school district boundaries include the Tradewater River to the south and west, the railroad line to the east and the West Kentucky Parkway to the north. Students from other counties and school districts are accepted for enrollment with the approval of the administrative staff and the agreement of the School District where the student lives.

- A staff of approximately 100 people are employed by the school district. Dawson Springs Elementary School enrolls students in grades Kindergarten through 6th grade. Dawson Springs Junior High/High School serves students in grades 7 through 12. Both schools are located on the same campus at 317 Eli Street, Dawson Springs, Kentucky.

Private schools within Hopkins County include:

- Christ the King School is a fully accredited PreK-8th grade Catholic school with approximately 120 enrolled each year.
- Grace Baptist School offers classes from Kindergarten through High School with 150 enrolled each of the last two years.
- The Christian Tabernacle Elementary School is located at 1406 Tucker School House Road.
- Christian Academy is located at 721 Princeton Pike in Madisonville.
- Christian Heritage Academy is located at 1055 North Main Street in Madisonville.

POST SECONDARY EDUCATION

Post-Secondary education is available through the Madisonville Community College and Murray State University with approximately 5,000 students enrolled. Programs offered include:

- Associate degrees, diplomas, and certificates in a variety of academic programs, as well as transfer degrees for students pursuing a bachelor's degree.
- Bachelor and master's degrees may be earned through Murray State University.
- Technical training and professional development services for business and industry as well as personal enrichment classes for individuals.
- Arts education and arts entertainment opportunities in the region.

Madisonville Community College operates three campuses in two counties - North Campus (Primary), Health Sciences Campus, Muhlenberg Campus.

TECHNICAL EDUCATION

Hopkins County Schools is currently building the new Career and Technology Center on Patriot Drive in Madisonville. The next major project in the district's facility plan is replacement of Hanson Elementary School.

Coordination with transportation, neighborhood development and utility improvements needs be evaluated with the siting of this new facility.

There are opportunities to expand specialty programs and resources, such as, certification programs and training centers that are offered by existing secondary education facilities to continue to meet the needs of local and future businesses. In addition, the Madisonville Community College, Murray State University, and the Kentucky Community and Technical College System are teaming together to build the Madisonville Regional Postsecondary Education Center, a 55,000 sq. ft. facility on the North Campus of Madisonville Community College which will support the future growth expected by the economic development forecasted from the I-69 corridor improvements.

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

The Glema Mahr Center for the Arts at Madisonville College, a 1,000+ seat, state-of-the-art theater, is host to classical and popular music acts, award-winning plays, and top-name entertainers every season. The Center serves approximately 49,000 people per year.

FACILITIES & UTILITIES STRATEGIES

Hopkins County has a strong network of community facilities and utilities. The strategies presented below will aid the future growth of Hopkins County and aid in the improvement of the quality of life for its residents.

UTILITIES

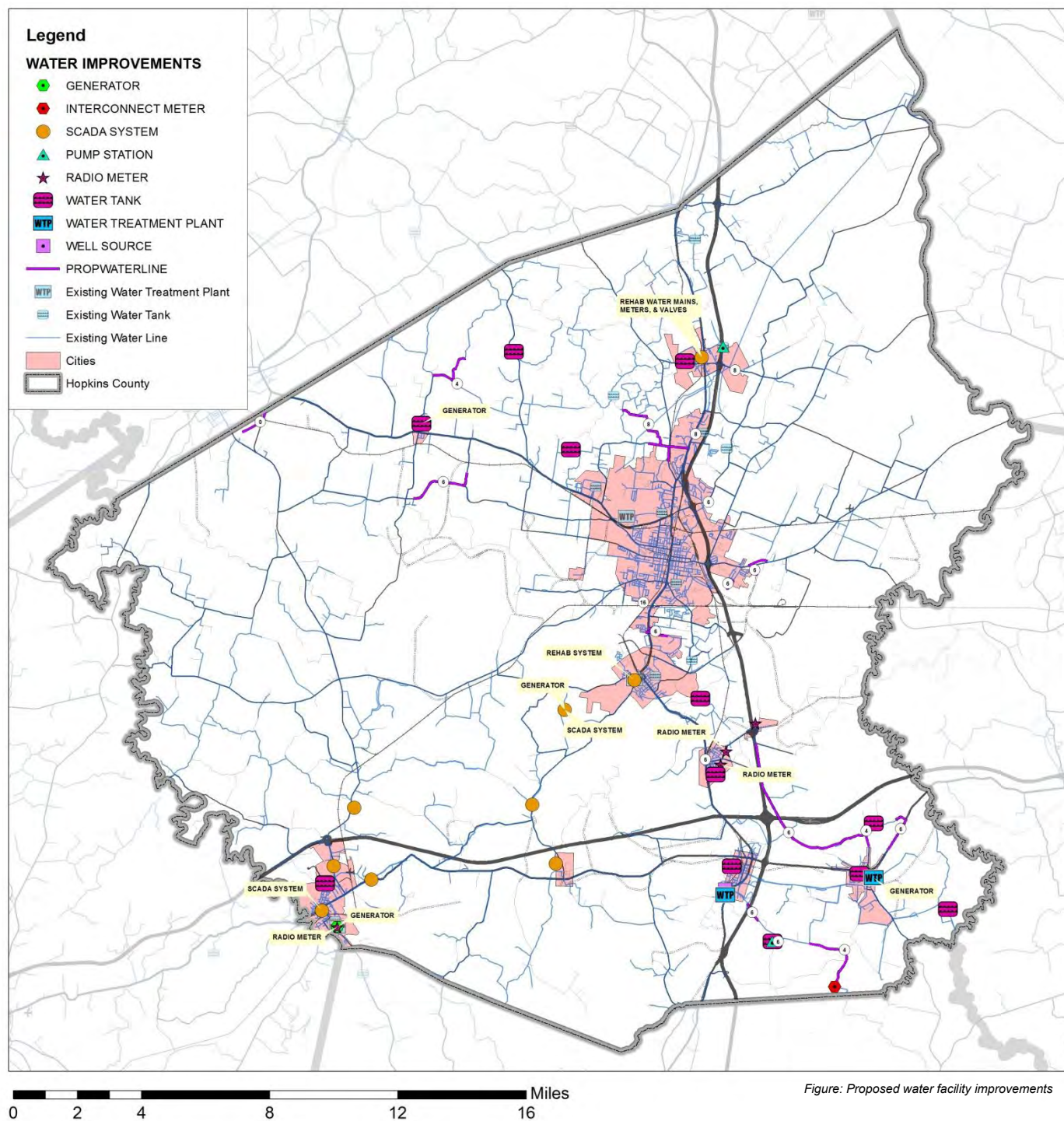
Utility upgrades are needed throughout the water and sewer systems. Having a strong reliable infrastructure will require additional investment on many levels and developing a strategy for effective implementation will be a goal of this plan.

WATER IMPROVEMENTS

The table below contains the list of approved water system improvement projects as maintained by the Kentucky Infrastructure Authority. Implementation of these projects is dependent upon receiving funding.

KIA PROJECT NUMBER	PROJECTED SCHEDULE	APPLICANT	PROJECT TITLE
WX21107001	0-2 Years	City of Nortonville	Nortonville - Water Treatment Plant and Well Upgrade.
WX21107006	3-5 Years	City of Madisonville	Madisonville Water Line Extension
WX21107008	3-5 Years	City of Madisonville	Madisonville Noel Av Line Replacement
WX21107009	3-5 Years	City of Madisonville	Madisonville Dozier Heights Waterline Replacement
WX21107019	3-5 Years	City of Hanson	Hanson - Hopkins County Industrial Park Water Main
WX21107021	6-10 Years	City of White Plains	White Plains - US 62/Concord Ch. Rd. - MG Int. (P2)
WX21107022	6-10 Years	City of White Plains	White Plains - Hwy 813 - South Hopkins Water District Interconnect
WX21107025	3-5 Years	City of White Plains	White Plains - Phase 2 Red Hill Tank, Pump Station and Waterline Extension
WX21107028	0-2 Years	City of Earlington	Earlington - Water System Improvements
WX21107029	3-5 Years	City of White Plains	White Plains - Concord Tank & Pump Station
WX21107031	3-5 Years	City of Dawson Springs	Dawson Springs - Emergency Standby Generators
WX21107033	3-5 Years	South Hopkins Water District	South Hopkins Water District - Emergency Standby Generators
WX21107034	3-5 Years	South Hopkins Water District	South Hopkins Water District - Waterline Extension & Tank
WX21107035	0-2 Years	City of Dawson Springs	Dawson Springs Water Tank and Plant Improvements
WX21107038	3-5 Years	City of Madisonville	Madisonville North Pressure Zone Improvements
WX21107040	3-5 Years	City of Mortons Gap	Mortons Gap Water System Rehab
WX21107041	3-5 Years	Nebo Water District	Nebo - Water System Improvements
WX21107042	3-5 Years	City of Dawson Springs	Dawson Springs - ARM Project
WX21107044	3-5 Years	City of White Plains	White Plains - Red Hill Road Ph. III Christian County Interconnect
WX21107047	0-2 Years	City of Mortons Gap	Mortons Gap – System Improvements Project
***	0-5 years	City of Dawson Springs	Install floating intake at lake
***	0-10 years	City of Dawson Springs	Build an extra lagoon for water treatment plant
***	0-10 years	City of Dawson Springs	New pumps at lake
***	0-10 years	City of Dawson Springs	New pumps at water treatment plant
***	0-20 years	City of Dawson Springs	Renovate water treatment plant

***Dawson Springs, KY Water and Sewer Long Term Plan



SEWER FACILITY / LINE IMPROVEMENTS

The table below contains the list of approved sewer system improvement projects as maintained by the Kentucky Infrastructure Authority. Implementation of these projects is dependent upon receiving funding.

KIA PROJECT NUMBER	PROJECTED SCHEDULE	APPLICANT	PROJECT TITLE
SX21107009	3-5 Years	City of Madisonville	Madisonville South Main Sewer Interceptor Phase 2
SX21107010	6-10 Years	City of Madisonville	Madisonville South Main Sewer Interceptor Phase 3
SX21107013	3-5 Years	City of Hanson	Hanson - Hopkins County Industrial Park Sewer Main
SX21107014	3-5 Years	City of St Charles	St. Charles Sanitary Sewer System - Construction
SX21107017	0-2 Years	City of Earlington	Earlington - Sewer System Improvements
SX21107019	3-5 Years	City of Mortons Gap	Mortons Gap - Sewer Pump Replacement Project
SX21107020	3-5 Years	City of Hanson	Hanson - Emergency Standby Generators
SX21107022	3-5 Years	City of Madisonville	Madisonville - Hanson Relief Interceptor
SX21107023	3-5 Years	City of Madisonville	Madisonville - Sewer Extension to Hopkins County Sports Complex
***	0-5 years	City of Dawson Springs	Lift station pumps at Sycamore and Parker Street
***	0-10 years	City of Dawson Springs	Wastewater treatment plant rehabilitation

***Dawson Springs, KY Water and Sewer Long Term Plan

TELECOMMUNICATION IMPROVEMENTS

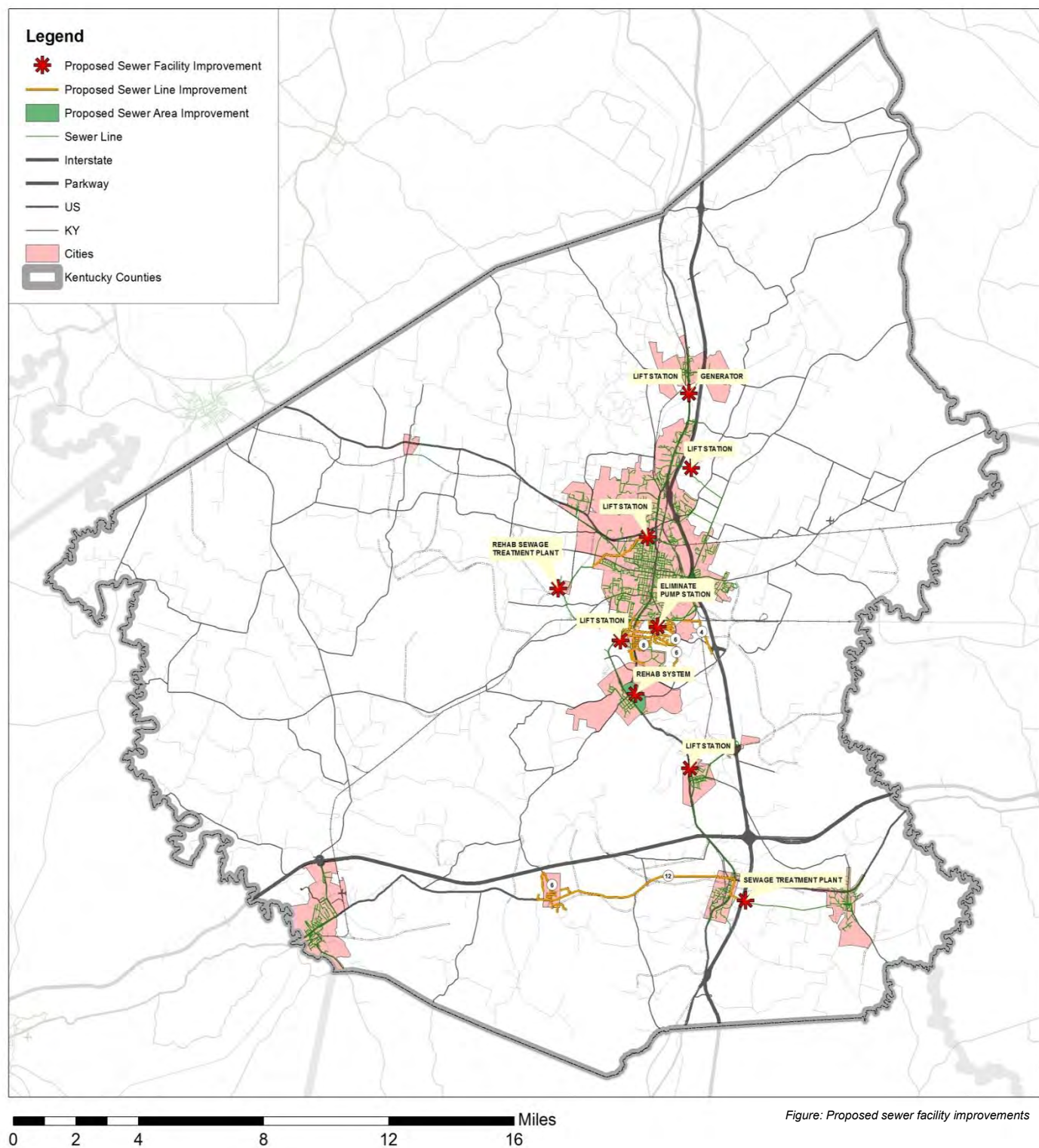
The future of telecommunications and internet services is ever changing and expanding. The availability of these services currently varies greatly across the county. Hopkins County residents and businesses continue to request better and faster access to these services. Efforts need to be made with the providers to increase services across the county.

EMERGENCY SERVICES

Fire service protection varies across the county. A review of the fire district coverage areas and inter-department agreements needs to be established to reduce inefficiencies in the system. In addition, aging equipment and technologies need to be replaced or upgraded.

EMERGENCY RESPONSE TRAINING FACILITY

One of the major elements discussed during the public safety review include the need for an Emergency Response Training Facility as well as a new location for the central communication facility. These items could share a new facility. Further study and discussion needs to take place to resolve both items.



EDUCATION

Hopkins County Schools will replace the Hanson Elementary School and build a new Middle School in the southern part of the County in the near future. Coordination with transportation, neighborhood development and utility improvements needs be evaluated with the siting of these new facilities.

There are opportunities to expand specialty programs and resources, such as, certification programs and training centers that are offered by existing secondary education facilities to continue to meet the needs of local and future businesses. In addition, the Madisonville Community College, Murray State University, and the Kentucky Community and Technical College System are teaming together to build the Madisonville Regional Postsecondary Education Center, a 55,000 sq. ft. facility on the North Campus of Madisonville Community College which will support the future growth expected by the economic development forecasted from the I-69 corridor improvements.



HOPKINS COUNTY COMPREHENSIVE PLAN

*Economic
Development*

6

CHAPTER 6

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

[INSIDE THIS CHAPTER]

This chapter includes strategies that relate to business growth, job creation, development opportunities, and funding strategies.

- Successful Community Attributes
- Infrastructure
- Tourism
- Incentives
- Programs
- Supporting Organizations & Agencies
- Other Strategies



■ A world-class community is built by leveraging the community's assets for growth, having a high quality of life, working to enhance that quality of life, having economic opportunity across the socio-economic spectrum and personal well-being of citizens. To address each of the elements requires a multifaceted approach.

SUCCESSFUL COMMUNITY ATTRIBUTES

One of the most important goals for successful communities is to have a high level of attachment to the community by residents. Community attributes that play a key role in driving attachment are: Social Offerings, Openness, Aesthetics, Education, Basic Services, Leadership, Economy, Safety and Social Capital.

Of the attributes listed above, three rise to the top as being the most important. Social offerings which can relate to having a vibrant nightlife, being a good place to meet people, having arts and culture opportunities available, having community events that provide social opportunities, and that the community is a place where people care about each other. Openness can mean that the community is a good place for: older people, racial and ethnic minorities, families and young children, gays and lesbians, for young talented college graduates, immigrants, and young adults without children. Aesthetics can mean communities that have a variety of parks, playgrounds, and trails available, the beauty or physical setting of the community.

QUALITY OF LIFE

While quality of life can be directly related to wealth and employment, standard components include, but aren't limited to: physical and mental health, education and education opportunities, recreation, recreation facilities and opportunities, leisure time, the built environment (roads, schools, parks, downtowns), community aesthetics, and social belonging.

ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITY

To have a vibrant and healthy economy, economic opportunity should be available for people across the wage spectrum, from minimum wage to the highest wages available. Opportunity should be across most if not all job sectors, service, manufacturing, retail, and office. Opportunity should also be attractive for large business and the individual starting a business in their garage.

Keeping in mind that this is a never ending journey and not a destination, the value is that this variety is attractive to different parts of the community at different times. The goal may be to have jobs and /or opportunities available to people regardless of where they are on their career path. This provides an important sense of attachment to the community and makes it easy for people to stay in the community or region.

While the coal mining industry has decreased in many parts of eastern and western Kentucky, the coal industry is currently growing in Hopkins County with coal production increasing from 2012 to 2013. In 2013, Hopkins County's total production was 8.96 tons and the coal mine industry employed 975 full-time employees and one preparation plant in the fourth quarter of 2013. While employment dropped by 2.2% from 2012 to 2013, Hopkins County had the fourth-highest direct coal employment of any county in Kentucky. Alliance Coal and Armstrong are currently in operation in Hopkins County, and 5,330 miners were trained for Alliance in 2013.

Source: Energy & Environment Cabinet, Department for Energy Development & Independence (energy.ky.gov).

PERSONAL WELL BEING

Personal well-being directly relates to the individual and their view, both real and perceived, of the world around them and how they are in relationship to that world. Are my family and I safe, are we healthy, can we shop, eat, and live well in this community, are all questions people think about related to their well-being. In today's job market people look for where they want to live and then determine what to do when they get there. Many companies base their decisions on where to locate by determining where people want to live.

The goal is to have a plan that helps address these topics and serve as a guide for future decisions. To meet the needs of the community and business and help satisfy the desire for a high quality of life, economic opportunity, and well-being our strategic goal is to grow & attract well-paying, high value-added, community-minded base/primary businesses by influencing and leveraging the area's distinct capabilities in **Advanced Manufacturing, Science Technology Engineering & Math (STEM) Education Resources, Sustainable Manufacturing, Transportation, and Healthcare.**

Attracting businesses in **Advanced Manufacturing, Science Technology Engineering & Math (STEM) Education Resources, Sustainable Manufacturing, Transportation, and Healthcare sectors** is highly competitive. In order to attract those businesses, incentives or tools may be used to influence companies' decisions to locate in the community. One or more tools may be used to accomplish this goal. Hopkins County is ideally located to attract industry with the intersection of two future interstates, rail, close proximity to the Ohio River, and nearby airports.

INFRASTRUCTURE

TRANSPORTATION

Hopkins County is an attractive location because of the multiple forms of transportation, including the Madisonville Municipal Airport, Ohio River, CSX Railroad and future interstate access.

INTERSTATE INTERCHANGES

Interstate interchanges are marketing opportunities at the entrances into communities like Dawson Springs, Mortons Gap, Earlington, Madisonville and Hanson. Efforts should be made to ensure they are branded as entrances into Hopkins County.

IMPORTANCE OF DOWNTOWNS

Downtowns are a community's living room and have the ability to have a dramatic impact on people's impression of a community. It is the place where everyone ends up that is looking at the community to move to or locate their business to. A successful, vibrant and active downtown says more about a community than all the brochures in the world. Participating in the Kentucky Main Street Program can provide a variety of benefits. There are a variety of reasons to revitalize downtowns.

- Renewed confidence in the viability of the Community
- New job opportunities
- Revitalization helps stabilize the tax base and keeps investment where infrastructure is present.
- Helps preserve the character and importance of the core of the community.



Photo: Downtown Madisonville



Photo: Downtown Dawson Springs



Photo: Downtown Hanson

TOURISM

Tourism can take many forms in a local economy. The following is a list of potential tourism activities that could be implemented in Hopkins County.

- Agri-tourism
- Attractions
- Family Fun
- Food and Dining
- Golf
- History and Heritage
- Horses
- Music and Arts
- Nightlife
- Shopping
- Sports
- Wineries and Breweries

The value in promoting and taking advantage of tourism is that those tourists will come, spend some time and money and then leave. They become temporary tax payers in a sense. Communities can take advantage of their patronage without the burden of having to provide all the services for residents. The downside is that this industry can be subject to changing tastes and the impacts of the economy. However there are a few that seem to survive regardless of the economy. What makes the most sense is to build on the existing community assets and leverage those to promote tourism. Dawson Springs is particularly attractive as a destination for those seeking outdoor recreation as it was named the first Trail Town of Kentucky. Trails have been mapped, wayfinding signage has been added and trails have been cleared. Dawson Springs now boasts many miles of horseback riding, mountain biking, hiking, walking, and water trails.

SPORTS

Sports have a tremendous opportunity for economic impact. Usually parents will give up vacations before they give up their children's sports. By calculating 1.5 spectators per participant and an average of \$100 per day a single week long sporting event can have an impact in the millions of dollars. Existing sports facilities can be used or shared with current users.



Photo: Sports Park

RECREATION

Passive and active recreation from organized sports to hunting, fishing, and hiking has a huge impact on sports / recreation tourism. A focused effort to attract recreation enthusiasts will impact local business and have an economic impact.

HOSPITALITY

Hospitality is critical to the success of a community on a number of levels. Meeting and event space are frequently needed by business, to conduct business, having overnight accommodations is vital and to have a successful tourism trade overnight stays have a big impact on dollars spent in the community.

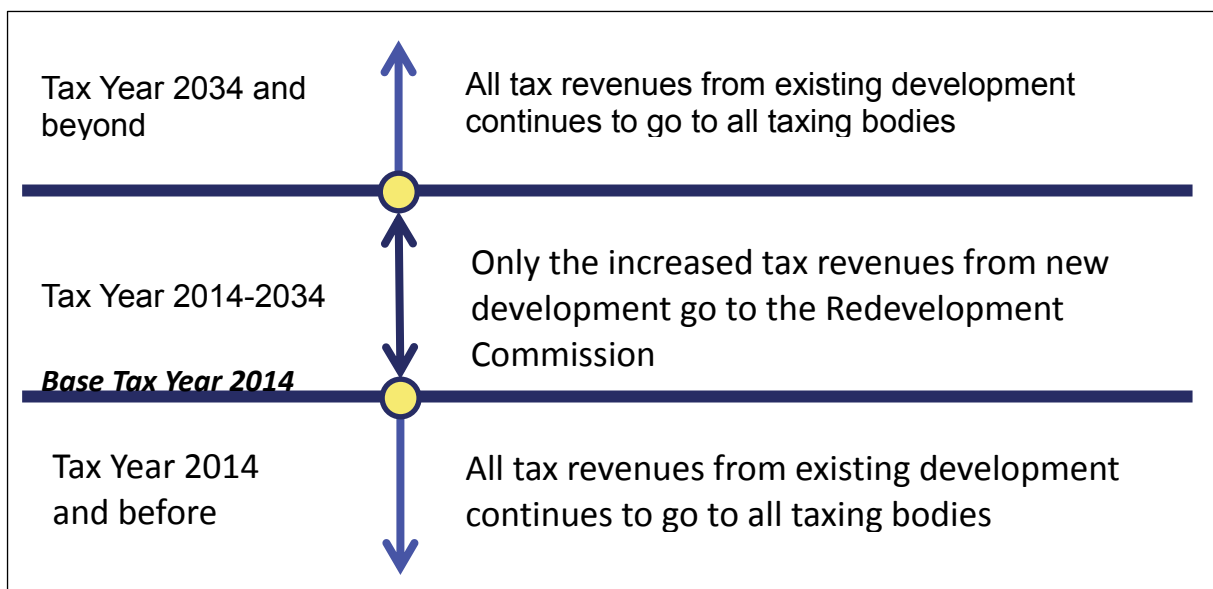
INCENTIVES

TAX INCREMENTAL FINANCE

Tax Increment Financing (TIF) is a method to use future tax revenues to finance current public improvements. The completion of a public improvement or project often results in an increase in property values and often new private investment (new or rehabilitated buildings, etc), which generates additional tax revenue. The increased tax revenues are the “tax increment” that is used to finance debt to pay for the public infrastructure. TIF is designed to focus funding towards public improvements where development would not otherwise occur on its own.

TIF is enabled through state legislation with the purpose of economic development and the goal of enhancing local businesses, attracting new businesses, and considering the best use of the natural attributes of the community. TIF funds can be used for various infrastructure improvements and projects within the designated TIF area, including water expansion/supply, storm drainage, street construction, environmental remediation, park improvements, flood control, land acquisition, demolition and clearance work, utilities, landscaping, parking structure, street lighting, sidewalks, traffic control and much more.

How Does TIF Work



Types of TIF Programs

State statutes authorize two types of TIF development areas: Local Development Areas for vacant land or State Participation Programs for developed land (redevelopment or blighted conditions). With Local Development Areas only revenues from local taxes are considered, whereas State Participation Programs have the potential to capture some state tax revenues for specific projects.

INDUSTRIAL REVENUE BONDS (IRBs)

Industrial Revenue Bonds (IRBs) issued by state and local governments in Kentucky can be used to finance manufacturing projects and their warehousing areas, major transportation and communication facilities, most health care facilities and mineral extraction and processing projects. Bond funds may be used to finance the total project costs, including engineering, site preparation, land, buildings, machinery and equipment, and bond issuance costs. Any portions of such projects financed by private capital are subject to the full state and local property taxes applicable to private ownership. Communities may negotiate for payments by industrial tenants to replace portions of local property taxes lost through public title to the property.

Private leasehold interests in property owned and financed by a governmental unit through industrial revenue bonds, under the provisions of KRS Chapter 103, are taxed by the state at \$0.015 per \$100 of leasehold value with approval from KEDFA. Reduction of local property taxes only on projects financed through IRBs does not require KEDFA approval. (KRS 132.020; 132.195; 132.200)

The Kentucky Private Activity Bond Allocation Committee (KPABAC) approves the private activity cap for the issuance of industrial revenue bonds with tax-free interest earnings (to bond buyers), for qualifying projects within annual ceiling amounts authorized by the Internal Revenue Code. For more information on the KPABAC see the Finance and Administration Cabinet's website.

SHOVEL READY SITES

Four shovel ready sites exist in Hopkins County, including Hopkins County North - Industry & Technology Park (Hanson), Island Ford Industrial Park (Madisonville), Greater Madisonville Industrial Park (Madisonville), and West Hopkins Industrial Park (Dawson Springs). Throughout Hopkins County are other industrial parks that are ready for development but not certified by the State as shovel ready such as Earlington Industrial Park (Earlington). These sites provide additional opportunities for economic growth. This program should be expanded to serve future needs.

SPECIAL ECONOMIC PROJECT INCENTIVES

For economic development projects that will result in the creation of at least 500 new jobs, county fiscal courts may organize a district for purposes of levying taxes. The additional taxes may pay for the establishment, operation, and maintenance of governmental services provided to the district that exceeds the level of services provided to other areas of the county. The additional taxes that may be imposed in the district are a special ad valorem tax not to exceed \$0.10 per \$100 of assessed value and an occupational license tax (KRS 68.600 to 68.606).

BUSINESS IMPROVEMENT DISTRICT

The goal of business improvement districts is to generate funds to improve conditions of that area. By utilizing a public / private partnership in which business and property owners elect to make a collective investment in their commercial district. This district assesses an extra portion of property values in a defined area. The additional revenue is earmarked for a specific list of needs within the district. State statute allows for the creation of such management districts.

PUBLIC PRIVATE PARTNERSHIPS

This can take many forms, but essentially brings entities together that may have mutual interests and limited resources that can be pooled together to achieve more than they could individually. Such partnerships can be between governmental agencies, business, corporations, foundations, and /or health care facilities.

PROGRAMS

WORKFORCE TRAINING

West Kentucky Workforce Investment Board is responsible for managing local workforce development projects through the Workforce Investment Act of 1998 including intensive business services and on-the-job training funding.

Bluegrass State Skills Corporation (BSSC) is a corporation that stimulates economic development through programs of skills training to meet the needs of business and industry.

The BSSC, in cooperation and coordination with other employment and training organizations, has the capability to customize a comprehensive program of skills training services for new, expanding and existing companies.

The **Grant-in-Aid Program** allows BSSC to administer and fund Kentucky's industry-specific training efforts through grants approved by the Board of Directors of the BSSC; to act as a broker of skills training and employment

services; to facilitate and fund new training programs and to administer any special state appropriations for industry specific training. The program allows for a 50 percent reimbursement for eligible training costs. (KRS 154.12-204 to 154.12-208)

The **Skills Training Investment Credit Act** is an economic development initiative, which aids existing companies in their efforts to develop a skilled workforce. It allows companies to recover 50 percent of their approved costs for occupational and skills upgrade training through an income tax credit limited to \$500 per Kentucky resident employed not to exceed \$100,000 per company per biennium (KRS 154.12-2084 to 154.12-2089; and 141.405). For additional information about BSSC go to www.thinkkentucky.com/bssc.

KCTCS-TRAINS (formerly referred to as KY WINS) is a program designed to provide funding for training instruction, job profiling, and pre- and post-training assessments. The program provides workers with high level skills while increasing their productivity and improving the employability of Kentucky's citizens.

KCTCS-TRAINS primary focus for incumbent workers is to provide funding for occupational specific training to build a highly skilled and educated workforce that supports the economic viability of Kentucky. KCTCS-TRAINS will support projects for existing Kentucky companies who require employees to learn new skills for job retention and companies who are contributing to Kentucky's economic development.

For companies that are creating new jobs by relocating into Kentucky or for existing business/industry that are already doing business in Kentucky, workforce education and training programs and services are available at 100% no-cost level after meeting eligibility specifics and minimum requirements. Eligible companies are defined by program requirements for the Kentucky Business Investment (KBI) Program as defined by KRS 154.32.

Madisonville Community College has administered 19 training projects totaling \$1,674,245 through KCTCS-TRAINS.

MCC's Workforce Solutions provides additional services for training and educating workers in Hopkins County. These services include:

- Lean Center for Excellence: Simulation and Implementation
- Miner Training: 40hr/24hr Initial and Annual Refresher Training - 3D Motion Simulators – MERA
- Advanced Integrated Technology: Technical Training (PLC, Welding, Hydraulics, Pneumatics, and Electrical)
- Leadership/Team Building/Supervisory Training
- ACT Job Profiling / Work Profiling System
- Full Service Assessment Center: DiSC, Myers- Briggs Type Indicator, Pearson VUE , International Code Council (ICC), College Level Entrance Proficiency (CLEP), National Occupational

Competency Testing Institute (NOCTI), Bennett Mechanical, Wonderlic Personnel, ACT WorkKeys

- Safety Training: OSHA and NFPA 70E
- Kentucky Professional License Renewal (CEU): Electrical-HVAC-Plumbing-Legal Education
- Training and Development: Computer, Interpersonal Skills
- Community Education/Community Service: Personal and Professional Development

WorkKeys is a national system for teaching and assessing workplace skills that connects knowing with doing and learning with earning. WorkKeys is administered through Madisonville Community College.

Work Profile System is an advanced computerized system of job analysis. Job applicants progress through a customized assessment center which produces a person/job match that is a measure of the individual's ability to successfully perform the job. Madisonville Community College has certified trainers that can assist you with the entire selection process. This system is administered through Madisonville Community College.

EDUCATION

Hopkins County is home to an abundant array of educational opportunities including:

- *Madisonville Community College* - one of the fastest growing community colleges in the nation.
- *Murray State University* - one of the top public universities in America as ranked by U.S. News & World Report for the 19th consecutive year.
- Two public school districts offering primary and secondary education
- Five private primary schools
- Numerous Head Start and preschool programs

In most cases Murray State University and Madisonville Community College provide most if not all the workforce training opportunities.

Madisonville Community College is involved in improving the economic outcomes of the community. They accomplish this through multiple community and economic development participants and programs. A summary of those efforts and statistics can be found below.

- Adult education enrollment: 769
- GED credential earned: 161
- Workforce Credit, Workforce Non-credit and Community Education enrollment: 7,778
- Assessments administered 11,610
- KCTCS-TRAINS Training Projects: \$1,674,245
- Business Synergy Lab – to train and create successful workers and entrepreneurs

Kentucky Community and Technical College System (KCTCS) –

Kentucky Community and Technical College System serves as the Commonwealth's primary provider of postsecondary education programs, training and services. KCTCS provides statewide access to quality, affordable postsecondary education and training through a system of 16 college districts with more than 60 campuses. KCTCS supplies employers and employees with the following services to enhance the skills of Kentucky's workforce:

- Certificate, diploma, technical degree, associate degree and transfer programs.
- KCTCS-TRAINS — high-level academic and technical skills training for employees of new and existing business. KCTCS-TRAINS provides business and industry access to customized training programs, pre- and post-employment training and training assessment.
- Customized workforce training on the local level. Coordinators at the system level assist the colleges in developing programs that deliver specialized training when and where it is needed.
- IT Fast Track program partners with computer industry leaders to deliver training designed to improve the information technology literacy of Kentucky's workforce. Partnerships include Microsoft, Oracle, Cisco and Nortel.
- Kentucky Manufacturing Skills Standards (KMSS), developed in conjunction with manufacturers throughout the state, provides skills standards certification. KCTCS administers the KMSS assessment and provides targeted instruction to assist individuals in achieving certification.
- WorkKeys — system of job profiling, assessment and targeted instruction that focuses on the foundational skills found in all jobs in the workplace. These skills include reading, math, applied technology, critical thinking skills, teamwork and problem solving.
- The Center for Excellence in Automotive Manufacturing is a multi-faceted partnership between KCTCS and Toyota Motor Manufacturing North America, Inc. that will help create a nationally recognized model for workforce education and training in the automotive industry.
- The North American Racing Academy (NARA), the first horse-racing academy in the United States, is located at the Kentucky Horse Park. The racing academy has a long-term goal of establishing career pathways for individuals interested in working in all aspects of the horse racing industry.
- The Kentucky Coal Academy trains students in all aspects of the coal mining industry.
- On-line degrees and courses available to provide anytime, anywhere learning.

- Assessment centers at the colleges offer a wide array of workplace assessments to assist business and industry in identifying skill levels of existing and potential employees.

INDUSTRIAL ATTRACTION

Hopkins County is ideally located to attract industry with the intersection of two future interstates, rail, close proximity to the Ohio River, and nearby airports. Industrial businesses navigate through a site selection process when they are expanding or starting operations. Communities are recommended for siting operations based on decision makers receiving recommendations from site selection consultants who review data and conduct research. The International Economic Development Council (IEDC) has created a data spreadsheet that contains data elements commonly reviewed by these consultants and allows a side-by-side comparison of communities. Creating an IEDC standard data set will assist Hopkins County in telling their story with reliable and verified data and get the county in front of decision makers. This will help Hopkins County help them rise above communities that don't use the Site Selection Data Standards.

WORK READY PROGRAM

Hopkins County is currently working towards becoming a Certified Work Ready Community. These efforts should continue and be supported in order to build the workforce development in the County.

ENTREPRENEURS ATTRACTION

The Madisonville – Hopkins County Economic Development Corporation has developed a guide for entrepreneurs that are looking to start a business in Hopkins County. Practitioners and researchers have identified a large number of factors that play some role in attracting new business start-ups in a community. Following is a partial list of the top factors:

- Customer base and a sense of customer opportunity
- Low cost of doing business
- Attractive Central Business District
- Existing small businesses near by
- The physical setting of the community
- Good roads/highways to other towns.

AIRPORT

Madisonville Municipal is a local source of transportation traffic and Evansville Regional is the closest commercial facility. Louisville and Nashville International are major hubs.

SUPPORTING ORGANIZATIONS & AGENCIES

Madisonville-Hopkins County Economic Development Corporation is a non-profit corporation governed by an independent Board of Directors. The corporation is located at 755 Industrial Road in Madisonville, Kentucky. Its purposes include, but are not limited to, the following: to engage, directly or indirectly, in economic development, community improvement, educational opportunity enhancement, and culture improvement activities within the Madisonville and Hopkins County area, and to maintain, enhance, improve and enlarge the employment base of the citizens and the residents thereof, and to improve, expand and support any and all types of community improvement, cultural and educational opportunities for said citizens and residents.

Vision: The Madisonville-Hopkins County Economic Development Corporation is the recognized organization for building and retaining prosperity in Hopkins County.

Mission: The Madisonville-Hopkins County Economic Development Corporation will serve as the resource and catalyst for sustained economic growth and development in Hopkins County.

Strategic Plan Objectives:

- To attract primary, wealth-generating new business to Hopkins County.
- To facilitate the retention and creation of wealth and investment in the existing industries of Hopkins County.
- To facilitate the creation of new primary business ventures in Hopkins County thereby achieving wealth-generation, employment opportunities, and additional prosperity.
- To be recognized as a successful, high-performance organization: respected, effective, visible, financially viable, and sustainable.

Source: <http://www.kentuckyedc.com/>

HC Ventures Loan Program is the result of the Madisonville Hopkins County Economic Development Corporation and Hopkins County's leading banks joint effort to improve the odds of getting approval for a loan that matches each client's business needs. HC Ventures provides valuable feedback from experts within the business community to assist in putting together all information needed to apply for a business loan.

Micro Loan Program is available to new and existing businesses through the Madisonville Hopkins County Economic Development Corporation. This loan program assists business start-up's, expansion of existing businesses and the purchase of franchise or existing business.

Innovate Hopkins County is a program that provides a one stop service center for start-up and existing businesses throughout Hopkins County to access trusted advisors, educators and capital in order to establish critical business practices that lead to the successes of business owners and entrepreneurs.

The goals of this program are to assist in expanding the knowledge base of entrepreneurship in Hopkins County and offering training to help entrepreneurs be successful.

They work very closely with Junior Achievement, empowering young people to own their economic success. Through this program students are taught how to generate wealth and effectively manage it and apply entrepreneurial innovation.

They work to promote and assist with “The Next Big Thing” Competition. This program is designed to give students in grades 9 through 12 an entrepreneurial experience in launching a new innovative products or ideas. This fosters a spirit of innovation through a competition among potential entrepreneurs within Hopkins County

1 Million Cups, developed by Kauffman Labs for Enterprise Creation, is an educational program that seeks to activate your local community of entrepreneurs through online curriculum, coaching and experiential learning. Madisonville Hopkins County Economic Development Corporation serves as Community Coordinators for the 1Million Cups Program. 1 Million Cups is a simple way to engage entrepreneurs in our local community. Each week, the 1MC program offers two local entrepreneurs an opportunity to present their startups to a diverse audience of mentors, advisors, and entrepreneurs. Presenters prepare a 6 minute educational presentation and engage in 20 minutes of feedback and questioning after they present. Entrepreneurs gain insight into possible ways they can improve their businesses, gather real-time feedback, connecting with a community that truly cares about their progress and walk away feeling like they have advanced their business. The audience also learns a great deal from the presentations. Whether this is through passively listening or deeply engaging with the entrepreneurs, there is much to learn every week from these dynamic and diverse entrepreneurs.

The organizers for Hopkins County are Aaron Spencer, Arctic Refrigeration & Foodservice Equipment, Marion Miller, CMR Inc., Mark Lee and Ruthann Padgett, Madisonville-Hopkins County Economic Development Corporation.

Source: <http://www.1millioncups.com/Events/Start.aspx> and <http://hopkins.sites.1millioncups.com/>

Madisonville-Hopkins County Chamber of Commerce works with city and county governments, state and federal officials, area businesses and industry, and others to advocate for projects and initiatives that will encourage economic development in our region.

Mission: The Chamber's mission is to promote business and commerce for the Hopkins County area through leadership in economic, governmental, social and educational development.

In pursuing its mission, the Chamber is an advocate, catalyst and service provider focusing on those issues which affect the area's economic vitality.

The Chamber acts as an advocate by representing the business community, especially regarding local and state legislative issues. As a united voice of the business community, the Chamber resolves problems that are too large for individual citizens and individual businesses to resolve on their own. The Chamber seeks a consensus on key issues, communicates the business community perspective and ultimately influences decisions made by legislators.

The Chamber acts as a catalyst by identifying issues affecting economic growth and focusing resources to address and resolve those issues. It sponsors and supports a variety of efforts and organizations in agreement with the Chamber's mission. The Chamber encourages the involvement of corporate citizens within the community and provides a forum for discussing topics of interest to the business community.

The Chamber acts as a service provider by initiating and managing programs which are responsive to member needs. In addition to managing programs which encourage small business development, the Chamber is a clearinghouse of information.

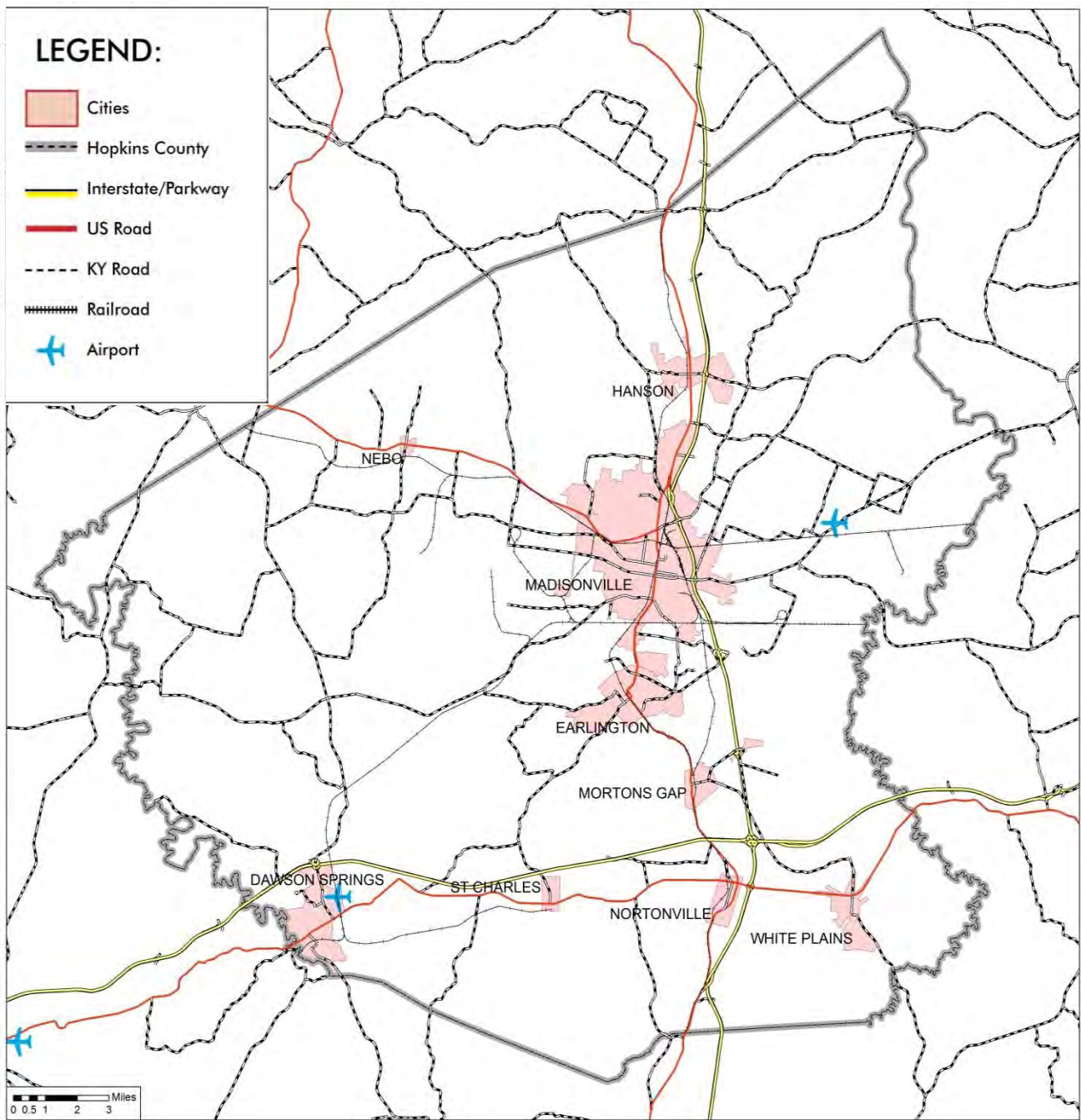
The geographic scope of the Chamber extends throughout Hopkins County. A larger geographic scope of influence and involvement may be required based on a particular issue.

As the area grows and becomes more diverse, coordination and cooperation with other organizations is increasingly important to achieve the Chamber's goals. Therefore, the Chamber seeks to establish coalitions around issues as needed. Routine liaison is sought and maintained with area Chambers of Commerce.

Source: <http://www.madisonville-hopkinschamber.com/>

Hopkins County Tourist & Convention Commission works to promote the counties variety of assets that allow visitors to experience a variety of outdoor recreation activities, including scenic trails, tranquil lakes, rolling grasslands and dense forests. Madisonville offers a variety of delectable dining, a state-of-the-art fine arts theatre and gallery, and a wide selection of comfortable and hospitable accommodations.

Source: <http://visitmadisonvilleky.com/>

*Figure: Economic map*

OTHER STRATEGIES

Kentucky offers a number of progressive incentives for businesses. The following list should be considered as a general summary. Additional information on each business incentive is available.

FINANCIAL INCENTIVES

A company seeking incentives under each of the following seven programs is subject to an application process, internal staff review and approval by the Kentucky Economic Development Finance Authority (KEDFA).

Kentucky Business Investment (KBI) program – An eligible company must be engaged in one of the following activities: 1) manufacturing; 2) agribusiness; 3) regional or national headquarters operations; or 4) certain nonretail service or technology activities. The minimum requirements for an eligible project are as follows: 1) create a minimum of 10 new, full-time jobs for Kentucky residents; 2) incur at least \$100,000 in eligible costs; and 3) meet a minimum level of wages and benefits. The tax incentives involved with this program are available for up to 15 years for enhanced incentive counties or up to 10 years for all other counties. The incentive may be taken as: 1) up to 100 percent credit against the Kentucky income tax imposed on corporate income or limited liability entity tax arising from the project; 2) a wage assessment of up to 5 percent of the gross wages of each employee in enhanced counties or up to 4 percent (including up to 1 percent required local participation) of the gross wages of each employee in other counties. (KRS 154.32-010 to KRS 154.32-100)

Kentucky Reinvestment Act (KRA) – To be eligible, a company must be a permanent Kentucky company engaged in manufacturing. Requirements of the program include: 1) incurring eligible equipment and related costs of at least \$2,500,000; 2) establishing an employment retention base of at least 85 percent of existing employment; 3) not having received incentives under the Kentucky Industrial Revitalization Act (KIRA) within the previous 5 years; and 4) the applicant certifying the project would not be economically feasible without the incentives. Approved costs for recovery include eligible equipment and related costs up to: 50 percent of the eligible equipment and related costs; and 100 percent of the job skills upgrade training costs. The incentive is available for up to 10 years and may be recovered via Kentucky income tax credits of up to 100 percent of tax imposed on the corporate income or limited liability tax generated by or arising from the project. The maximum incentive claimed in any single year may not exceed 20 percent of the authorized incentive. (KRS 154.34-010 to KRS 154.34-120)

Kentucky Enterprise Initiative Act (KEIA) – An eligible company must incur a minimum investment of \$500,000 and is eligible to receive a refund of sales and use tax paid for the following items purchased during the term of the

project and not to exceed the approved recovery amount authorized in the KEIA agreement:

- Building and construction materials
- Research and development equipment
- Electronic processing equipment purchases totaling a minimum of \$50,000

The term of the agreement is negotiated with KEDFA and may be extended by approval of KEDFA for good cause shown. However, the term shall not be extended beyond seven (7) years from the date of original approval. The maximum sales and use tax refund incentive available for commitment by KEDFA in each fiscal year for all projects is limited to \$20,000,000 for building and construction materials and \$5,000,000 for equipment used for research and development or electronic processing. (KRS 154.31-010 to 154.31-030)

Kentucky Environmental Stewardship Act (KESA) – To be eligible, the company must manufacture an environmental stewardship product, which is defined as any new or improved product that has a reduced adverse effect on human health and the environment or provides for improvement to human health or the environment when compared with existing products that serve the same purpose. The minimum requirements for an eligible project are: 1) incur at least \$5 million of qualified eligible costs; and 2) meet a minimum level of wages and benefits. Approved costs for recovery include: 1) up to 100 percent of the costs of providing the necessary skills training needed to produce the product; and 2) up to 25 percent of the equipment costs. The costs incurred must go towards the construction, rehabilitation or improvement of facilities necessary to produce the environmental stewardship product. The incentive is available for up to 10 years and may be recovered via Kentucky income tax credits of up to 100 percent of tax imposed on the corporate income or limited liability tax generated by or arising from the project. The maximum incentive claimed in any single year may not exceed 25 percent of the total authorized inducement. Also, an approved company under this program is not entitled to claim a recycling tax credit. (KRS 154.48-010 to 154.48-035)

Kentucky Industrial Revitalization Act (KIRA) – An eligible company must invest in the rehabilitation of either: 1) manufacturing or agribusiness operations that are in imminent danger of permanently closing or that have closed temporarily; or 2) coal mining and processing facilities that have closed, been temporarily suspended, or severely reduced. Eligible entities include manufacturing or agribusiness companies that retain or create 25 jobs and coal mining and processing companies that intend to employ a minimum of 500 persons and intend on having a raw production of at least three million tons from the economic revitalization project facility. Approved costs for recovery include up to 75 percent of the costs of the rehabilitation or construction of buildings and updated machinery and equipment.

The incentive is available for up to 10 years and may be taken as: 1) up to 100 percent credit against the Kentucky income tax imposed on corporate

income or limited liability entity tax arising from the project; 2) a wage assessment of up to 5 percent of the gross wages of each employee whose job is preserved or created by the approved project. (KRS 154.26-010 to 154.26-120)

Incentives for Energy Independence Act (IEIA) – To be eligible, a company must construct, retrofit, or upgrade a facility to: 1) increase the production and sale of alternative transportation fuels; 2) increase the production and sale of synthetic natural gas, chemicals, chemical feed stocks, or liquid fuels from coal, biomass resources, or waste coal through a gasification process; 3) increase the production and sale of energy-efficient alternative fuels; or 4) generate electricity for sale through alternative methods such as solar power, wind power, biomass resources, landfill methane gas, hydropower, or other renewable resources. For an alternative fuel facility or gasification facility using coal, oil shale or tar sands as the primary feedstock to qualify, it must be carbon capture ready and have a minimum capital investment of \$100,000,000. An alternative fuel facility using natural gas or gas liquids as the primary feedstock to qualify must have a minimum capital investment of \$1,000,000. For an alternative fuel facility or gasification facility using biomass resources as the primary feedstock to qualify, it must be carbon capture ready and have a minimum capital investment of \$25,000,000. The minimum capital investment for an energy-efficient alternative fuel facility that produces a homogeneous fuel from a process designed to densify coal, waste coal or biomass resources is \$25,000,000. Renewable energy facilities that meet the minimum electrical output requirement of at least one megawatt of power for wind, hydro, biomass, landfill methane, or generation of 50 kilowatts for solar, also qualify. The minimum capital investment for these projects is \$1,000,000.

Approved costs for recovery include up to 50 percent of the capital investment. KEDFA will negotiate the amount of incentives and the types of incentives that will be made available to an approved company. The incentives are available for up to 25 years and include: 1) sales and use tax refunds up to 100 percent of tax paid on tangible personal property to construct, retrofit or upgrade a facility; 2) severance tax incentives up to 80 percent of taxes paid on the purchase or severance of coal; 3) tax credits up to 100 percent of tax paid on corporate income or limited liability entity tax arising from the project; and 4) wage assessments up to four percent of gross wages of each employee.

Additionally, advanced disbursement of post construction incentives using a formula based on the percentage of labor component in construction and the utilization of Kentucky residents in the construction phase may be available. Advance disbursements repayments may be based upon incentives earned in the future. (KRS 154.27-010 to 154.27-090)

Kentucky Small Business Investment Credit – An eligible small business is any business organized for profit with 50 or fewer full-time employees that is not an affiliate or subsidiary of a larger corporate structure, unless the

total number of all employees in the larger structure is less than 50. A small business that meets the following requirements may be eligible for an income tax credit during the year of approval by KEDFA, not to exceed \$25,000: 1) create at least one new, full-time job that must be in place for 12 months and pay no less than 150 percent of the federal minimum wage; and 2) expend at least \$5,000 on qualifying equipment or technology. An eligible company may not apply until one year after both of the minimum requirements are achieved. The maximum credit available for commitment by KEDFA in each fiscal year for all projects is limited to \$3,000,000. (KRS 154.60- 010 to 154.60-030)

INCOME TAX CREDITS

Unemployment Tax Credit – An Unemployment Tax Credit of \$100 dollars is allowed for each eligible person hired for at least 180 consecutive days. To qualify for the credit, the company must hire a worker who has been unemployed for at least 60 days. Credits cannot be claimed for close relatives, dependents, a person with 50 percent or more ownership in a corporation or persons for whom the company receives federal payments for on-the-job training. (KRS 141.065)

Recycling Equipment Credit – Income tax credits are allowed for up to 50 percent of the installed costs of equipment used exclusively to recycle or compost postconsumer waste (*excluding secondary and demolition wastes*) and for machinery used exclusively to manufacture products composed substantially of postconsumer waste materials. For the year the equipment is purchased, the credit is limited to 10 percent of total credit allowed and 25 percent of the taxpayer's state income tax liability. The unused portion of the total allowable recycling credits can be carried forward to succeeding tax years, with the credit claimed during any tax year limited to 25 percent of the taxpayer's state income tax liability. For equipment sold, transferred or otherwise disposed of, there is a formula for calculating an allowable tax credit for equipment with a useful life of five or more years or for equipment with a useful life of five or less years. For equipment with a useful life of five or more years the formula is as follows: 1) Less than one year, no credit; 2) Between one and two years, 20 percent of the allowable credit; 3) Between two and three years, 40 percent of the allowable credit; 4) Between three and four years, 60 percent of the allowable credit; 5) Between four and five years, 80 percent of the allowable credit; and 6) Over five years is 100 percent of the allowable credit. For equipment with a useful life of less than five years the formula is as follows: 1) Less than one year, no credit; 2) Between one and two years, 33 percent of the allowable credit; 3) Between two and three years, 66 percent of the allowable credit; and 4) Over three years is 100 percent of the allowable credit. (KRS 141.390 and 141.0205)

Corporate Income Tax Credit for Use of Kentucky Coal – A corporation income tax credit is allowed for up to four and a half percent of the value of Kentucky coal (*excluding transportation costs*) used for industrial heating or processing. The credit is allowed for 10 years following either the installation or conversion to coal burning units. The credit in any year cannot

exceed the corporation's income tax liability minus other credits. Unused credits cannot be carried forward. (KRS 141.041)

Biodiesel Fuel Tax Credit – A state income tax credit is allowed for producers or blenders of “biodiesel” fuel or “blended biodiesel” fuel with a blend of at least two percent. “Biodiesel” or “blended biodiesel” producers receive a \$1 credit per gallon produced or blended. Unused credits cannot be carried forward. (KRS 141.423)

Kentucky Clean Coal Incentive – The “Kentucky Clean Coal Incentive Act” provides for an income, or public service corporation property tax credit for new clean coal facilities constructed at a cost exceeding \$150 million and used for purposes of generating electricity. Before the credit is given, the Environmental and Public Protection Cabinet must certify that a facility is reducing emissions of pollutants released during electric generation through the use of clean coal equipment and technologies. The amount of credit will be \$2 per ton of coal mined in Kentucky and used in the facility and not already receiving tax credit. Any unused portions of this credit shall not be carried forward. (KRS 141.428)

Certified Historic Structures Income Tax Credit – A “Certified Historic Structures” tax credit on income, or franchise tax for financial institutions, is available for the rehabilitation of a certified historic structure. The credit is 30 percent of the qualifying expenses for an owner-occupied property and 20 percent for all other properties. There is a seven year carry forward for any unused credit. The maximum credit an owner- occupied property owner may take is \$60,000. (Creates a new section of KRS 151)

Voluntary Environmental Remediation Property Income Tax Credit – An income tax credit of up to \$150,000 per taxpayer shall be granted for expenditures to remediate contamination on qualifying voluntary environmental remediation property. The amount of the allowable credit for any tax year is limited to 25 percent of the maximum credit approved. The credit may be carried forward for up to 10 years. (KRS 132.020(1)(c); 132.200(21); 141.418; 224.01-400; and 224.01-405)

Major Recycling Project Tax Credit – A “Major Recycling Project” is one where the taxpayer: 1) Invests more than \$10,000,000 in recycling or composting equipment; 2) Has 750 or more full-time employees and pays more than 300 percent of the federal minimum wage; and 3) Has plant and equipment with a total cost of over \$500,000,000. A taxpayer with a “major recycling project” is entitled to an income tax credit for up to 10 years and up to 50 percent of the installed costs of the equipment. In each taxable year, the amount of credits claimed for all major recycling projects is limited to 1) 50 percent of the excess of the total of each tax liability over the baseline tax liability of the taxpayer; or 2) \$2,500,000, whichever is less. A taxpayer with one or more projects will be entitled to a tax credit equal to the total for each major recycling project, but he may not take the standard recycling credit and the major project credit on the same equipment. (KRS 141.390)

G.E.D. State Income Tax Credit – A state income tax credit is provided an employer for the portion of the time given to an employee to study for the General Educational Development (G.E.D.) test. The credit is calculated by multiplying 50 percent of the hours released for study by the employee's (student's) hourly salary. The credit shall not exceed \$1,250. (KRS 151B.127)

Insurance Coverage Affordability and Relief to Small Employers (ICARE) – The plan known as the Insurance Coverage Affordability and Relief to Small Employers (ICARE) Program establishes a consumer-driven health plan for small businesses. It is a four year pilot program that allows employers and small employer-organized association groups that will insure 2 – 25 employees or individuals to be eligible to participate. To qualify for the program the employer must do the following: 1) Pay wages that must be less than 300 percent of the federal poverty level wages and 2) pay at least 50 percent of the premium cost. The incentive will be \$40 per month per covered employee or \$60 per month per employee depending on the type of coverage the employee has. These incentives will be reduced by one fourth of the amount each year at renewal until the incentive zeros out at the end of four years.

Broadband Loan/Grant Program – The program is administered by the Kentucky Infrastructure Authority with input from Connect Kentucky, the area development districts, and other interested businesses and government entities. Public or private providers can apply for funding for broadband applications to cover areas currently unserved by a broadband provider.

Order of Use of Credits – State statutes (KRS 141.0205) specify the order in which Kentucky income tax credits must be taken when a taxpayer is entitled to more than one (1) business incentive tax credit for a tax year:

Individual Income Tax Nonrefundable Credit Order:

1. Credit for individual members of flow through entities for tax paid at corporate level.
2. Economic development credits for KIDA, KRED, KJDA, KIRA, KEOZ, KRA, KBI, KJRA, IEIA or Skills Training (See discussion of Bluegrass State Skills Corporation);
3. Certified rehabilitation credit;
4. Health insurance credit;
5. Credit for tax paid to other states;
6. Credits for hiring unemployed persons;
7. Recycling or composting equipment credit;
8. Kentucky Investment Fund Act (KIFA) credit;
9. Coal incentive credit;
10. Research facilities credit;
11. Employer GED incentive credit;
12. Voluntary environmental remediation credit;
13. Biodiesel credit;
14. Environmental stewardship credit; and

15. Clean coal incentive credit.

Corporation Income Tax Nonrefundable Credit Order:

1. Economic development credits for KIDA, KREDA, KJDA, KIRA, KEOZ, KRA, KBI,
2. KJRA, IEIA or Skills Training
3. (See discussion of Bluegrass State Skills Corporation);
4. Certified rehabilitation credit;
5. Health insurance credit;
6. Credit for hiring unemployed persons;
7. Recycling equipment credit;
8. Coal conversion credit;
9. Kentucky Investment Fund Act (KIFA) credit;
10. Coal incentive credit;
11. Research facilities credit;
12. Employer GED incentive credit;
13. Voluntary environmental remediation credit;
14. Biodiesel credit;
15. Environmental stewardship credit; and
16. Clean coal incentive credit.

DIRECT LOAN PROGRAM

Kentucky Economic Development Finance Authority (KEDFA) – KEDFA encourages economic development, business expansion, and job creation by providing business loans to supplement other financing. KEDFA provides loan funds at below market interest rates. The loans are available for fixed asset financing (land, buildings, and equipment) for business startup, locations, and expansions that create new jobs in Kentucky or have a significant impact on the economic growth of a community. The loans must be used to finance projects in agribusiness, tourism, industrial ventures, or the service industry. No retail projects are eligible.

KEDFA may participate in the financing of qualified projects with a secured loan based on a percent of a project's fixed asset cost. The maximum loan amount is \$500,000 and the minimum is \$25,000. Small businesses with projects of less than \$200,000 may receive loans on fixed assets for up to 50 percent of the project costs if enough jobs are created. Interest rates are fixed for the life of the loan and are determined by the length of the loan term. Rates range from one to five percent depending upon the term and are amortized monthly, quarterly, or semi- annually. Project owners must inject a minimum of 10 percent towards the fixed assets. KEDFA loan funds are disbursed at the completion of the project, so the business must obtain interim financing. The KEDFA loan commitment can assist in securing the interim financing. (KRS 154.20-010 to 154.20-180)

Small Business Direct Loans – The Small Business Loan Program is designed to help small businesses acquire funding needed to start or grow their small business. A small business must be engaged in manufacturing,

agribusiness, or service and technology. Loan funds may be used to acquire land and buildings, purchase and install equipment, or for working capital. The minimum loan amount is \$15,000 and the maximum is \$100,000. The approved company must create one new full-time job within one year of the loan closing. KEDFA may fund up to 100 percent of the project costs and the loan may be used in conjunction with other lenders. The term of the loan may range from three to 10 years. (KRS 154.12-325 and 154.12-330)

Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Loans – Businesses in Kentucky can obtain low-interest loans through the federally funded CDBG system. Cities and counties lend the grant funds to businesses for the creation or retention of jobs. Terms of the loans are based upon the financial analysis of the borrower. Interest rates usually are below the market rate and usually are fixed for the life of the loans. Security for CDBG loans can be subordinate to that of other lenders.

Federal regulations require that at least 51 percent of those hired for projects that use CDBG loans be low and moderate-income individuals. The use of federal funds for construction activities will trigger payment of prevailing wages under the provisions of the Davis-Bacon Act, and borrowers must comply with federal procurement and environmental review requirements.

Linked Deposit Program – The linked deposit program provides loans up to \$100,000 for small businesses and agribusinesses. Credit decisions are the responsibility of the lender making the loan. The state will purchase certificates of deposit from participating lenders through the State Investment Commission, at the Wall Street Journal prime interest rate less four percent, but never less than two percent. Lenders will make loans to eligible companies at a rate equal to Wall Street Journal prime and never greater than five percent. Loan terms are for up to seven years. Loans will be reviewed by the Kentucky Agriculture Finance Corporation (for agribusiness loans) and the Cabinet for Economic Development (for small business loans) to assure loans comply with the statute.

Local Financial Assistance – Several local governments and area development districts offer loans and other financial incentives for economic development projects. The levels and terms of financial assistance provided generally are negotiable and are based upon the availability of funds, jobs created, economic viability of the project, and other locally determined criteria.

KNOWLEDGE-BASED ECONOMY

High-Tech Construction and Investment Pool – The Department of Commercialization and Innovation in the Cabinet for Economic Development administers two pools of funds:

The High-Tech Construction Pool is used for projects with special emphasis on the creation of high-tech jobs and knowledge-based

companies. The commissioner recommends funding of companies to KEDFA for approval; and

The High-Tech Investment Pool is used to build and promote technology-driven industries and research-intensive industries with the goal of creating clusters of innovation-driven industries in Kentucky. The commissioner recommends funds to be used to support loans and grants, or secure an equity or related position to KEDFA for approval. (KRS 154.12- 278)

Kentucky Innovation and Commercialization Centers – The Kentucky Innovation and Commercialization Centers (ICCs) are public-private partnerships dedicated to creating and growing high-growth, knowledge driven companies that are primarily seeking private investments through angels and venture capitalists. Six regional ICCs and seven local Innovation Centers (ICs) comprise the main network, which is administered by the Kentucky Science and Technology Corporation under contract with the Department of Commercialization and Innovation in the Cabinet for Economic Development. See www.startupkentucky.com to locate the offices serving each region.

The ICC and IC network is the statewide infrastructure that provides business-building talent and related services to Kentucky's entrepreneurs, faculty and scientists using a best practices model. The centers also link scientists and entrepreneurs with the innovation-related funding tools created under the Kentucky Innovation Act.

Commonwealth Seed Capital LLC – Commonwealth Seed Capital, LLC, (CSC) is an independent fund that makes debt or equity investments in early-stage Kentucky business entities to facilitate the commercialization of innovative ideas and technologies.

Investments are typically made in these specified innovation areas: health and human development; information technology and communications; bioscience; environmental and energy technologies; and materials science and advanced manufacturing.

CSC invests in companies that have a significant Kentucky presence, the prospect for substantial growth, and the potential to generate an appropriate rate of return.

Small Business Innovation Research Incentive Program – The Department of Commercialization and Innovation, through a competitive process, matches Phase I and Phase II federal SBIR and STTR awards received by Kentucky businesses. Awards of up to \$150,000 support Phase I exploration of the technical merit or feasibility of an idea or technology, and awards of up to \$500,000 support Phase 2 full-scale research and development.

Statewide Student Business Plan / Concept Competition – The annual "Idea State U" student business plan and business concept program/contest supports entrepreneurship and the development of new ventures by teams of

graduate and undergraduate students at the state's public universities. Participating teams compete for up to \$100,000 in combined prizes and awards. <http://www.ideastateu.com/>

Kentucky New Energy Ventures Fund – The Kentucky New Energy Ventures Fund (KNEV) provides seed stage capital to support the development and commercialization of alternative fuel and renewable energy products, processes, and services in Kentucky. The funds exist to stimulate private investment in Kentucky-based technology companies with high growth potential.

KNEV makes grants up to \$30,000 and investments ranging from \$250,000 to \$750,000+. Qualified companies must be Kentucky-based and funds are to be used for business development activities (KRS 154.20.400-420). For more information and funding guidelines, please visit www.startupkentucky.com.

The Kentucky Science and Technology Corporation administers these funds under contract to the Department of Commercialization and Innovation in the Cabinet for Economic Development.

Research Facilities State Income Tax Credit – A state income tax credit is provided for investment in facilities used to pursue research. The income tax credit is equal to five percent of the qualified cost for "construction of research facilities" for "qualified research" as defined in Internal Revenue Code Section 41. The credit is available to new and existing businesses that construct, remodel, expand, or equip research facilities, but does not include replacement property. Any unused credit may be carried forward for 10 years. (KRS Chapter 141.395)

Kentucky Enterprise Fund and Rural Innovation Fund – The Kentucky Enterprise Fund and the Rural Innovation Fund provide seed-stage capital to Kentucky-based companies that are commercializing a technology-based product or process. The funds exist to stimulate private investment in Kentucky-based technology companies with high growth potential.

- The *Kentucky Enterprise Fund* makes grants up to \$30,000 and investments up to \$750,000 in small and medium-sized Kentucky-based companies for business development activities. Please visit www.startupkentucky.com for details. (KRS 164.6019 and 164.6021)
- The *Rural Innovation Fund* makes grants up to \$30,000 and investments up to \$100,000 in small, rural (located outside of Fayette and Jefferson Counties), Kentucky-based companies working in partnership with a Kentucky postsecondary institution or unaffiliated third party. (KRS 164.6027 and 164.6029). Please visit www.startupkentucky.com for details.

The Council on Postsecondary Education (CPE) plays a major role in commercializing research and development work and in supporting innovation and commercialization through both the Kentucky Enterprise Fund and the Rural Innovation Fund. The Kentucky Science and Technology Corporation administers these funds under contract with CPE. For more information and funding guidelines, please visit www.startupkentucky.com.

Kentucky Science and Engineering Foundation and Kentucky Commercialization Fund – Small businesses having their principal business located in Kentucky are eligible to apply for R&D Excellence Program awards under the “emerging technologies” category, with awards ranging from \$20,000 to \$50,000 per year (maximum \$100,000 over two years). The R&D Excellence Program makes proactive investments in existing and emerging areas of research leading to innovation and technology development in five state-identified focus areas through a peer-review system. Emerging technologies are the subject of research and development activities, which are conducted to help the company further define and develop a new product or process technology. (KRS 154.12-320)

The foundation also administers the SBIR/STTR Phase Zero and Phase Double Zero Grant Program. This is a seed grant program to assist Kentucky’s small companies in developing competitive, high quality Phase 1 and Phase 2 proposals to any of the federal agencies participating in the Small Business Innovation Research (SBIR) and Small Business Technology Transfer (STTR) programs. Companies are eligible to apply for up to \$4,000 to assist the preparation of a federal proposal. The goal of the Phase Zero and Phase Double Zero program is to increase the number of winning proposals funded for Kentucky companies. Each year the foundation offers SBIR conferences with panels from participating federal agencies and workshops on SBIR/STTR proposal writing for interested companies.

The foundation also administers the Kentucky Commercialization Fund Program. Seed funds are provided to faculty members of Kentucky’s universities for commercializing products, processes, or services through work undertaken at a Kentucky university. Awards may not exceed \$75,000 each year, for a maximum of \$150,000 over two years. (KRS 164.6035 and 164.6037)

The foundation is administered by the Kentucky Science and Technology Corporation under a contract with the Council on Postsecondary Education. For more information and funding guidelines, please visit <http://ksef.kstc.com>.

KENTUCKY INVESTMENT FUND ACT

KIFA offers a 40 percent tax credit to certain personal and corporate investors in approved investment funds. The purpose of KIFA is to encourage capital investment in Kentucky, to encourage the establishment of small businesses in Kentucky, to provide additional jobs, and to encourage

the development of new products and technologies in Kentucky through capital investments.

To be eligible for the program, an investment fund must meet the following requirements: 1) be managed by a fund manager (person or entity); and 2) have a minimum of \$500,000 in committed cash contributions from at least four unaffiliated investors with no investor having more than a 40 percent capital interest in the fund's total capitalization.

Qualified investments eligible for this tax credit are investments in Kentucky-based small businesses that meet the following criteria at the time an investment is made: 1) 50 percent of the company's assets, operations and employees are located in Kentucky; 2) the company's net worth is less than \$5 million (or \$10 million, if it is a knowledge-based business) or its net income in each of the prior two years is less than \$3 million; and 3) the company has no more than 100 employees. Any investment not in a qualified small business may be made by a fund, but shall not be eligible for the tax credits. Nonprofit entities may transfer tax credits for some or no consideration. (KRS 154.20-250 to 154.20-284)

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT GRANT PROGRAMS

Local Government Economic Development Fund (LGEDF) - Single and Multi-County Coal Severance Funds

The program is funded through an allocation of coal severance tax receipts. Grants are provided to eligible coal producing counties to assist in diversifying local economies beyond a dependence on coal. Funds may be used to support nonrecurring investments in public health and safety, economic development, public infrastructure, information technology development and access, and public water and wastewater development. The availability of funds is dependent on the level of the tax receipts remaining after the obligations of these funds by budget line-item appropriations are met. For additional information, please visit: <http://dlg.ky.gov/grants/stategrants/coaldevelopment.htm>

KENTUCKY'S TAX ADVANTAGES

Corporation Taxation

- Net operating losses can be carried forward for up to 20 years. (KRS 141.010 and 141.011)
- A multi-state corporation sustaining a tax loss only at its Kentucky facility during its first year of operation can carry the loss forward as a deduction from its second year Kentucky taxable income, provided separate accounting can be used for the Kentucky activity. (KRS 141.012)
- The top corporation income tax rate is six percent beginning January 1, 2007

- The corporation license tax was eliminated for taxable years ending on or after December 31, 2005.

City Occupational/Net Profits Tax

- Cities can exempt new manufacturing facilities from city occupational (income) taxes for up to five years. (KRS 91.260 and 92.300)
- Counties having a population of 30,000 or more and cities of all classes are prohibited from collecting license fees or occupational taxes on investment partnerships if that investment would not be taxable if individually held. (KRS 68.180, 68.197, 91.200 and 92.281)

Property Taxes

- Exemption of manufacturing machinery from all local property taxes. The state rate is only 15 cents per \$100 of assessed value. (KRS 132.020 and 132.200)
- Exemption of certified pollution control facilities and equipment from all local property taxes. The state rate is only 15 cents per \$100 of assessed value. (KRS 132.020; 132.200 and 224.01-300)
- A brownfield incentives program provides a state property tax rate of \$0.015 per \$100 value assessed on all qualifying voluntary environmental remediation property provided the purchaser has obtained a covenant not to sue from the Environmental and Public Protection Cabinet. The rate shall apply for three years following the issuance of the covenant not to sue; after which the regular rate will apply. The local property taxes are exempt for the three-year period. (New Chapter of KRS 132)
- Exemption of raw materials and products in the course of manufacture from all local property taxes. The state rate on these inventories is only five cents per \$100 of assessed value. (KRS 132.020 and 132.200)
- Exemption of tangible personal property located in a federally designated and activated foreign trade zone (or sub-zone) from all local property taxes. The state rate is only one-tenth of one cent per \$100 of assessed value. (KRS 132.020 and 132.200)
- Exemption of intangible property (money in hand, notes, bonds, accounts receivable, mortgage receivables, intercompany intangible personal property due from affiliates, patents, copyrights, trademarks and other credits) from state and local taxation, except for financial institutions and life insurance companies. (KRS 132.208)
- Favorable tax treatment for finished goods inventories. The state rate on these inventories is only five cents per \$100 of assessed value. Cities, counties, and urban-county governments may levy rates on these business inventories that are less than the prevailing rate of taxation on other tangible personal property in their respective jurisdictions. (KRS 132.020; 68.246; and 132.028)
- Favorable tax treatment for finished goods in a transit status may occur if the goods are located in a warehouse or distribution center

pending subsequent shipment out-of-state. These goods shall be exempt from state, city, county (general levy), urban county, and school district property taxation. Fire and special taxing districts may exempt these goods at their discretion. (KRS 132.020; 132.095)

- Private leasehold interest, in industrial buildings owned and financed by a governmental unit through industrial revenue bonds approved by KEDFA under the provisions of KRS Chapter 103, are taxed by the state at \$0.015 per \$100 of leasehold value and are exempt from local property taxes. (KRS 132.020; 132.195 and 132.200)
- Cities may exempt the property of a new manufacturing facility from city taxes for up to five years. (KRS 91.260 and 92.300)
- Exemption of machinery and equipment owned by a business and used to collect, separate, compress, bale, shred, or handle waste materials for recycling from all local property taxes. The state rate is \$0.45 per \$100 of assessed value. (KRS 132.020; 132.200(16); and 139.095)
- State laws limit the increase in local property tax revenues from real estate, exclusive of new property, to four percent annually for each local taxing jurisdiction (county, city, and school district). Increases larger than four percent must be approved by voters. (KRS 132.023 and 132.027)
- State laws limit the increase in state property tax revenues from real estate, exclusive of new property, property approved for tax increment financing and KRS Chapter 103 industrial revenue bond property receiving the reduced state rate of \$0.15 per \$100 of leasehold value, to four percent annually. (KRS 132.020)
- Cities and counties may grant a five year moratorium from increases in property assessment values on business commercial facilities 25 years old or older and undergoing rehabilitation. (KRS 99.600 and 132.452)
- Assessment of property for taxation is made only once annually on January 1, allowing businesses to plan purchases or assets and levels of inventories to their best tax advantages. (KRS 132.220)
- State property tax rate of \$0.015 per \$100 of value is used for aircraft not used in the business of transporting persons or property for compensation or hire. Local taxing districts may exempt or adopt tax rates lower than other tangible property for above classification of aircraft. (KRS 132.020; 132.200)

State Sales and Use Tax

Major exemptions for businesses include (state taxes only):

- Items purchased for resale. (KRS 139.260)
- Machinery for new and expanded industry (manufacturing, extraction of minerals, ores, coal, clay, stone, and natural gas). Replacement machinery for manufacturing is exempt when it increases consumption of recycled materials not less than 10 percent, performs a different function, manufactures a different product, or has a

greater productive capacity. Repair parts, replacement parts, and spare parts are taxable. (KRS 139.480; 139.170; and 103 KAR 30:120)

- Raw materials which enter into and become a part of the manufactured product. (KRS 139.470)
- Supplies used directly in manufacturing which have a useful life of less than one year (lubricating and compounding oils, grease, machine waste, abrasives, chemicals, solvents, fluxes, anodes, filtering materials, fire brick, catalysts, dyes, refrigerants, explosives, etc.), excluding repair, replacement, or spare parts of any kind. (KRS 139.470)
- Industrial tools that have a useful life of less than one year, limited to hand tools (such as jigs, dies, drills, cutters, rolls, reamers, chucks, saws, spray guns, etc.) and tools attached to a machine (such as molds, grinding balls, grinding wheels, dies, bits, cutting blades, etc.), excluding repair, replacement, or spare parts of any kind. (KRS 139.470)
- Materials and supplies that are not reusable after one manufacturing cycle, excluding repair, replacement, or spare parts of any kind. (KRS 139.470)
- Energy and energy-producing fuels used in manufacturing, industrial processing, mining, or refining to the extent that they exceed three percent of the cost of production. "Cost of production" is the total of all costs as defined according to accepted accounting principles and includes direct and indirect materials and labor, overhead expenses, depreciation on plant equipment and plant buildings, insurance and taxes on plant equipment, compensation insurance, rent on plant buildings, miscellaneous factory expenses, and office and administrative expenses allocated to the cost of production. (KRS 139.480 and 103 KAR 30:140)
- Pollution control equipment and facilities approved by the Kentucky Department of Revenue. Included is equipment for air pollution control, water pollution control, disposal or reclaiming of solid or hazardous wastes, sound emission control, and pretreatment of raw materials for environmental protection. (KRS 139.480 and 224.01-300)
- Refund for approved manufacturing, technology and tourism projects on building construction materials, building fixtures and research and development (R&D) equipment. See section on Kentucky Enterprise Initiative Act. (KRS 154.31)

MISCELLANEOUS BUSINESS INCENTIVES

Utility Incentive Rates – Electric and gas utility companies regulated by the Kentucky Public Service Commission (excluding municipal systems) can offer economic incentive rates for certain large industrial and commercial customers. The special discount rates can be granted for up to five years for both new and expanding operations. Gas utility companies also can offer a discount or waiver of gas main extension costs. The specific discount terms are set by contracts negotiated with the utility companies, subject to approval by the Public Service Commission.

Coal Incentive Tax Credit – An electric power company or a company that owns and operates a coal-fired electric generating plant may be entitled to a coal incentive tax credit. Only coal that is subject to Kentucky's coal severance tax qualifies for the credit. The credit is equal to \$2 per ton of Kentucky coal purchased by the company that is above the amount of Kentucky coal purchased during the base year. The base year amount is the amount of coal purchased in 1999 for existing companies. For new entities, the base year amount will be zero. The nonrefundable credit may be taken against corporation income tax, individual income tax, corporation license tax and public service company property tax. (KRS 141.0405)

Kentucky Information Highway (KIH) – Companies approved for economic development incentives administered by KEDFA may receive access and use of the Kentucky Information Highway on the same terms as state agencies. (KRS 45A.605)

Kentucky Captive Insurer Law (KRS 304.49-010 to 304.49-230) – Permits companies to establish wholly-owned insurance subsidiaries to insure some or all of their own risks. As part of an overall risk-management program, a Captive offers a multitude of potential advantages over the commercial insurance market.

The information provided herein by the Division of Research and Site Evaluation -- Kentucky Cabinet for Economic Development is for informational purposes only.



HOPKINS COUNTY COMPREHENSIVE PLAN

Housing & Neighborhoods

7

CHAPTER 7

HOUSING & NEIGHBORHOODS

[INSIDE THIS CHAPTER]

This chapter provides an overview of existing conditions for housing and neighborhoods in addition to strategies for this element.

- Existing Housing & Neighborhoods
 - Neighborhoods & Residential Construction Permits
 - Blighted Housing & Absentee Landlords
 - Rental Housing & Utilities
 - Rental Housing & School System
- Housing & Neighborhood Strategies
 - Neighborhood Assessments
 - Housing Options for Homeless & Special Needs
 - Partnerships for Revitalization
 - Programs for Rehabilitation



■ Hopkins County has a variety of housing types, including both rural and urban settings, which present many opportunities and challenges for future development. With a goal of maintaining and improving the existing neighborhoods and housing areas within the county, this plan strives to bring together programs, partnerships and people that have the needed resources to increase the quality of life. At the same time, new residential growth needs to be directed into suitable areas that can accommodate and sustain it.



Photo: Single Family Home

EXISTING HOUSING & NEIGHBORHOODS

To know what the existing housing stock and previous housing trends are in Hopkins County will aide in planning for the community's future housing needs. A summary of these existing housing conditions follows.

NEIGHBORHOODS & RESIDENTIAL CONSTRUCTION PERMITS

Since 2000, Hopkins County has experienced growth in residential construction. This is shown through both residential building permits issued and new neighborhoods that have been platted (see map on following page). Since 2000, 841 residential building permits have been issued in Hopkins County; the majority of these are concentrated in or around the existing incorporated cities and in the area northwest of Madisonville and west of Hanson. 61% of new neighborhood growth occurred in the city limits of Earlington, Madisonville and Hanson or the surrounding expansion area. As new growth occurs in the unincorporated county, it should be encouraged to locate in areas identified as expansion areas in *Chapter 3: Land Use*. Currently 53% of building permits since 2000 were within city limits and 69% of building permits are located within current city limits or the expansion areas.

New residential growth can provide new and additional housing options for residents but also needs to be constructed in a safe and orderly manner. New development within the five member cities with planning and zoning is currently regulated by the Zoning Ordinance & Subdivision Regulations which outline the standards for new facilities and infrastructure. Development in the unincorporated county is only regulated by subdivision regulations with the exception of White Plains.

White Plains is currently covered by their own subdivision regulations and they should continue to monitor their regulations to ensure residential development occurs in ways that are consistent with recognized standards and are in the best interest of both the citizen and the community.

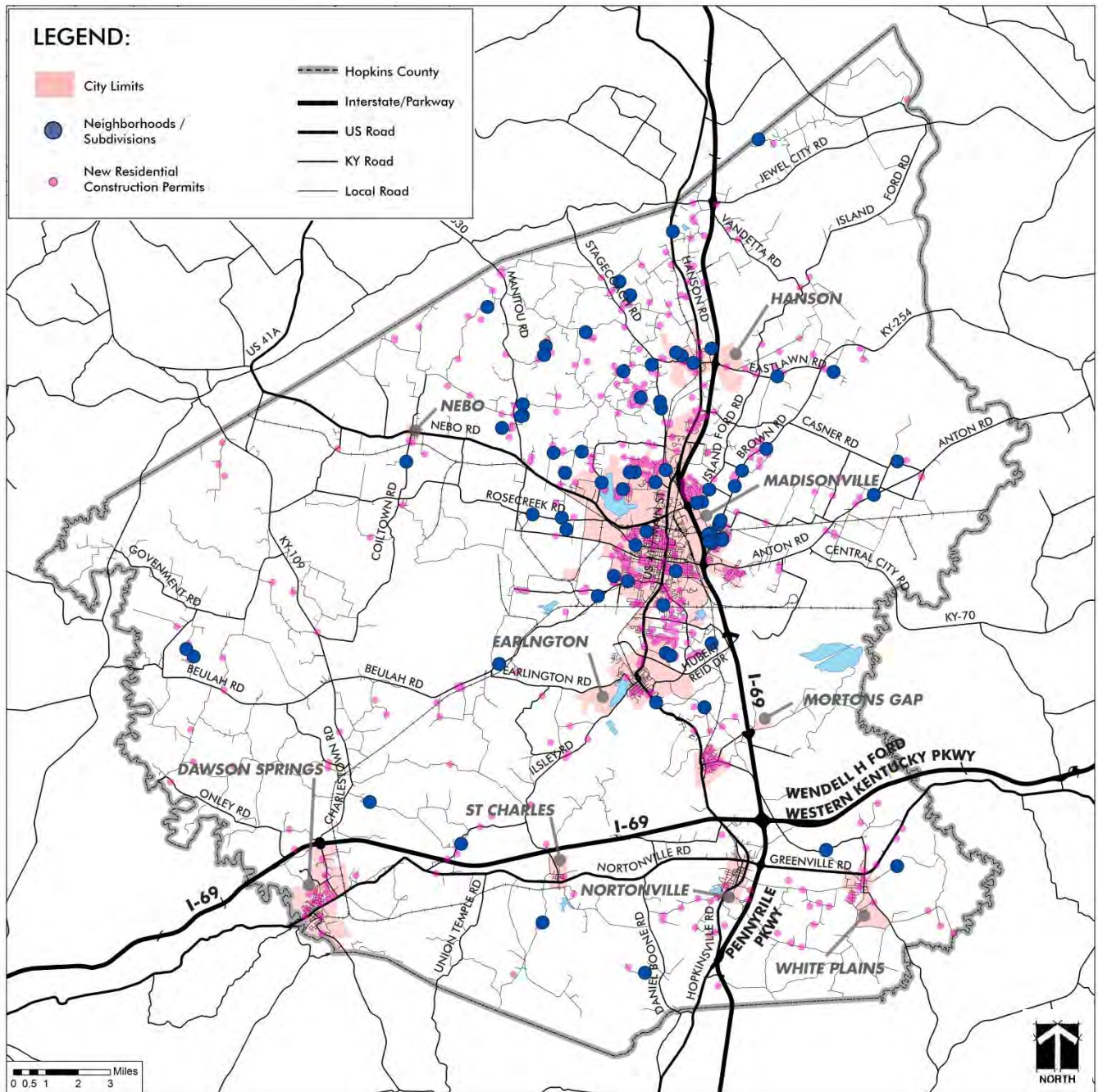


Figure: Subdivisions & Residential Construction Permits

BLIGHTED HOUSING & ABSENTEE LANDLORDS

Like other communities across Kentucky, Hopkins County must also address blighted housing and absentee landlords.

Hopkins County has already begun to address dilapidated homes throughout the county by applying to receive Community Development Block Grant funds. The application was successful with the Hopkins County Fiscal Court receiving \$1,000,000 in funds to implement a voluntary, scattered-site housing rehabilitation project that will provide assistance to approximately 11 homeowners to replace and repair housing.

Many older housing areas transition from owner-occupied to renter-occupied as the housing stock ages; this can lead to property that is not maintained as well and that can fall into disrepair. As of 2010, Earlington has the oldest housing stock with 93% of housing units built 1989 or before. This was followed by Dawson Springs (92%).

Landlords sometimes do not invest as much into rental properties if they are not vested in the local community. Areas with high renter-occupied housing units should be monitored for blighted housing conditions as well as potential absentee landlords. The following identifies the percentage of renter-occupied housing units in each community:

COMMUNITY	RENTER OCCUPIED HOUSING UNITS	% OF ALL HOUSING UNITS
Dawson Springs	476	42.3%
Earlington	224	39.9%
Madisonville	3,193	39.4%
Nortonville	163	32.2%
Mortons Gap	71	20.3%
St. Charles	21	19.4%
Nebo	16	19.3%
White Plains	57	16.4%
Hanson	36	14.2%

Source: 2010 Census SF1

RENTAL HOUSING & UTILITIES

A burden faced by landlords and tenants in Hopkins County is the high cost of utilities and the deposits required for those accounts. Partnerships should be investigated between landlords and the utility companies to create a user friendly option for tenants to receive services without high deposits or eventually burdening the landlord and utility company with nonpayment.



Photo: Multi-family homes

RENTAL HOUSING & SCHOOL SYSTEM

There are indications of people moving frequently from the number of children transitioning between schools. Hopkins County wishes to introduce consistency and stability into rental housing while providing renters with a valuable quality of life.

HOUSING & NEIGHBORHOOD STRATEGIES



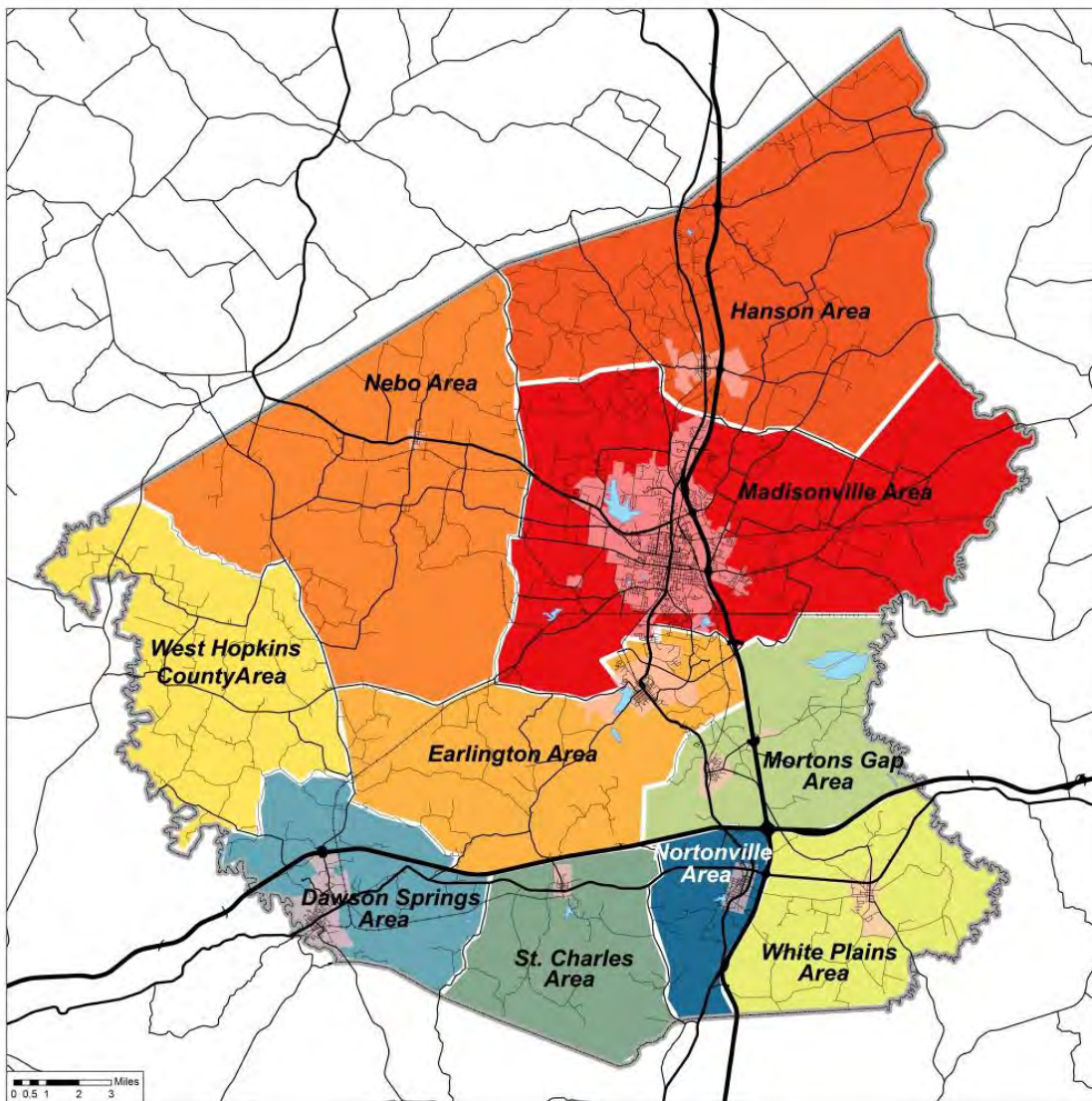
Photo: Single Family Home

Strong neighborhoods are needed for not only current residents but also to attract future residents. Hopkins County has many established neighborhoods that are in excellent condition but also has some housing areas that need improvement. The following strategies are intended to stabilize those areas in need of rehabilitation or revitalization as well as support those established neighborhoods throughout the county.

NEIGHBORHOOD ASSESSMENTS

As neighborhoods age, there is pressure toward decline due to changing physical, socio-economic, demographic and economic conditions. A neighborhood assessment should be completed that evaluates and classifies the long-term stability of all existing neighborhoods and determines where revitalization efforts including improvements and rehabilitation should be focused.

This assessment should take into consideration the current conditions of the county's neighborhoods and the direction of change perceived to be occurring. For the purposes of assessing the current condition and direction of change, the county has been divided into areas as shown on the following map.



For each area, the current condition should be evaluated as:

- Good/Fair – Areas where steady maintenance and reinvestment are evident.
- Minor Deterioration – Areas with need of minor repairs or scattered major repairs.
- Major Deterioration – Areas where major repairs are needed, little or no maintenance is occurring and there is disinvestment.

Following the current condition assessment, each area should also be evaluated to determine the perceived direction of change. This can be based on multiple factors that create neighborhood stability and contribute to decline, including age and size of housing, value per square foot, age and income of residents, and owner versus renter occupancy status.

Each neighborhood should be assessed as the following:

- Improving,
- Beginning Improvement,
- Beginning Decline or
- Declining.

These assessments of current condition and direction of change can be used to preliminarily assess each area. Based on these two assessments, each area can be assigned to a status.

Stable Areas – Areas identified with an existing condition of Good/Fair and a direction of change as Improving or Beginning Improvement. These housing areas are in good to fair conditions and there is continuous improvement. Policies and actions related to Stable Areas should be structured to maintain sound neighborhoods and prevent decline.

Enhancement Areas – Areas identified with an existing condition of Good/Fair that are Beginning Decline or Declining in addition to areas that are assessed as Minor Deterioration that are Improving or Beginning Improvement. These are areas where private economic forces are already present. This could include homeowner investment, stable real estate market, and on-going maintenance of housing units. County or city intervention or participation should be used to facilitate, complement and assist the revitalization already occurring.

Selective Renovation-Reinvestment Areas – Areas identified with an existing condition of Good/Fair that are Declining; Minor Deterioration that are Beginning Decline or Declining; and Major Deterioration that are Improving or Beginning Improvement. A higher level of county or city assistance is needed in order to improve the neighborhoods.

Selective Redevelopment Areas – Areas identified with Minor Deterioration that are Declining in addition to areas with Major Deterioration that are Beginning Improvement. These areas generally have individual properties with conditions that are significant that make them too expensive to renovate using traditional funding sources. These areas are often under pressure for land use changes and located along the edges of neighborhoods or districts. Selective Redevelopment can be used to target the desired land use and establish a more defined neighborhood boundary that can withstand future changes.

Redevelopment Areas – Areas identified with Minor Deterioration that are Declining in addition to areas with Major Deterioration that are Beginning Decline or Declining. These are areas where decline is well underway and continuing. These areas have opportunity to change land uses in order to meet the needs of the community. Redevelopment efforts commonly involve demolition on individual parcels.

By creating a matrix similar to the example below, housing redevelopment efforts can be prioritized to aid those areas with the greatest improvement and rehabilitation needs first.

Direction of Change Current Conditions	Improving ++	Beginning Improvement +	Beginning Decline -	Declining --
<u>Good - Fair</u> • Steady Maintenance • Reinvestment	Stabilization	Stabilization	Stabilization + Enhancement	Stabilization + Enhancement + Selective Renovation & Reinvestment
<u>Minor Deterioration</u> • Minor Repairs • Scattered Major Repairs	Enhancement	Enhancement	Selective Renovation & Reinvestment	Selective Renovation & Reinvestment + Selective Redevelopment
<u>Major Deterioration</u> • Major Repairs Needed • Little or No Maintenance • Disinvestment	Selective Renovation & Reinvestment	Selective Renovation & Reinvestment + Selective Redevelopment	Redevelopment + Selective Renovation & Reinvestment	Redevelopment

Figure: Neighborhood Assessment matrix

Areas that are identified as Selective Renovation-Reinvestment Areas, Selective Redevelopment Areas and Redevelopment Areas can be further analyzed to determine specific focus neighborhoods.

HOUSING OPTIONS FOR HOMELESS AND SPECIAL NEEDS

Providing housing options for those that are in a transitional period or rough economic situation due to employment or special needs is important. It is also important to provide housing options for those that need or desire less expensive housing options. Introducing more multi-family housing options can assist with lowering the upfront cost of home ownership. It also can create options for investors from the rental market side of housing. Creating partnerships between local government housing programs, developers and the local banks will be needed to address creating more affordable housing options for young professionals, small families, and the empty-nester population. Low-income housing options should be encouraged throughout the county. Additionally, new multi-family or low-income housing rental developments should all be required to have handicap accessible units.

For those that are in a transitional point in housing, the county should support a homeless shelter and training programs to aid in finding employment. Various state and federal programs are available for resources in funding and programming.

PARTNERSHIPS FOR REVITALIZATION

Forming partnerships that can help increase the community's ability to assist with revitalization is critical and must involve government officials as well as residents, property owners and community organizations. The county should

provide a leadership role in neighborhood revitalization through coordination, facilitation and resources, when available. Creating partnerships that connect residents and property owners with neighborhood organizations, community based non-profits, banks, private companies and other organizations such as the Kentucky Housing Corporation and Habitat for Humanity is an important step in building capacity to strengthen neighborhoods.

PROGRAMS FOR REHABILITATION

Developing a clearinghouse for state and federal housing rehabilitation programs can be important in helping to maintain or stabilize neighborhoods in decline. The county can provide coordination and information to various community partners and residents regarding funding sources that can be used for improving the community's neighborhoods, including improvements such as plumbing, roofing, insulation, heating, weatherization, entrance enhancements and more. A focus for rehabilitation should be placed on low-income areas and providing affordable housing options.

There are multiple funding sources available to Hopkins County and each city. The Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) program offers assistance for use in revitalizing neighborhoods, expanding affordable housing and economic opportunities, providing infrastructure and/or improving community facilities and services that focus on areas with low to moderate income residents, areas of blight, or areas with urgent community development needs. The Hopkins County Fiscal Court has already received \$1,000,000 in Community Development Block Grant funds to implement a voluntary, scattered-site housing rehabilitation project that will provide assistance to approximately 11 homeowners to replace and repair some of the worst housing in the County.

Housing Urban Development – Neighborhood Revitalization Strategy Areas (HUD-NRSA) provides for the economic empowerment of low and moderate income residents to make substantial physical improvements. HUD-NRSA funds can be used to offset capital costs so that the final sale price for a new house can be lowered to be more competitive with existing home values; this allows for replacement of aging or missing housing inventories.

A Housing Task Force should be created that focuses on neighborhood assessments and funding options. This task force should include representatives from the group and organizations identified in this element as well as representative from the county and each city.



HOPKINS COUNTY COMPREHENSIVE PLAN

*Community
Identity*

8

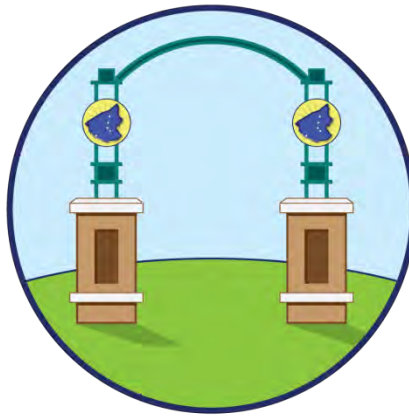
CHAPTER 8

COMMUNITY IDENTITY

[INSIDE THIS CHAPTER]

This chapter identifies strategies that will enhance Hopkins County's identity and memorability.

- Gateways
 - Community Gateways
 - Local Gateways
- Wayfinding
- Historic Preservation
- Streetscape Improvements
 - Urban Streetscape Improvements
 - Rural Streetscape Improvements
- Photographic Inventory Of Community Identity



■ The quality of the public space makes a community livable and, equally important, memorable. Public space can depict a community's character and their values. Conversely, a lack of character and identity can tell residents and visitors that this community could be anywhere and isn't memorable. Public space is the easiest and usually most effective place to reinforce a community's identity and tell the community's unique story. Hopkins County is known for having outstanding schools, opportunities for higher education, the arts and being a work ready community.



Photo: Madisonville community sign

GATEWAYS

Gateway monuments and signs can visually define major entrances into Hopkins County and each community. They allow visitors to associate Hopkins County with the geographic area and can also help to visually define the community's identity. A gateway could include structures, plantings, signage and/or lighting. Two types of gateways are proposed in Hopkins County, Community and Local.

COMMUNITY GATEWAYS

Located at major entry points into the County, community gateways are primarily focused on encouraging visitors traveling through Hopkins County to stop. Each community gateway should be visually similar and generally reflect the county as a whole. Each city could also be reflected on signs at their respective exits. This plan recommends seven community gateways, identified on the community identity map on the following page. They are located where people traveling on the Pennyryle Parkway (I-69) and Western Kentucky Parkway (I-69) have the opportunity to exit the interstate for convenient goods or to explore the county. On the following page is a map showing the location of proposed gateways and streetscape improvements. There is grant funding available to enhance gateways in partnership with the Realtors Association. Efforts should be made to coordinate with this group to identify installation sites.

Placemaking Micro-Grant: To help plan, organize, implement and maintain projects to improve a neighborhood with small, inexpensive, incremental projects which will help to make the neighborhood a better place to live, work and play. Local associations can be approved for two grants per year, provided that the grants are for two different projects. Amounts can range from \$500 and up to \$2,500.

Example projects to use funds from Placemaking Micro-Grant on include:

- Community Gardens
- Parklets
- Farmer Markets
- Outdoor Seating
- Playgrounds
- Dog Parks
- Murals and Public Art
- Bus Stop Enhancements
- Park & Trailhead Improvements

Smart Growth Action Grant: For larger placemaking activities, such as Better Block and Main Street®, which supports land-use related activities. To enable a local association to make efforts to engage local land use issues with other stakeholders and elected officials. No donations are made to other organizations unless REALTORS® are substantially engaged in the activity. The maximum grant is \$5,000. These grants require program evaluation after 30 days and after six months.

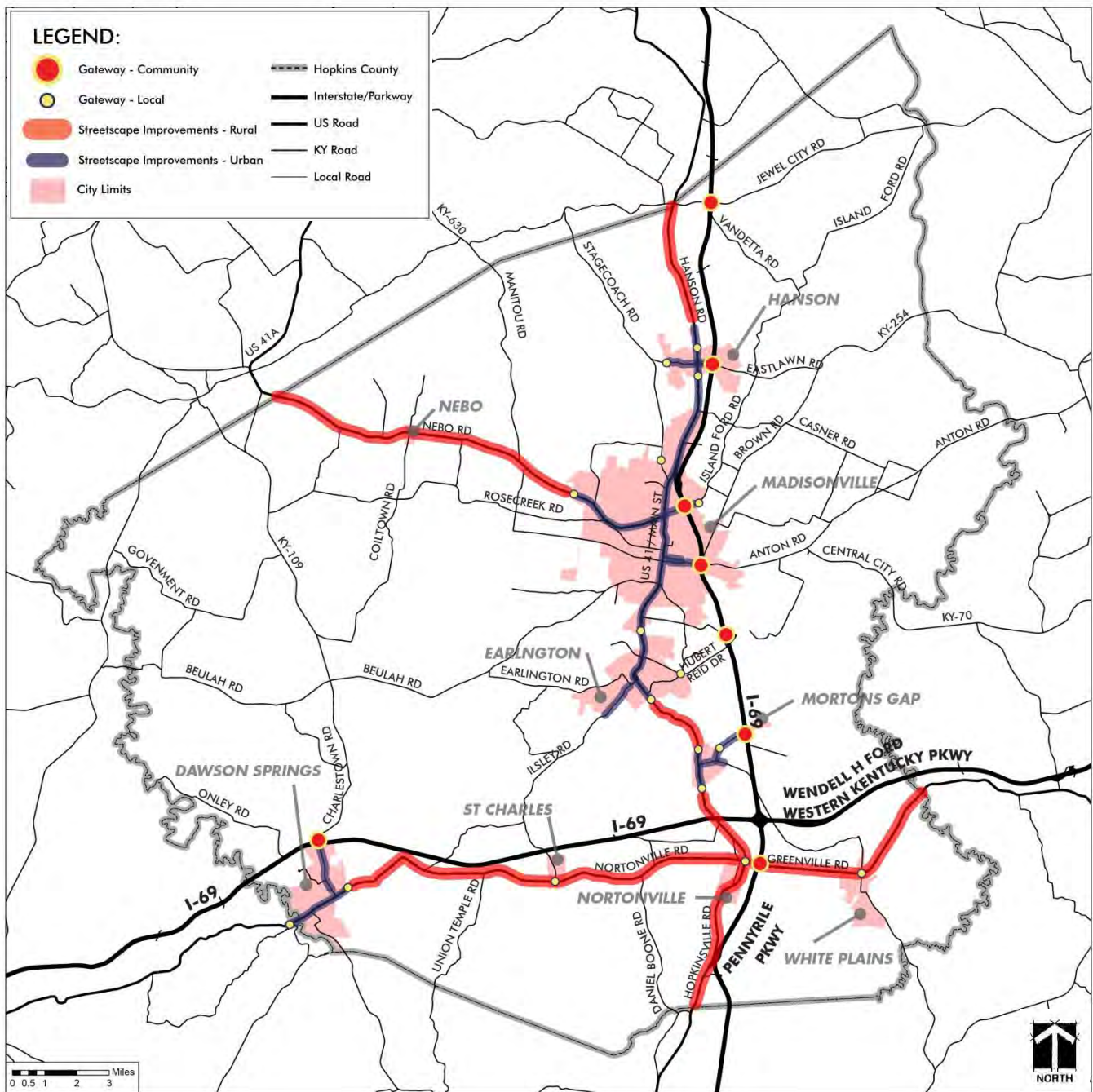
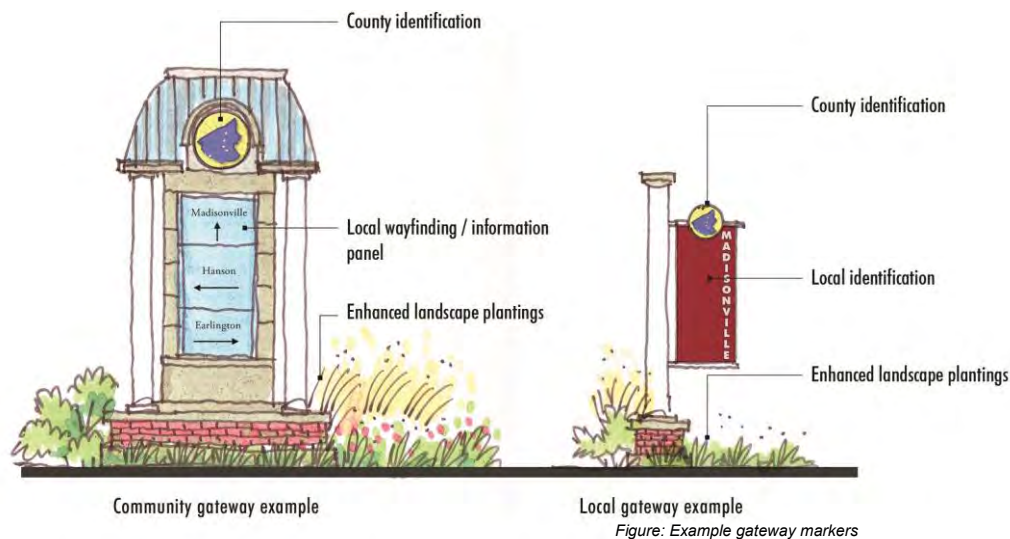


Figure: Community identity map

LOCAL GATEWAYS

Located at major entry points into the individual communities, local gateways can reflect an individual community rather than the entire county and are intended to function as a welcoming landmark. This plan recommends multiple areas for local gateways to be installed. As seen in the community identity map, local gateways are positioned at the intersection of major roads and corporate boundaries of communities within Hopkins County.

All gateways should follow a standard design and use similar materials (stone, masonry, metal) and design features. Keeping a unified theme when designing gateways will make entries both prominent and memorable for visitors. This does not prevent the use of distinct local identifiers to feature each community within the gateways. Distinction between communities can be achieved primarily through graphics (color variation, font, background images on banners, etc.)



WAYFINDING

Wayfinding provides a cohesive design for a community's signage system and can be used to reinforce a local area's identity. Wayfinding signs enhance the image of a corridor and help organize destinations by providing directional information for local facilities, communities and attractions. A standardized treatment provides a uniform brand and can be implemented with vehicular, pedestrian and information signage panels. A system of wayfinding signs should be designed & coordinated with the gateway signs.

HISTORIC PRESERVATION

Preservation of iconic elements that visually define Hopkins County is critical. Once these structures or buildings are destroyed they can never be reclaimed. The county should promote preservation of these elements that provide character to the community as well as promote historical elements or programming that will increase tourism (such as museums, historic tours, historical societies, etc.). Historic properties are identified and further discussed in *Chapter 3: Land Use*.

STREETSCAPE IMPROVEMENTS

A community's major corridors commonly become the image of a community; this can include both good and bad qualities. This area of the public realm is usually an afterthought and only once a corridor is congested, has no pedestrian scale or elements, is littered with multiple signs and has no character is it identified as an issue.

Non-interstate corridors are identified for streetscape improvements on the community identity map. Two distinct types of streetscape improvements are proposed in Hopkins County and are described below.

URBAN STREETSCAPE IMPROVEMENTS

Urban streetscape improvement areas are primarily focused on high-traffic corridors centrally located within the individual communities in Hopkins County. The two cross-sections on the following page show typical urban streetscape treatments depending on the development type adjacent to the corridor. The Urban Zone A treatment would be typical in areas where buildings are adjacent to the corridor (downtown areas), while the Urban Zone B treatment would be typical in areas where development consists of buildings separated from the corridors by parking lots and undeveloped land. Both of these corridors are within urban areas and are recommended to receive amenities including sidewalks, enhanced lighting, landscaping, wayfinding signs, identity signs, and other pedestrian amenities.



Figure: Urban Zone A: Cross-Section

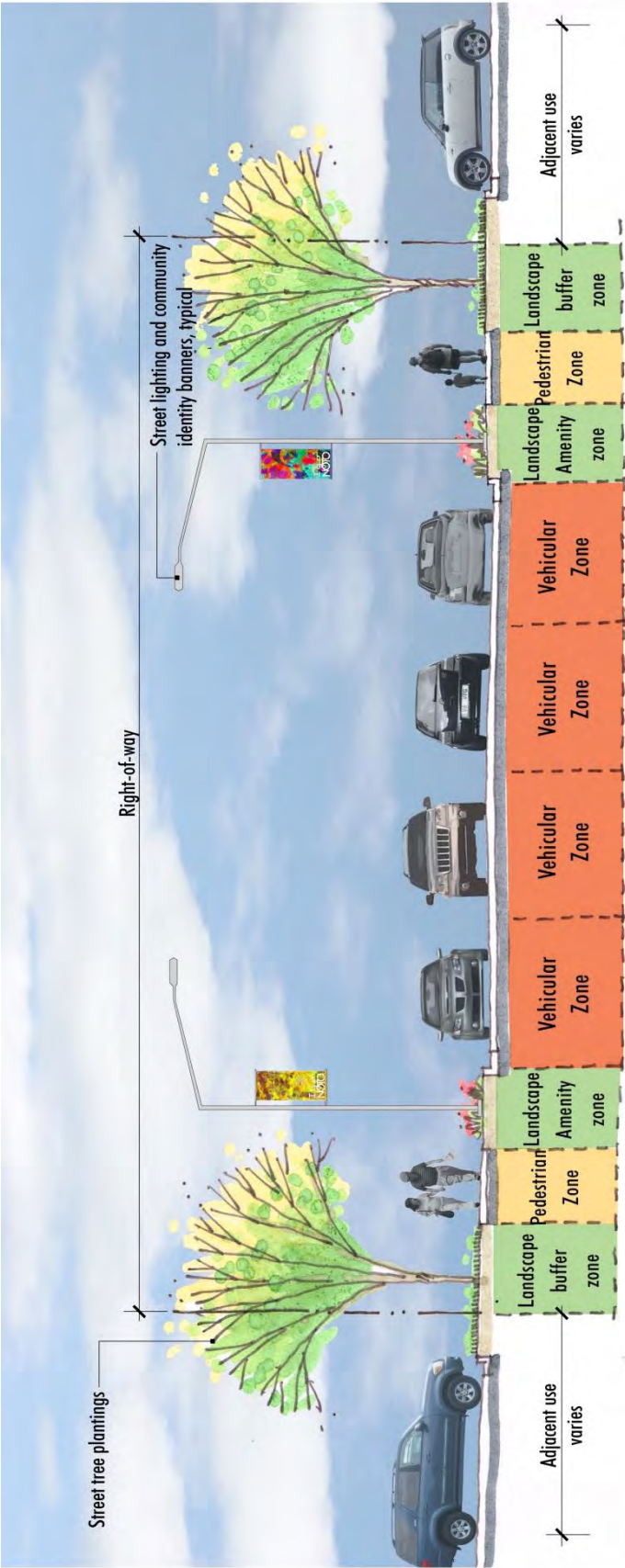


Figure: Urban Zone B: Cross-Section

RURAL STREETSCAPE IMPROVEMENTS

The rural streetscape improvements are focused on corridors that serve as connections between the communities in Hopkins County and are generally outside of city limits. The Rural Zone cross-section below shows a rural corridor where adjacent development is not typical. Corridors within the rural areas could include directional signs and preservation of the corridor's rural features.

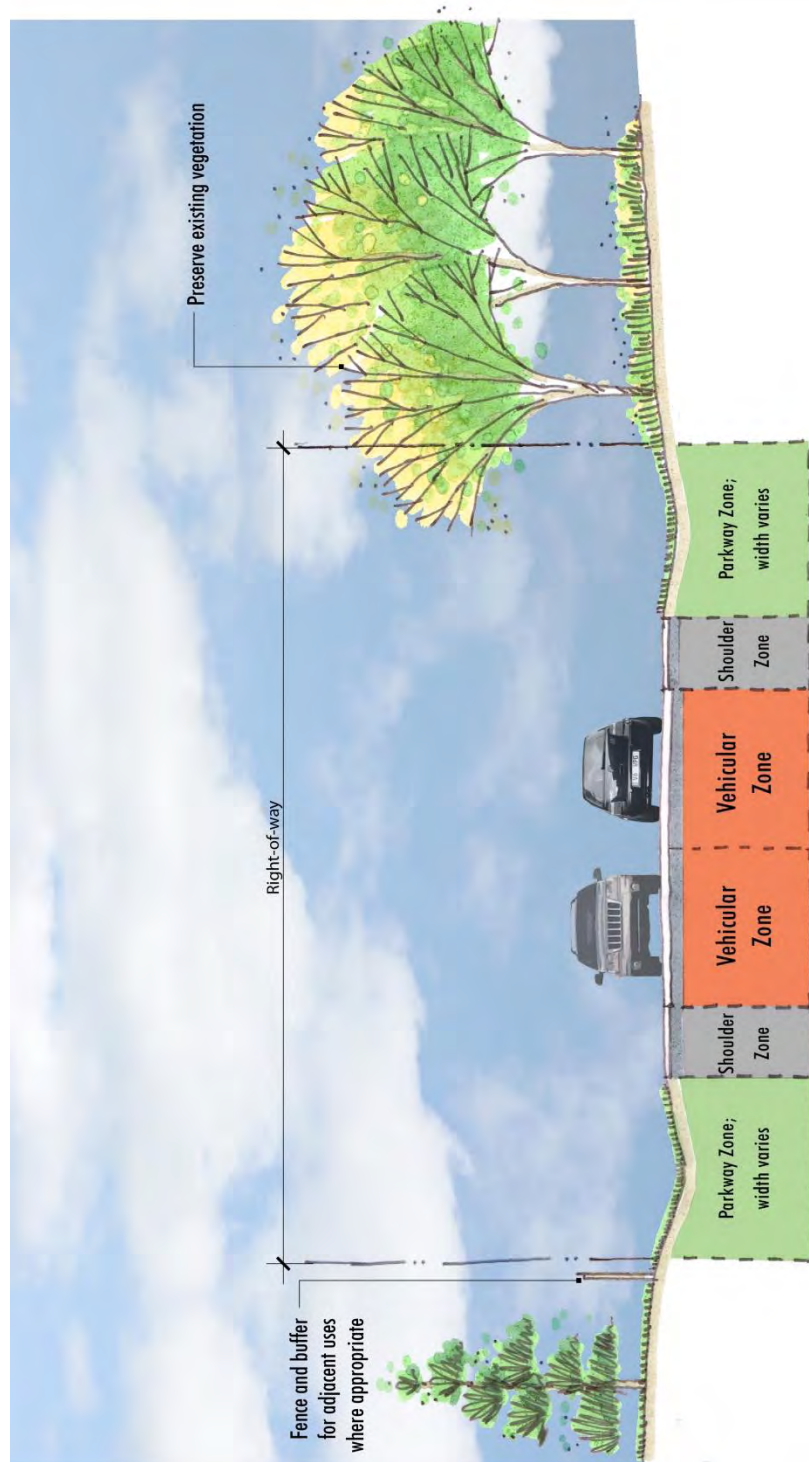


Figure: Rural Zone: Cross-Section

PHOTOGRAPHIC INVENTORY OF COMMUNITY IDENTITY

The following selection of photographs portrays the elements that form Hopkins County's identity today.









HOPKINS COUNTY COMPREHENSIVE PLAN

*Parks &
Open Space*

9

CHAPTER 9

PARKS & OPEN SPACE

[INSIDE THIS CHAPTER]

This chapter identifies the current inventory of parks, recreation, and open space. These facilities are coordinated with the future growth pattern.

- Existing Facilities
 - Current Parks & Facilities
- Parks & Open Space Strategies
 - Connections Master Plan
 - Reclaiming Mined Lands
 - Programming & Parks Improvement
- Photographic Inventory Of Parks And Recreational Opportunities



■ Hopkins County has a variety of park and open space resources that serve the community. From active recreation to passive recreational opportunities, parks and open space are an important quality of life factor that can impact physical health, psychological well-being, improved social functioning and cohesion, youth development, and environmental quality.¹ Parks also have large economic impacts by offsetting costs related to health issues from lack of activity and access to green space. There can also be significant economic development impacts as new residents and employers are attracted to the area.



Photo: Dawson Springs Sprayground

¹ Summary of Research Papers: The Key Benefits, National Recreation and Park Association, 2010.

EXISTING FACILITIES

Hopkins County currently has 812 acres of parks and 4,945 acres of wildlife area within the Peabody Wildlife Management Area (WMA). With a 2010 population of 46,920, Hopkins County has a rate of 17 acres of developed recreational space per 1,000 population. A commonly used national standard for regional/Metropolitan parks, set in 1983, is 10 acres per 1,000 population.² However, more locally based methods of determining minimum parks and recreation facilities have emerged called “Level of Service.” This standard at a county level system suggests a minimum 20 acres per 1,000 population.³ Existing park and recreation facilities are outlined below.

CURRENT PARKS & FACILITIES

Wildlife Management & Recreation

The Peabody WMA covers a large area of land spread across several Kentucky counties, including an eastern portion of Hopkins County. Kentucky Tourism describes the park as a sportsmen and recreation haven for the region.

“One of the largest Wildlife Management Areas in the entire state, the Peabody WMA is a popular destination for sportsmen in Kentucky. Over 45,000 acres spread among several tracts make up this WMA. A variety of habitats and terrains may be found on Peabody, making it a good spot to hunt a number of different game species. There are lakes and ponds that also provide anglers with good fishing. Bird watchers will like this WMA as well, as it is home to a large number of birds throughout the year. Anyone planning on entering Peabody WMA must buy an annual \$15.00 user permit, available wherever hunting and fishing licenses are sold. Horseback riders may ride on developed roads throughout the WMA, and there is also a shooting range for sighting in rifles.”

Fair Grounds

The Hopkins County Fair & Ballard Convention Center, with 42 acres of fairgrounds and outdoor arena, serves the residents of Hopkins County all year long providing many recreation opportunities. The fairgrounds are a vital part of the agriculture community in Hopkins County. The County Farmers’ Market is located on the grounds. The fairground also provides the counties’ only camp-site for visiting volunteers such as Habitat for Humanity and disaster relief workers. The fairgrounds support family-friendly, low cost entertainment by providing safe bleachers and pavement for outdoor events such as horse shows, truck and tractor pulls and music festivals.

The site is also home to the Ballard Convention Center which accommodates events ranging from small business meetings to large conferences, expos, weddings and large celebrations.



Photo: Hopkins County Fair & Ballard Convention Center

² National Recreation and Park Association Standards, 1983.

³ The Indiana Statewide Outdoor Recreation Plan 2011-2015, page 44.

Below is a summary of some of the current facilities in Hopkins County.

MADISONVILLE CITY PARK	MADISONVILLE YMCA	Loch Mary ATV Park
<i>Madisonville</i>	<i>Madisonville</i>	<i>Earlington</i>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 262 acres • 1.25 mile gravel walking trail • Olympic size swimming pool • 2 sand volleyball courts • playground • fitness trail • 9 hole golf course with club house • 18 hole Disc golf course • 2 fishing lakes • baseball stadium • 2 tennis courts • 13 picnic shelters • outdoor theater • 2 playgrounds • 2 horseshoe pits • Amphitheatre • Performance stage 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 5,400 square foot childcare facility • 3 gyms • skate park • soccer field • 2 multi-use fields • 60' climbing tower • low initiative 25 yard competition pool • free weight room • cardio room and cybex weight equipment • indoor/outdoor pool 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 318 acre ATV Park • Opened in July 2010 by the City of Earlington • 608 acres, including Loch Mary Lake, with approximately 500 acres for riding • Trail is approximately 10 miles long • Located at 1865 Earlington Road, between Hwy 1337 and Hwy 112, in Earlington, KY • Permits are a requirement at the park and can be purchased at Earlington City Hall Monday through Friday 8:30am-4:30pm. • Permits can also be purchased online at www.earlingtonatvpark.com
MADISONVILLE COUNTRY CLUB	LAKESHORE COUNTRY CLUB	MADISONVILLE COMMUNITY COLLEGE
<i>Madisonville</i>	<i>Madisonville</i>	<i>Madisonville</i>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 170 acres • Olympic size swimming pool • driving range • 18 hole golf course and clubhouse • tennis courts 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 150 acres • driving range • 18 hole golf with clubhouse • Olympic size swimming pool • boat dock 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 4 tennis courts • Hiking trail

HOPKINS COUNTY COMPREHENSIVE PLAN		
YOUTH ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION SPORTS COMPLEX	WHITE PLAINS FACILITIES	EARLINGTON FACILITIES
<i>Madisonville</i>	<i>White Plains</i>	<i>Earlington</i>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 31 acres • 8 baseball/ softball diamonds • 4 soccer fields 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • City Park • walking trail • playground • baseball/basketball fields/court • Veterans Memorial 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Price Park with handicap accessible playground and restroom facilities • Two family-size and two large group-size picnic shelters • Additional picnic areas with grills and accessible water • New amphitheater • Loch Mary (135 acre fishing lake) with floating boar dock and boat ramp in Price Park – no gasoline motors • Roadside park on Hwy. 112 with picnic area, fishing and boat ramp • 1/3 mile paved walking trail • Basketball courts • 318 acre ATV Park with new ATV trailhead, restroom facilities, and tent/camper campsites (no RV hookups) • City Park • OctoberFest in Price Park: Annual event featuring Backyard BBQ cook-off, Kansas City BBQ Society contest, live music and children's activities
MORTONS GAP FACILITIES	HANSON FACILITIES	NORTONVILLE FACILITIES
<i>Mortons Gap</i>	<i>Hanson</i>	<i>Nortonville</i>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • City Park 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 5 ball fields • City Park 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • City Park • Gordon Park • ball fields • walking trail • City Hall gymnasium
ST. CHARLES	TROVER HEALTH PARK	PRESERVATION AREAS
<i>St. Charles</i>	<i>Madisonville</i>	<i>Hopkins County</i>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • City Park 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fitness/walking trail 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Peabody Wildlife Management Area (4,945 acres)
GRAPEVINE LAKE	CHERRY PARK	DR. FESTUS CLAYBON PARK
<i>Madisonville</i>	<i>Madisonville</i>	<i>Madisonville</i>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 188 acres • Fishing lake • Mountain bike trail 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2 tennis courts 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 19 Acres • 1/2 mile paved walking trail • 2 basketball courts • Sand volleyball • Athletic field • Handicap accessible playground • Spray ground

MAHR PARK	REGIONAL SPORTS COMPLEX	Dawson Springs Facilities
<i>Madisonville</i>	<i>Hopkins County</i>	<i>Dawson Springs</i>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 265 acres • Planned amenities include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ 5 miles of trails ○ Kayak/canoe launch ○ Artist-in-residence program ○ Growing Warriors Gardens ○ Amphitheater ○ Fishing ponds ○ Sculpture trail 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Indoor archery • Walking Trail • Proposed Baseball Fields • Proposed Softball Fields • Proposed Football Fields • Proposed Soccer Fields • Proposed Picnic shelters and concessions 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 25 acre City Park <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Playground • 4 baseball/softball fields • Tennis court • Basketball Court • Paved ¼ mile walking trail/running park • Swimming pool w/splash park • Picnic areas and shelters • Veterans Park- Trailhead to Lake Beshear, hiking and biking trails • Riverside Park with a functioning replica of the 1914 baseball stadium <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Soccer field • Fishing • Play area • RV park with utility hookup • Boat ramp to Tradewater River • Tradewater Park <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Canoe and kayak rentals • Primitive camping • Picnic area • Hiking/biking trailhead • Tradewater River access

PARKS & OPEN SPACE STRATEGIES

Several strategies are proposed that seek to improve the connectivity and access of the current park system, promote a diverse user base, increase potential tourism, and create economic development opportunities for Hopkins County. These strategies are described in detail below.

CONNECTIONS MASTER PLAN



Photo: Dawson Springs trail head

Connecting people with places, especially recreational areas, is an important quality of life factor in any community. A focus needs to be placed on providing connections between neighborhoods and recreational areas in Hopkins County. These connections can be in the form of multi-use paths, trails or sidewalks and can serve as both recreational opportunities and as an alternative

form of transportation. The park & open space map on the following page indicates future connections between neighborhoods and recreational areas by illustrating the broad concept of connecting residential nodes (recreation areas) to activity nodes on a county-wide basis. The green arrows begin to define activity nodes and neighborhoods that could be connected.

This plan recommends that Hopkins County complete a connections master plan. This would begin to identify in more detail the neighborhood and park connections that are needed to create a high level of access for residents. A plan of this nature could also begin to define rough trail or multi-use path alignments for future design and construction as funding becomes available.



Photo: Trover Wellness Park

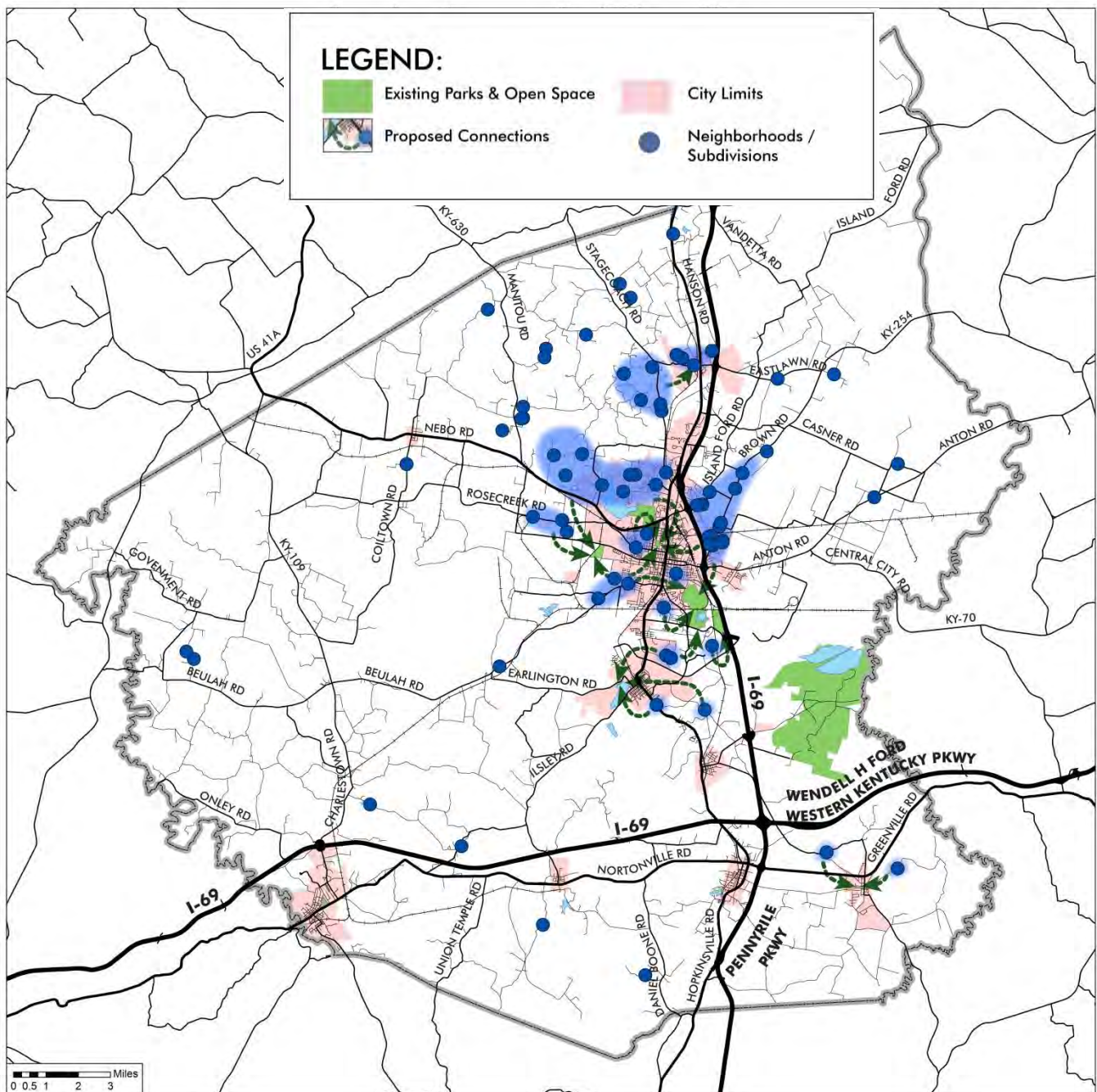


Figure: Parks & open space map

RECLAIMING MINED LANDS

Hopkins County has historically been the site of significant mining activity, and as a result, has seen significant portions of land be strip mined or undermined. Mining activities have influenced the availability of land for development and placed restrictions on the type of development that can occur on undermined land. When considering the future use of this land, reclamation may be part of a recreation strategy that allows undevelopable land (due to environmental considerations or the cost of engineering a safe and stable structure) to be used productively.

The Division of Mine Reclamation and Enforcement (DMRE) is one of three agencies within the Department for Natural Resources (DNR) responsible for administering Kentucky's mining, reclamation, and abandoned mine land laws. The DMRE works closely with the Division of Mine Permits and the Division of Abandoned Mine Lands to ensure that all established standards of operation are addressed and that the public and the environment are protected.

Reclaiming mining areas means that the land is returned to its original condition or another productive use. This could include parks, lakes, farmland, pasture, wildlife habitat, recreational areas (trails, golf courses, and ball diamonds) or military training grounds.

Additional opportunities exist for private recreation on reclaimed mine sites, including hunting clubs, off-road vehicle driving, nature preserves, hiking trails, fishing, and camping. Private recreational uses on abandoned mining sites should be encouraged.

PROGRAMMING & PARK IMPROVEMENTS

Creating targeted programming for each type of user is important. From the elderly walker to the family bike riders to the competitive sports teams, all users need to be accommodated through the parks and open space facilities in Hopkins County. Strategies should focus on maintaining and improving existing investments, such as existing parks and facilities. In addition, the new sports complex should be strategically marketed and viewed as an economic development opportunity by attracting major regional events.

PHOTOGRAPHIC INVENTORY OF PARKS AND RECREATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES

The following selection of photographs portrays the diversity of recreational activities in Hopkins County. Fishing, biking, hunting, horse-back riding, golfing, and many other activities are available throughout the County.







HOPKINS COUNTY COMPREHENSIVE PLAN

Environment

10

CHAPTER 10

ENVIRONMENT

[INSIDE THIS CHAPTER]

This chapter provides an overview of the features of the natural environment within Hopkins County.

- Geology & Geologic Resources
- Soils
 - Soils Formed In Alluvium On Flood Plains & Stream Terraces
 - Soils Formed In Loess On Uplands
 - Soils Formed Mainly In Loess Mantle & In The Underlying Material From Sandstone And Shale
- Prime Farmland
- Air Quality
- Land Cover
 - Vegetation
 - Wildlife
- Hydrology
 - Water Features (Rivers, Streams, Watersheds)
 - Regulated Dams
 - Total Maximum Daily Limits
 - Floodplains & Wetlands
 - Floodplain
- Abandoned & Active Mines
- Environmental Strategies
 - Abandoned Mining Lands
 - Floodplains & Wetlands



■ Hopkins County has a long history with environmental resources. The natural beauty and proximity to streams and rivers makes it an ideal location for many activities. There are rich mining, timber and farming histories as well. Hopkins County is located within the Western Kentucky Coal Field, an important natural region in Kentucky. The county encompasses 554 square miles of intermingled rolling hills and broad sedimentary valleys. Elevations range from 400 feet to 700 feet atop some of the ridges. The county has large areas of land that are within the 100-year floodplain as well as thousands of acres that have been surfaced mined and undermined. In addition to those constraints, the undeveloped land that remains is generally prime farm land and also has opportunities for oil and gas wells.



Figure: Built environment interacting with natural environment

GEOLOGY & GEOLOGIC RESOURCES

The following is a reprint of the Environmental Element Chapter from the "2023 Comprehensive Plan: Bridging Hopkins County." This chapter was prepared by the Hopkins County Joint Planning Commission.

The bedrock layers of Hopkins County consist of Pennsylvanian age limestones, sandstones, shales, and a few sandstone conglomerates which range from middle Lower Pottsville, through Allegheny, up to the upper Conemaugh series. Alluviums, clays and silts from Pleistocene and Recent age, ranging in depth to over 100 feet, fill the valley floors.

A monocline can be found tilting northeast toward the Western Kentucky Geo-syncline's trough, and a number of faults strike across the county in a northeast direction (ENV Map 2). These are part of the Central and Pennyrile Fault Systems. The Central Fault System extends about 50 miles across the county and into neighboring McClean and Caldwell counties. Individual faults in this system rarely extend over a few miles. These faults are high-angle normal faults with maximum displacement of 600 feet.

The Pennyrile Fault System represents the southern boundary of the Western Kentucky Coal Field. The faults of this system are present in the extreme southern portion of the County. Bifurcating (dividing into two branches) is common with mildly southward convexing, intersecting bands. These bow-shaped bands are usually no more than two miles wide.

Major geologic outcroppings include the Caseyville Formation, the Tradewater Formation, the Carbondale Formation, and the McCleansboro Group. The Caseyville Formation shows up as outcrop in the southwestern most edge of the County. According to the Kentucky Geologic Survey, the Caseyville Formation's upper boundary is not clearly defined in Hopkins County due to the absence of Bell and Hawesville coals and the lack of development of a thick, upper Caseyville sandstone. The thickness of the Caseyville Formation is highly variable due to the irregularity of the surface on which it was deposited. It may range from greater than 600 feet to less than 400 feet thick. Its sandstones have been important sources for natural gas, oil, tar sands, and water. This formation contains the following named units: Kyrock sandstone, Nolin coal, Breckinridge coal, Battery Rock sandstone, Battery Rock coal, and Bee Spring and Pound sandstones.

The Tradewater Formation outcrops along the southern and western portion of Hopkins County. Its upper boundary is located at the base of the Davis coal bed and on top of the Yeargins Limestone. While this formation ranges in thickness from less than 400 feet to more than 600 feet, it is less variable than that of the Caseyville Formation. The rocks of the Tradewater Formation are of a transitional nature between the Caseyville and Carbondale Formations. Limestones of the Tradewater are important as aquifers and as sources for the production of hydrocarbons. It is not

uncommon to find limestone beds above coal beds in the Tradewater Formations. The following units are present in the Tradewater Formation: Bell coal, Hawesville coal, Deanfield coal, Finnie and Grindstaff sandstones, Ice House coal, Amos and Foster coal zone, Aberdeen coal and sandstone, Elm Lick coal, Dunbar/Lead Creek coal, Lead Creek Limestone Member, Empire coal, Manning/Mining City/Lewisport coal, Curlew Limestone Member, and Yeargins Limestone Member.

The Carbondale Formation outcrops in Hopkins County in the area just north of the Tradewater Formation. The lower boundary of the Carbondale is at the base of the Davis coal in the Madisonville District and at the top of the Yeargins Limestone where the Davis coal is not present. The upper boundary is at the base of the Providence Limestone and at the top of the Herin coal when the Providence Limestone is not present. The Carbondale formation exceeds 400 feet in a fairly uniform thickness throughout the formation. It contains the following geologic units: Davis coal, Dekoven coal, Sebree sandstone, Colchester coal, Survant coal, Houchin Creek coal, Springfield coal, Briar Hill coal, and Herin coal.

The Sturgis Formation, now referred to as the McCleansboro Group, is found outcropping throughout the majority of the County. The upper boundary is located at the base of the Mauzy Formation. A large amount of the McCleansboro Group has been eroded, but the Kentucky Geological Survey reports that the original thickness was more than 2,650 feet. This group contains four formations: Shelburn Formation, Patoka Formation, Bond Formation, and Mattoon Formation.

The upper boundary of the Patoka formation is the Carthage Limestone and the lower boundary is the West Franklin Limestone. The following geologic units are present in the Patoka Formation: W. Ky. No. 15 coal, W. Ky. No. 16 coal, and W. Ky. No. 17 coal.

The Bond Formation's upper boundary is the base of the Carthage Limestone, and its lower boundary is the top of the Livingston Limestone, which is discontinuous in Kentucky. The Bond Formation contains the following geologic units: Carthage Limestone Member, Mt. Carmel sandstone, Lisman coal and Livingston Limestone.

The location of the upper boundary of the Mattoon Formation is the base of the Mauzy Formation and its lower boundary is the top of the Livingston Limestone. The subsequent geologic features exist in the Mattoon Formation; Geiger Lake coal, Dixon sandstone, Vanderburg sandstone, Mt. Gilead sandstone, and Sulfur Springs coal.

Hopkins County's primary geologic resource is bituminous coal that has been mined extensively. The primary seams of importance are as follows: Nos. 9, 11, 12, and 14. A secondary geologic resource is residual and transported clay suitable for brick making. Other geologic resources such as oil have been found in the northern area of the county while outcrops of low-grade

bituminous coals that may be useful as road surfacing material have been found in southern Hopkins County.

SOILS

The following is a reprint of the Environmental Element Chapter from the "2023 Comprehensive Plan: Bridging Hopkins County." This chapter was prepared by the Hopkins County Joint Planning Commission.

The U.S. Natural Resource Conservation Service divides the soils of Hopkins County into nine major associations by three groups: soils formed in alluvium on flood plains and stream terraces, soils formed in loess on uplands, and soils formed mainly in a loess mantle and in the underlying material from sandstone and shale.

SOILS FORMED IN ALLUVIUM ON FLOOD PLAINS & STREAM TERRACES

This class of soils associations contains nearly level soils located in broad valleys and includes:

Belknap-Waverly, Karnak-McGary-Belknap, Bonnie-Steff-Stendal, and Bonnie-Karnak. These soils are predominantly formed in water deposited material that range from silty clay to silt loam.

The Belknap-Waverly association makes up about 4% of the County. These soils are located on the floodplains of Deer, Drakes, Elk, Flat, Otter, and Weirs Creeks in the mid to southern section of the County. They are deep, medium-textured, and in general, poorly drained. Wetness is the main limitation in farming this area, and most of the poorer drained areas are left wooded. Most of the rest of the association is used for farming, and artificial drainage is used in many areas to alleviate the wetness problem. Corn and soybeans are the main cash crops grown here.

The Karnak-McGary-Belknap association is dominant in about 10% of the County. These soils are deep and poorly drained to somewhat poorly drained and range in texture from fine to medium. This association is located along the eastern edge of the County bordering the Pond River and has a width of approximately one- quarter mile in the southern section and approximately four mile in the northern section. The predominant soils of this association form in loamy alluvium, high in silt content, and in clayey, slack-water. Wetness is the main inhibitor to utilization of the area of this association. Artificial drainage is being used to make land useful for farming. Over half of this association is being used for farming, mainly cash-grain farming with corn and soybeans as the major crops. Wetness and flooding prohibit most nonfarm uses with the exception of a tile and brick factory which uses clay from the subsoil.

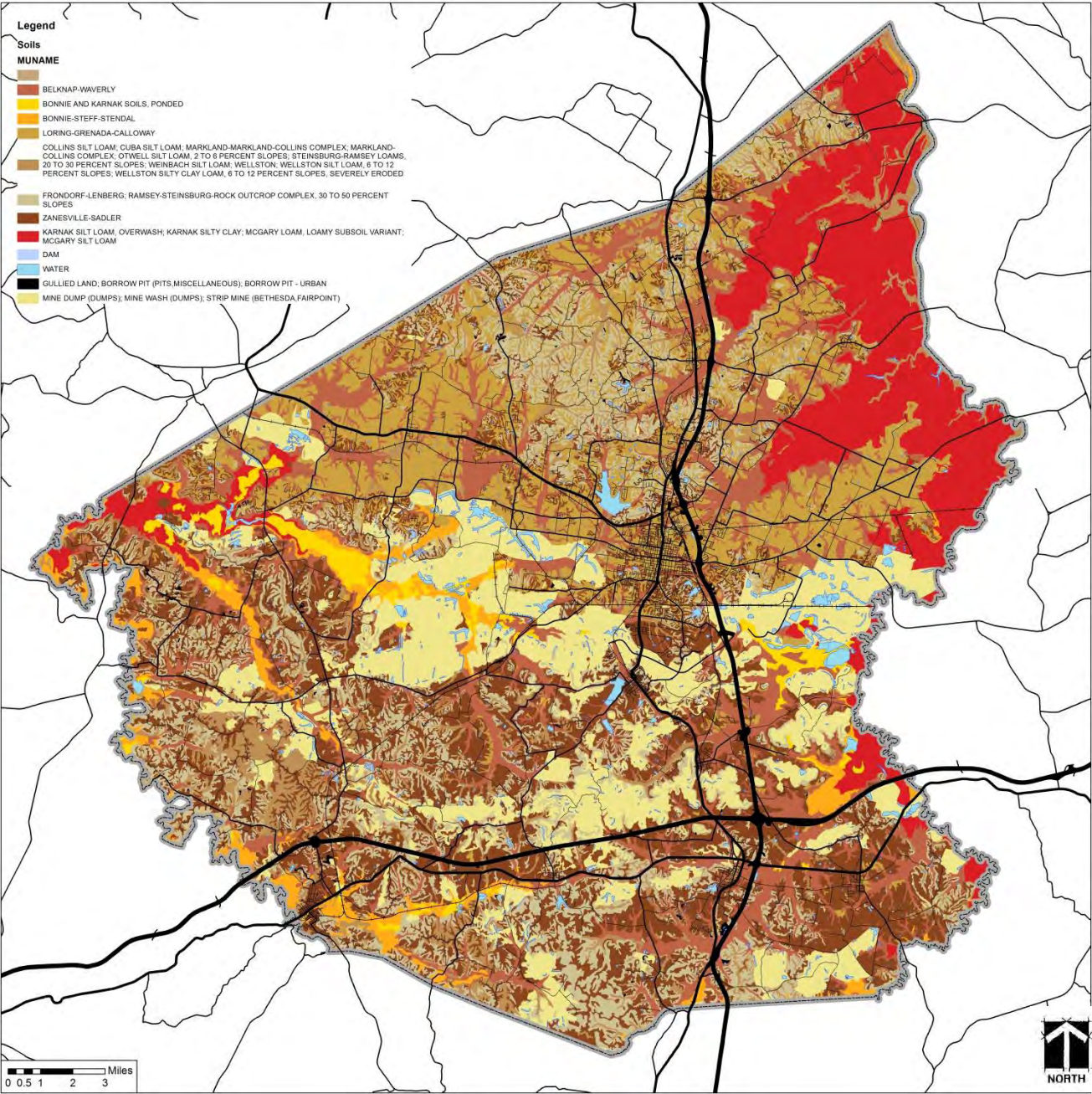


Figure: Soils within Hopkins County

The Bonnie-Steff-Stendal association accounts for about 3% of the County's soils and contains deep, poorly drained to moderately well drained soils and is located along the flood plain of the Tradewater River and the upper reaches of Caney and Clear Lick Creeks in the Midwest and southern part of the County. More than 50% of this association is woodland, some of which is ponded year-round and much of which is flooded during the winter and spring. The wetness of the area is very inhibiting, and little artificial drainage is being done due to a lack of suitable outlets. Due to the severity of the wetness problem, most of the area is suitable only as woodland, or wetland habitat.

The Bonnie-Karnak association makes up about 1% of Hopkins County and are fine to medium textured soils. It is located mainly on flood plains in alluvium and clayey slack-water deposits in the westernmost portion of Hopkins County. This association is dominantly marshy, ponded, and wooded and is characterized by late winter and spring flooding. Most of this area is not favorable to artificial drainage, thus only a small portion has been cleared for crops and pasture.

SOILS FORMED IN LOESS ON UPLANDS

This class of soil association contains nearly level to sloping soils which are located on uplands and are predominantly formed in wind-deposited material which is high in silt content. The Loring-Grendada-Calloway association is dominant in about 19% of Hopkins County in a broad, inconsistent band across the lower northern half of the County. These soils are located in gently rolling areas characterized by broad ridgetops, short sideslopes, and nearly level valleys and are more than four feet thick. These deep soils are moderately well drained to somewhat poorly drained with most having a layer that restricts water and air movement. These nearly level to sloping soils are well suited for most of the crops grown locally, such as corn, soybeans, hay, and tobacco. This is the most densely populated and industrialized area of the County.

SOILS FORMED MAINLY IN LOESS MANTLE & IN THE UNDERLYING MATERIAL FROM SANDSTONE AND SHALE

This group of soil associations includes: Loring-Frondorf-Zanesville, the strip mine-Frondorf, the Zanesville-Sadler, and the Zanesville-Frondorf-Belknap associations. The soils of these upland associations range from nearly level to steep. Although most of these soils are formed in the thin areas indicated by the title given to this group of associations, some of the soils are formed in a deep loess layer more than four feet thick.

The Loring-Frondorf-Zanesville association is composed of moderately deep to deep soils that range from moderately well drained to well drained. These gently sloping to steep soils are located mainly in the northern portion of the County along wooded hills that are characterized by narrow ridges and

valleys. This association covers approximately 20 percent of Hopkins County with medium-textured and moderately fine textured soils.

The Loring-Frondorf-Zanesville is mostly wooded with a few ridges and valleys being utilized for crops, such as corn, soybeans, hay, and pasture. The main limitation to agriculture is erosion due to the steep slopes. Nevertheless, these areas can be utilized for limited homesites, wooded parks, picnic areas, and other recreational uses, as well as for timber production.

The Strip Mine-Frondorf associations make up about 9% of the County. This association contains moderately deep to deep soils that are well drained and moderately steep to steep and is characterized by knolls of spoil material from strip mine sprawling across the landscape intermingled with narrow wooded bands. These soils are formed by weathering acid sandstone and shale material. This association is mainly used for coal mining with a few farms that are mostly used as part-time general farms. The majority of this association is wooded or spoil slopes that support timber production and woodland wildlife habitat.

The Zanesville-Sadler association contains deep, medium textured soils. These soils are gently sloping to moderately steep and are moderately well drained to well drained. This association covers approximately 8% of Hopkins County and is located in gently rolling areas such as broad ridgetops, short sideslopes, and nearly level valleys. A major use for this association is farming with corn, soybeans, tobacco, hay, and pasture being the main crops. Limitations in this association include the hazard of erosion and wetness. Artificial drainage may be utilized to curtail these limiting effects. Many of these areas are adequate for homesites; however, much of this association is utilized for strip mining and deep mining.

The Zanesville-Frondorf-Belknap association covers about 26% of the County and is composed of moderately deep to deep soils of medium texture. These soils are located on long narrow ridges, on moderately steep to steep wooded hills, and in narrow valleys. This association is mostly wooded, but some ridges and valleys have been cleared for cultivation of crops such as corn, soybeans, hay, and pasture. A large portion of the association is owned by coal companies, and coal is mined here. The sloping to gently sloping soils are suitable for homesites and industry. The area also has potential for timber production, wildlife habitat, and recreational purposes-the western Kentucky 4-H Camp is located at Dawson Springs.

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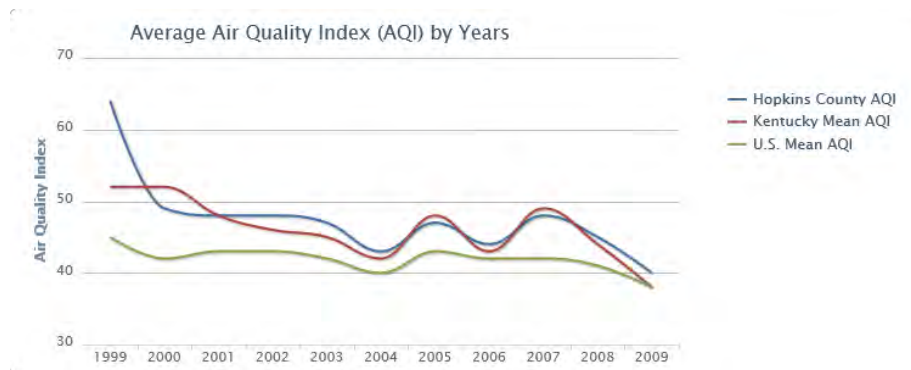
PRIME FARMLAND

Approximately 25% to 49% of Hopkins County is classified as prime farmland, making it one of thirty-six counties in this classification. Prime farmland is becoming increasingly rare in Kentucky. In an effort to protect prime and other farmland in Kentucky the state has passed the Agricultural District Act in 1982.

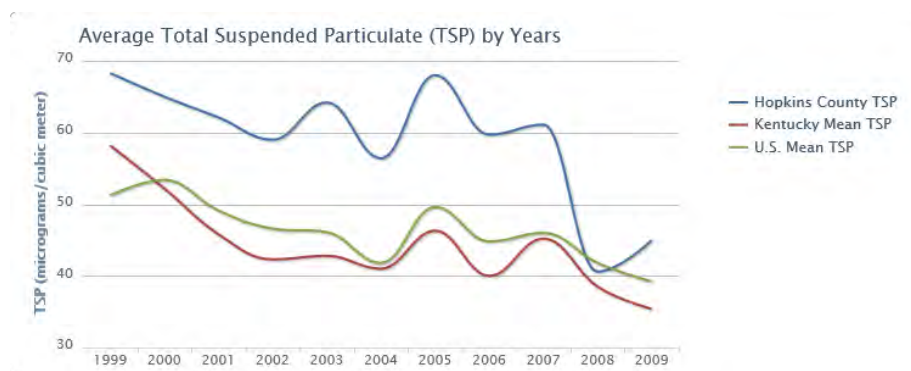
According to the Department of Agriculture, prime farmland has “the soil quality, growing season, and moisture supply needed to produce economically sustained high yields of crops when treated and managed according to acceptable farming methods, including water management. These lands have an adequate and dependable water supply from precipitation or irrigation, a favorable temperature and growing season, acceptable acidity or alkalinity, acceptable salt and sodium content, and few to no rocks. They are permeable to water and air, are not excessively erodible or saturated with water for a long period of time, and they either do not flood frequently or are protected from flooding.”

AIR QUALITY

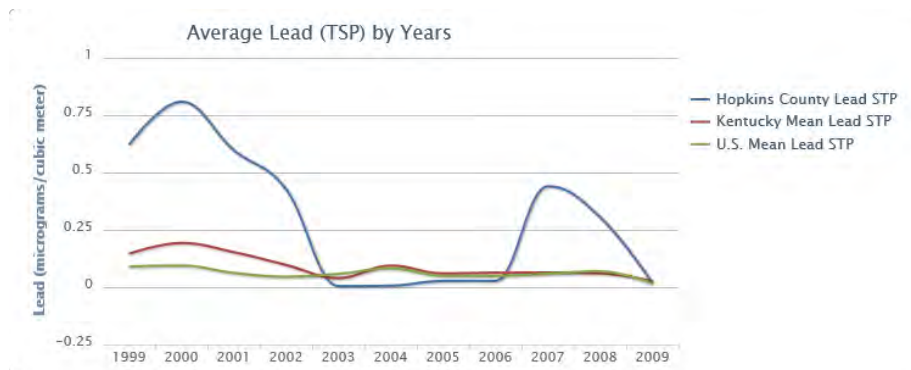
Air quality indices (AQI) are numbers used by government agencies to characterize the quality of the air at a given location. As the AQI increases, an increasingly large percentage of the population is likely to experience increasingly severe adverse health effects. Air quality index values are divided into ranges, and each range is assigned a descriptor and a color code. Standardized public health advisories are associated with each AQI range.



Another measure of air quality is based on tiny airborne particles or aerosols that are less than 100 micrometers are collectively referred to as total suspended particulate matter (TSP). Data sets and graphs are from www.usa.com.



Lead or Pb (TSP) is a measurement of the amount of elemental lead in total suspended particulate (TSP).



EARTHQUAKE POTENTIAL

The following is a reprint of the Environmental Element Chapter from the "2023 Comprehensive Plan: Bridging Hopkins County." This chapter was prepared by the Hopkins County Joint Planning Commission.

The earthquake history of the Central United States is dominated by a series of earthquakes that ruptured the New Madrid fault in the winter of 1811-1812. On December 16, 1811, there were three very large earthquakes on the southern branch of the fault in eastern Arkansas, extending from a point 25 miles northeast of Memphis to Reelfoot Lake in northwest Tennessee. Together these three earthquakes ruptured the entire southern segment of the fault, a length of about 90 miles. The largest of the earthquakes, with an estimated magnitude of about 8.8 Richter (some scientists claim a Richter of 8.3) occurred on February 7, 1812 near the town of New Madrid, Missouri. Over 189 earthquakes above 5.0 on the Richter Scale occurred in the New Madrid fault zone during 1811 and 1812. (Crawford 1989). There is a thirty percent probability of a 7.6 Richter earthquake at the New Madrid site sometime within the next fifty years.

Seismologists express magnitudes of earthquakes using the Richter Scale. Each step on the scale represents an increase in amplitude by a factor of ten. The vibrations of an earthquake with a magnitude of two are ten times greater than those put out by a quake of one, and a quake with the magnitude of eight are one million times greater in amplitude than those of an earthquake with a magnitude of two (Hamblin 1982). With a 7.6 event at the New Madrid Fault site, Hopkins County falls within the VIII destructive zone of the Modified Mercalli Intensity Scale (MMS) which measures damage intensity to man-made structures. The damage intensity of the earthquake zone within which Hopkins County falls from the Modified Mercalli Intensity Scale (1931) is VIII. This is described as, "General fright, alarm approaches panic; strong shaking of trees; temporary to permanent changes in flow and temperature of springs; dry wells renewed; considerable damage to structures not built to withstand earthquake; falling of walls; twisting, falling of chimneys, columns, monuments, smoke stacks, towers, etc."

LAND COVER

Hopkins County's land cover can be characterized as transitional. This is in response in part to the economic challenges of the past decade. As Hopkins County better defines its position in the marketplace these transitions will level out and become more stable. The following sections describe current conditions and species found across the county.

VEGETATION

The following is a reprint of the Environmental Element Chapter from the "2023 Comprehensive Plan: Bridging Hopkins County." This chapter was prepared by the Hopkins County Joint Planning Commission.

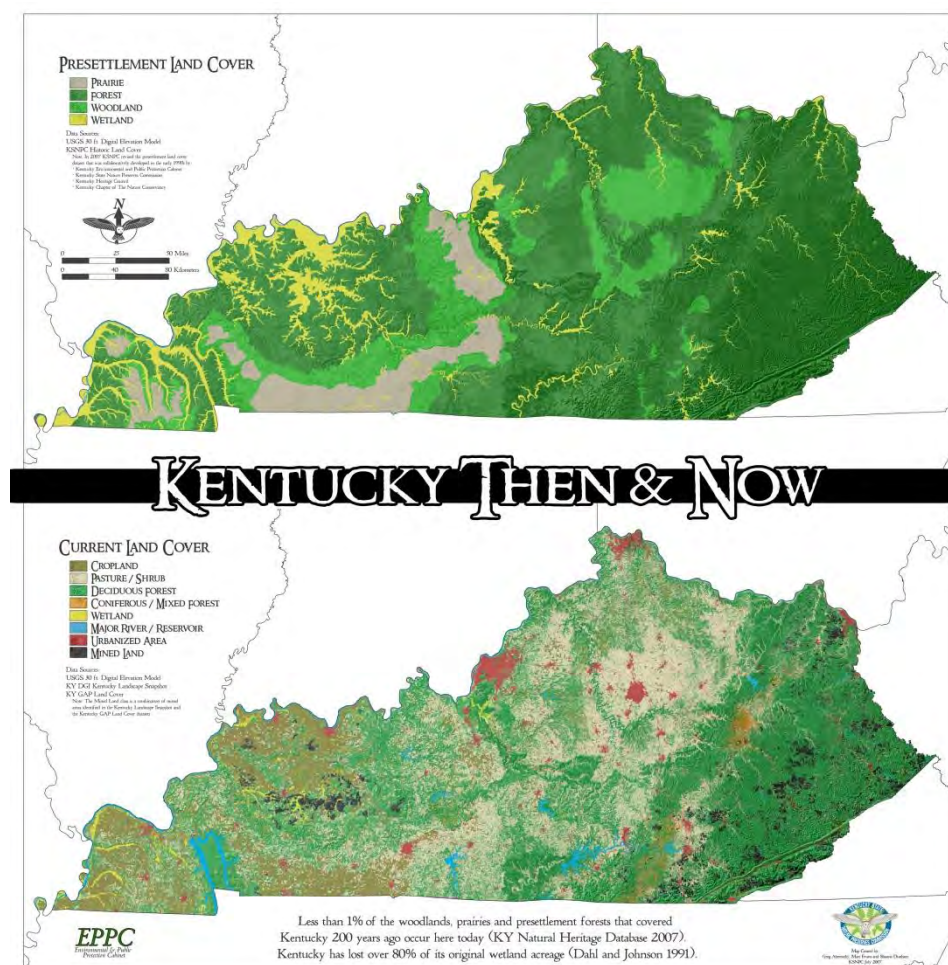
The USDA NRCS has divided the vegetation of Hopkins County into six major groups: grains and seed crops, domestic grasses and legumes, wild herbaceous plants, hardwoods, coniferous plants, and wetland plants. The major crops of the grain and seed category include corn, sorghum, wheat, popcorn, and soybeans.

Domestic grasses and legumes present in the County consist of perennial grasses and herbaceous legumes which are established by planting and which provide food and shelter to wildlife. Some

examples are fescue, timothy, orchard grass, clover, and lespedeza.

Wild herbaceous plants are native or introduced perennial grasses and weeds. Indiangrass, little bluestem, big bluestem, quackgrass, goldenrod, wild carrot, nightshade, and dandelion are the major types of wild herbaceous plants found in Hopkins County.

Hardwood trees are nonconiferous trees, shrubs, and wood vines which bear fruit, nuts, buds, catkins, twigs, or foliage that is edible by wildlife and are



Source: Environmental & Public Protection Cabinet (EPPC) & Kentucky State Nature Preserves Commission (KSNPC) 2007

Figure: Land Cover of Kentucky

usually naturally established. Hardwoods present in Hopkins County are oak, cherry, maple, poplar, apple, dogwood, hawthorn, sweetgum, hickory, sassafras, persimmon, black walnut, and sumac.

Coniferous plants are cone-bearing evergreens, including both trees and shrubs, which provide cover and some nourishment for wildlife. Among the species in this category are Norway spruce, Virginia pine, loblolly pine, shortleaf pine, white pine, Scotch pine, and red cedar.

The wetland plants category consists of wild, herbaceous, annual, and perennial plants which grow in moist areas but are not submerged or aquatic. Among the wetland plants in Hopkins County are smartweed, wild millet, pondweed, duckweed, duckmillet, sedges, barnyard grass, bulrush, arrow-arum, pickerelweed, phragmites or common reed, water willow wetland grasses, wildrice, cattails, water lilies, and sweet flags.

WILDLIFE

The USDA NRCS classifies three types of wildlife in Hopkins County: openland wildlife, woodland wildlife, and wetland wildlife. Openland wildlife in Hopkins County includes the following: quail, meadowlark, field sparrow, dove, cottontail rabbit, red fox, and woodchuck. Croplands, pastures, meadows, lawns, and areas overgrown with shrubs and grasses are the preferred homes of these birds and mammals.

Woodland wildlife includes birds and mammals such as thrush, woodcock, scarlet tanager, vireo, gray squirrel, red squirrel, white-tailed deer, gray fox, raccoon, and wild turkey. The woodlands provide these creatures with food and shelter.

Wetlands such as ponds, marshes, and swamps provide a habitat for several types of wildlife as well. Birds, amphibians, vertebrates, and mammals that usually make their home in the wetlands of Hopkins County include ducks, geese, rails, and herons, as well as shore birds and muskrat.

HYDROLOGY

Hydrology has always had an impact on those calling Hopkins County home. This region was originally mostly a wetland when the first settlers arrived, but long since drained for farming and logging. Today, hydrology still plays a major role in shaping the landscape and the economy of Hopkins County.

WATER FEATURES (RIVERS, STREAMS, WATERSHEDS)

The following is a reprint of the Environmental Element Chapter from the "2023 Comprehensive Plan: Bridging Hopkins County." This chapter was prepared by the Hopkins County Joint Planning Commission.

The eastern part of the County is drained by Pond River and its tributaries-East Fork Deer Creek, Otter Creek, Narge Creek, Elk Creek, Earle Creek, Flat Creek, and Drakes Creek. The western portion of the county is drained by the Tradewater River and its tributaries-Caney Creek, Lick Creek, and Clear Creek. The water from Pond River flows into the Green River, and the water from Tradewater River flows into the Ohio River. Major lakes within the County are Loch Mary, Grapevine Lake and Lake Pewee.

REGULATED DAMS

Below is a list of the regulated dams within Hopkins County:

DAM ID	HAZARD CLASS	NAME
0141	B	Slaughters Lake Dam
0142	C	Madisonville Reservoir Dam No. 1 (North)
0143	B	Madisonville Reservoir Dam No. 2
0144	A	Madisonville Reservoir Dam No. 3 (South)
0145	C	Lake Pewee Dam
0146	A	Spring Lake Dam
0148	C	Loch Mary Reservoir Dam
0149	B	Browns Lake Dam
0156	B	Mortons Gap Reservoir Dam
0157	C	Nortonville Lake Dam
0170	A	Peabody Coal
0185	A	University of Kentucky Youth Camp Dam
0187	C	Homestead Lake Dam
0190	A	Coiltown Station Lake Dam
0191	B	Lambs Creek Impoundment Dam
0453	C	Kington Lake
0858	A	Otter Lake Dam
0883	B	Swan Lake Dam
0907	A	Price Martin Lake Dam
0981	A	Ronnie Abbott Lake Dam
0998	A	Otter Lake Dam No. 2
1041	C	Stewart Creek FRS No. 1
1047	C	Stewart Creek FRS No. 2

TOTAL MAXIMUM DAILY LIMITS

There are five streams that have Total Maximum Daily Limits (TMDL) placed on them from the Kentucky Division of Water for having too low of pH. These conditions are related to acid mine drainage from surface and strip mining activities.

- Cane Run of Caney Creek, 2004
- Craborchard Creek of Drakes Creek, 2004
- Drakes Creek of Pond River, 2006
- Pleasant Run of Drakes Creek, 2004 & 2011
- Sugar Creek Watershed of Clear Creek, 2004

WETLANDS

The following is a reprint of the Environmental Element Chapter from the "2023 Comprehensive Plan: Bridging Hopkins County." This chapter was prepared by the Hopkins County Joint Planning Commission.

Wetlands are areas which contain a predominance of hydric soils and are inundated or saturated for a sufficient time to allow the development of a predominantly hydrophytic community. These wetlands are seasonally flooded or ponded and frequently provide water to the Green River and Tradewater River stream flows. Wetlands play a critical role in flood control by slowly releasing water to the rivers after a rain event. During droughts, wetlands help maintain flow levels for fisheries and drinking water supplies, as well as providing critical habitat for wildlife, filtering out pollutants and helping to sustain watershed health.

All applicants for federal permits for an activity which may result in the discharge of a pollutant into any regulated state wetland must obtain a Section 401 water quality certification from the Division of Water and 404 permit from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. The state must certify that the materials to be discharged comply with all effluent limitations, water quality standards, and other applicable laws and regulations. Types of discharges included under this requirement are dredged spoil, solid waste, garbage rock, and soil but is not limited to those listed. General 404 permits can be issued to allow nationwide, state, or regional blanket authorization in instances where the adverse impacts would be minimal. Under a general permit, individual permits are not required unless the project exceeds the conditions set by the general permit, except in Kentucky where a Section 401 water quality permit is required if the activity involves discharging into an acre or more of wetland.

FLOODPLAIN

The following is a reprint of the Environmental Element Chapter from the "2023 Comprehensive Plan: Bridging Hopkins County." This chapter was prepared by the Hopkins County Joint Planning Commission.

Hopkins County contains several low-lying areas subject to flooding. The eastern portion of the County contains a significant number of floodplains along Pond River and its tributaries, including Elk Creek and Otter Creek. In the western half of the County the floodplains are located along Clear Creek and its major tributaries. In the southwestern portion of the County the floodplains are located along Tradewater River's tributaries, mainly along Caney Creek up to the eastern and western city limits of Dawson Springs. Surface drainage is a significant problem in Hopkins County which contributes to the problem of flooding during and after storm events.

The map below shows wetland and floodplains in Hopkins County.

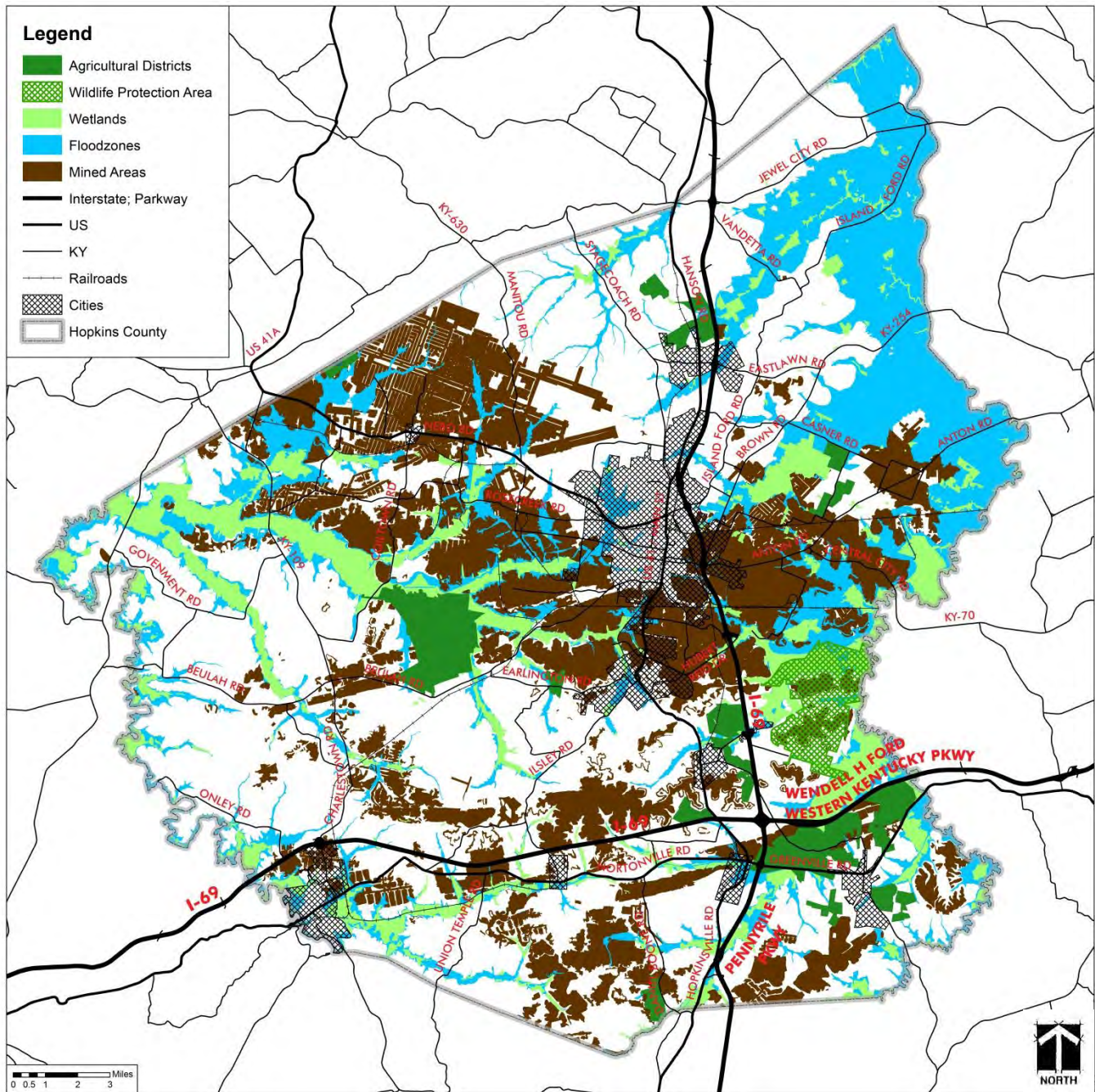


Figure: Wetlands & floodplains within Hopkins County

ABANDONED & ACTIVE MINES

The county has large areas through the middle and southern portions that have been mined in the past and now are abandoned. The mining activities in these regions consist of both surface mining and underground mining. Active mine permits still cover large areas along the western edge of the county and just east of Madisonville.

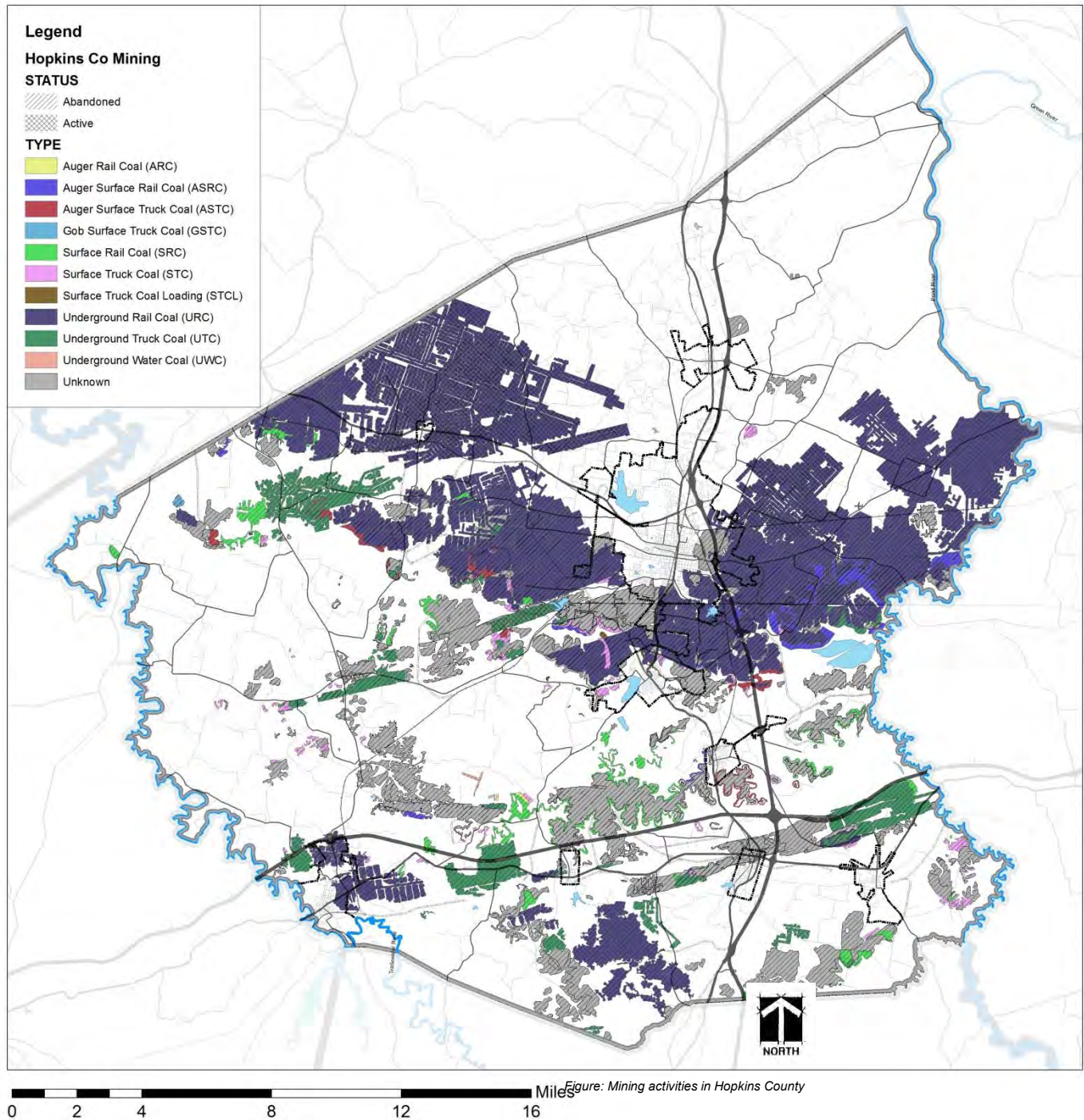
The Kentucky Geographic Alliance prepared the graphic and summary about the relationship of coal and Kentucky. Hopkins County is still a major producer of coal with a 1.8% increase between 2011 and 2012.¹ Kentucky experienced a decline of 16.7% in coal production from 2011 to 2012.

“Coal is a major resource in Kentucky and has been used for over 250 years. Coal mining production (see map below) has decreased in parts of both the eastern and western coal fields of Kentucky over the past year. This geographic issue highlights economic, historic, political, environmental, and cultural variability over space and time.

Kentucky is in a state of transition with regards to energy. Coal is still an important resource for Kentucky and will be for years to come, but other energy sources are becoming more viable. Natural gas as an energy source is currently booming in Eastern Kentucky.”

On the following page is a map of mining activities in Hopkins County.

¹ *Kentucky Coal Facts, 13th Edition, 2013, page 6.*



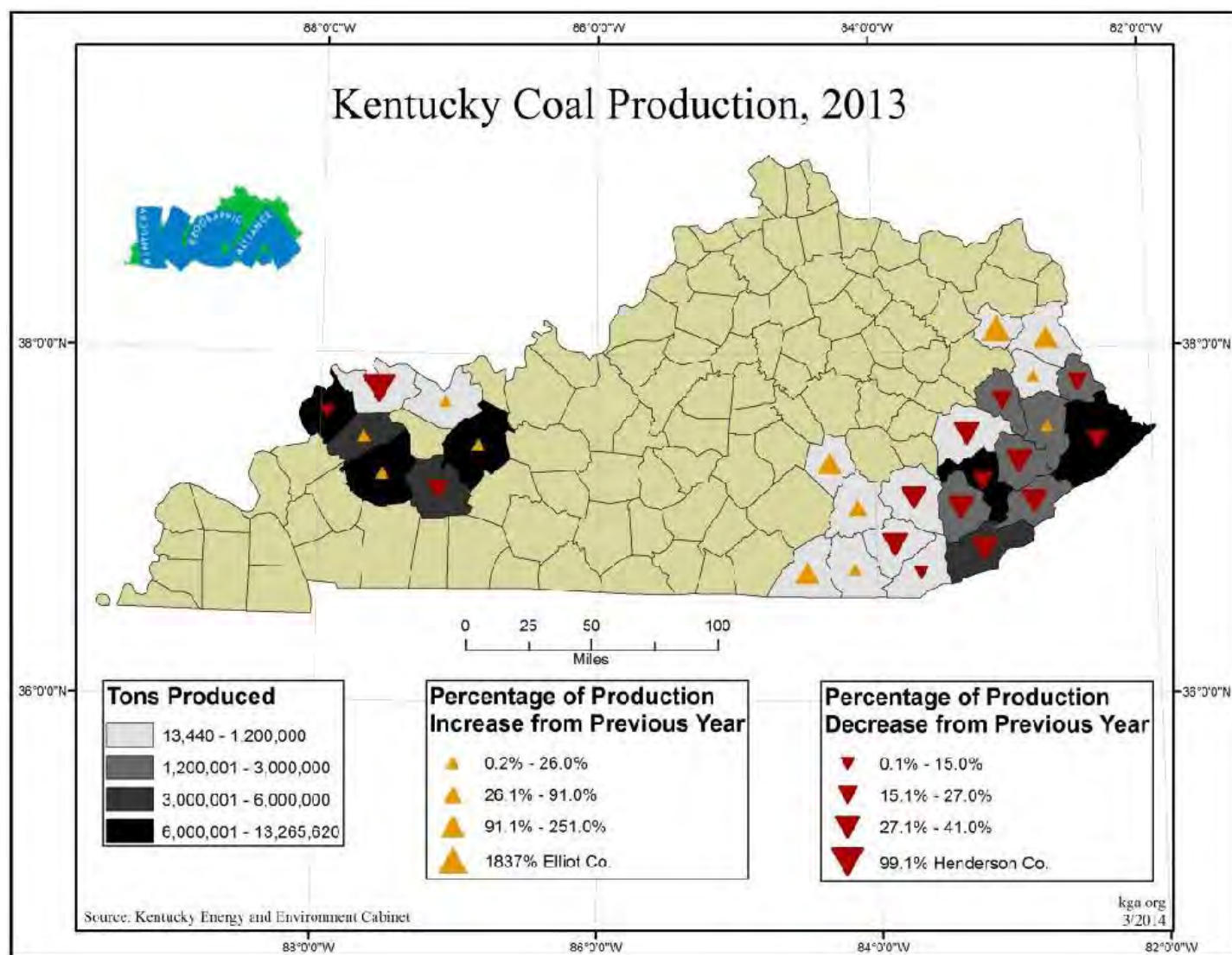


Figure: Kentucky coal production, 2013
Source: Kentucky Geographic Alliance & Kentucky Energy and Environment Cabinet

ENVIRONMENTAL STRATEGIES

ABANDONED MINING LANDS

Hopkins County has vast acres of abandoned mines and some have started to be restored such as the Hopkins County Coal, LLC property just south of Madisonville which won the 2012 Excellence in Reclamation Award from the Kentucky Division of Mine Reclamation and Enforcement. The site was nominated by Division of Mine Reclamation and Enforcement (DMRE) Madisonville Regional Office inspection personnel and selected because of the company's outstanding reclamation work and its continued commitment to environmental stewardship. "As a result of your dedicated efforts, this site is an outstanding example of the exceptional reclamation that can be achieved by today's mining industry," said Commissioner Hohmann. This is an excellent example of how future reclamation projects should occur in Hopkins County.



*Photo: Mining reclamation
Source: Hopkins County Coal - 2012 Excellence in Reclamation
Award; KY Division of Mine Reclamation and Enforcement; 2012*

FLOODPLAINS & WETLANDS

Due to the large amount of floodplains throughout the county (95,360 acres or nearly 27.0% of total acreage), provisions should be made to limit or prohibit certain types of development from occurring in these zones if needed precautions and development standards are not implemented. This will limit the potential loss or damage of property during flood events. The process for obtaining a permit begins with the submittal of a completed application with a location map, plans of the proposed construction, and the addressing of public notice. If there is existing flood data on the proposed site (i.e., National Flood Insurance Program flood maps, Corps of Engineers flood studies, or previous permit data), then a permit review may begin. If there is no existing data, the submittal of survey information is required in order to perform an in-house flood study of the area. As more and more development occurs, land becomes a premium. Unfortunately, land for farming and development is often located in the floodplain. If development occurs in wetlands, reclamation should be considered.

LAND COVER

The goal to protect and preserve natural features, scenic areas, woodland habitat, wetlands and wildlife can serve several benefits including economic development through tourism as well as providing environmental enhancements.

Many of the floodplains overlap with wetland areas in Hopkins County, furthering the precautionary measures that should be taken to ensure safety

of and also consider the environmental impact of development. Leaving wetland areas intact would allow the areas to absorb floodwaters efficiently and limit potential property losses and damage. There are 33,533 acres of wetland in Hopkins County, accounting for approximately 9.5% of total acreage.

In addition, efforts should be made to preserve prime agricultural lands for this and future generations when possible. There are 18 Agricultural Districts totaling 12,606 acres or roughly 3.6% of total acreage in Hopkins County. These lands can be considered prime farmland with a high level of food and fiber output. Land enrolled in Kentucky's Agricultural District Program cannot be annexed, cannot be condemned without mitigation, and is taxed at the agricultural rate. However, participation is voluntary, and a landowner may withdraw land at any time without penalty or without jeopardizing the status of the existing agricultural district.



HOPKINS COUNTY COMPREHENSIVE PLAN

Implementation

11

CHAPTER 11

IMPLEMENTATION

[INSIDE THIS CHAPTER]

This chapter identifies and prioritizes tasks necessary to accomplish the plan's overall vision, goals and plan elements. Action steps are outlined in implementation tables. These tables provide detailed information that assists responsible parties with completing the action step.

- Implementation Overview
 - Action Steps Overview
- Partnerships
- Strategic Action Plan
 - Action Steps
- Tools & Programs



■ The Hopkins County Comprehensive Plan is the beginning of a new effort that documents Hopkins County's aspirations and projected needs in the future and has been a coordinated effort between the many communities and residents of Hopkins County.

Although the completion of this plan is to be celebrated, this document is not the end of the community's effort. Instead, this marks the start of new initiatives that seek to improve the community by further defining the vision, goals and plan elements of the Hopkins County Comprehensive Plan through action steps.

This chapter calls for commitments from numerous public and private organizations. The first and strongest commitment must be from the individual communities of Hopkins County, the Planning Commission and the elected officials.

A strong and unified leadership is needed to reinforce decisions that support this plan, both through policy decisions and financial budgeting. If those charged with implementing the action steps in this chapter are diligent in identifying and removing barriers to success, the opportunity for increasing economic development and quality of life is greater.

IMPLEMENTATION OVERVIEW

A strategic action plan is included in this chapter that is intended to include the overall direction for immediate short-term, mid-term and long-term action steps. The action steps seek to balance the priorities of the county by serving as the decision-making framework. They also allow for immediate and noticeable progress through the completion of short-term projects. Because the implementation of any comprehensive plan involves dozens of public, private and not-for-profit organizations, it is important that local leaders (Mayors, city councils, Planning Commissioners, Department heads) provide guidance to interested parties when bringing stakeholders to the table and coordinate long-term action steps.

ACTION STEP OVERVIEW

The implementation process includes creating action steps that provide clear details on what should be done, such as the steps that should be taken, who is responsible, and a timeline for project completion. The following provides a description of the details provided in each action step later in this chapter.

Action Step – Tasks detail what must be accomplished to achieve the greater vision. They are paired with an appropriate timeframe for completion. They are aggressive, but achievable.

Description – The description is intended to further explain the action step by providing details and other information to explain the intended result.

Responsible Party(ies) – While the Planning Commission and elected officials are ultimately responsible for the successful implementation of this plan, some tasks will be most successful if implemented by or in partnership with others. The responsible party / parties should always be a high-level champion who reinforces the purpose and intent of the plan, takes responsibility for implementing specific action items, and monitors the progress of the task. Parties appearing in bold text, should be the lead agency(ies) in coordinating the monitoring and progress of the action item.

Potential Funding Source(s) – Although it is not exhaustive, a potential list of funding sources has been provided for each task as a starting point. Many funding sources will vary depending upon the year, quarter, month, as well as the number and type of parties involved. The general fund is also typically listed because many federal or state grant programs require a local match. Each funding source is explained later in this chapter under Programs, Tools & Funding Opportunities.

Other Resources – “Other resources” often include: human capital (i.e. manpower, or labor) from volunteers; donated supplies, materials, or equipment; and coverage by the media. They also include professionals who have been hired due to their expert knowledge in a particular area.

Start-Up Timeframe – Not all projects can begin at once. The start-up of a given task will occur in the immediate short-, mid-, or long-term future. Immediate refers to action steps that should be started in 2015. Short-term typically means between one to five years (i.e. 2016 – 2019), mid-term between six to ten years (i.e. 2020 – 2024), and long-term between eleven to twenty years (i.e. 2025 – 2035). A task that is entirely dependent upon the successful completion of another task would fall outside of these start-up possibilities, in which case the conditions for start-up for these action steps are described in more detail on their respective tables. Action steps were prioritized in terms of start-up based on the priority of the plan’s goals.

Target Completion Timeline – The target completion timeline is intended to inform the user about the anticipated duration (from start to finish) of a given task – barring any unforeseen conditions.

RELATED GOALS – It will become increasingly important that each task be tied back to the goals of this plan. This will provide insight, justification and prioritization for each task as conditions change or others become involved in implementation and evaluation of the plan. If an action item aligns with one or more of the goals outlined in the previous sections of this document, the respective goal(s) are listed.

- Goal 1** – Designate Land Use
- Goal 2** – Diversify Job Base
- Goal 3** – Provide Utility Capacity
- Goal 4** – Develop Facilities
- Goal 5** – Provide Functional Transportation Network
- Goal 6** – Promote a Unified Character & Identity
- Goal 7** – Expand Recreational & Entertainment Opportunities
- Goal 8** – Foster Education System
- Goal 9** – Generate Quality of Life Policies

RELATED PLAN ELEMENTS

Similar to the related goals, it is also important to reference the plan elements supported by each action step. This allows the parties implementing the plan to gauge progress but also aids in coordinating action steps that relate to a specific element. If an action step relates with one or more of the plan elements, the respective plan element(s) is listed.

NOTES

The notes are intended to be used by leaders and organizations who are tasked with implementing this plan as they carry out these tasks. This space can be used for tracking progress, noting additional or new partnerships or potential barriers to overcome.

PARTNERSHIPS

Forming a foundation of strong partnerships locally, regionally and state-wide with public, private and not-for-profit organizations is important in responding to changing conditions. While this plan seeks to achieve both projects obtainable today, it also reaches forward to a vision for Hopkins County. There will always be fiscal realities to recognize as the plan is brought to reality. As a result of this, key partnerships must be created and nurtured with many agencies to facilitate the implementation of the various aspects of the plan. This will facilitate cost savings as agencies utilize their expertise and in-house knowledge to improve the community.

The key idea is that the Hopkins County Comprehensive Plan cannot and should not be viewed as a plan implemented solely by the Hopkins County Joint Planning Commission.



STRATEGIC ACTION PLAN

Many factors can influence the completion timeline for action steps, such as the current economic environment. If unexpected funding or additional county or city staffing become available, action steps can be started and/or completed prior to the specified timeline. Also conditions may change that require this timeline to be altered, modified or changed. The timeline and action steps should be evaluated and are intended to be flexible to respond to the ever-changing local needs and demands placed on the county and cities. The timeline is shown on the following page.

ACTION STEPS

The following tables are the individual action steps identified by this plan. Each action step is formatted into a standard format for comparison, reference and revision over time.

IMPLEMENTATION TIMELINE

IMMEDIATE 2015**2015**

- **A:** Evaluate progress on the Comprehensive Plan's progress through a Planning Committee meeting twice a year.
- **B:** Create an individualized strategic action plan for each member community.
- **C:** Revise ordinances to be consistent with the Comprehensive Plan.
- **D:** Coordinate upgrades that relate to I-69 that integrate local needs.
- **E:** Coordinate with KYTC on all projects on the current six-year plan.
- **F:** Evaluate financial incentives offered by county and each community to attract and retain businesses.
- **G:** Promote and support programming that encourages economic development.
- **H:** Support the continued improvements at the Madisonville Municipal Airport (MMA).
- **I:** Work with regional and local partners to evaluate the feasibility of a public or private bus system within Hopkins County and the greater region
- **J:** Develop a committee that will review and update fire district boundaries and service agreements.

SHORT 2016-2019

- **K:** Complete neighborhood assessments for all areas of the county.
- **L:** Improve intersections within Hopkins County with high crash rates.
- **M:** Support the development of Traffic Congestion Mitigation improvements

SHORT 2016-2019**2016-2019**


- **N:** Prepare a study to develop countywide bicycle and pedestrian facilities.
- **O:** Create partnerships for housing revitalization.
- **P:** Continue to upgrade water and sewer systems throughout Hopkins County.
- **Q:** Develop program to incentivize private recreation on reclaimed mining land.
- **R:** Promote and market programs for housing rehabilitation.
- **S:** Identify first priority areas for streetscape improvements.
- **T:** Identify specific drainage issues within the county and determine best solutions taking into account environmental considerations.
- **U:** Market sports complex for regional events to increase economic development.
- **V:** Pursue buyout grants through FEMA to reduce the number of residential structures in floodplains.
- **W:** Work with KYTC to integrate streetscape improvements on state-owned roads.
- **X:** Design and install community gateways.
- **Y:** Participate in the Kentucky Main Street Program
- **Z:** Make building improvements to spur economic development
- **AA:** Utilize resources to support business development
- **BB:** Install historic markers on historically significant properties and places within the county.

MID 2020-2024**2020-2024**


- **CC:** Work with unincorporated Hopkins County to implement zoning in "fringe" areas around incorporated cities.
- **DD:** Develop an Access Management Plan and ordinance.
- **EE:** Work with cities to design and install local gateways
- **FF:** Partner to provide homeless shelter(s) in the county.

LONG 2025-2035**2025-2035**


- **GG:** Develop a new countywide emergency operations training center.
- **HH:** Encourage the relocation of the central Madisonville rail line.
- **II:** Create a wayfinding plan for Hopkins County.

ACTION STEP A		Evaluate progress on the Comprehensive Plan’s progress through a Planning Committee meeting twice a year.			
Description:	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• The Planning Committee should hold two working sessions a year to evaluate progress that is being made on the comprehensive plan.• It is important to follow up and determine if progress has occurred. If progress has not occurred on particular action steps, it should be gauged if the action is still pertinent, there is a lack of resources or if priorities have changed.• An unbiased report card should be developed and used to assess progress.• Planning Committee should also ensure the plan is updated every five years as required by KRS 100.				
Responsible Parties:	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• HCJPC				
Potential Funding Source(s):	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• N / A				
Other Resources:	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• HCJPC Staff				
Start-up Timeframe:	2015	2016 – 2019	2020 – 2024	2025 – 2035	
Target Completion Timeline:	< 1 year	1-2 years	2-5+ years	On-going	
Related Goals:	#1, #2, #3, #4, #5, #6, #7, #8, #9				A
Related Plan Elements:					

Action Step Notes:

ACTION STEP B		Create an individualized strategic action plan for each member community.			
Description:	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Work with each member of HCJPC to create an individual strategic action plan that reflects the recommendations of this plan.• An individual strategic plan allows each community to identify, prioritize and work towards completing specific actions and places a focus on each community individually.• Strategic plans should identify actions over the next three years and show how each action step relates to this plan. Funding sources should also be identified and programmed into budgeting where needed.				
Responsible Parties:	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• HCJPC• Governing Bodies				
Potential Funding Source(s):	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• N / A				
Other Resources:	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• HCJPC Staff				
Start-up Timeframe:	2015	2016 – 2019	2020 – 2024	2025 – 2035	
Target Completion Timeline:	< 1 year	1-2 years	2-5+ years	On-going	
Related Goals:	#1, #2, #3, #4, #5, #6, #7, #8, #9				B
Related Plan Elements:					

B**Action Step Notes:**



ACTION STEP C		Revise ordinances to be consistent with the Comprehensive Plan.			
Description:	<ul style="list-style-type: none">HCJPC and local ordinances should be updated to reflect the policies, guidelines and recommendations of this plan.<ul style="list-style-type: none">Evaluate zoning and subdivision control ordinances if needed.Evaluate historic preservation ordinances and restrictions and update if needed.Evaluate environmental ordinances and restrictions (including protection of prime farmland) and update if needed.Evaluate subdivision control ordinance based on location criteria in <i>Chapter 3: Land Use</i> and update as needed.				
Responsible Parties:	<ul style="list-style-type: none">HCJPCGoverning Bodies				
Potential Funding Source(s):	<ul style="list-style-type: none">General Fund				
Other Resources:	<ul style="list-style-type: none">HCJPC StaffPrivate Consultant				
Start-up Timeframe:	2015	2016 – 2019	2020 – 2024	2025 – 2035	
Target Completion Timeline:	< 1 year	1-2 years	2-5+ years	On-going	
Related Goals:	#1, #2, #3, #4, #5, #6, #7, #8, #9				C
Related Plan Elements:					

Action Step Notes:

ACTION STEP D		Coordinate upgrades that relate to I-69 that integrate local needs.			
Description:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Identify improvements immediately adjacent or connected to upgrades of I-69. This should focus on the new or updated interchanges and could include traffic signal timing, maintenance, etc. Continue to provide needed assistance and direction for the implementation of this upgrade project. 				
Responsible Parties:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> HCJPC KYTC Governing Bodies (Dawson Springs, Earlington, Hanson, Madisonville, Mortons Gap) Chamber of Commerce 				
Potential Funding Source(s):	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> N / A 				
Other Resources:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> KYTC Staff HCJPC Staff Public Works Staff FHWA 				
Start-up Timeframe:	2015	2016 – 2019	2020 – 2024	2025 – 2035	
Target Completion Timeline:	< 1 year	1-2 years	2-5+ years	On-going	
Related Goals:	#1, #5, #6				D
Related Plan Elements:					

Action Step Notes:

[illegible]

ACTION STEP E		Coordinate with KYTC on all projects on the current six-year plan.		
Description:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Actively work with KYTC and legislators to integrate projects that are beneficial to Hopkins County. As transportation projects are identified on a local level, promote these projects to KYTC and try to get integrated into the six-year plan. 			
Responsible Parties:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> HCJPC Governing Bodies KYTC 			
Potential Funding Source(s):	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> KYTC Funds 			
Other Resources:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> HCJPC Staff Elected Officials 			
Start-up Timeframe:	2015	2016 – 2019	2020 – 2024	2025 – 2035
Target Completion Timeline:	< 1 year	1-2 years	2-5+ years	On-going
Related Goals:	#5			E
Related Plan Elements:	 			


Action Step Notes:

[illegible]

ACTION STEP F		Evaluate financial incentives offered by county and each community to attract and retain businesses.			
Description:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Evaluate tax incentives and programs discussed in Chapter 6: Economic Development for each individual community. Determine the proper incentives and programs that each community should offer to attract and retain businesses. 				
Responsible Parties:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> HCJPC 				
Potential Funding Source(s):	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> N / A 				
Other Resources:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> HCJPC Staff 				
Start-up Timeframe:	2015	2016 – 2019	2020 – 2024	2025 – 2035	
Target Completion Timeline:	< 1 year	1-2 years	2-5+ years	On-going	
Related Goals:	#1, #2, #3, #4, #5, #6, #7, #8, #9				
Related Plan Elements:					

Action Step Notes:

[illegible]


ACTION STEP G		Promote and support programming that encourages economic development.			
Description:	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Develop an active downtown by consciously programing events and activities in the downtowns.• For recreation opportunities, partner with current facility owners to have events and tournaments.• Partner with local hotels to promote events• Actively pursue youth tournaments in soccer, baseball, and softball.• For leisure recreation work with and develop long term lease agreements for the use of property for recreation use such as: Hiking, fishing, hunting and four wheeling.				
Responsible Parties:	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• HCJPC• Governing Bodies				
Potential Funding Source(s):	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• N / A				
Other Resources:	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• HCJPC Staff• Professional Consultant• Kentucky Cabinet for Economic Development				
Start-up Timeframe:	2015	2016 – 2019	2020 – 2024	2025 – 2035	
Target Completion Timeline:	< 1 year	1-2 years	2-5+ years	On-going	
Related Goals:	#1, #2, #4, #6, #7				G
Related Plan Elements:					

Action Step Notes:

ACTION STEP H		Support the continued improvements at the Madisonville Municipal Airport (MMA)			
Description:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Work with MMA and FAA to expand runway conditions at the airport. Promote use of airport by local businesses. 				
Responsible Parties:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> MMA FAA 				
Potential Funding Source(s):	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> FAA Grants General Funds 				
Other Resources:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> FAA City of Madisonville and Hopkins County 				
Start-up Timeframe:	2015	2016 – 2019	2020 – 2024	2025 – 2035	
Target Completion Timeline:	< 1 year	1-2 years	2-5+ years	On-going	
Related Goals:	#2, #4, #5				H
Related Plan Elements:					


Action Step Notes:

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ACTION STEP I		Work with regional and local partners to evaluate the feasibility of a public or private bus system within Hopkins County and the greater region			
Description:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Evaluate the feasibility and need for bus routes within Hopkins County. Evaluate the feasibility and need for bus routes within the larger region 				
Responsible Parties:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> PACS PRADD Transportation Planning 				
Potential Funding Source(s):	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> KTYC Funds FHWA Funds General Budget 				
Other Resources:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> KYTC City of Madisonville Planning Staff and Private Consultant 				
Start-up Timeframe:	2015	2016 – 2019	2020 – 2024	2025 – 2035	
Target Completion Timeline:	< 1 year	1-2 years	2-5+ years	On-going	
Related Goals:	#1, #2, #3, #4, #5, #6, #7, #8, #9				I
Related Plan Elements:					

Action Step Notes:

[illegible]

ACTION STEP J		Develop a committee that will review and update fire district boundaries and service agreements.			
Description:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> With 16 fire departments across the county there is a great need to update the existing boundaries and service agreements 				
Responsible Parties:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> HCJPC Local Fire Departments 				
Potential Funding Source(s):	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> General Funds 				
Other Resources:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Emergency Management 				
Start-up Timeframe:	2015	2016 – 2019	2020 – 2024	2025 – 2035	
Target Completion Timeline:	< 1 year	1-2 years	2-5+ years	On-going	
Related Goals:	#4				J
Related Plan Elements:					


Action Step Notes:

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ACTION STEP K		Complete neighborhood assessments for all areas of the county.			
Description:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Complete an assessment for each broad area of the county. Identify and prioritize areas with the greatest need and greatest potential for improvement. 				
Responsible Parties:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> HCJPC Governing Bodies 				
Potential Funding Source(s):	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> HOME Program – National Affordable Housing Act HUD – CDBG Grants General Fund 				
Other Resources:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> HCJPC Staff Professional Consultant U.S. Housing & Urban Development Kentucky Housing Corporation 				
Start-up Timeframe:	2015	2016 – 2019	2020 – 2024	2025 – 2035	
Target Completion Timeline:	< 1 year	1-2 years	2-5+ years	On-going	
Related Goals:	#1, #6				K
Related Plan Elements:					

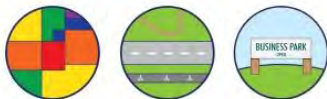
Action Step Notes:

[illegible]

ACTION STEP L		Improve intersections within Hopkins County with high crash rates.		
Description:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Chapter 4: Transportation identifies various intersections with high crash rates. Evaluate the cause of crashes and make needed changes to improve safety (reconfigured geometry, improves signage, etc.). 			
Responsible Parties:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> KYTC District 2 Hopkins County Road Department and City of Madisonville 			
Potential Funding Source(s):	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> KYTC Funds General Funds 			
Other Resources:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> KYTC Planning Staff Private Consultant 			
Start-up Timeframe:	2015	2016 – 2019	2020 – 2024	2025 – 2035
Target Completion Timeline:	< 1 year	1-2 years	2-5+ years	On-going
Related Goals:	#5			L
Related Plan Elements:				

Action Step Notes:

[illegible]

ACTION STEP M		Support the development of Traffic Congestion Mitigation improvements			
Description:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Work with KYTC to improve traffic conditions at trouble locations. • Providing better traffic flow improves safety and quality of life. 				
Responsible Parties:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • KYTC • City of Madisonville 				
Potential Funding Source(s):	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • KYTC Funds • CMAQ Grants • General Funds 				
Other Resources:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • KYTC • FHWA • City of Madisonville and Hopkins County 				
Start-up Timeframe:	2015	2016 – 2019	2020 – 2024	2025 – 2035	
Target Completion Timeline:	< 1 year	1-2 years	2-5+ years	On-going	
Related Goals:	#5				M
Related Plan Elements:					


Action Step Notes:

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ACTION STEP N		Prepare a study to develop countywide bicycle and pedestrian facilities.			
Description:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continue to encourage the development of trails and paths throughout the county. Build on the work completed to date on the Trail Town efforts accomplished by Dawson Springs 				
Responsible Parties:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Local Governments KYTC KY Adventure Tourism 				
Potential Funding Source(s):	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> State Funds KYTC Funds Safe Routes to School (Walking School Bus) General Fund 				
Other Resources:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Planning Staff Private Consultants 				
Start-up Timeframe:	2015	2016 – 2019	2020 – 2024	2025 – 2035	
Target Completion Timeline:	< 1 year	1-2 years	2-5+ years	On-going	
Related Goals:	#1, #4, #5, #6, #7				
Related Plan Elements:					

Action Step Notes:

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ACTION STEP 0		Create partnerships for housing revitalization.			
Description:	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Identify organizations, groups and businesses that can be partners for revitalization of housing in the county.Form a Housing Task Force that acts as a clearinghouse as well as “one-stop shop” for housing revitalization efforts as well as low-income programs.				
Responsible Parties:	<ul style="list-style-type: none">HCJPC				
Potential Funding Source(s):	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Scattered Site Housing GrantsDonationsGeneral Fund				
Other Resources:	<ul style="list-style-type: none">HCJPC StaffNot-For-Profit Organizations (such as Habitat for Humanity)Faith-Based OrganizationsBanks and Financial LendersCivic Groups (Volunteers)State and Federal ProgramsU.S. Housing & Urban Development (HUD)Kentucky Housing Corporation				
Start-up Timeframe:	2015	2016 – 2019	2020 – 2024	2025 – 2035	
Target Completion Timeline:	< 1 year	1-2 years	2-5+ years	On-going	
Related Goals:	#1, #6,				0
Related Plan Elements:					

Action Step Notes:


ACTION STEP P		Continue to upgrade water and sewer systems throughout Hopkins County.			
Description:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Adequate upgrades to the water and sewer system (including storm water drainage) are needed to provide for existing and future development. As upgrades are needed, integrate new technology into infrastructure improvements to ensure Hopkins County is competitive as a business destination.. 				
Responsible Parties:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Local Utility Departments HCJPC 				
Potential Funding Source(s):	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> KIA Loans General Funds 				
Other Resources:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> City and County Staff Private Consultant 				
Start-up Timeframe:	2015	2016 – 2019	2020 – 2024	2025 – 2035	
Target Completion Timeline:	< 1 year	1-2 years	2-5+ years	On-going	
Related Goals:	#3				P
Related Plan Elements:	 				

Action Step Notes:

ACTION STEP Q		Develop program to incentivize private recreation on reclaimed mining land.			
Description:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Hopkins County has thousands of acres of abandoned mine lands that need to be stabilized and possibly restored to functioning ecosystems. These lands may have potential for recreational use in future. 				
Responsible Parties:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> HCJPC Division of Mine Reclamation 				
Potential Funding Source(s):	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> DMRE Funds General Funds 				
Other Resources:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Private Investment 				
Start-up Timeframe:	2015	2016 – 2019	2020 – 2024	2025 – 2035	
Target Completion Timeline:	< 1 year	1-2 years	2-5+ years	On-going	
Related Goals:	#1, #2, #4, #7				Q
Related Plan Elements:					

Action Step Notes:

[illegible]

ACTION STEP R		Promote and market programs for housing rehabilitation.			
Description:	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Work with partners to strategically demolish, rehabilitate and improve specific houses in the worst condition that market forces would likely not justify revitalization.• Market and promote programs and grant sources that can be used by private property owners who rehabilitate their property.				
Responsible Parties:	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• HCJPC				
Potential Funding Source(s):	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• N / A				
Other Resources:	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• HCJPC Staff• Not-For-Profit Organizations (such as Habitat for Humanity)• Faith-Based Organizations• Banks and Financial Lenders• Civic Groups (Volunteers)• State and Federal Programs• U.S. Housing & Urban Development (HUD)• Kentucky Housing Corporation				
Start-up Timeframe:	2015	2016 – 2019	2020 – 2024	2025 – 2035	
Target Completion Timeline:	< 1 year	1-2 years	2-5+ years	On-going	
Related Goals:	#1, #6				R
Related Plan Elements:					

Action Step Notes:

ACTION STEP S		Identify first priority areas for streetscape improvements.			
Description:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Prioritize the streetscape improvements identified in Chapter 9: Community Identity. 				
Responsible Parties:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> HCJPC Governing Bodies 				
Potential Funding Source(s):	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> N / A 				
Other Resources:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> HCJPC Staff 				
Start-up Timeframe:	2015	2016 – 2019	2020 – 2024	2025 – 2035	
Target Completion Timeline:	< 1 year	1-2 years	2-5+ years	On-going	
Related Goals:	#5, #6, #7				S
Related Plan Elements:					

Action Step Notes:

[illegible]

ACTION STEP T		Identify specific drainage issues within the county and determine best solutions taking into account environmental considerations.			
Description:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Identify areas with drainage and flooding issues and the causes of each issue. Work to resolve issues and reduce flooding occurrences. 				
Responsible Parties:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> HCJPC Governing Bodies 				
Potential Funding Source(s):	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> N / A 				
Other Resources:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> HCJPC Staff Public Works Staff 				
Start-up Timeframe:	2015	2016 – 2019	2020 – 2024	2025 – 2035	
Target Completion Timeline:	< 1 year	1-2 years	2-5+ years	On-going	
Related Goals:	#1, #3, #4				T
Related Plan Elements:					

Action Step Notes:

[illegible]

ACTION STEP U		Market sports complex for regional events to increase economic development.			
Description:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Market the new sports complex for regional events and tournaments as an economic development tool. Develop marketing and promotion materials and identify potential audience to target marketing efforts. 				
Responsible Parties:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> HCJPC Chamber of Commerce 				
Potential Funding Source(s):	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> General Fund 				
Other Resources:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> HCJPC Staff Chamber of Commerce 				
Start-up Timeframe:	2015	2016 – 2019	2020 – 2024	2025 – 2035	
Target Completion Timeline:	< 1 year	1-2 years	2-5+ years	On-going	
Related Goals:	#1, #4, #7				
Related Plan Elements:					


Action Step Notes:

[illegible]

ACTION STEP V		Pursue buyout grants through FEMA to reduce the number of residential structures in floodplains.			
Description:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Identify all residential structures that are located in a floodplain. Prioritize structures that are most likely to flood. Pursue grants to buyout properties. 				
Responsible Parties:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> HCJPC 				
Potential Funding Source(s):	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> FEMA Grants 				
Other Resources:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> HCJPC Staff 				
Start-up Timeframe:	2015	2016 – 2019	2020 – 2024	2025 – 2035	
Target Completion Timeline:	< 1 year	1-2 years	2-5+ years	On-going	
Related Goals:	#1, #7				V
Related Plan Elements:					

Action Step Notes:

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ACTION STEP W		Work with KYTC to integrate streetscape improvements on state-owned roads.			
Description:	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Complete one section at a time (based on previously established priority) as funding is secured for design and/or construction.Streetscape design elements should remain consistent throughout the county with some flexibility for each local city to reflect their own identity in the design.				
Responsible Parties:	<ul style="list-style-type: none">HCJPC				
Potential Funding Source(s):	<ul style="list-style-type: none">MAP-21 FundsKYTC FundsFederal Programs (such as TIGER grants)General Fund				
Other Resources:	<ul style="list-style-type: none">HCJPC StaffProfessional Consultant				
Start-up Timeframe:	2015	2016 – 2019	2020 – 2024	2025 – 2035	
Target Completion Timeline:	< 1 year	1-2 years	2-5+ years	On-going	
Related Goals:	#2, #5, #6, #7				W
Related Plan Elements:					

Action Step Notes:

ACTION STEP X		Design and install community gateways.			
Description:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Identify specific locations for community gateways. Design and install individual community gateways as funding is available. 				
Responsible Parties:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> HCJPC Governing Bodies 				
Potential Funding Source(s):	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> MAP-21 Funds KYTC Funds Private Donations (service clubs, chamber of commerce, etc.) General Fund 				
Other Resources:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> HCJPC Staff Professional Consultant 				
Start-up Timeframe:	2015	2016 – 2019	2020 – 2024	2025 – 2035	
Target Completion Timeline:	< 1 year	1-2 years	2-5+ years	On-going	
Related Goals:	#5, #6				X
Related Plan Elements:					

Action Step Notes:

[illegible]

ACTION STEP Y		Participate in the Kentucky Main Street Program			
Description:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Hanson, Earlington, Madisonville and Mortons Gap should consider becoming a Certified Main Street community through the Kentucky Renaissance Program (Dawson Springs is currently certified). 				
Responsible Parties:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> HCJPC Governing Bodies 				
Potential Funding Source(s):	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> N / A 				
Other Resources:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> HCJPC Staff Kentucky Main Street Program / Kentucky Renaissance Program 				
Start-up Timeframe:	2015	2016 – 2019	2020 – 2024	2025 – 2035	
Target Completion Timeline:	< 1 year	1-2 years	2-5+ years	On-going	
Related Goals:	#1, #2, #5, #6, #7				Y
Related Plan Elements:					


Action Step Notes:

[illegible]


ACTION STEP Z		Make building improvements to spur economic development			
Description:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Renovate facades as funding is available Utilize tools available at the state and local level to rehabilitate buildings and provide low/no interest loans. 				
Responsible Parties:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> HCJPC 				
Potential Funding Source(s):	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Kentucky Main Street Grants New Design Assistance Service Private Business General Fund 				
Other Resources:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> HCJPC Staff Kentucky Main Street Program / Kentucky Renaissance Program 				
Start-up Timeframe:	2015	2016 – 2019	2020 – 2024	2025 – 2035	
Target Completion Timeline:	< 1 year	1-2 years	2-5+ years	On-going	
Related Goals:	#1, #2, #6				Z
Related Plan Elements:					

Action Step Notes:

[illegible]

ACTION STEP AA		Utilize resources to support business development		
Description:	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Utilize training available at local universities and colleges for entrepreneurs.Utilize the Kentucky Small Business Development Center, which provides a wide range of resources from starting a business to exporting your products.Work with area Chambers of Commerce to promote young professional groups and networking groups.			
Responsible Parties:	<ul style="list-style-type: none">HCJPCGoverning Bodies			
Potential Funding Source(s):	<ul style="list-style-type: none">N / A			
Other Resources:	<ul style="list-style-type: none">HCJPC Staff'Chamber of CommerceUniversities and School Board			
Start-up Timeframe:	2015	2016 – 2019	2020 – 2024	2025 – 2035
Target Completion Timeline:	< 1 year	1-2 years	2-5+ years	On-going
Related Goals:	#2, #8			AA
Related Plan Elements:				

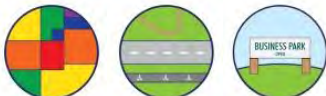
Action Step Notes:

ACTION STEP BB		Install historic markers on historically significant properties and places within the county.			
Description:	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Identify specific properties, buildings or sites where historical markers could enhance the site, experience or interpretive opportunities.Work with partners to install individual signs.				
Responsible Parties:	<ul style="list-style-type: none">HCJPCHistorical Society of Hopkins County				
Potential Funding Source(s):	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Private DonationsNational Endowment for the ArtsNational Trust for Historic PreservationKentucky Heritage CouncilGeneral Fund				
Other Resources:	<ul style="list-style-type: none">HCJPC StaffGoverning BodiesNot-for-Profit OrganizationsKentucky Heritage Council				
Start-up Timeframe:	2015	2016 – 2019	2020 – 2024	2025 – 2035	
Target Completion Timeline:	< 1 year	1-2 years	2-5+ years	On-going	
Related Goals:	#1, #6, #7				BB
Related Plan Elements:					

Action Step Notes:


ACTION STEP CC		Work with unincorporated Hopkins County to implement zoning in “fringe” areas around incorporated cities.			
Description:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Begin the discussion with Hopkins County Fiscal Court and property owners to determine if any adjacent to incorporated member cities would benefit from zoning. 				
Responsible Parties:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> HCJPC Hopkins County Fiscal Court 				
Potential Funding Source(s):	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> General Fund 				
Other Resources:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> HCJPC Staff Private Consultant 				
Start-up Timeframe:	2015	2016 – 2019	2020 – 2024	2025 – 2035	
Target Completion Timeline:	< 1 year	1-2 years	2-5+ years	On-going	
Related Goals:	#1, #2, #3, #4, #5, #6, #7, #8, #9				
Related Plan Elements:					

Action Step Notes:

ACTION STEP DD		Develop an Access Management Plan and ordinance.			
Description:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> While specific problem areas might need individual focus analysis, overall best practices for access management should be applied throughout the community. An ordinance should also be adopted as part of the subdivision regulations that addresses development along thoroughfares and other transportation issues related to the division of land. 				
Responsible Parties:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> HCJPC Hopkins County Fiscal Court and City of Madisonville 				
Potential Funding Source(s):	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> General Fund 				
Other Resources:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> KYTC Model Access Management Ordinance PRADD Transportation Planning Private Consultant 				
Start-up Timeframe:	2015	2016 – 2019	2020 – 2024	2025 – 2035	
Target Completion Timeline:	< 1 year	1-2 years	2-5+ years	On-going	
Related Goals:	#1, #5				DD
Related Plan Elements:					

Action Step Notes:

[illegible]

ACTION STEP EE		Work with cities to design and install local gateways			
Description:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Work with each member community to identify specific locations for local gateways. • Design and install individual local gateways as funding is available. 				
Responsible Parties:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • HCJPC • Governing Bodies 				
Potential Funding Source(s):	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • MAP-21 Funds • KYTC Funds • Private Donations (service clubs, chamber of commerce, etc.) • General Fund 				
Other Resources:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • HCJPC Staff • Not-for-Profit Organizations (Main Street, Chamber of Commerce Service Clubs, etc...) 				
Start-up Timeframe:	2015	2016 – 2019	2020 – 2024	2025 – 2035	
Target Completion Timeline:	< 1 year	1-2 years	2-5+ years	On-going	
Related Goals:	#5, #6				EE
Related Plan Elements:					


Action Step Notes:

[illegible]

ACTION STEP FF		Partner to provide homeless shelter(s) in the county.			
Description:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Determine partners that could provide homeless shelter services, such as faith-based organizations and/or not-for-profit organizations. 				
Responsible Parties:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> HCJPC 				
Potential Funding Source(s):	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> HUD Grants Private Donations (such as faith-based or not-for-profit organizations) 				
Other Resources:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> HCJPC Staff 				
Start-up Timeframe:	2015	2016 – 2019	2020 – 2024	2025 – 2035	
Target Completion Timeline:	< 1 year	1-2 years	2-5+ years	On-going	
Related Goals:	#1, #4				FF
Related Plan Elements:					

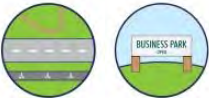
Action Step Notes:

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ACTION STEP GG		Develop a new countywide emergency operations training center.			
Description:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> This new center will host training programs and emergency dispatch services 				
Responsible Parties:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Emergency Management Police, Fire and EMS departments across the county 				
Potential Funding Source(s):	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> FEMA KYEM General Funds 				
Other Resources:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> HCJPC 				
Start-up Timeframe:	2015	2016 – 2019	2020 – 2024	2025 – 2035	
Target Completion Timeline:	< 1 year	1-2 years	2-5+ years	On-going	
Related Goals:	#4				GG
Related Plan Elements:					

Action Step Notes:

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ACTION STEP HH		Encourage the relocation of the central Madisonville rail line.			
Description:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Work with CSX to remove the mainline out of downtown Madisonville. • This relocation will improve traffic flow, safety and quality of life. 				
Responsible Parties:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CSX and KYTC • City of Madisonville and Hopkins County 				
Potential Funding Source(s):	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • KYTC Funds • CMAQ Grants and FRA Funds • Private Dollars from CSX and the General Fund 				
Other Resources:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • HCJPC • Planning Staff • Private Consultant 				
Start-up Timeframe:	2015	2016 – 2019	2020 – 2024	2025 – 2035	
Target Completion Timeline:	< 1 year	1-2 years	2-5+ years	On-going	
Related Goals:	#1, #2, #3, #4, #5, #6, #7, #8, #9				HH
Related Plan Elements:					

Action Step Notes:

[illegible]

ACTION STEP II		Create a wayfinding plan for Hopkins County.			
Description:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Determine major destinations within Hopkins County and develop a wayfinding sign system that helps visitors navigate the county. 				
Responsible Parties:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> HCJPC Governing Bodies 				
Potential Funding Source(s):	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> MAP-21 Funds KYTC Funds General Fund 				
Other Resources:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> HCJPC Staff Governing Bodies Public Works Department KYTC Chamber of Commerce 				
Start-up Timeframe:	2015	2016 – 2019	2020 – 2024	2025 – 2035	
Target Completion Timeline:	< 1 year	1-2 years	2-5+ years	On-going	
Related Goals:	#1, #4, #5, #6, #7				II
Related Plan Elements:					

Action Step Notes:

TOOLS, PROGRAMS & FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

TOOLS

Capital Improvement Planning

A Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) is a system of documenting the capital investments that a city plans to make the short-term, often five years. A CIP identifies projects, timelines, estimated costs, and funding sources and is linked to a community's budgeting process. It is a means of planning ahead for capital improvements and ensuring implementation of specific projects by connecting them more closely to the budgeting process. Hopkins County and/or each community's CIP would include funding needed for any capital improvement the City is planning to invest in, regardless of which city department will be responsible for operating and maintaining a given investment.

Tax Abatement

Tax abatement is a phase-in of property taxes and is intended to encourage development in areas that would not otherwise develop. Tax abatement is one of the tools widely used by municipal governments to attract new businesses to the community, or to encourage investment in new equipment or facilities that will improve the company while stabilizing the community's economy. Communities may develop procedures for abatement application and policies on the amount and length of the abatement that will be approved and procedures to ensure compliance with the terms of the statement of benefits.

Tax Increment Financing (TIF)

Tax increment finance is a tool for municipalities and counties to designate targeted areas for redevelopment or economic development through a local redevelopment commission. Those redevelopment or economic development areas can then be designated as allocation areas which trigger the TIF tool. When TIF is triggered, the property taxes generated from new construction in the area are set aside and reinvested in the area to promote development, rather than going to the normal taxing units (governments, schools, etc.). The taxing units do not lose revenue, they simply do not receive revenue from the additional assessed valuation that would not have occurred "but for" the reinvestment in the area through the TIF proceeds.

Zoning/Subdivision Control Ordinances

Zoning and land use controls are the primary implementation tool for the comprehensive plan. Standards and regulations legislatively determine the location, quality, and quantity of new development, and are legally enforceable. Hopkins County's current zoning regulations allow for uses that

are not consistent with this plan. It is recommended that the zoning regulations be updated to ensure contiguity between this plan and the City's regulatory document to facilitate the implementation of this plan.

PROGRAMS & FUNDING

Brownfields Funding

The Kentucky Brownfield Redevelopment Program offers education, assistance and funding for cleaning up environmentally hazardous sites for both local governments and private companies. An overview of the program can be found at: <http://dca.ky.gov/brownfields/Pages/default.aspx>.

Additionally, this program can assist with grant writing for multiple state and federal EPA grants. Funding and incentives are available for Assessment (Phase I and II), analysis of clean up alternatives, corrective action planning, corrective action implementation and redevelopment. Additional information on these state and federal grants, incentives and programs can be found at: <http://dca.ky.gov/brownfields/Pages/Funding%20For%20Brownfields.aspx>

Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Program

The CDBG program is available to city and county governments for a variety of projects. The minimum grants are \$5,000 and maximum grant requests are \$100,000. Application deadlines typically occur in February. The CDBG program areas and descriptions are listed below. For more information, visit <http://www.dlg.ky.gov/grants/federal/cdbg.htm>.

Housing: The housing program works to fund projects designed to develop decent, safe, sanitary and affordable housing.

Community Projects: Housing and Communities Branch: Funds may be used to address human service needs such as senior centers, crisis centers and facilities that provide services to low-income persons. Funds may also be used to revitalize downtown areas. The maximum program request is \$500,000.

Public Facilities: Funds may be used for infrastructure needs that improve Kentucky's water and wastewater systems. The maximum program request is \$1,000,000 per community per year.

Economic Development: Funds may be used to create or retain jobs, and provide for the training and human services that allow for professional advancement of low and moderate income persons. Additional goals are to provide training and provision of human services that allow for the professional advancement of low and moderate income persons.

Infrastructure Revolving Loan Fund (Fund B)

This revolving loan fund can be used to provide low interest loans for infrastructure projects that facilitate economic development. For more information, contact the Kentucky Infrastructure Authority.

Kentucky Renaissance / Main Street Program

Through the Kentucky Heritage Council and the Department for Local Government, the Kentucky Main Street Program strives to bring economic vitality to Kentucky's downtowns and assist communities with their revitalization efforts. The program is based on the four-point approach of the National Main Street Center, which is a division of the National Trust for Historic Preservation. The four components of the program are organization, promotion, design and economic restructuring. Various funds are available to certified Renaissance on Main Cities for projects such as real estate acquisition, facade improvements, new facility construction or streetscape improvements.

Renaissance on Main has a small grant program that is eligible to established "Certified" Main Street Programs, with maximum grant awards of \$20,000. Grant funds within this program are reserved for capital projects that contribute to downtown revitalization and must fall into the following categories: real estate acquisition, facility renovation, streetscape enhancements, signage, façade/awning, market analysis and planning. A city may only submit one application per funding cycle. Typically, the annual application process begins in November and closes in December. More information is available at the Office of State Grants, <http://dlg.ky.gov/grants/stategrants/RenonMain.htm>, or the Kentucky Heritage Council's website, <http://heritage.ky.gov/mainstreet/>.

Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF)

LWCF federal grants can be used to protect important natural areas, acquire land for outdoor recreation and to develop or renovate public outdoor recreation facilities such as campgrounds, picnic areas, sports and playfields, swimming facilities, boating facilities, fishing facilities, trails, natural areas and passive parks. The minimum grant request is \$5,000 and the maximum request is \$75,000 with a local match requirement. Application deadlines are typically in March. For more information, visit <http://www.dlg.ky.gov/grants/federal/lwcf.htm>.

Paula Nye Memorial Educational Grant (Bike Walk Kentucky)

Bike Walk Kentucky is a Kentucky Bicycle and Bikeway Commission (KBBC) grant program that aims to inform, educate and promote awareness for all matters pertaining to bicycle and pedestrian safety. This program encourages the development of curriculum, training aids and/or educational programs or projects that directly relate to bicycle safety. The application deadline is typically in October. For more information, visit <http://www.bikewalk.ky.gov/>.

Private Funding For Bicycling

Multiple private funding sources are available nationally that can be used as a match for federal funding. A small selection is listed below:

Bike Belongs: Funds up to \$10,000 for bicycle projects including bike paths. The goal of the organization is to put more people on bicycles more often by funding important and influential projects that leverage federal funding and building momentum for bicycling in communities across the US. For more information, visit <http://www.bikesbelong.org/grants>.

Kodak American Greenway Program: The Conservation Fund and the National Geographic Society team up each year to present the Kodak American Greenways Awards Program. One major element of the Program involves “seed” grant awards to organizations that are growing our nation’s network of greenways, blueways, trails and natural areas. For more information, visit <http://www.conservationfund.org/node/245>.

Tourism Cares: A vital part of the Tourism Cares mission is to distribute grants to worthy nonprofit, tax exempt, organizations for conservation, preservation, restoration, or education at tourism-related sites of exceptional cultural, historic, or natural significance around the world. Primary consideration is to grant funding to projects that are either: brick-and-mortar capital improvements that serve to conserve, preserve, or restore tourism-related sites of exceptional cultural, historic, or natural significance or programs that educate local host communities and the traveling public about the conservation, preservation, or restoration of tourism-related sites of exceptional cultural, historical, or natural significance. For more information, visit www.tourismcares.org.

Recreational Trails Program (RTP)

Under the MAP-21, the Recreational Trails Program (RTP) is continued at the current funding levels under the Transportation Alternatives Program. Funding for RTP is a set-aside from the TAP. However, the governor of each state may **opt out** of the RTP if it notifies the U.S. Department of Transportation Secretary not later than 30 days prior to apportionments being made for any fiscal year.

Source: American Society of Landscape Architects

Safe Routes To School (SRTS) Program

Under the bill, the Safe Routes To School (SRTS) program is eliminated as a stand-alone program. However, SRTS projects are eligible for funding under the TAP. As such, SRTS projects are now subject to all TAP requirements, including the same match requirements – 80 percent federal funding, with a 20 percent local match.

SRTS coordinators are not required under MAP-21 but are eligible for funding under TAP. Thus, states may decide to retain their SRTS coordinators and use TAP funds to pay for them.

Source: American Society of Landscape Architects

Transportation Alternatives (Formerly Enhancements):

Under MAP-21, the Transportation Enhancements program is re-named Transportation Alternatives Program (TAP), with the current twelve eligible activities categories consolidated into six categories. The bill eliminates the bike/ped safety and education programs, transportation museums, and the acquisition of scenic and historic easements categories.

The six new eligible projects categories:

1. continue bike/ped facilities and expand the definition of these projects
2. establish a category for safe routes for non-drivers, including children, older adults, and individuals with disabilities
3. retain conversion of abandoned railroad corridors for trails for pedestrians and bicyclists, or other non-motorized transportation users
4. retain the scenic byways category (However, the stand alone National Scenic Byways programs is completely eliminated)
5. establish a community improvement category that includes:
 - inventory control of outdoor advertising
 - historic preservation and rehabilitation of historic transportation facilities
 - vegetation management practices in transportation rights-of-way (formerly landscaping and scenic beautification)
 - landscaping and scenic enhancement projects ARE eligible under TAP as part of the construction of any federal-aid highway project, including TAP-funded projects. But TAP funds cannot be used for landscaping and scenic enhancement as independent projects.
 - under this vegetation management category, routine maintenance is NOT eligible as TAP activity except under the RTP
 - archeological activities related to transportation projects
6. retain the environmental mitigation activities category
 - to address stormwater management control and water pollution prevention, and wetlands mitigation
 - to reduce vehicle-caused wildlife mortality

Source: American Society of Landscape Architects

Transportation Alternatives Funding:

The new Transportation Alternatives (TA) program will receive about \$780 million to carry out all TA projects, including SRTS and RTP projects across the country, which represents about a 35% reduction from the current \$1.2 billion spent on these programs. Under the bill, states will sub-allocate 50% of their TA funds to Metropolitan Planning Organizations (MPOs) and local communities to run a grant program to distribute funds for projects. States could use the remaining 50% for TA projects or could spend these dollars on other transportation priorities.

Source: American Society of Landscape Architects

Transportation Community and System Preservation (TCSP) Grants

Transportation Community and System Preservation grants are administered through the Kentucky Transportation Cabinet (KYTC) and provide funding, planning, implementation, and research to investigate and address the relationship between transportation, community and preservation plans. Eligible projects will include planning and implementation strategies that: improve the efficiency of the local/regional transportation system; reduce environmental impacts of motorized vehicles; reduce the need for costly future public infrastructure investments; ensure efficient access to jobs, services and centers of trade; and examine the development patterns and identify strategies to encourage private sector development.

A 20% local match is typically needed for this grant; this program initially was authorized through Section 1117, SAFETEA-LU, but expired in 2009. It has not been reauthorized but should continue to be considered in anticipation of a reauthorization bill. For more information, visit <http://tea21.ky.gov/tcsp/default.htm>.



HOPKINS COUNTY COMPREHENSIVE PLAN

History

A

APPENDIX **A**

HISTORY

[INSIDE THIS CHAPTER]

This chapter outlines the History of Hopkins County and the communities within the county.

- Introduction
- Hopkins County History
- Dawson Springs History
- Earlington History
- Hanson History
- Madisonville History
- Mortons Gap History
- Nebo History
- Nortonville History
- St. Charles History
- White Plains History



The following is a reprint of the History Chapter from the "2023 Comprehensive Plan: Bridging Hopkins County" for use as a reference for grant writing and general knowledge. This chapter was prepared by the Hopkins County Joint Planning Commission.

■ Hopkins County, the 49th county of Kentucky's 120 counties, was formed in 1806 from parts of Henderson and Christian Counties. The figure below identifies the location of Hopkins County relative to some national cities. The county was named for General Samuel Hopkins who fought and distinguished himself in the battles of Trenton, Princeton, Monmouth, Brandywine and Germantown. He was born in April 19, 1753 and died in Henderson County, Kentucky in 1819. General Hopkins married Elizabeth "Betty" Goode Bugg in Mecklenberg County, Virginia on January 10, 1783. In 1797, General Hopkins, a native of Albemarle County, Virginia, moved to Kentucky to settle on the Green River. He served several terms in the Kentucky State Legislature and was a member of Congress. Hopkins left his government post to lead troops against the Kickapoo Native Americans on the Illinois and Wabash Rivers. At the end of his campaign, he settled on a farm in what is now Henderson County.



Figure: Distances to major cities

The figure below locates Hopkins County within the Commonwealth of Kentucky.

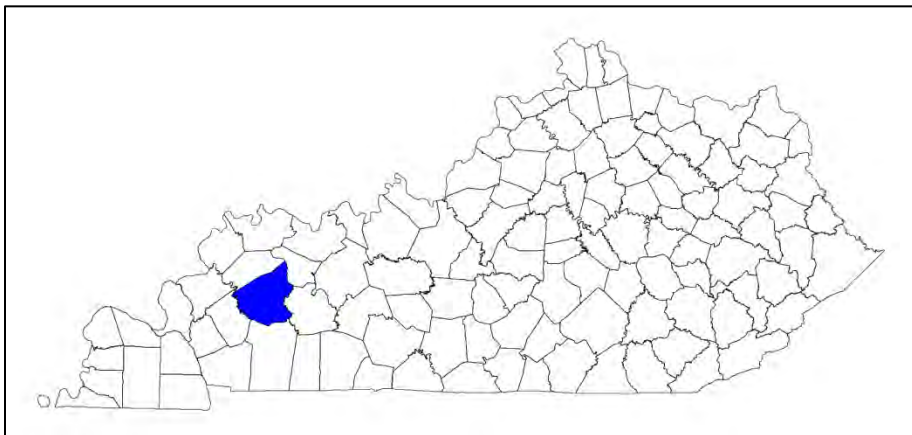


Figure: Location of Hopkins County in Kentucky

The earliest settlers of Hopkins County were Native Americans who were attracted by the lush vegetation and abundant game. Other settlers were Revolutionary War veterans who had received land grants from Virginia. It has long been held that Frederick Wilhelm Baron Von Steuben, the Prussian general who had instructed the Revolutionary army at Valley Forge, was a settler of Hopkins County. No evidence to indicate that he ever set foot in Kentucky has been found. He did, however, retain record title to his military warrant in Hopkins County until his death. His heirs lost the property through litigation after his death in the 1830s.

Hopkins County was home to Ruby Laffoon, who served as chairman of the first Insurance Rating Board in 1912, circuit judge in 1921 and 1927, and Governor of Kentucky in 1931, winning by the largest margin of any previous Kentucky governor. Upon leaving office in 1935, Laffoon returned to Madisonville to practice law.

The present Governor of Kentucky, Steve Beshear, is a native of Dawson Springs. Governor Beshear was elected in 2007 and re-elected in 2011. He earned his bachelor's degree and law degree from the University of Kentucky and served in the U.S. Army Reserve.

HOPKINS COUNTY HISTORY

Hopkins County has nine incorporated cities and several communities spread throughout its 554.4 square miles. The nine incorporated cities include: Madisonville (the county seat), Dawson Springs, Earlington, Hanson, Mortons Gap, Nebo, Nortonville, Saint Charles and White Plains. Other communities within the county bear unique names and hold interesting histories.

- Anton: named for Anton Burcken, a native of Dusseldorf, a large timber operator in the vicinity.
- Ashbyburg: originally a tobacco inspection port at the mouth of Pond River upon the military lands of General Stephen Ashby, a general in the Kentucky Militia and the son of Revolutionary War soldier, Captain Stephen Ashby.
- Barnsley: originally called Walton City; its namesake is a city in the West Riding region of Yorkshire, England.
- Beulah: either scriptural or from the French “beau-lieu” meaning beautiful place; originally known as Pulltite.
- Carbondale: little known; unmistakable Sinclair gas station sign to let travelers know where they are.
- Charleston: named after a freed slave named Free Charles who kept a tavern; one child, Aaron, carried handmade basket of slabs of gingerbread that were favorite local treats, known as Aaron’s Foot.
- Coiltown: named for William D. Coil, developed first coal mines in the vicinity.
- Dalton: originally named Garnettsville, Post Master General thought it too long so G.T. Bell chose “Dalton” for an unknown reason.
- Daniel Boone: named by Theodore R. Toendle for Daniel Boone, originally called Underwood or Rocky Gap.
- Fiddlebow: named after an unusual tree in which a limb grew out of the side, resembling a fiddle bow.
- Government: little known.
- Hecla: named for Hecla Coal and Mining Company opened in 1873 by Joe F. Foard of
- Virginia. Incorporated in 1882 but never had a post office.
- Hell’s Half Acre: known as one of the wildest spots around; soldiers set up residence at John Lynn’s house during Civil War; law enforcement refused to go near the land; desirable place for guerillas; notorious for gambling, drinking, betting at the ball diamond and race track, axe fights, questionable women, pranks and mysterious tales.
- Ilsley: originally called Crabtree after land baron Thomas Crabtree; noted for a little store called the Hot Cat; later the name was changed to Ilsley for Edward Ilsley, a capitalist interested in the development of the coal industry.
- Jewel City: had no name for many years; Joseph Clark set up a tile factory which became an instant success due to poor drainage conditions in the area; later named the village after the daughter (Addie Jewel) of the longest resident, Maggie Spainhoward.
- Kirkwood Springs: named for James L. Kirkwood who developed a health resort around the waters of a mineral springs.
- Manitou: known far and wide for its foulsmelling, mineral-laden water; originally named Tywhopity and inhabited by Native Americans; named by W.L. Gordon for Manitou Springs, Colorado. Also called Steuben’s Lick for F.W. Baron Von Steuben, and Winslow.

- Olney: formerly known as Iron Bridge Community; named for Richard Olney, a Massachusetts lawyer, Attorney General and later Secretary of State in President Cleveland's cabinet.
- Rabbit Ridge: named from Chester Wyatt who built a tiny store when Highway 109 was being built; with not enough stock, one traveler commented that even a jack rabbit traveling through the area would have to bring his lunch with him – therefore, rabbit ridge.
- Richland: located on Richland Creek; known for its abundance of game, virgin forests, fertile lands for farming, mineral water, coal and oil.
- Shakerag: controversy stems in the location of and name of Shakerag; one story is that women would pretend to hang clothes on a line and shake rags or aprons to warn moonshiners that agents were nearby.
- Sixth Vein: named for the number six coal bed but actually located on the number four.
- Tweddleville: named after Alfred "Tweddle" M. Stevens.
- Vandetta: some believe it was named Vendetta but was mis-spelled.
- Veazey: farming community settled pre CivilWar by four Veazey brothers and two sisters.
- Wick's Well: named for entrepreneur Lum Wick.
- White City: name given by miners to the village around Moss Hill Mines because all of the houses were painted white.
- Wolf Hollow: named for the wolves that howled in the area.

DAWSON SPRINGS HISTORY

In 1855, Mr. and Mrs. Riley P. Dawson purchased 250 acres of land lying near the Tradewater River for \$1000.00. In conjunction with Bryant Dawson, they decided to establish a town on their plot of land and lured the railroad with the offer of rail right-of-way and ground for a depot. In anticipation of the railroad's completion, the Dawsons plotted a town into streets, lots, and alleys – all constructed around the railroad. When the rail was completed, it ran through the town, known as Tradewater Station. By 1874, Dawson was officially listed as the name of the town with the US Post Office. It was incorporated as Dawson City in 1882 and became Dawson Springs in 1898. Washington "Cap" Hamby, a veteran of the Confederate cavalry and a local businessman, was digging wells for a cistern in 1881 when he hit a strong vein of Chalybeate, iron rich water. This discovery led to a dramatic increase in business and population for the city. Its population grew from 130 people in 1880 to more than 1000 in 1885. The mineral springs drew crowds by the thousands from all over the South; ticket sales to Dawson Springs reached 51,000. This influx of patrons to the mineral waters resulted in a boom for the city. The vacation spot became so popular that the Pittsburg Pirates held training camps in Dawson Springs from 1915-1917. Today, a replica of the stands and ball field are enjoyed by all. The present Governor of Kentucky, Steve Beshear, is a native of Dawson Springs. Governor Beshear was

elected in 2007 and re-elected in 2011. In 2013, Dawson Springs was named Kentucky's first Trailtown.

EARLINGTON HISTORY

St. Bernard Mining Company, the first commercial coal operation in the county founded the city in 1870. Originally known as Caleb Hall's Post Office, it was changed to Earlinton in honor of John Bayliss Earle, a Madisonville attorney who helped pioneer the coal industry in western Kentucky. The town consisted of churches, a bakery, hotels, a dentist, a tin shop, groceries, doctors, drug stores, a photo gallery, a newspaper office and an iron works and foundry. Nine mines and one hundred and fifty coke ovens made Earlinton the busiest mining and railroad station in central western Kentucky. Two artificial lakes, then the largest in the state, were built to provide water for coal washers, coke ovens, trains and electricity. When the Evansville-Henderson-Nashville railroad laid tracks through Earlinton, it became one of the most important rail centers between the Ohio River and Nashville.

HANSON HISTORY

Founded in 1869, Hanson was named for Henry Hanson, an engineer who laid out the town. It originally consisted of 50 acres donated by Judge Robert Eastwood and the Reverend Roland Gooch. At one time, the town consisted of several tobacco factories, sawmills, stores, a bank, a hotel and a pharmacy. In the late 1880's, the E. McCulley College of Hanson was established. The Hanson High School was erected in 1897. Early in the 1900's, a fire destroyed everything east of the tracks, including the tobacco factories, sawmill operations and the Christian Church.

MADISONVILLE HISTORY

Madisonville was founded in 1807 on forty acres donated by Soloman Silkwood and Daniel McGary. The city was named for James Madison, the US Secretary of State and later the 4th President. In 1807, Silkwood built the first courthouse as a log structure. In 1820, a second frame structure was erected then replaced with a brick one in 1840. Fact can often become clouded with the passage of time and the lack of substantiating documents. The following are two believed facts concerning the courthouse: 1) the courthouse was burned by Confederate troops as they passed through western Kentucky in 1864 and 2) J. Smith Waller, MD of Hanson stated in Brigadier General Adam R. Johnson's The Partisan Rangers that "At Madisonville, the courthouse suffered the same fate that had befallen these temples of justice at Princeton and Hopkinsville, that is, it was burned." He

stated that this occurred “from the 20th day of November until this date, which was the 13th of January”. The members of the court continued to meet in the courthouse from December 1864 through May 29, 1865. On May 30, 1865, they met in the “Old Clerk’s Office” as it appeared that the courthouse of Hopkins County, Kentucky had been destroyed by the rebels and that there is now no courthouse for the use of the courts of said county. This would be six weeks after Lee’s surrender on April 14, 1865. A fifth courthouse was built in 1892 and the sixth and current was built in 1936.

In 1846, Madisonville had twelve doctors, five schools and two churches. By 1847 the population had grown to 450 residents with five stores, four taverns and six lawyers. Over the next few decades, the town became a bustling center of activity with coal as its base. In 1879 the Evansville-Henderson-Nashville railroad was bought by the L & N Railroad and vastly improved the marketing of coal.

The town voted dry in October 1942 and remained so until the wet-dry vote in 1992. Paved sidewalks, water and sewage services, the lake and electricity and telephone service throughout Madisonville are attributed to D.W. Gatlin, Mayor from 1911-1913. To this day, Madisonville hails itself as “The Best Town on Earth”.

MORTONS GAP HISTORY

Thomas Morton settled land located in a natural ridge in 1804. During the stagecoach era, farmers often left crocks of buttermilk for travelers along the roadside known as Buttermilk Road. In 1872, the town was officially established by the Diamond Mining Company and was incorporated in 1888. By the late 19th century, Mortons Gap was home to 150 residents.

NEBO HISTORY

Named after the Mt. Nebo from which Moses viewed the promised land, Nebo was founded by Alfred Townes. A post office was established in 1840 with Townes serving as Post Master. Throughout the area, Townes became well known for his invention of a tobacco screw press. Tobacco was clearly the largest and most productive industry in Nebo. At one time, Nebo was recognized as one of the leading loose-leaf tobacco markets in the world. With the increase in tobacco production, John R. Green built a tobacco factory; another was built by Rueben Rogers. In 1871 John W. Cox built two large tobacco stemmeries to form Cox & Jones, which did extensive business with European markets.

The tobacco industry thrived with seven tobacco factories in operation until the early 1900’s when the Nightriders, made up of a group of disgruntled farmers, banded together to fight the independent tobacco buyers who

monopolized tobacco buying. As a result of the skirmishes, the Nightriders burned tobacco in the barns and factories and destroyed machinery. By the 1930's with the arrival of the Depression, tobacco was no longer the major cash crop of Nebo. In August of 1932, a fire destroyed all businesses on the south side of Main Street with only the bank left standing.

NORTONVILLE HISTORY

W.E. Norton, a wealthy settler, purchased 2000 acres of land near the L&N and ICC railroads junction with hopes of bringing prosperity to the area. Incorporated in 1873, the town was originally named Norton, then Norton Village and finally Nortonville.

By 1900, the town consisted of a post office, a general store, a railroad station and depot, a tobacco warehouse, one church and a few houses. In 1902, W.S. Elgin, a tobacconist from Hopkinsville, W.B. Kennedy and Frank Fisher from Paducah, purchased 2000 acres from the Norton heirs to found the Nortonville Coal Company. Mining became a major source of income, bringing change to the town's economy.

ST. CHARLES HISTORY

The town was founded as a coal camp around 1872 on land deeded to the St. Bernard Coal Mining Company. Originally named Woodruff, after J.I.D. Woodruff, the name was changed to St. Charles when incorporated in 1874.

WHITE PLAINS HISTORY

Founded in 1853, White Plains was originally called Little Prairie. The name evolved from the treeless plain on which the town was situated. The Cherokee Native Americans burned over the area each year to provide lush grasses for buffalo and deer. In 1870, the railroad from Paducah/Elizabethtown to Louisville ran through the community. At the time, there was a settlement in Christian County called White Plains. Little Prairie was the drop-off for White Plains' mail. As the railroad community developed, the area became known as White Plains Station and then as New White Plains. By 1900, White Plains had several brick stores along Main Street and approximately twenty-four residences. Around the turn of the century, the "New" was dropped in favor of White Plains, with the Christian County White Plains becoming Fruit Hill.



HOPKINS COUNTY COMPREHENSIVE PLAN

Demographics

B

APPENDIX **B**

DEMOGRAPHICS

[INSIDE THIS CHAPTER]

This chapter provides an overview of the Hopkins County's existing conditions.

- Demographics Trends
- National Demographic Trends
- How Does Hopkins County Compare?
- Population Trends
- Housing Trends
- Economic Trends
- Population Projections



■ The planning process for a comprehensive plan is informed by not only the community's vision for the future but also by historical trends, demographic characteristics and physical data. The existing conditions provide a snapshot in time – it presents Hopkins County today. This chapter compiles and analyzes demographic and economic data to answer two key questions during the planning process: 1) “Where are we now?” 2) “Where are we going?”.

DEMOGRAPHIC TRENDS

The demographic analysis considers characteristics such as population, age, race, ethnicity, place of work, and educational attainment. The demographic trends are important because they help identify the future housing, education, jobs, recreation, transportation, community facilities and other needs of Hopkins County.

Data gathered and analyzed for the purposes of this comprehensive plan was primarily from the U.S. Census Bureau, Census on Population and Housing, and U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics. Unless otherwise stated, the data used in this analysis was derived from the most recent, readily available data from the U.S. Census. As the community continues to change and updated data is released, trends and projections should be verified to ensure that the assumptions made about Hopkins County's population change, demographics, education and economy remain true.

NATIONAL DEMOGRAPHIC TRENDS

The United States is at a significant point in terms of changing demographic trends, and these trends are reflected in many communities across the nation. With this, communities need to consider questions such as:

- 1) “Who will be living in our community 20 to 30 years from now?”
- 2) “How do we attract younger generations to our community?”

3) “What dynamics should we plan for today?”

The following analysis provides an overview of national demographic trends.

America is Growing

The U.S. population has doubled since 1950. With 308.7 million people in 2010, the United States experienced the second lowest growth rate in the past century from 2000-2010 of 9.7%. By 2040, it is projected that the United States’ population will be 440 million.¹

The South, which includes Kentucky, and West had faster growth from 2000-2010 (14.3% and 13.8% respectively) than the Midwest and Northeast (3.9% and 3.2% respectively). In addition, just six states accounted for over half of the population increase in the U.S. in 2010 (Texas, California, Florida, Georgia, N. Carolina, and Arizona).¹

The country is still growing but how we are growing as a population is changing dramatically. Nationally, people are delaying marriage and children. U.S. birth rates for women under 40 have generally been declining since the 1990s and they have increased for women 40-44 to the highest levels since 1967. Additionally, the mean age for first time mothers in the U.S. is consistently increasing, currently at 25.2 years old.²

The “Traditional American Family” is now non-traditional. Husband-wife households only account for 48% of all households in 2010; the first time this figure has not been the majority. Single-parent households are also dramatically increasing, growing about 40% from 2000-2010 (about 10% of all households). Unmarried couple households also grew by 41% during this time, four times faster than overall household population grew (about 7% of all households). Many of the younger generations are showing a living preference for urban areas over rural areas. Multi-generational households also increased by 4.4% nationally (3.4% in Kentucky). Finally, one in four households in 2010 consisted of someone living alone (one-person households), of which, one in three of single householders were over the age of 65.³

While still growing considerably, Kentucky’s population increased by 7.4% over the past decade (about 300,000 people from 2000-2010). This growth was generally seen in urban areas with general population losses in the eastern and western portions of the state. Additionally, Kentucky is projected to grow by about 23% over the next forty years (2010-2050) to a population of 5.3 million people.¹

¹ 2010 Census Brief: Population Distribution & Change

² CDC, National Vital Statistics Report, vol. 60, num. 2, November 2011

³ 2010 Census Brief: Households and Families, SF 1, S1101

⁴ Pew Research Center (www.pewresearch.org)

⁵ 2010 Census Brief: The Older Population, SF 1

⁶ 2010 Census Brief: Overview of Race and Hispanic, SF 1, QT-P3

America is Aging

Everyday 10,000 Baby Boomers reach the age of 65 years old.⁴ By 2050, one in five people in the United States will be over the age of 65. It's not a secret that Baby Boomers are reaching retirement age, and second to the size of a population group, age and gender are typically the most important demographic characteristics of a population for public policy. In 2010, 13% of the U.S. population was over the age of 65 years (Kentucky was 13.3%); furthermore, one in three single-households were over the age of 65. Nationally, the older population is more likely to live inside a Metropolitan Statistical Area (MSA). Lastly, women continue to outnumber men at older ages but this gap is narrowing; at the age of 89, there are about twice as many women as men.⁵

America is Becoming More Diverse

By 2050, the U.S. is projected to become a Majority-Minority population, meaning that the white, non-Hispanic population will no longer be the majority. This trend is already present in the younger age groups as well as the overall population in many areas of the country; one out of 10 counties in the U.S. already has a Majority-Minority. Additionally, there are several states and the District of Columbia where the population follows this pattern, including Texas, California, Hawaii, and New Mexico. Kentucky's minority population was only 14% in 2010 but has grown by 37% over the past decade.⁶

More than 50% of the growth in total population in the U.S. from 2000-2010 was due to the increase in the Hispanic population (15.2 million of 27.3 million people). Hispanics are now the nation's largest minority and are projected to approach one in every three people by 2050. This population composed 16% of the U.S. population in 2010 compared to only 3% of the 2010 population in Kentucky.⁶

The Asian population is also growing significantly nationally; this population currently totals only 5% of the U.S. population but is expected to grow by 22% by 2050.⁶

HOW DOES HOPKINS COUNTY COMPARE?

It is important to identify trends unique to Hopkins County in addition to those which mirror or diverge from other regional, state or national trends. Comparison communities are used to help further identify these trends and the existing conditions analysis included the examination of peer communities in Kentucky. Each community was selected based on its geographic characteristics (counties not adjacent to the Ohio River and a majority of rural landscape), demographic characteristics (generally with populations between 25,000 and 50,000), and/or economic characteristics

(similar industry and occupational profiles) that share similarity to Hopkins County. In addition, Kentucky was used as a comparison.

The comparison communities are displayed in a map to establish geographic context.

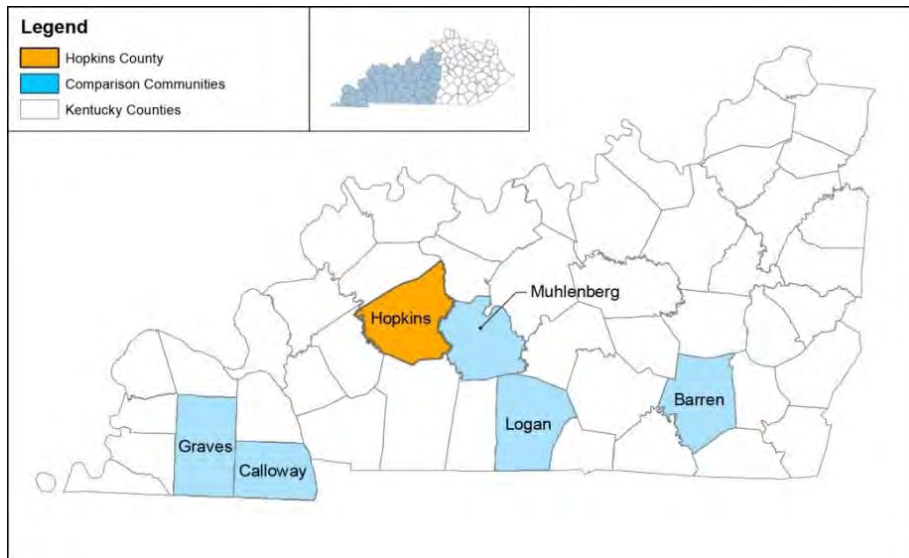


Figure: Location of comparison communities

While comparing communities over time, it is also important to note that Census geographies are not static; boundaries can change or be redrawn entirely due to changes in political boundaries, population growth or other factors. For the purposes of comparing historical (such as 2000) and current (such as 2010) Census data, the geographic areas are considered to be generally equivalent. Entrepreneurial

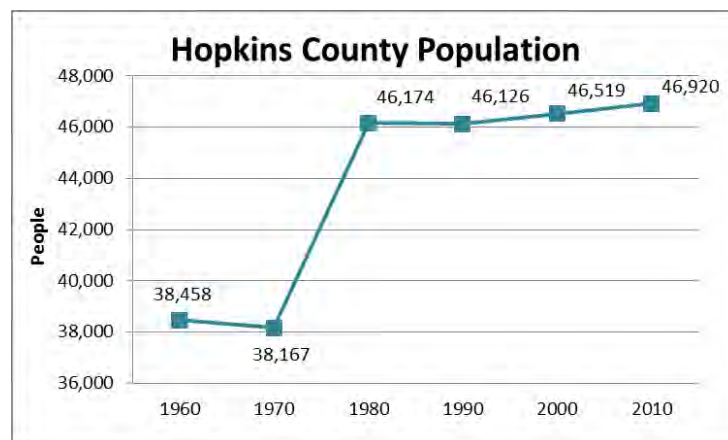
Comparable communities in the surrounding region used in this analysis include:

- County – County Seat
- Barren – Glasgow, KY
- Calloway – Murray, KY
- Graves – Mayfield, KY
- Logan – Russellville, KY
- Muhlenberg – Greenville, KY

POPULATION TRENDS

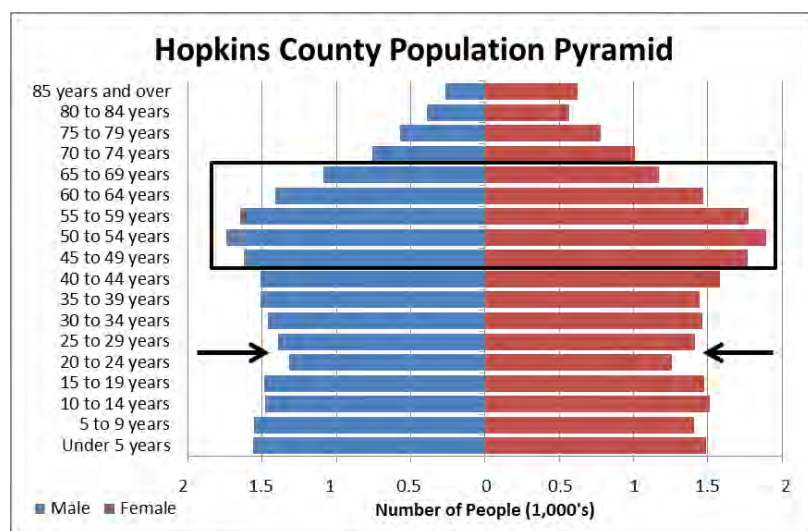
Population

Hopkins County's population in 2010 was 46,920 people, representing a population increase of 0.9% since 2000 (46,519). During the same period (2000-2010) the population of Kentucky grew by 7.4% and the United States by 14.3%.

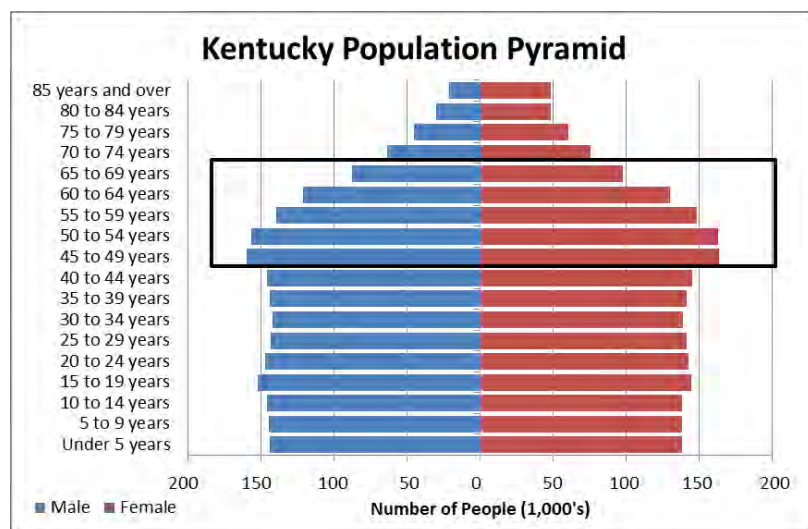


The comparison communities witnessed a range of growth from 10.9% to 0.3% with one community (Muhlenberg County) experiencing a population decline (-1.1%). Hopkins County's change in population (0.9%) fell between the selected comparison communities.

Age



The distribution of the age groups can be seen in the 2010 population pyramids for both Hopkins County and Kentucky. A stable population would have generally equal representation for almost all age groups except the oldest (70+). The presence of a wide base in a population pyramid indicates high birth rates (growing population) while a narrow base indicates low birth rates (naturally declining population in the absence of migration). In the U.S. the Baby Boom generation is also usually very evident, producing a bump-out in the chart from those born in the late 1940s to early 1960s. Hopkins County does exhibit a pronounced bump-out in the population pyramid as a result of this demographic phenomenon.



Another demographic pattern within the 2010 Hopkins County Population Pyramid is important. There is a depression in the Hopkins County population pyramid that is much more pronounced than the Kentucky population pyramid for the ages 20 to 29. This may indicate that Hopkins County has a college bound population that leaves the community after graduating high school.

In 2010, the median age in Hopkins County was 40.4 years old. This is similar to

Muhlenberg (40.9), Logan (40.2), Graves (39.8), and Barren (39.7) Counties. The median age of Kentucky is also comparable to Hopkins County at (38.1). Calloway County is the most dissimilar from Hopkins County in this measure with a median age of 34, which is likely attributable to Murray State University's student population of around 10,800 people.

Finally, the distribution of population between men and women generally follows state and national trends with women outnumbering men in the older age groups.

Comparison Communities	Median Age
Muhlenberg County	40.9
Hopkins County	40.4
Logan County	40.2
Graves County	39.8
Barren County	39.7
Kentucky	38.1
Calloway County	34.0

Race

When compared to the surrounding region, Hopkins County's racial composition is very similar to the comparison communities. Hopkins County is less diverse in regard to racial composition than Kentucky. Hopkins County is the most diverse (equal to Logan County) of the counties selected.

Comparison Community	White	Black or African American	American Indian and Alaska Native	Asian	Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander	Other Race	Two or More Races
Kentucky	87.8%	7.8%	0.2%	1.1%	0.1%	1.3%	1.7%
Hopkins County	90.1%	6.6%	0.1%	0.6%	0.0%	0.6%	1.9%
Logan County	90.1%	6.6%	0.2%	0.2%	0.0%	1.2%	1.5%
Graves County	90.4%	4.3%	0.2%	0.3%	0.1%	2.8%	1.8%
Calloway County	92.0%	3.7%	0.2%	1.8%	0.0%	0.8%	1.5%
Barren County	92.5%	3.9%	0.2%	0.4%	0.1%	1.3%	1.7%
Muhlenburg Co.	93.7%	4.5%	0.1%	0.1%	0.0%	0.4%	1.1%

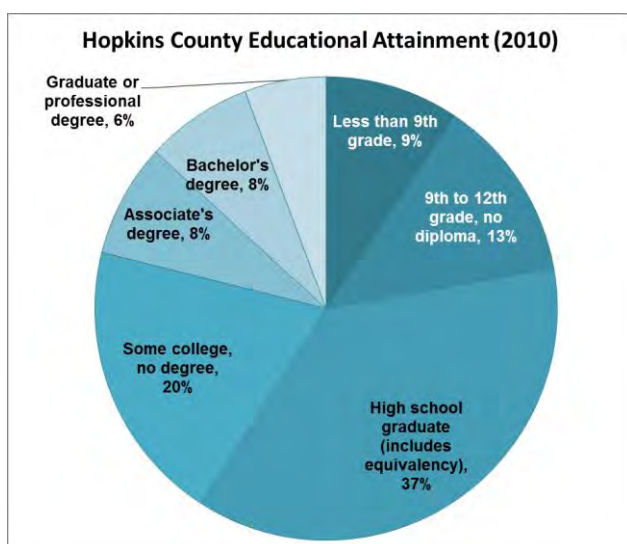
RACE & ETHNICITY

Race and ethnicity are considered two separate & distinct characteristics. Race categories include those listed in the table to the right and ethnicity refers to a person's origin. Examples of Hispanic origin could include a person of Cuban, Mexican, Puerto Rican, South/Central American, or other Spanish culture or origin. People who identify their origin as Hispanic, Latino or Spanish can be any race.

Ethnicity

In 2010, about 1.6% of Hopkins County's population was of Hispanic or Latino origin. This composition is again similar to most of the comparison communities. Hopkins County's population of Hispanic or Latino origin is less than Kentucky (3.1%) and Graves County (5.7%). Although Hopkins County does not contain a large population that shares the Hispanic or Latino origin, it is worth noting that there has been substantial growth between 2000 and 2010. Two thirds of the selected comparison communities experienced growth that more than doubled this population (Graves, Barren, and Logan Counties plus Kentucky) and the other third saw more than a 50% increase (Calloway and Muhlenberg Counties).

Comparison Community	Hispanic or Latino Decent (2000)	Hispanic or Latino Decent (2010)	Percentage of Total Population (2010)	Percent Change in Hispanic or Latino origin 2000-2010
Graves County	888	2,099	5.7%	136%
Kentucky	59,939	132,836	3.1%	106%
Barren County	355	1,110	2.6%	182%
Logan County	288	651	2.4%	124%
Calloway County	473	890	2.4%	73%
Hopkins County	259	734	1.6%	72%
Muhlenberg Co.	423	367	1.2%	60%



Educational Attainment

Approximately 78% of Hopkins County's population 25 years and older has an education at or above the high school level. Hopkins County has more people with an Associate's degree (8%) as their highest level of education than all comparison communities (5-7%). Additionally, Hopkins County falls in the middle of the comparison communities with about 13.2% holding a Bachelor's degree or higher. This is less than Calloway, Barren, and Graves Counties (28.2%, 20.3%, 15%, respectively) and Kentucky (14.4%).

Population Trends Summary

- Hopkins County's recorded population showed a significant increase (21% change) in population between 1970 and 1980.
- Hopkins County's population has recently been stable, without significant growth or decline from 1990 to 2010 (<1% change).
- The young adult (20 - 29 years old) population in Hopkins County is underrepresented.
- Hopkins County is slightly older with a median age of 40.4 years.
- The racial makeup of Hopkins County's population is 90.1% white, making it more diverse than many of the comparison communities.
- Studying the ethnicity of the population, Hopkins County has a Hispanic or Latino origin population of 1.6% with significant growth in the last decade (72% increase).
- Hopkins County's population exhibits a higher share of people with Associate's degrees than all comparison communities but fewer Bachelor's degree holders than most of the other communities.

HOUSING TRENDS

Households & Families

Hopkins County had a total of 18,980 households in 2010 and an average household size of 2.41 people. Hopkins County's average household size is similar to many of the comparison communities. It is, however, slightly smaller than Logan (2.49), Muhlenberg (2.45), Barren (2.44), and Graves (2.44) Counties and Kentucky (2.45), but is slightly larger than Calloway County (2.2).

In 2010, approximately 69% of all households were families and 31% were non-family households. In addition, 52% of Hopkins County households were of a husband-wife family. Further, about 4.5% were single-father households and about 13% were single-mother households.

Hopkins County has a similar percent of one-person households (people living alone, 27%) as the comparison communities (Barren County, 26.8%; Graves County, 27.2%; Logan County, 25.9%; and Kentucky 27.5%). There are more one-person households in Hopkins County than Muhlenberg County (24.9%) but many fewer than Calloway County (33.6%). Again, Calloway County has a public university that likely inflates the percentage of one-person households.

Housing Tenure

Approximately 10.4% of housing units were vacant in 2010, up from 8.9% in 2000, representing a 17% increase in 10 years. While vacant housing units did increase in Hopkins County, the percent of increase was in the middle of the comparison communities. In 2000 Hopkins County had the lowest percentage of vacant housing units of the comparison communities selected and maintained that status for 2010 in the face of broad and large increases in the last 10 years.

HOUSEHOLD

A household includes all the persons who occupy a housing unit (such as house, apartment, mobile home, group of rooms, or single room that is occupied as separate living quarters). The occupants may be a single family, one person living alone, two or more families living together, or any other group of related or unrelated persons who share living arrangements.

FAMILY

A family is a group of two or more people related by birth, marriage, or adoption that live together; all such people are considered as members of one family.

Comparison Community	2000		2010		Percent Change (2000-2010)
	Percent Vacant Housing Units	Total Housing Units	Percent Vacant Housing Units	Total Housing Units	
Muhlenberg Co.	9.6%	13,675	12.0%	13,699	25%
Logan County	11.5%	11,875	13.6%	12,339	18%
Kentucky	9.2%	1,750,927	10.8%	1,927,164	17%
Hopkins County	8.9%	20,668	10.4%	21,180	17%
Graves County	9.2%	16,340	10.7%	16,777	16%
Barren County	10.2%	17,095	11.4%	19,188	12%
Calloway County	13.7%	16,069	14.0%	18,065	2%

In 2000, about 74.7% of its occupied housing units were owner-occupied and 25.3% were renter-occupied. The percentage of owner-occupied housing units decreased to 70.8% in 2010. As of 2010, Hopkins County falls in the middle of the comparison communities in home ownership and slightly higher than Kentucky (68.7% owner-occupied), Barren County (67.9%) and Calloway County (62.6%). The national trend of less percentage of owner-occupied housing units extends to the surrounding region of Hopkins County. Hopkins County experienced a larger decline in owner-occupancy status between 2000 and 2010 (5.2% decrease) compared to Kentucky (3.0% decrease), and Logan County (2.5% decrease).

Comparison Community	Owner-Occupied Housing Units (2000)	Owner-Occupied Housing Units (2010)	Percent Change (2000-2010)
Calloway County	68.4%	62.6%	-8.5%
Barren County	72.3%	67.9%	-6.1%
Graves County	77.9%	73.8%	-5.3%
Hopkins County	74.7%	70.8%	-5.2%
Muhlenberg Co.	82.8%	78.5%	-5.2%
Kentucky	70.8%	68.7%	-3.0%
Logan County	75.2%	73.3%	-2.5%

Housing Value

The median value of Hopkins County's owner-occupied housing units was \$77,200 in 2010 and the median gross rent for renter occupied housing units was \$539 per month. The median owner-occupied housing unit value is lower than all of the comparison communities except for Muhlenberg County (\$75,200). The gross rent is similar to the comparison communities with the exception of being lower than Kentucky (\$601) and higher than Muhlenberg County (\$482).

Comparison Community	Median Owner-Occupied Housing Unit Value (\$)	Median Gross Rent (\$)
Kentucky	116,800	601
Calloway County	105,300	523
Barren County	96,400	530
Logan County	87,500	525
Graves County	83,900	539
Hopkins County	77,200	539
Muhlenberg Co.	75,700	482

Housing Trends Summary

- Hopkins County has a household size of 2.41 with more than one quarter of those being one-person households (living alone).
- Hopkins County's owner-occupied housing units declined by 5% as part of a larger trend to increased renting.
- With lower median housing values than most of the comparison communities, Hopkins County can be an affordable place to live.

ECONOMIC TRENDS

Total Workforce & Unemployment

About 59% of Hopkins County's population 16 years and older were in the labor force (22,046 people) in 2010. When compared to the state (60.8%) Hopkins County has a slightly lower rate of participation in the labor force. Hopkins County has the second lowest participation rate when placed in the list of comparison communities. Additionally, Hopkins County had an unemployment rate of 4.3% in 2011, lower than Kentucky (5.3%) and all comparison communities except for Muhlenberg County (3.9%).

Comparison Community	In Labor Force (2010)	Unemployment Rate (2011)
Logan County	60.3	5.8
Graves County	57.4	5.7
Calloway County	62.7	5.6
Kentucky	60.8	5.3
Barren County	60.5	4.4
Hopkins County	59.3	4.3
Muhlenberg Co.	49.0	3.9

Commuting & Place of Work

In 2010, about 96% of Hopkins County's population used a private vehicle (either by driving alone or carpooling) while traveling to work, the highest percentage of all comparison communities. The percentage of people walking to work was 1.4%, also the lowest of all comparison communities.

The mean travel time to work for Hopkins County was 20 minutes, falling in the middle of the comparison communities but less than Kentucky (22.5

minutes). The availability of a vehicle for transportation is not universal for all housing units in Hopkins County, meaning that the population living in housing units with no vehicle access relies on public transportation, walking/bicycling, or other forms of transportation. Approximately 7% (165) of housing units in Hopkins County have no vehicle available.

Approximately 79% of workers (16 years and older) lived and worked in Hopkins County in 2009. When compared to the state and country, the percentage of people living and working in their county of residence was higher than the state (69%) and country (73%).

Comparison Community	Private Vehicle	Public transportation (excluding taxicab)	Walked	Other means	Mean travel time to work (minutes)
Hopkins County	95.6%	0%	1.4%	1.4%	20.0
Muhlenberg Co.	95.2%	0.3%	1.5%	1.1%	24.4
Barren County	93.8%	0.2%	2.0%	0.9%	19.5
Graves County	93.6%	0.5%	1.5%	1.0%	22.7
Kentucky	92.5%	1.2%	2.2%	1.1%	22.5
Logan County	90.6%	0.9%	2.2%	2.6%	21.9
Calloway County	88.3%	0%	4.9%	1.0%	17.3

Industries & Occupations

The largest industries in Hopkins County in 2010 included: educational services, healthcare, social assistance (24%); manufacturing (16%) and retail trade (13%). The smallest industries in Hopkins County in 2010 included: information (0.4%); and wholesale (2%); and finance and insurance, and real estate and rental and leasing (3%). This is consistent with the majority of the other communities with the exception of Logan and Barren Counties leading with manufacturing instead of educational services, healthcare, social assistance. The largest three industries in Hopkins County follow the Kentucky trend exactly.

The largest three occupations in Hopkins County in 2010 included: management, business, science, art occupations (27%); sales and office occupations (23%); and service occupations (19%). These leading occupations followed the trend of most of the selected comparison communities and Kentucky where all see the least amount of employment in service occupations and natural resources/construction/ maintenance occupations.

Income

Hopkins County's median household income in 2010 was \$39,312, higher than the comparison communities, but lower than the state (\$41,576) and country (\$51,914).

Comparison Community	Median Household Income (2010)
Kentucky	\$41,576
Hopkins County	\$39,312
Calloway County	\$39,194
Barren County	\$38,374
Muhlenberg Co.	\$36,750
Graves County	\$35,277
Logan County	\$34,647

Economic Trends Summary

- Hopkins County workers primarily commute by private vehicle.
- Hopkins County workers have a shorter commute time (20 minutes) than about half the comparison communities.
- The largest industries and occupations are related to education, healthcare, manufacturing, and retail.
- Hopkins County has a higher median household income than most of the comparison communities.
- Hopkins County has 79% of workers that live and work in the county; this can increase the money spent within Hopkins County.

POPULATION PROJECTIONS

Hopkins County is projected to increase its population by about 1,150 people by 2035 to a total population of 48,067. Impacts of population increase & demographic trends affect land use & housing; transportation & utilities; education & workforce; aging population.



HOPKINS COUNTY COMPREHENSIVE PLAN

Public Involvement

C

APPENDIX **C**

PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT

[INSIDE THIS CHAPTER]

This chapter documents the public engagement process used in gathering concepts, ideas and comments from the community.

- Planning Committee Meetings
- Public Meetings & Workshops
- Meeting in a Box
- Adoption Hearings
- Other Public Outreach



During the plan's development, many opportunities for the public to engage with the process were extended. The public was asked to participate by providing input on their ideas and comments on their desired future for Hopkins County. Public input is crucial in securing adoption and future implementation of the plan – especially in a plan that encompasses the many unique cities and communities within Hopkins County.

Public input was collected by several methods of facilitation including, four Planning Committee meetings, five public meetings and workshops, seven HCJPC facilitated “Meetings in a Box” with community interest groups, key person & focus group interviews and online surveys. Each form of public involvement included the facilitation of a variety of exercises to capture the community's vision for the future.



Photo: Planning Committee meeting

PLANNING COMMITTEE MEETINGS

A Planning Committee of 21 members (listed in the opening of this document under Acknowledgements), representing a cross-section of the community's residents, government and local organizations and business owners, was formed to guide the planning process and overall direction of the comprehensive plan.

PLANNING COMMITTEE MEETING #1- October 3, 2013

The purpose of the first meeting was to introduce the planning process, establish key roles, review the existing conditions, and begin to collect input on what concepts should be included plan's vision. The Planning Committee began to share their ideas about the future of Hopkins County through three exercises, summarized below.

1) Visioning Exercise: "What's Your Vision?"

The following open ended questions were presented for comment.

The most important issue facing Hopkins County is...

- Jobs / Economic Development – Lack of job growth, lack of diverse employers, business attraction and retention
- Education – Increasing the education level, library
- Land Use – Underground mining land reclamation, growth along I-69
- Aging Population – Retaining young adult population, attracting new residents,

Hopkin's County's greatest asset is...

- Education – Madisonville Community College, K-12 education system
- Location – Located on I-69, river, road and rails, central U.S. (logistics)
- Natural resources – coal enhanced economy
- Community - Friendly, relaxed people, small town feel with city benefits, Community pride
- Amenities/Services – Parks, open land, healthcare

If I could build one thing in Hopkins County it would be...

- Entertainment – shopping mall, dining and restaurants, family entertainment facilities, sports facilities
- Education – library with technology center, youth or learning center
- Transportation – connected park ant trail system, expanded airport and flights, connector roads
- Business – research and development center, manufacturing, food market, tourism destinations

2) Issues Exercise: “Is this Hopkins County?”

An issues exercise allowed the Planning Committee to identify what businesses, amenities, and features they feel are most important to them and which they would like to see when thinking about the future of Hopkins County. They were asked to circle the words that are very important to them, mark a line through those that they would not like to see and do nothing to words or phrases that they felt indifferent toward.

MOST DESIRABLE FEATURES								
Feature	Want	Do Not Want	Feature	Want	Do Not Want	Feature	Want	Do Not Want
Manufacturing	27	0	Light-Industrial	20	0	Parks & Open Space	18	0
Library	25	0	Bike/Outdoor Recreation Shop	20	0	Farmers Market	18	1
Tourist Attractions	23	0	Hotel/Motel	20	0	Sidewalk Cafes	17	1
Greenway or Multi-Use Trail	22	0	College/University	19	0	Distribution/Warehouses	17	0
Community Branding / Identity	22	0	Fine Dining	19	1	Shopping Mall/ Lifestyle Center	17	2
Locally Owned Stores	20	0	Improved Streetscape	18	0	Live Entertainment	17	1

SOMEWHAT DESIREABLE FEATURES						LEAST DESIRABLE FEATURES		
Feature	Want	Do Not Want	Feature	Want	Do Not Want	Feature	Want	Do Not Want
Chain Retailers	16	0	Medical Campus	14	0	Parking Garages	6	8
Single-Family Homes	16	1	Movie Theater/Entertainment Ctr.	14	1	Gated Neighborhoods	6	6
Churches	16	2	Antique Shops	14	1	Strip Shopping Centers	8	5
Highway Signage (Directional)	15	0	Performing Arts Theater	14	1	Skate Park	5	5
Heavy-Industrial	15	1	Specialty Arts/Artisan Shops	13	0	Rock/Stone Quarries	0	5
Youth Sports Fields / Complex	15	1	Gateway Feature	13	1	Liquor Stores	1	4

3) Strengths and Opportunities

In this exercise, the Planning Committee was asked to identify strengths and opportunities for each topic of the plan. Comments were recorded on large flip charts to begin to frame the issues.

TOPIC	STRENGTHS	OPPORTUNITIES
Land Use	Lots of land	More recreation, stabilize neighborhoods, housing for elderly, patio homes, lifestyle neighborhoods,
Transportation	Easy access	Bike facilities and connections, move railroad, better connectivity, west loop/bypass, convert back to two-way streets, college entrance
Facilities & Utilities	Post-secondary –shovel ready	Aged school facilities, growth to north needing sewer capacity to increase, water pressure is low in areas, Earlington – bad I&I issues, Nortonville – water project needed, Dawson – need sewer upgrades
Housing & Neighborhoods	Cost of ownership is low, SR 25, amount of land	Need more sidewalks and gutters, community position for developments
Economic Development	Central location, airport – new runway, building stock with rail access, workforce development,	Need more retail, distribution center, old mining activities reduce land use, AIT program - NSF
Character	Nice areas, friendly folks	Need better connections, gateways, streetscapes, wayfinding
Parks & Open Space	Dawson Springs	Trails, more parks, large-scape park with 50 mile loop trail, connected parks, reclaimed mines, connect to regional

PLANNING COMMITTEE MEETING #2- November 19, 2013

The second Planning Committee meeting discussed input received at the first round of public meetings and the first Planning Committee meeting. It also presented the draft vision, goals and objectives. The majority of the meeting consisted of a working session to refine the vision, goals and objectives.

PLANNING COMMITTEE MEETING #3- January 16, 2014

The third meeting consisted of reviewing all the draft elements of the plan. Each element of the plan was discussed in detail and comments were recorded for future revisions to be made. Elements reviewed and discussed included:

- 1) Existing Land Use
- 2) Future Land Use & Expansion Areas
- 3) Transportation
- 4) Facilities & Utilities
- 5) Economic Development
- 6) Housing & Neighborhoods
- 7) Community Identity
- 8) Parks & Open Space
- 9) Environmental



Photo: Planning Committee Meeting

PLANNING COMMITTEE MEETING #4- July 17, 2014

The final Planning Committee meeting was focused on reviewing the draft plan including the action steps. Revisions were discussed and made prior to the adoption process.

STAKEHOLDER INTERVIEWS & FOCUS GROUPS

The key persons from departments within the local governments and organizations were interviewed individually and in focus groups for input from an individual perspective or on a specific issue during the day of October 29, 2013.



Photo: Speaking with Focus Group

STAKEHOLDER INTERVIEWS

Local Government

- Mayor of Dawson Springs – Jenny Sewell
- Mayor of Earlington – Mike Seiber
- Mayor of Hanson – Charles Young
- Mayor of Madisonville – David Jackson
- Mayor of Mortons Gap – Frank Stafford
- Hopkins County Judge Executive – Donald E. Carroll
- Madisonville Zoning Administrator – Debbie Todd

Community Members

- Hanson business owner – Teresa Anthony

FOCUS GROUPS

Public Safety

- Hopkins County Fire Chief – Darwin Rideout
- Hopkins County Sheriff – Jeremy Crack
- Hopkins County EMA – Frank Wright
- Hopkins County EMA – Nick Bailey
- City of Madisonville Police Department – Wade Williams
- Medical Center Ambulance Service – Jon Luck
- City of Madisonville Fire Department – Ray Wyatt
- City of Madisonville Fire Department – Steven K. Stohltz

Transportation

- Hopkins County Schools – Marci D. Cox
- KYTC District 2 – Kevin McClearn
- City of Madisonville Airport Board – Dr. Joseph E. Roe
- City of Madisonville – Bill Jackson
- Pennyryle Area Development District – Craig Morris

PUBLIC MEETINGS & WORKSHOPS

Community feedback is essential to making a plan relevant to the local conditions of Hopkins County. Not only do these meetings give an opportunity for new ideas and issues to be expressed and considered, but they also serve the purpose of confirming and reviewing previous input. Two rounds of public meetings were held during the planning process.

PUBLIC WORKSHOP #1, #2, #3 - October 28, 29, Nov. 7, 2013

Participants attending these public workshops were given a short overview presentation on the county's existing conditions followed by three exercises to gain feedback.

1) Future Land Uses

Participants were asked to use markers to color a map of Hopkins County according to where they thought each land use should be located in the future

2) What's the most important Issue?

This exercise asked individual participants to list what they considered to be the most important and pressing issue for each plan element.

- Land Use
 - Identify new growth and development areas
 - Preservation of Agricultural land
 - Commercial & Industrial development
 - New residential
- Transportation
 - Shuttle system
 - Sidewalk improvements
 - Road improvements
 - Traffic congestion
 - Address the impacts of I-69
- Utilities & Public Facilities
 - Sewer and water capacity upgrades and maintenance plan
 - Expand existing service into county
 - Sports Complex & Library
- Environmental
 - Underground Mine Lands
 - Development in the Floodplain
 - Water pollution
 - Wetland management
- Economic Development
 - Industrial / Commercial job growth
 - Diversify employers
- Housing & Neighborhoods
 - Increase rental properties
 - New single family residential
 - Renovate deteriorating homes
 - Neighborhoods Signage
- Community Branding & Identity
 - Develop entry point branding
 - Focus on tourism
 - Address signage from I-69
- Parks & Recreation
 - Connect the existing parks with neighborhoods
 - More park land
 - More biking and walking paths

3) Extra, Extra, Read All About It!

A mock front page of a newspaper 20 years in the future was presented and participants were asked to write the headlines, draw pictures or author stories as if they were the newspaper editor. A sample of responses to the mock newspaper headlines include:

Hopkins County Success: The County continues to grow as a...

- Major industry attractor, now home to many major factories thanks in part to I-69.
- A components supply hub
- Leading healthcare provider
- A regional education leader
- Outdoor tourism destination
- Retirement Community
- Alternative to busy city living
- Largest shopping destination in Western KY

Top rated jobs & industries in Hopkins County continue to be...

- School System
- Healthcare
- Industrial
- Utility Provider
- Tourism and Recreation Sites
- Commercial
- Mining

Focus on Hopkins County: New Highlights in the Community over the Past 20 years...

- New park land opens on reclaimed underground mine lands
- Distribution centers moves in
- Community College graduating local business owners
- New Hospital facilities open
- Parks and neighborhoods more connected by new greenways and trails
- Hopkins County Industrial Park opens
- Beautification and green space preservation efforts continue
- New shopping and entertainment complex opens



Photo: Public Open House

PUBLIC OPEN HOUSE #1 & #2 – March 6, 2014

The first meeting was held as an open house during the day with a focus on receiving civic organization feedback. Participants could discuss issues one-on-one with HCJPC staff and the consulting team. Multiple large format boards with the vision & goals and all plan elements were displayed with questionnaires for feedback.



Figure: Public Open House setup

That evening a second meeting was held again as an open house focused on general public input. Participants were participants could discuss issues one-on-one with HCJPC staff and the consultant team. Multiple large format boards with the vision & goals and all plan elements were displayed with questionnaires available for feedback. Elements reviewed and discussed included:

- 1) Vision & Goals
- 2) Existing Land Use
- 3) Future Land Use: Expansion Areas
- 4) Future Land Use: Dawson Springs
- 5) Future Land Use: Earlington
- 6) Future Land Use: Hanson
- 7) Future Land Use: Madisonville
- 8) Future Land Use: Mortons Gap
- 9) Expansion Areas
- 10) Transportation: Existing & Proposed
- 11) Facilities & Utilities: Existing & Proposed
- 12) Economic Development
- 13) Housing & Neighborhoods
- 14) Community Identity
- 15) Parks & Open Space
- 16) Environmental

OTHER PUBLIC OUTREACH

Other public outreach methods were used to accompany the community input gathered through traditional means. Three methods, one in-person and two online, were utilized in Hopkins County. A “Meeting in a Box” toolkit developed by the consultant was given to the community, allowing community lead meetings to take place. The two online methods including using the HCJPC website and administering an online survey.

MEETING IN A BOX

The “Meeting in a Box” toolkit facilitated additional public input through seven additional meetings. A set of presentations, facilitator guides and participant exercises were developed for use in multiple group meetings with the public and community interest groups. Meetings were facilitated with the Earlington Civic Club, Lions Club, Realtor Association, TRC (environmental permitting), Rotary Club, Kiwanis, and Farm City.

WEBSITE

The public was also kept informed of the current status of the planning process via the HCJPC website (www.HopkinsCountyPlanning.org). A draft of the plan was also available online for public review.

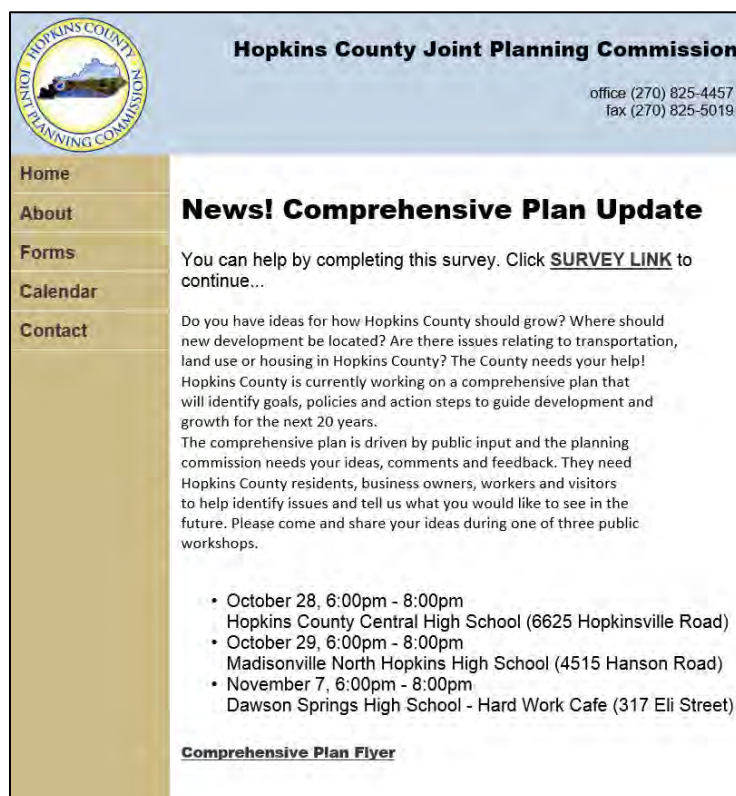


Figure: Screenshot of the HCJPC website news notification website

ONLINE SURVEY

An online survey developed to gain insight into the strengths and needs of the county. In total, 517 responses were submitted. A summary of the responses are summarized below.

Where do you live?	Responses	Percent
Madisonville	311	60%
Hopkins County (not within a city)	45	9%
Dawson Springs	36	7%
Hanson	33	6%
Manitou / Nebo	23	4%
Other	23	4%
Nortonville	15	3%
Mortons Gap	10	2%
Earlington	9	2%
White Plains	7	1%
St. Charles	5	1%

Where do you work?	Responses	Percent
Madisonville	331	64%
Do not work	97	19%
Outside Hopkins County	27	5%
Hopkins County (not within a city)	21	4%
Dawson Springs	12	2%
Hanson	8	2%
Earlington	6	1%
Manitou / Nebo	5	1%
Mortons Gap	3	<1%
Nortonville	3	<1%
White Plains	1	<1%
St. Charles	0	0%

What is your primary reason for living in Hopkins County?	Responses	Percent
Native / Family Ties	345	72%
Proximity to Job	116	24%
Quality of Life	40	8%
Rural lifestyle	39	8%
Cost of Living	16	3%
Good School System	12	3%
Low Taxes	5	1%

What three words you would use to describe Hopkins County to someone else?

- Friendly
- Small Town / Close Knit / Rural
- Safe / Low Crime
- Location

- Quiet / Peaceful
- Family / Family Ties
- Coal / Agriculture
- Great People / Caring
- Lack of Entertainment / Restaurants / Activities

What percentage of your entertainment (movies, social activities, eating out) spending is done in Hopkins County?	Responses	Percent
More than 60 percent	157	31%
40 to 60 percent	130	25%
20 to 40 percent	97	19%
10 to 20 percent	71	14%
Less than 10 percent	58	11%

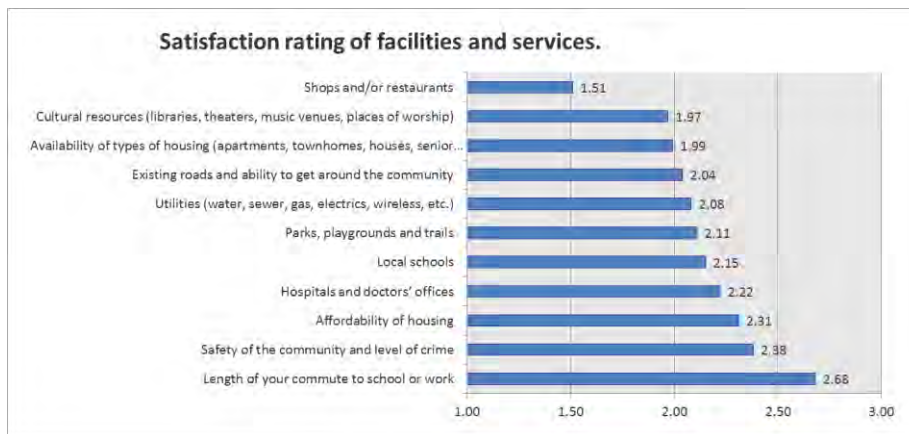
What percentage of your major purchases (clothing, furniture, appliances, home improvement) is done in Hopkins County?	Responses	Percent
More than 60 percent	139	27%
40 to 60 percent	124	24%
20 to 40 percent	103	20%
10 to 20 percent	69	13%
Less than 10 percent	77	15%

The most important issue facing Hopkins County is...	Responses	Percent
Jobs	160	36%
Government	74	17%
Business Attraction / Expansion	72	16%
Education	37	8%
Natural Resources	29	6%
Identity	23	5%
Public Healthy	22	5%
Retail	15	3%
Entertainment / Community Activities	15	3%

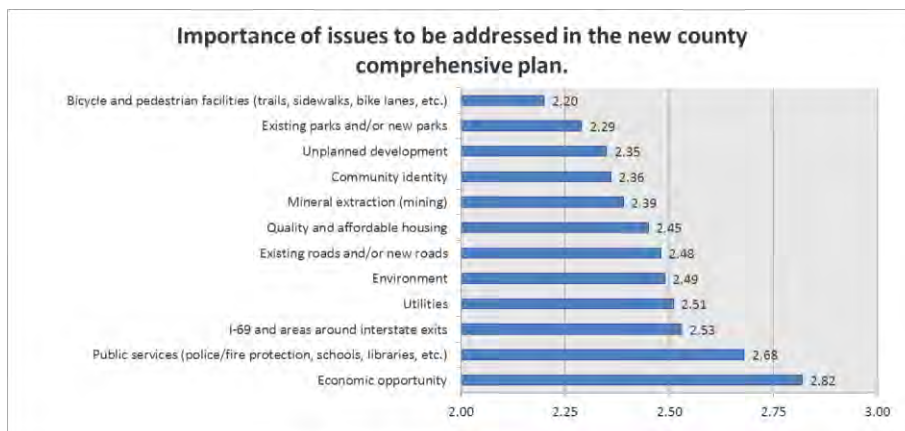
Hopkins County's greatest strength/asset is...	Responses	Percent
People	91	27%
Location	47	14%
Identity	41	12%
Natural Resources	37	11%
Education	29	8%
Transportation	23	7%
Community Partnerships	23	7%
Community Facilities / Services	19	6%
Workforce	16	5%
Medical	16	5%

If you could build one thing in Hopkins County, it would be...	Responses	Percent
Retail (Shops/Mall)	68	22%
Dining	41	13%
Sports Facility	41	13%
Industry	38	12%
Library	34	11%
Educational Facilities	21	7%
Youth Facilities	21	7%
Entertainment Facilities	19	6%
Transportation	15	5%
Trails / Greenway	10	3%

Rate your satisfaction with the following within Hopkins County:
(1 – Not Satisfied; 2 – Somewhat Satisfied; 3 – Very Satisfied)



Do you see the following as issues of concern in Hopkins County? How important do you feel it is for the new county comprehensive plan to address each of the following? (1 – Not Satisfied; 2 – Somewhat Satisfied; 3 – Very Satisfied)



Please give us any other comments about the future growth and development of Hopkins County!

- Improve Jobs / Employment / Industry
- More Shopping / Restaurants
- Need Education / Library
- Importance of Long-Term Planning
- Need Unity / Work Together
- Build upon Medical Care / Facilities

PUBLIC ACCESS TELEVISION

A one-hour interview with the consultant team was televised on local public access television in which the plans elements and vision & goals were discussed.

ADOPTION HEARINGS

The Hopkins County Joint Planning Commission held a working session with each member community to review and revise the Plan goals and objectives. Following this, a public hearing for adoption was held before each governing body to adopt the goals and objectives according to KRS 100 on the following dates:

- Hopkins County Joint Planning Commission – April 24, 2014
- Hopkins County Fiscal Court – June 24, 2014;
- City of Dawson Springs – June 16, 2014;
- City of Earlington – June 10, 2014;
- City of Hanson – June 23, 2014;
- City of Madisonville – June 16, 2014;
- City of Mortons Gap – June 4, 2014.

A public hearing to adopt the plan elements was held before the Hopkins County Joint Planning Commission on October 23, 2014.



HOPKINS COUNTY COMPREHENSIVE PLAN

Individual Community Goals & Objectives

D

APPENDIX **D**

INDIVIDUAL COMMUNITY GOALS & OBJECTIVES

[INSIDE THIS CHAPTER]

This chapter documents the prioritization of the plan goals and objectives for each individual community.

- Dawson Springs
- Earlington
- Hanson
- Madisonville
- Mortons Gap



■ Hopkins County has many communities within its boundaries. Each community has individual circumstances that may cause their focus on goals and objectives to differ from the county's overall plan. To facilitate individual community buy-in and make the plan more adaptable to the circumstance of each community in the HCJPC, the goals and objectives were presented to each community individually for reprioritization. The result of this exercise is summarized in this appendix.



DAWSON SPRINGS

GOALS

GOAL 1: Diversify the **JOB BASE** to provide economic development opportunities.

- a. Expand the existing job base to focus on industrial, manufacturing, technical and related industries, as well as retail and service jobs.
- b. Place a priority on occupying empty industrial buildings and encouraging new development.
- c. Promote the agricultural-business industry to support local farmers and promote tourism.
- d. Retain existing businesses and industry and support their expansion and growth.
- e. Create an environment supportive of small business creation and development.

GOAL 2: Provide ample **UTILITY** capacity to existing development before future growth areas.

- a. Improve the existing water and sewer capacities to serve existing and future development.
- b. Replace aging water and sewer infrastructure that is failing or outdated.
- c. Place a priority on providing water and sewer capacity to industrial, commercial and residential growth.
- d. Continue to improve drainage and flooding issues.
- e. Improve cellular service and internet service throughout the city.

GOAL 3: Designate **LAND USE** to provide suitable locations for future growth in Dawson Springs.

- a. Provide for industrial and commercial growth in strategic locations.
- b. Provide for a variety of housing types, including senior living, affordable living and new growth areas.
- c. Reinvest in aging housing areas to promote redevelopment.
- d. Provide for planned growth at the interchange along I-69.
- e. Encourage mixed-uses within the urban areas.

GOAL 4: Foster an **EDUCATION** system which supports the marketplace and the communities in which they serve.

- a. Work with educational institutions and major employers to create programs that match market needs for jobs.
- b. Expand access to college programs and technology that aids learning for all ages.
- c. Encourage facility locations that promote communities, reduce traffic congestion, and accommodate multi-modal transportation.

GOAL 5: Develop necessary **FACILITIES** and adequate personnel levels.

- a. Support necessary and appropriate personnel levels for all emergency management staff, including fire and police.
- b. Update and modernize school facilities while maintaining local community identities.
- c. Enhance and maintain recreational facilities.
- d. Encourage growth and re-vitalization of the existing library to accommodate trends in use and in technology.
- e. Promote arts and cultural opportunities for residents to enjoy.
- f. Analyze and monitor the need for a new water and sewer treatment plant.

GOAL 6: Expand and improve **RECREATIONAL & ENTERTAINMENT** opportunities.

- a. Maintain and expand the existing park system to meet the needs of future growth.
- b. Encourage growth of retail and shopping opportunities.
- c. Encourage new and support existing dining opportunities that serve residents and visitors.
- d. Provide opportunities and options for youth entertainment.
- e. Support arts and cultural activities for residents and visitors of all ages.
- f. Promote private recreational opportunities that increase tourism.

GOAL 7: Provide a functional **TRANSPORTATION** network for commerce, commuters, and recreation.

- a. Complete road improvements throughout the city, including road widening where needed.
- b. Provide bicycle and pedestrian connections throughout the city with a focus on connecting neighborhoods and parks.
- c. Preserve the functionality of the roadway network by ensuring new development does not overburden the system.

- d. Implement practices to alleviate congestion with a focus on the urban areas and near schools.
- e. Enhance the airport with improved runway.

GOAL 8: Promote and develop a unified **CHARACTER & IDENTITY** for Dawson Springs.

- a. Develop entry points or gateways into Dawson Springs that are reflective of the community.
- b. Reinforce the identity of cities or neighborhoods through identification signage.
- c. Create a wayfinding system to help visitors navigate to major destinations.
- d. Continue to promote and market Dawson Springs to increase tourism.
- e. Emphasize Dawson Springs as a place with a small town atmosphere with countryside beauty.
- f. Preserve and restore the historically important sites and build upon Dawson Springs' character.
- g. Break the threshold of 3,500 residents in order to market Dawson Springs as a growing community.

GOAL 9: Generate **POLICIES** which enhance the quality of life for all communities within Dawson Springs.

- a. Evaluate the need for annexation adjacent to the incorporated city.
- b. Evaluate the need for zoning around incorporated areas.
- c. Promote and expand the city-wide recycling program.

EARLINGTON

GOALS

GOAL 1: Designate **LAND USE** to provide suitable locations for future growth in Earlington.

- a. Develop a program for adaptive reuse of abandoned mining areas or land that is now unbuildable due to previous mining activity
- b. Provide for industrial growth in strategic locations.
- c. Protect the integrity of wetlands, floodplains and other natural resources by limiting development in these areas.
- d. Provide for a variety of housing types, including senior living, affordable living and new growth areas
- e. Reinvest in aging housing areas to promote redevelopment.

GOAL 2: Provide ample **UTILITY** capacity to existing development before future growth areas.

- a. Improve the existing water and sewer capacities to serve existing and future development.
- b. Replace aging water and sewer infrastructure that is failing or outdated.
- c. Enhance coordination efforts between the multiple water and sewer providers.
- d. Continue to improve drainage and flooding issues.
- e. Improve cellular service and internet service throughout the city.

GOAL 3: Generate **POLICIES** which enhance the quality of life for all communities within Earlington.

- a. Re-do zoning ordinance.
- b. Evaluate the need for zoning around incorporated areas.

GOAL 4: Develop necessary **FACILITIES** and adequate personnel levels.

- a. Support necessary and appropriate personnel levels for all emergency management staff, including fire and police.
- b. Support building a training facility for all emergency management departments, including fire, police, and EMS.
- c. Update and modernize school facilities while maintaining local community identities.

- d. Evaluate spillway improvement options for Loch Mary Reservoir in Earlington.
- e. Continue to support the development of the regional sports complex and enhance local recreational facilities.
- f. Promote arts and cultural opportunities for residents to enjoy.

GOAL 5: Diversify the **JOB BASE** to provide economic development opportunities.

- a. Expand the existing job base to focus on industrial, manufacturing, technical and related industries, commercial, and retail.
- b. Promote the agricultural business industry to support local farmers and promote tourism.
- c. Retain existing businesses and industry and support their expansion and growth.
- d. Create an environment supportive of small business creation and development.

GOAL 6: Expand and improve **RECREATIONAL & ENTERTAINMENT** opportunities.

- a. Expand the existing park system to meet the needs of future growth.
- b. Encourage growth of retail and shopping opportunities.
- c. Encourage new and support existing dining opportunities that serve residents and visitors.
- d. Provide opportunities and options for youth entertainment.
- e. Support arts and cultural activities for residents and visitors of all ages.
- f. Promote private recreational opportunities that increase tourism.

GOAL 7: Promote and develop a unified **CHARACTER & IDENTITY** for Earlington.

- a. Develop entry points or gateways into Earlington that are reflective of the community.
- b. Reinforce the identity of cities or neighborhoods through identification signage.
- c. Create a wayfinding system to help visitors navigate to major destinations.
- d. Continue to promote and market Earlington to increase tourism.
- e. Emphasize Earlington as a place with a small town atmosphere with countryside beauty.

- f. Preserve and restore the historically important sites and build upon Earlington's character.

GOAL 8: Foster an **EDUCATION** system which supports the marketplace and the communities in which they serve.

- a. Support the creation of a technology center that aids learning at all levels and ages.
- b. Encourage facility locations that promote communities, reduce traffic congestion, and accommodate multi-modal transportation.

GOAL 9: Provide a functional **TRANSPORTATION** network for commerce, commuters, and recreation.

- a. Complete road improvements throughout the city.
- b. Provide bicycle and pedestrian connections throughout the city with a focus on connecting neighborhoods and parks.
- c. Preserve the functionality of the roadway network by ensuring new development does not overburden the system
- d. Implement practices to alleviate congestion with a focus on the urban areas and near schools.
- e. Support public transit/bus services for those without private transportation and the elderly.
- f. Support the relocation of CSX railroad line out of downtown Madisonville.

HANSON

GOALS

GOAL 1: Generate **POLICIES** which enhance the quality of life within Hanson.

- a. Evaluate the need for annexation adjacent to the incorporated cities.
- b. Evaluate the need for zoning around incorporated areas.

GOAL 2: Foster an **EDUCATION** system which supports the marketplace and the communities in which they serve.

- a. Encourage facility locations that promote communities, reduce traffic congestion, and accommodate multi-modal transportation.
- b. Support education institutions and employers to create programs that match market needs for jobs.
- c. Support the creation of a technology center that aids learning at all levels and ages.

GOAL 3: Diversify the **JOB BASE** to provide economic development opportunities.

- a. Expand the existing job base to focus on industrial, manufacturing, technical and related industries, commercial and retail.
- b. Place a priority on new industrial development.
- c. Promote the agricultural-business industry to support local farmers and promote tourism.
- d. Retain existing businesses and industry and support their expansion and growth.
- e. Create an environment supportive of small business creation and development.

GOAL 4: Designate **LAND USE** to provide suitable locations for future growth in Hanson.

- a. Provide for industrial growth in strategic locations.
- b. Protect the integrity of wetlands, floodplains and other natural resources by limiting development in these areas.
- c. Provide for a variety of housing types, including senior living, affordable living and new growth areas
- d. Provide for planned growth at interchanges along I-69.
- e. Encourage mixed-uses within the urban areas.

GOAL 5: Develop necessary **FACILITIES** and adequate personnel levels.

- a. Support necessary and appropriate personnel levels for all emergency management staff, including fire.
- b. Update and modernize school facilities while maintaining local community identities.
- c. Continue to enhance other recreational facilities.
- d. Encourage coordination with the existing library to accommodate trends in use and in technology.
- e. Promote arts and cultural opportunities for residents to enjoy.

GOAL 6: Provide ample **UTILITY** capacity to existing development before future growth areas.

- a. Replace aging water and sewer infrastructure that is failing or outdated.
- b. Continue to improve drainage and flooding issues.

GOAL 7: Promote and develop a unified **CHARACTER & IDENTITY** for Hanson.

- a. Develop entry points or gateways into Hanson that are reflective of the community.
- b. Create a unified vision for the county as a whole.
- c. Reinforce the identity of cities or neighborhoods through identification signage.
- d. Create a wayfinding system to help visitors navigate to major destinations.
- e. Continue to promote and market Hanson to increase tourism.
- f. Emphasize Hanson as a place with a small town atmosphere with countryside beauty
- g. Preserve and restore the historically important sites and build upon Hanson's character.
- h. Break the threshold of 1,000 residents in order to market Hanson as a growing community.

GOAL 8: Provide a functional **TRANSPORTATION** network for commerce, commuters, and recreation.

- a. Complete road improvements throughout the city including road widening where needed.
- b. Provide bicycle and pedestrian connections throughout the city with a focus on connecting neighborhoods and parks.

- c. Preserve the functionality of the roadway network by ensuring new development does not overburden the system
- d. Implement access management guidelines near the I-69 interchanges to protect the level of service of existing roads.
- e. Implement practices to alleviate congestion with a focus on the urban areas and near schools.
- f. Promote the overpass of CSX railroad North of Hanson.

GOAL 9: Expand and improve **RECREATIONAL & ENTERTAINMENT** opportunities.

- a. Expand the existing park system to meet the needs of future growth.
- b. Encourage growth of retail and shopping opportunities.
- c. Encourage new and support existing dining opportunities that serve residents and visitors.
- d. Provide opportunities and options for youth entertainment.
- e. Support arts and cultural activities for residents and visitors of all ages.
- f. Promote private recreational opportunities that increase tourism.

HOPKINS COUNTY FISCAL COURT

GOALS

GOAL 1: Diversify the **JOB BASE** to provide economic development opportunities.

- a. Expand the existing job base to focus on industrial, manufacturing, technical and related industries.
- b. Promote the agricultural-business industry to support local farmers and promote tourism.
- c. Retain existing businesses and industry and support their expansion and growth.
- d. Create an environment supportive of small business creation and development.

GOAL 2: Designate **LAND USE** to provide suitable locations for future growth in Hopkins County.

- a. Develop a program for adaptive reuse of abandoned mining areas or land that is now unbuildable due to previous mining activity.
- b. Preserve prime agricultural land within Hopkins County for agricultural purposes.
- c. Provide for industrial growth in strategic locations.
- d. Protect the integrity of wetlands, floodplains and other natural resources by limiting development in these areas.
- e. Provide for a variety of housing types, including senior living, affordable living, new growth areas and multi-family.
- f. Reinvest in aging housing areas to promote redevelopment.
- g. Provide for planned growth at interchanges along I-69.
- h. Encourage mixed-uses within the urban areas.

GOAL 3: Provide ample **UTILITY** capacity to existing development before future growth areas.

- a. Improve the existing water and sewer capacities to serve existing and future development.
- b. Replace aging water and sewer infrastructure that is failing or outdated.
- c. Place a priority on providing water and sewer capacity to industrial growth.

- d. Enhance coordination efforts between the multiple water and sewer providers.
- e. Continue to improve drainage and flooding issues.
- f. Improve cellular service and internet service throughout the county.

GOAL 4: Provide a functional **TRANSPORTATION** network for commerce, commuters, and recreation.

- a. Complete road improvements throughout the county, including road widening where needed.
- b. Provide bicycle and pedestrian connections throughout the county with a focus on connecting neighborhoods and parks.
- c. Preserve the functionality of the roadway network by ensuring new development does not overburden the system.
- d. Implement access management guidelines near the I-69 interchanges to protect the level of service of existing roads.
- e. Implement practices to alleviate congestion with a focus on the urban areas and near schools.
- f. Support public transit/bus service for those without private transportation and the elderly.
- g. Evaluate the need for and impacts of a new bypass near Madisonville.
- h. Promote the relocation of CSX railroad line out of downtown Madisonville.
- i. Enhance the airport with additional hanger space and maintenance facilities.

GOAL 5: Foster an **EDUCATION** system which supports the marketplace and the communities in which they serve.

- a. Work with educational institutions and major employers to create programs that match market needs for jobs.
- b. Expand the college to include more programs and potential four-year programs.
- c. Support the creation of a technology center that aids learning at all levels and ages.
- d. Encourage facility locations that promote communities, reduce traffic congestion, and accommodate multi-modal transportation.

GOAL 6: Develop necessary **FACILITIES** and adequate personnel levels.

- a. Support necessary and appropriate personnel levels for all emergency management staff, including fire and police.
- b. Analyze existing fire district boundaries to determine the best manner to serve residents and businesses.
- c. Build a training facility for all emergency management departments, including fire, police, and EMS.
- d. Update and modernize school facilities while maintaining local community identities.
- e. Evaluate spillway and dam development options for reservoirs throughout the county.
- f. Continue to develop regional sports complex and enhance other recreational facilities.
- g. Encourage growth and re-vitalization of the existing library to accommodate trends in use and in technology.
- h. Promote arts and cultural opportunities for residents to enjoy.

GOAL 7: Expand and improve **RECREATIONAL & ENTERTAINMENT** opportunities.

- a. Expand the existing park system to meet the needs of future growth.
- b. Encourage growth of retail and shopping opportunities.
- c. Encourage new and support existing dining opportunities that serve residents and visitors.
- d. Provide opportunities and options for youth entertainment.
- e. Support arts and cultural activities for residents and visitors of all ages.
- f. Promote private recreational opportunities that increase tourism.

GOAL 8: Promote and develop a unified **CHARACTER & IDENTITY** for Hopkins County.

- a. Develop entry points or gateways into Hopkins County that are reflective of the community.
- b. Create a unified vision for the county as a whole.
- c. Reinforce the identity of cities or neighborhoods through identification signage.
- d. Create a wayfinding system to help visitors navigate to major destinations.

- e. Continue to promote and market Hopkins County to increase tourism.
- f. Emphasize Hopkins County as a place with a small town atmosphere with countryside beauty.
- g. Preserve and restore the historically important sites and build upon Hopkins County's character.
- h. Break the threshold of 50,000 residents in order to market Hopkins County as a larger community.

GOAL 9: Generate **POLICIES** which enhance the quality of life for all communities within Hopkins County.

- a. Evaluate the need for annexation adjacent to the incorporated cities.
- b. Evaluate the need for zoning around incorporated areas.
- c. Promote a county-wide recycling program.
- d. Increase efficiency and reduce duplication of services in governmental agencies.
- e. Develop a beautification and cleanliness program countywide.

MADISONVILLE

GOALS

GOAL 1: Designate **LAND USE** to provide suitable locations for future growth in Madisonville.

- a. Develop a program for adaptive reuse of abandoned mining areas or land that is now unbuildable due to previous mining activity.
- b. Provide for industrial growth in strategic locations.
- c. Protect the integrity of wetlands, floodplains and other natural resources by limiting development in these areas.
- d. Provide for a variety of housing types, including senior living, affordable living and new growth areas
- e. Reinvest in aging housing areas to promote development.
- f. Provide for planned growth at interchanges along I-69.
- g. Encourage mixed-uses within the urban areas.
- h. Promote commercial rehabilitation and re-development downtown.
- i. Provide for a mix of uses and development standards compatible with an urban corridor.

GOAL 2: Diversify the **JOB BASE** to provide economic development opportunities.

- a. Expand the existing job base to focus on industrial, manufacturing, technical and related industries.
- b. Place a priority on occupying empty commercial and industrial buildings.
- c. Promote the agricultural-business industry to support local farmers and promote tourism.
- d. Retain existing businesses and industry and support their expansion and growth.
- e. Create an environment supportive of small business creation and development.

GOAL 3: Provide ample **UTILITY** capacity to existing development before future growth areas.

- a. Improve the existing water and sewer capacities to serve existing and future development.

- b. Replace aging water and sewer infrastructure that is failing or outdated.
- c. Place a priority on providing water and sewer capacity to support growth.
- d. Enhance coordination efforts between the multiple water and sewer providers.
- e. Continue to improve drainage and flooding issues.
- f. Improve cellular service and internet service throughout the city.

GOAL 4: Provide a functional **TRANSPORTATION** network for commerce, commuters, and recreation.

- a. Complete road improvements throughout the city including road widening where needed.
- b. Provide bicycle and pedestrian connections throughout the city with a focus on connecting neighborhoods and parks.
- c. Preserve the functionality of the roadway network by ensuring new development does not overburden the system
- d. Implement access management guidelines near the I-69 interchanges to protect the level of service of existing roads.
- e. Implement practices to alleviate congestion with a focus on the urban areas and near schools.
- f. Support public transit/bus service for those without private transportation and the elderly.
- g. Evaluate the need for and impacts of a new bypass near Madisonville.
- h. Promote the relocation of CSX railroad line out of downtown Madisonville.
- i. Enhance the airport with additional hanger space and maintenance facilities.

GOAL 5: Expand and improve **RECREATIONAL & ENTERTAINMENT** opportunities.

- a. Expand the existing park system to meet the needs of future growth.
- b. Encourage growth of retail and shopping opportunities.
- c. Encourage new and support existing dining opportunities that serve residents and visitors.
- d. Provide opportunities and options for youth entertainment.

- e. Support arts and cultural activities for residents and visitors of all ages.
- f. Promote private recreational opportunities that increase tourism.

GOAL 6: Promote and develop a unified **CHARACTER & IDENTITY** for Madisonville and Hopkins County.

- a. Develop entry points or gateways into Madisonville that are reflective of the community.
- b. Create a unified vision for the city and county as a whole.
- c. Reinforce the identity of cities or neighborhoods through identification signage.
- d. Create a wayfinding system to help visitors navigate to major destinations.
- e. Continue to promote and market Madisonville to increase tourism.
- f. Emphasize Madisonville as a place with a small town atmosphere and as the “Best Town on Earth”
- g. Preserve and restore the historically important sites and build upon Madisonville’s character.
- h. Break the threshold of 25,000 residents in order to market Madisonville as a growing community.

GOAL 7: Foster an **EDUCATION** system which supports the marketplace and the communities in which they serve.

- a. Work with education institutions and major employers to create programs that match market needs for jobs.
- b. Expand the college to include more programs and potential four-year programs.
- c. Support the creation of a technology center that aids learning at all levels and ages.
- d. Encourage facility locations that promote communities, reduce traffic congestion, and accommodate multi-modal transportation.

GOAL 8: Develop necessary **FACILITIES** and adequate personnel levels.

- a. Support necessary and appropriate personnel levels for all emergency management staff, including fire and police.
- b. Analyze existing fire station locations.
- c. Support the building of a training facility for all emergency management departments, including fire, police, and EMS.

- d. Support updating and modernizing school facilities while maintaining local community identities.
- e. Continue to support and enhance recreational facilities.
- f. Encourage growth and re-vitalization of the existing library to accommodate trends in use and in technology.
- g. Promote arts and cultural opportunities for residents to enjoy.

GOAL 9: Generate **POLICIES** which enhance the quality of life within Madisonville.

- a. Evaluate the need for annexation adjacent to the incorporated cities.
- b. Evaluate the need for zoning around incorporated areas.
- c. Promote and expand the city-wide recycling program.
- d. Create development design guidelines and controls that allow and encourage originality, flexibility, and innovation in development.
- e. Enhance the “First Impression” by developing and promoting a beautification and cleanliness program throughout the city.

MORTONS GAP

GOALS

GOAL 1: Generate **POLICIES** which enhance the quality of life within Mortons Gap.

- a. Evaluate the need for annexation adjacent to the incorporated cities.
- b. Evaluate the need for zoning around incorporated areas.
- c. Support a county-wide recycling program.

GOAL 2: Diversify the **JOB BASE** to provide economic development opportunities.

- a. Expand the existing job base to focus on industrial, manufacturing, technical and related industries, commercial and retail.
- b. Promote the agricultural-business industry to support local farmers and promote tourism.
- c. Retain existing businesses and industry and support their expansion and growth.
- d. Create an environment supportive of small business creation and development.

GOAL 3: Provide ample **UTILITY** capacity to existing development before future growth areas.

- a. Improve the existing water and sewer capacities to serve existing and future development.
- b. Replace aging water and sewer infrastructure that is failing or outdated.
- c. Enhance coordination efforts between the multiple water and sewer providers.
- d. Continue to improve drainage and flooding issues.

GOAL 4: Designate **LAND USE** to provide suitable locations for future growth in Mortons Gap.

- a. Protect the integrity of wetlands, floodplains and other natural resources by limiting development in these areas.
- b. Provide for a variety of housing types, including senior living, affordable living and new growth areas
- c. Continue to reinvest in aging housing areas to promote redevelopment.

- d. Provide for planned growth at interchanges along I-69.
- e. Encourage mixed-uses within the urban areas.
- f. Provide for industrial growth in strategic locations.

GOAL 5: Promote and develop a unified **CHARACTER & IDENTITY** for Mortons Gap.

- a. Develop entry points or gateways into Mortons Gap that are reflective of the community.
- b. Create a unified vision for Mortons Gap as a whole.
- c. Reinforce the identity of cities or neighborhoods through identification signage.
- d. Create a wayfinding system to help visitors navigate to major destinations.
- e. Continue to promote and market Mortons Gap to increase tourism.
- f. Emphasize Mortons Gap as a place with a small town atmosphere, friendly people, and a good place to live.
- g. Preserve and restore the historically important sites and build upon Mortons Gap's character, and secure historical markers.
- h. Break the threshold of 1,000 residents in order to market Mortons Gap as a growing community.

GOAL 6: Expand and improve **RECREATIONAL & ENTERTAINMENT** opportunities.

- a. Expand the existing park system to meet the needs of future growth.
- b. Encourage growth of retail and shopping opportunities.
- c. Encourage new and support existing dining opportunities that serve residents and visitors.
- d. Provide opportunities and options for youth entertainment.
- e. Support arts and cultural activities for residents and visitors of all ages.
- f. Promote private recreational opportunities that increase tourism.

GOAL 7: Develop necessary **FACILITIES** and adequate personnel levels.

- a. Support necessary and appropriate personnel levels for all emergency management staff, including fire and police.
- b. Analyze existing fire district boundaries to determine the best manner to serve residents and businesses.

- c. Continue to support the development of the regional sports complex and enhance other recreational facilities.
- d. Promote arts and cultural opportunities for residents to enjoy.

GOAL 8: Foster an **EDUCATION** system which supports the marketplace and the communities in which they serve.

- a. Support education institutions and employers to create programs that match market needs for jobs.
- b. Support the college to include more programs and potential four-year programs.
- c. Support the creation of a technology center that aids learning at all levels and ages.
- d. Encourage facility locations that promote communities, reduce traffic congestion, and accommodate multi-modal transportation.

GOAL 9: Provide a functional **TRANSPORTATION** network for commerce, commuters, and recreation.

- a. Complete road improvements throughout the city including road widening where needed.
- b. Provide bicycle and pedestrian connections throughout the city with a Focus on connecting neighborhoods and parks.
- c. Preserve the functionality of the roadway network by ensuring new development does not overburden the system
- d. Implement access management guidelines near the I-69 interchanges to protect the level of service of existing roads.
- e. Implement practices to alleviate congestion with a focus on downtown and near the schools.
- f. Support public transit/bus services for those without private transportation and the elderly.
- g. Promote private recreational opportunities that increase tourism.



HOPKINS COUNTY COMPREHENSIVE PLAN

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PREPARED FOR THE
HOPKINS COUNTY JOINT PLANNING COMMISSION

