BENNINGTON TOWNSHIP

Comprehensive Plan

December 2004

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COMPREHENSIVE PLANNING COMMITTEE
LICKING COUNTY, OHIO

January, 2005

Dear Bennington Township Resident:

In early 2003, the Bennington Township Trustees formed the Bennington Township Comprehensive Planning Committee. The purpose of the Committee was to develop a comprehensive plan to help provide meaningful and logical development of the Township that is consistent with the desires and interests of its residents and landowners.

Since March of 2003, the Committee has held regular public meetings, conducted a Township survey, held a public visioning session and utilized the knowledge and experience of the Licking County Planning Commission and other Townships in Licking County. Information learned from all of these elements was utilized to develop the Plan specific to Bennington Township. The Committee believes that this Plan reflects the current interests and desires of the Township residents for the development, management and future land use in the Township.

This Plan is the first step in the development process of the Township. As things evolve within the Township, this Plan should be revisited and modified accordingly so that its timeliness and ability to guide the Trustees, Zoning Commission and Board of Zoning Appeals is always reflective of the Township's current state.

I would like to thank the members of the Bennington Township Comprehensive Planning Committee, the Township Trustees, residents and the Licking County Planning Commission for their efforts in the development of this plan. I believe this Plan will be an important tool in achieving the land use goals expressed by the residents and landowners of the Township.

Lastly, on behalf of everyone on the committee, I want to express our gratitude for the opportunity to serve the residents and landowners at the request of the Township Trustees.

Sincerely,

Laurence J. Mily, Jr.
Chairperson
Bennington Township Planning Commission

Resolution for Adoption

Bennington Township
6600 Bennington Chapel Road
Centerburg, Ohio 43011
Licking County
Phone/Fax 740-893-2467 - 740-893-9291

Ref: Regular Township Trustees Meeting Mar. 14, 2005

To Whom It May Concern:

The Bennington Township Trustees met in regular session on Mar. 14, 2005. They approved the enclosed minutes of the special public Comprehensive Plan Meeting. A vote was not taken on Feb. 14 to allow the trustees time to study the plan further.

On Mar. 14th Stan Hall made a resolution to adopt the Bennington Township Comprehensive Plan, that had be given to them by the Bennington Township Comprehensive Plan Committee. **Dean Runyon seconded.**

Vote: Williams Yea
Runyon Yea
Hall Yea

About the enclosed minutes: With several guests talking at once, I tried to sort out as much information, that I had in the minutes I took and the tape recordings. This was done so the Zoning & Appeals Boards would have something to refer back to as to what was discussed.

If you have any questions, please, feel free to call me at the number above.

Sally Hatfield

Sally Hatfield

Clerk, Bennington Township

Cc: Bennington Township Zoning & Appeals Board Members
Luke Hare

Committee Members

The Bennington Township Planning Committee consisted of a combination of Township residents, Township officials, and various staff members of the Licking County Planning Commission. The committee included the following individuals:

Members Appointed by Township Trustees

Larry Mily, Jr
Bill Jacks
Larry Wright
Marcie Williams
Bill Powell
Dean Runyon, Trustee
Larry Wright
Larry Grindle
Jack DeBolt
Carroll Huff
John Dodroe

Licking County Planning Commission Staff

Jerry Brems, Director
Tom Frederick, Assistant Director
Lucas Haire
Kim Workman
Zack DeLeon
Brad Mercer

Introduction

In most communities, whether at the municipal, township, or county level, the comprehensive plan is not a document that the average resident frequently references. Most often, the local zoning resolution generates more interest than the comprehensive plan because of the immediate and tangible effects that zoning creates. However, when properly designed and implemented, the comprehensive plan can serve as a highly effective and influential tool for any community.

Purpose and Use of a Comprehensive Plan

A comprehensive plan is, as its name indicates, a plan for a community's future that attempts to consider all local and regional factors. It evaluates the state of the community by taking inventory of current demographics, infrastructure, services, and physical characteristics, as well as by assessing the needs and concerns of its residents. The plan then incorporates this information into a series of explicitly stated goals, objectives, and recommendations to be realized by a particular date or within a specific time frame, such as twenty years or the year 2025.

Many of the recommendations within the plan are visualized through the Future Land Use Map, a document that indicates where particular types of land uses have been recommended within the community. It should be emphasized that the Future Land Use Map is *not* a zoning map; rather, it is a collection of *recommendations*. An area on the Future Land Use Map that has been recommended for industrial use, for example, has not been rezoned and will not necessarily host an industrial use in the future. The Future Land Use Map and the comprehensive plan are guides that should be considered and observed by local officials when making decisions concerning the community.

Why Adopt a Comprehensive Plan?

With or without a comprehensive plan, local officials should base their decisions on what they perceive to be best for the community's future. But how can officials demonstrate that these decisions are neither arbitrary nor biased, and that they do in fact represent the community's best interest? A comprehensive plan is a legally and locally adopted document, and it is formulated by a committee of local residents using public input. As such, courts have consistently upheld decisions that are based on the recommendations of a comprehensive plan. In fact, Ohio law goes as far as to *necessitate* comprehensive planning for townships that implement zoning. According to Chapter 519.02 of the Ohio Revised Code, "For the purpose of promoting the public health, safety, and morals, the board of township trustees may *in accordance with a comprehensive plan* regulate by resolution the…uses of land for trade, industry, residence, recreation, or other purposes in the unincorporated territory of such township…"

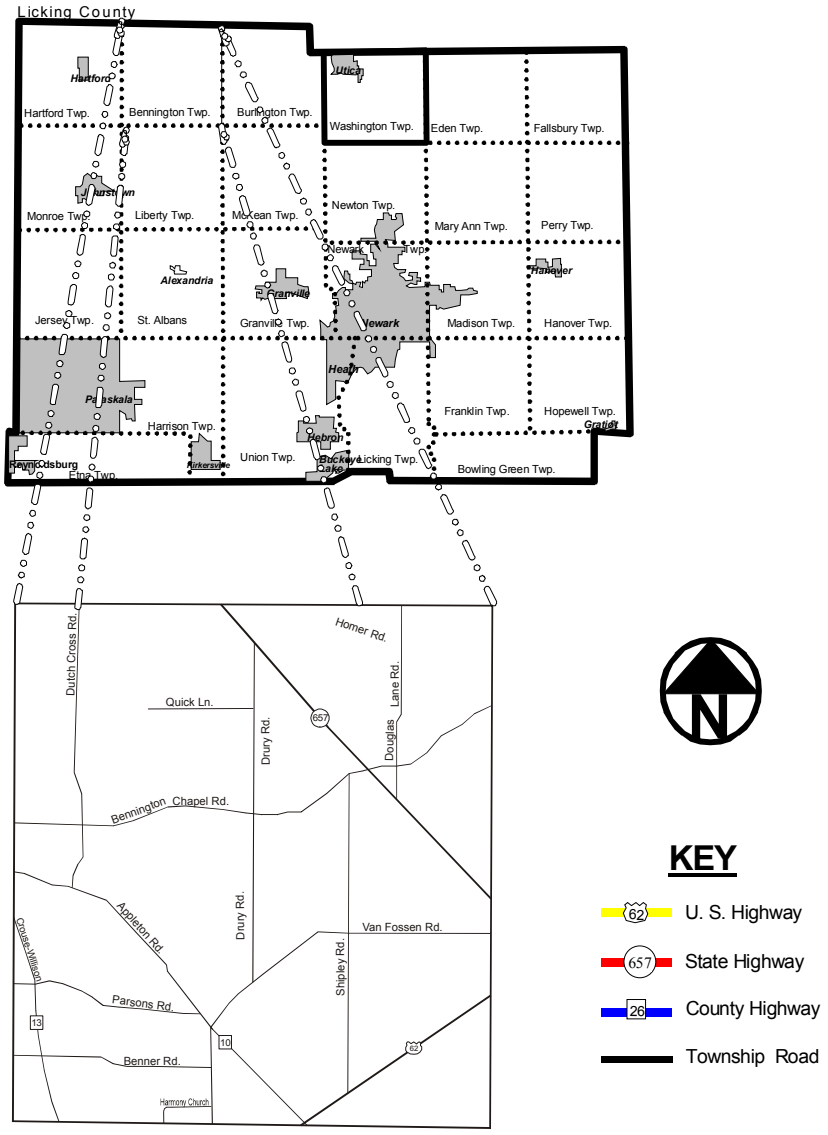
Many communities regard comprehensive planning as unnecessary until there is some evidence that change is imminent. In doing so, they fail to realize that the very purpose of comprehensive planning is to be proactive in influencing the community's future. Bennington Township is beginning to face growth pressures. Its combination of rural character, and proximity to highways and the Columbus metropolitan area has attracted a number of new residents to the community. With future highway improvements the township will become more of a bedroom, commuter community with greater residential growth pressures. When these pressures greatly increase,

Township residents will benefit from an established plan that was designed to protect the community in the face of change.

Location and Planning Area

Bennington Township is a mostly rural township that occupies approximately 27.1 square miles in north-western Licking County (See Figure 1). Bennington Township borders Knox County to the north, Burlington and Hartford Township to the east and west, and Liberty Township to the south. The villages of Johnstown, Hartford, and Centerburg are all in close proximity to the Township and larger cities Newark, Mt. Vernon, and Columbus are all easily accessible for Bennington Township residents.

Figure 1: BENNINGTON TOWNSHIP LOCATION MAP



History of Bennington Township

Bennington Township was organized in 1815. It is situated on the northern borders of Licking County, bound on the east by Burlington Township, on the west by Hartford, on the south by Liberty Township and on the north by Knox County. It was essentially a township of farmers because there was no railroad, telegraph, canal or river and but one small town within its borders. Part of the small town of Lock is also situated within its boundaries.

The first white settlers found it heavily timbered with hardwood, the different varieties of oak predominating. There was also an under growth of hazel, paw-paw and hackberry making it necessary in almost every instance to clear the ground of this before the early settlers could build their cabins. In later years, this was largely cleared away and the farms were fenced. The soil is fertile, well tiled and as productive as any in the county. Bennington Township has a few traces of Mound builders. It seems that the Native Americans had only one small temporary camp in the township located on Indian Run near it's junction with the Lake Fork of the Licking River, and that is why the little stream is named Indian Run.

The first white settler in the township was Henery Iles. The name of Iles is found quite frequently in the early history of this township. Henry Iles was the great-grandfather of the late Alonza Iles. He came to Bennington Township from Rockingham County, Virginia, in 1809. John Dripps and Isaac Vanausdel followed him the next year, locating near the North Fork. John Trout came the next year locating on the Otter Fork. They continued to come from Pennsylvania and Virginia, until by 1835 nearly all the township was settled. After the close of the War of 1812, the "Cook Settlement" was established in the southern part of the township near the present location of Appleton. The list of those early settlers contains the names of Van Fossen, Smith, Clem, Wright, Sanger, Carver, McCintock, Fishburn and Trout.

In August of 1832, Titus Knox and Carey Mead laid out the village of Appleton and named it in honor of Appleton Downer, a Zanesville lawyer who had been a large landowner in the township. Carey Mead built the first house in Appleton, expecting his daughter to marry a man from the East, who would bring with him a stock of goods and become the first merchant of the future city. However, this dream was not realized beyond the building of the dwelling and storefront combined. It stood empty, the only building in the town until Gideon Long came with his family and on April 3, 1833, moved into it and lived there a number of years. During this period of years a David Messenger came from Utica and rented the front part of this storeroom. Mr. Long squeezed his family into the back room and used the second story for a cabinet shop. Here he made tables, coffins and other necessities of life and death and for himself, a humble living. Mr. Long was also the first postmaster of Appleton.

Mr. Messenger was evidently expecting a flourishing business as he brought with him two clerks, and they along with the William Van Fossen family, were promptly accepted as boarders by Mr. Long in his one room home. One of the clerks, Franklin Bryant, built the second home and William Van Fossen's cabin was the third in the town.

The other young clerk's name was Billy Rosecranz, who soon declared his intentions of going to West Point. He afterwards became Major General William Rosecranz, the hero of Stone River and the unfortunate commander of the Union forces at the great Battle of Chickamauga.

By 1835, Appleton had two general stores, kept by Mr. Hoover and W.T. Morehead and a small grocery kept by Franklin Myers. Besides these there were two wagon shops, two blacksmiths shops, and two shoe shops.

Jesse Van Fossen, constructed the first mill in the township about a half mile above Appleton, on Indian Run. It was a sawmill only. The second mill was erected by John Denty, a grandfather of George Denty, at the junction of Indian Run and Lake Fork. This mill was built as both a gristmill and a sawmill then changed to only a sawmill driven by steam power.

The first schoolhouse was a log building built some years before Appleton was laid out and Joseph Kerr was probably the first teacher. There were a total of 10 schools in the township. Bowl Run was located on Benner Rd., College Hill was near Lock, Dutch Cross was on Dutch Cross Rd., Fairview was on Drury Road near Bennington Chapel Church, Hall School was on Homer Lock Rd., Beech Knob was on Van Fossen Rd., east of Appleton. The best remembered school was Runaway school located on Douglas Lane. A number of parents didn't like where it was situated so one night they went together and moved the whole school to a new location on St. Rt. 657.

There were five religious societies in the early history of the township. The first one was organized in 1828, and they called themselves Christians. They used the log schoolhouse as a meeting place until 1834, when they erected a church, which Rev. Waters dedicated August 16, 1835. The Grange members used the building for meetings until recent years. The second building was erected in 1876, and dedicated by Rev. E. Peters. The names that supported that early church were Van Fossen, Helphrey, Lake and McNett.

The Methodists organized early in the township, though no regular class was formed so far as can be ascertained prior to 1840 when Rev. Wesley Clark organized a class at the home of John Denty with the name Iles, Denty and Wyent being prominent. This church is now known as Bennington Chapel. Two other Methodist churches were organized and buildings erected about the same time-the year of 1850. The first one now known as Wesley Chapel, was then called Lambert's Chapel. The names of Lambert, Kettie, Denty, Shipley, and Wells appear among the originators of this church. It is unknown what year the Congregational Church in Lock was established.

The Methodist Church in Appleton was organized by Rev. Yarnell and the first members were Louis Evans, Aaron Shaffer, John Denty, A.C. Barber, Nathan Bigley, David Miller, Martin Light and F. Wells. The building was dedicated in 1851 by G.G. West. The other church in the township was the Licking Church, organized through the influence of John Hall, John Hilbrun and Jacob Rowe.

Today, Bennington Township remains a rural community with no large businesses within its boundaries and no commercial areas. Its population is increasing with the arrival of residents wanting their share of country habitation. Farms have increased

in size as older farmers retire and either sell or rent their farmland to younger farmers in the area. The population of the Township has increased slowly over the last century, but in recent decades population has began to increase rapidly. It remains on the outer exurbs of Columbus, but is facing population expansion as a commuter community with two new housing additions already established.

The churches established long ago have a declining membership as the new residents travel farther away to worship. The old school houses are either gone or neglected and closed with the consolidation of the Northridge school district. The tight community atmosphere of past years has been hard to reestablish as new residents bring with them their attachment to their former city lives. Residents are eager to maintain this rural atmosphere and do not wish for additional development in the area but are reluctant to except the old country traditions.

Demographics

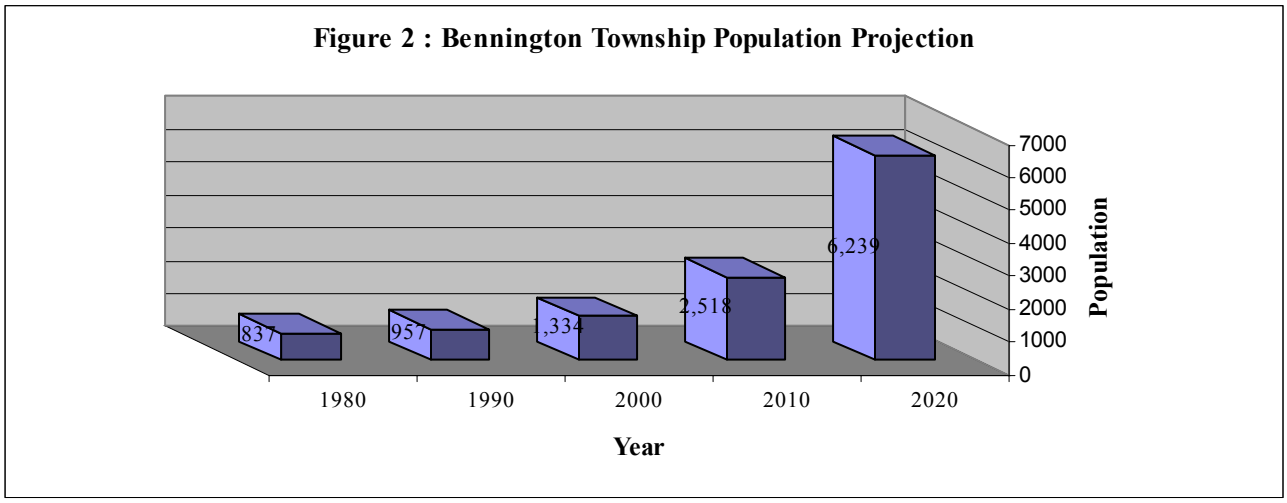
Demographic information can be used to project the direction of development in an area. For example an increase in the number of families with young children or an increase in young couples entering an area can signal the need for new school buildings. Another helpful use of demographic information is to study the age of a certain population. If the population of farmers within the township is nearing retirement this can indicate a change in active farms within the township. Various demographic information, available from the U.S. Census Bureau, is discussed below. All information was acquired from the 2000 U.S. Census unless otherwise indicated.

POPULATION

The 2000 census showed the population of Bennington Township at 1,334 people. Bennington Township has no incorporated areas and therefore has not experienced any loss of land due to annexation.

Bennington Township has experienced a steady growth over the past fifty years and that trend will most likely continue in the near future with the growth expectations of Licking and Knox Counties. This rate of growth has increased drastically over the last fifteen years and this accelerated growth rate is likely to continue in the coming years. Population was projected in the following graph for a twenty-year period. To project the population a modified exponential growth statistical model was used. This model projected the 2010 population of Bennington Township to be 2,518 people and the 2020 population to be approximately 6,239. If growth trends continue at the current rate the above numbers are a reasonable expectation for population in these years.

Figure 2: Bennington Township Population Projection



One way to predict the future growth of Bennington Township is to examine the growth pattern of neighboring townships with similar characteristics. Similar townships include Burlington, Hartford, and Liberty in Licking County and Milford Township in Knox County. All the surrounding townships seem to be growing at a steady rate. Liberty Township has seen the largest growth rate of the neighboring Townships, and this can likely be attributed to its proximity to the Village of Johnstown and the convenient access that is provided to the Columbus metropolitan

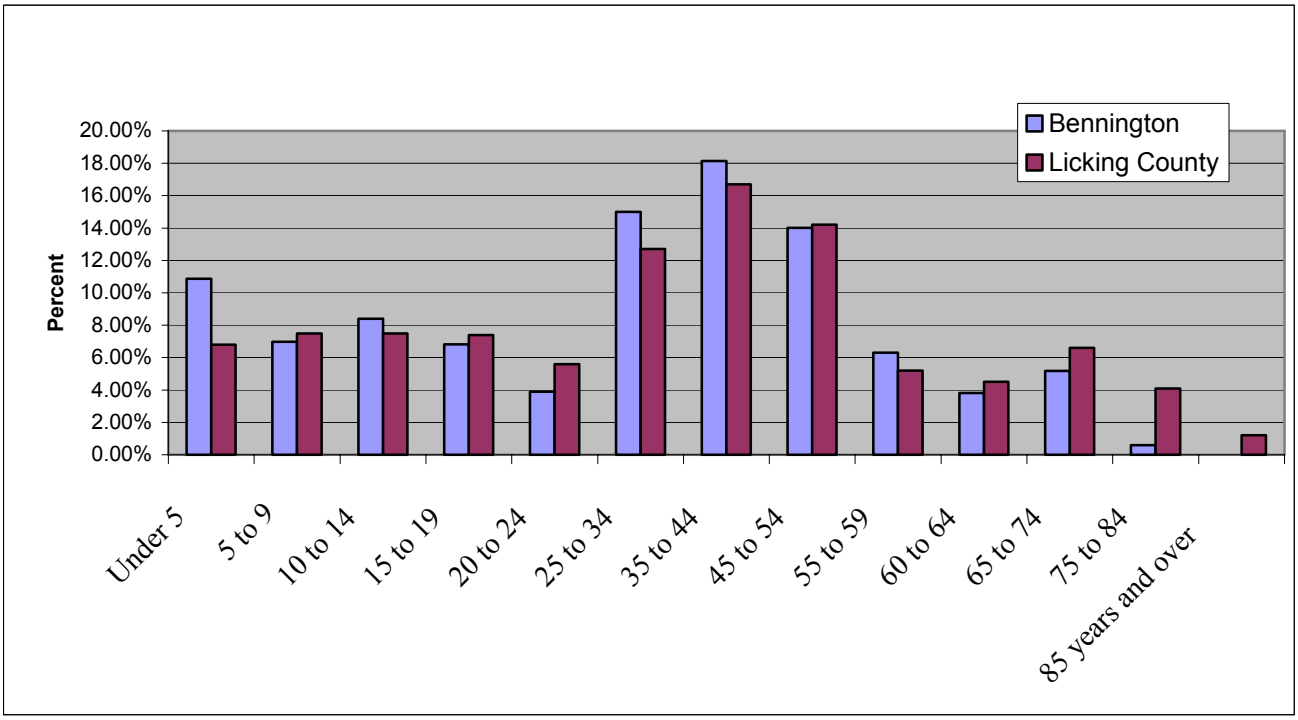
area by U.S. Route 62. The growth of Liberty Township is very indicative of the likely growth that will occur in Bennington Township over the next few decades.

Figure 3: Area Populations by Decade (1950 – 2000)						
Township	**1950**	**1960**	**1970**	**1980**	**1990**	**2000**
Bennington	581	663	655	837	957	1334
Burlington	771	801	807	904	958	1091
Hartford, Unincorporated	676	678	647	636	761	859
Liberty	673	693	778	1300	1484	1735
Milford, Knox County	NA	NA	766	1075	1175	1464

AGE AND GENDER

The breakdown of population by age and gender may be used to plan for current and future facilities. Young children and the elderly are often the focus of such facilities planning. Bennington Township has a very large percentage of the population, over 33%, under the age of 20, while this portion of the population only makes up 29% of the Licking County's population. The Township has a much lower percentage of residents that are over the age of sixty, than the county does. This indicates that that there are a number of young families that are settling in Bennington Township, while the majority of older residents are choosing to leave the township.

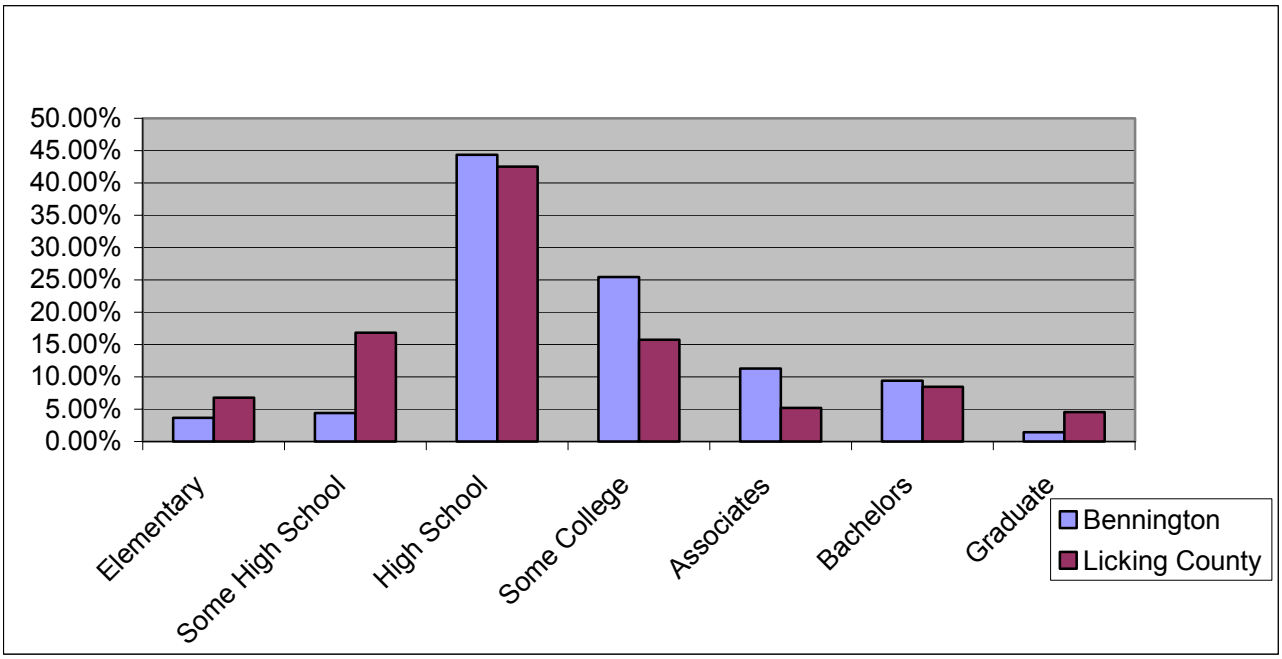
Figure 4: Population by Age Group



EDUCATION AND INCOME

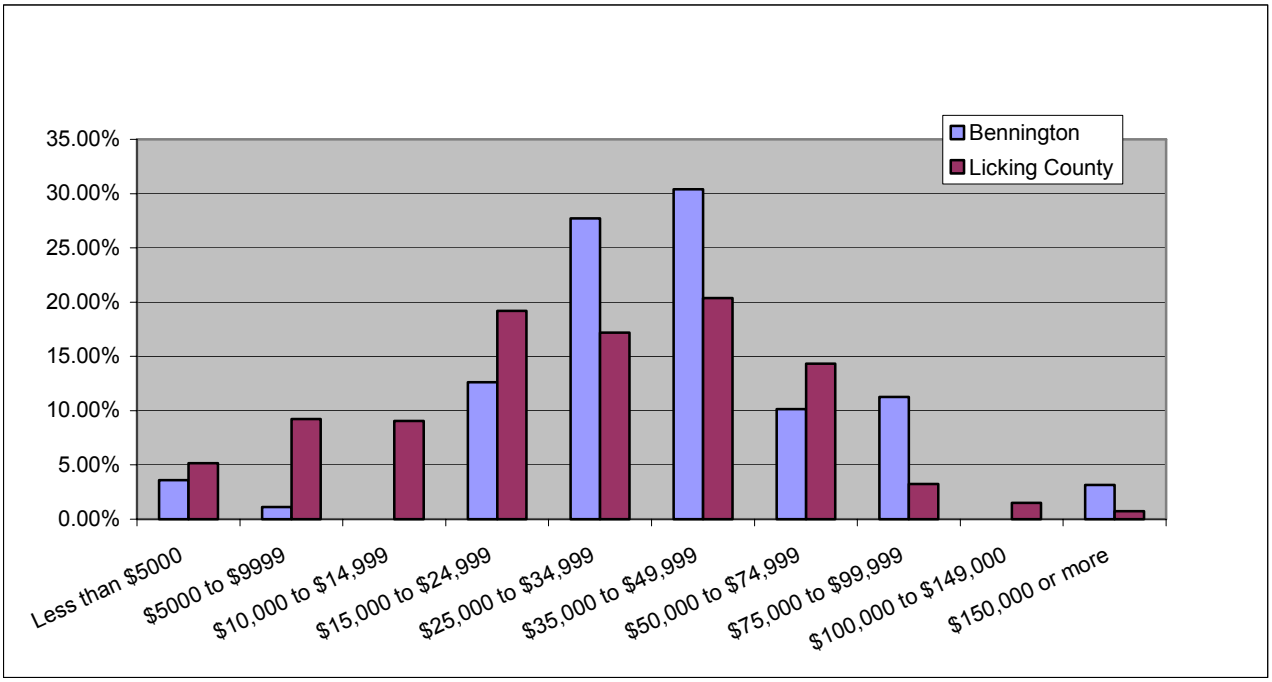
The education and income characteristics of a population can help to define the general needs of a population. Marketing studies often use this type of information to show whether or not a particular store, for example, will be successful in a given location. Income levels also may be used to qualify an area for certain available funding projects benefiting low-income persons. In 2000, over 91% of Bennington Township residents over the age of 25, were high-school graduates or above, and over 22% of the township's population had some sort of college degree. These levels of high school and college graduates are greater than that of the county's average, and show that Bennington Township has a well educated populace.

Figure 5: Educational Attainment



Household income in Bennington Township is shown in the following graph. The largest percentages of households in the township are in the $35,000 to $50,000 income range. Less than 5% of households fall into the categories below $15,000, which is far less the average for Licking County as a whole. The major differences between Bennington Township and the County are the middle-income categories between $25,000 and $50,000. Bennington Township has a large majority of of the population in the mid income range while the county as a whole has much more of the population that falls into the lower income categories.

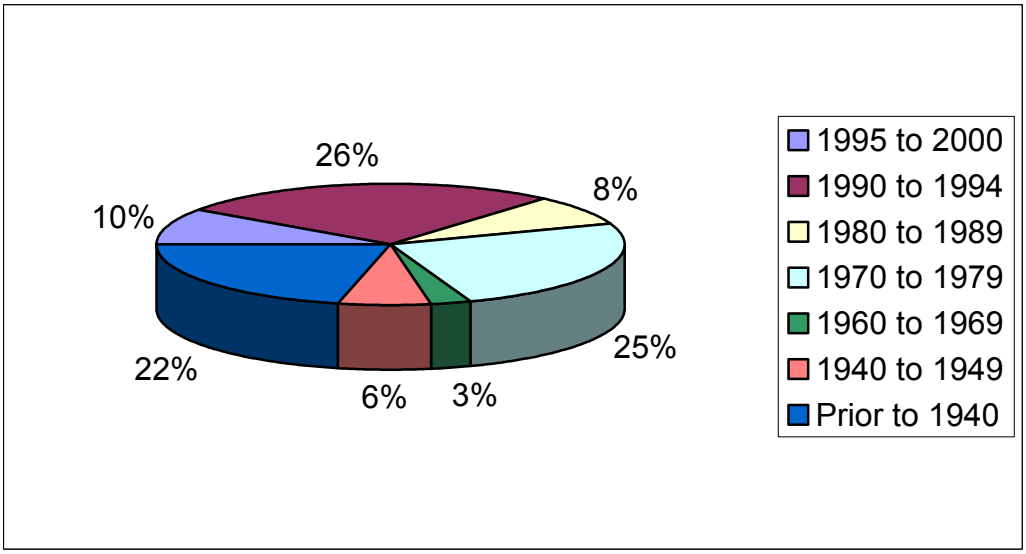
Figure 6: Household Income



HOUSING

Bennington Township has a relatively new housing stock that is nearly all single-family. According to the 2000 Census nearly 93% of all houses in the township are one unit detached garage structures. More than half of the homes were constructed before 1960. In the 1990's over thirty-six percent of the homes in Bennington Township were constructed, and this housing boom has continued over the last four years according to the number of building permits that have been issued. The number of new constructions is likely to remain high because of the expected population growth and the amount of vacant land within the township.

Figure 7: Year of Housing Construction



Land Capability

The natural resources of an area are a key component of any comprehensive plan. The ability of land to support development is of major concern to communities, especially ones experiencing growth or under growth pressures. Many factors can affect an area's capability to support new developments; among these are topography (or slope), soil type, and ground water availability. Because all of the various forms of nature are interdependent and interact to maintain a comprehensive, yet extremely delicate system, changes that affect this balance must be carefully considered. Also, there is a need to protect certain natural features from disturbance. This includes protecting and preserving wetlands, endangered plants, and endangered animals. Woodlands, prime agricultural areas, and other significant natural features or vistas should be protected from over development, as well.

Land capability information is derived from the Ohio Department of Natural Resources' Capability Analysis Program. The information contained in this section is not comprehensive, but gives general guidelines for development and land use in Licking County. The included maps are general as well, showing approximate boundaries for each limitation or resource. Furthermore, severe limitations should not be read as an absolute prohibition against that use for which a soil is rated, but as an indication that sometimes-costly measures must be undertaken to overcome such limitations. A site-specific analysis is necessary to precisely determine the suitability of a parcel of land for a particular use.

Climate

The weather station at the Johnstown has an average annual high temperature of 59.7 degrees, and an average low of 39.4 degrees. The average annual precipitation is 41.21 inches. The highest temperature ever recorded was 100 degrees Fahrenheit on July 7, 1954 and the lowest temperature ever recorded at Johnstown was –29 degrees on January 19, 1994.

Topography

The topography of land can be measured by its slope. Slope is the ratio of change in elevation over distance, stated as a percentage rate. For instance, if a parcel of land rose four feet over 100 feet of horizontal distance, the slope for that area would be 4%. The lower the slope, the flatter the land; conversely, the higher the slope, the steeper the land.

Slope influences the effects of the natural environment. The rate of storm water runoff, performance of septic fields, and the rate of erosion all are influenced by slope. As slopes increase, the velocity of storm water runoff increases causing problems with erosion and flooding downstream. Conversely, an area that has less than 0.5 percent slope will not drain storm water at all and ponding may occur depending on the soils.

There is a definite relationship between land use and slope. Commercial and industrial buildings usually require relatively flat, or level land. Because of the larger size and weight of commercial and industrial uses and the cost of leveling land, slopes exceeding two percent are not suitable areas for such sites. Cropland is most often

limited to areas of less than 12 percent slope to enable the use of farm machinery. Roads also are limited by the topography in an area. Arterial roads and roads designed for speeds over 45 mph should not be located in areas with greater than 4 percent slope. Local streets with speeds under 30 mph can have grades as steep as ten percent.

Overall, areas with slopes greater than 4 percent are generally limited to agricultural, residential, and natural uses. When slopes exceed 10 percent, such as with ravines and steep hills, land uses are predominantly grazing and natural space. Houses, due to their smaller size, can be built on steep slopes using various construction techniques. This is less true, however, for major residential subdivisions when considering centralized infrastructure design limitations and costs. Furthermore, experience, such as in California, shows that nature will eventually erode these steep slopes, house and all. As a result, it is general practice to preserve and protect slopes greater than 25 percent, leaving them in their natural state.

The majority of Bennington Township is relatively flat with a slope of zero to six percent. The only areas in the township that have slopes more severe than this are on the banks of the many creeks and rivers that transverse the Township.

Because slope is so closely tied to both development and the natural environment, it should be one of the top criteria used in regulating the development of a community. The following table (Figure 8) lists some standards for slope and land use development.

FIGURE 8: SLOPE REQUIREMENTS FOR VARIOUS LAND USES*

Land Use	Maximum Slope	Minimum Slope	Optimum Slope
House sites	20-25%	0.05%	2.00%
Playgrounds	2-3%	0.05%	1.00%
Septic fields	10%	0.00%	0.05%
Parking lots	3%	0.05%	1.00%
Streets, roads, driveways	15-17%	0.05%	1.00%
Industrial sites	3%	0.05%	1.00%

**Adapted from Landscape Planning Environmental Applications, Willliam Marsh, 1983.*

Soils

Soils are very important in determining land use capabilities because many factors are associated with certain types of soils, including everything from drainage to permeability to groundwater level. The soils in Licking County formed in many different kinds of parent material, which is the raw material acted upon by the soil-forming process.

The soil types most commonly found in Bennington Township combine to form four (4) major soil associations: Centerburg-Bennington-Pewamo, Bennigton-Pewamo-Centerburg, Centerburg-Amanda, and the Ockley-Stonelick-Shoals Association . The soil association map (Figure 9) shows the areas where each association occurs throughout the township.

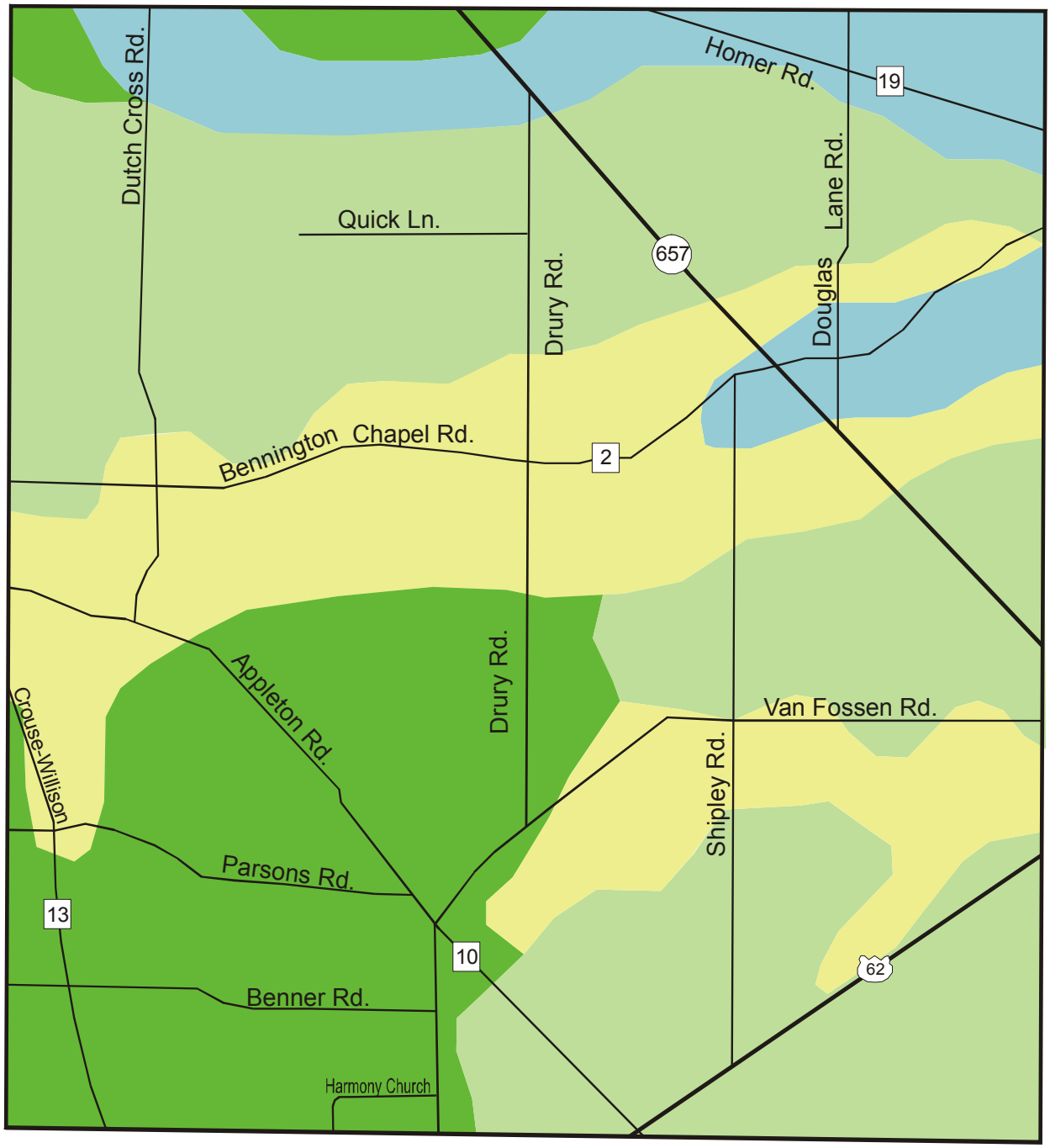
The Centerburg-Bennington-Pewamo associations are characterized by nearly level to sloping, moderately well drained to poorly drained soils located on till plains. This association occurs in undulating areas on end moraines. Slopes range from 0 to 12 percent. Most areas of this association are used as cropland, however some areas are pasture or wooded. These soils are especially well suited to hay, pasture, and trees. They are moderately suited to poorly suited for buildings and septic tank absorption fields. Slow to moderate permeability are the limiting factors for home sites located on soils within this association.

Bennington-Pewamo-Centerburg associations are characterized by nearly level and gently sloping, very poorly drained and moderately poor drained soils. This association is located mainly on ground moraine areas characterized by relatively broad flats, low knolls and ridges interspersed with shallow swales. Where unvegetated, the soils have a striking mottled pattern of light and dark colors. Slopes range from 0 to 6 percent. Most areas of this association are used as cropland, however some are pastured or wooded. The soils are well suited to grain crops, hay, pasture, and trees. They are poorly suited or moderately suited to buildings and septic tank absorption fields.

The Centerburg-Amanda associations are characterized by gently sloping to very steep, moderately well drained and well-drained soils; on dissected parts of till plains. This association consists of gently sloping soils in undulating areas and interfluves and sloping to very steep soils in dissected areas along drainage ways. Slopes range from 2 to 50 percent. The gently sloping to moderately steep soils in this association are used mainly as cropland or pasture. In some areas they are wooded. Most of the steep and very steep soils are also wooded. They are well suited to woodland. The less sloping soils are well suited to cropland and pasture, and the moderately steep soils are poorly suited or moderately suited. The gently sloping and sloping soils are moderately suited or well suited to buildings and moderately suited to septic tank absorption fields. The very steep soils are generally unsuited to urban uses.

The Ockley-Stonelick-Shoals associations are characterized by nearly level to sloping, well-drained and somewhat poorly drained soils; on outwash terraces and flood plains. This association is on a broad outwash terrace benches and flood plains. Short, narrow slope breaks are between the benches and flood plains. Slopes range from 0 to 12 percent. Most areas of this association are used as cropland. A few as pastured or wooded. Some areas have been developed for industrial, commercial, or residential uses. The nearly level and gently sloping Ockley soils are well suited to grain crops, hay, pasture, trees, and some specialty crops. They are also well suited to buildings and septic tank absorption fields. The Shoals and Stonelick soils are well suited to row crops, hay, pasture, and trees. They generally are unsuitable as sites for buildings and septic tank absorption fields.

Figure 9: Bennington Township Soils Association Map



Centerburg-Bennington-Pewamo

Centerburg-Amanda

Bennington-Pewamo-Centerburg

Oakley-Stonelick-Shoals

Floodplains and Wetlands

A floodplain is any land area susceptible to inundation by floodwaters from any source. Floodplains are measured in terms of the amount of storm water that it takes to cover them. Storm events are measured in years such as 5-year, 10-year, 20-year, 50-year, 100-year, and 500-year. The standard measurement is the 100-year storm and floodplain. A 100-year floodplain is the land area having a 1 in 100 chance of flooding in any given year. However, the 100-year floodplain is somewhat of a misnomer because an area could have a 100-year flood two years in a row -- unlikely, but it is possible. Figure 10 shows the 100-year, or base, flood plains of Bennington Township as identified by Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) on their Flood Insurance Rate Map (FIRM). These FIRM maps are used by banks to determine the need for flood insurance for structures.

Because floodplains were carved by streams and rivers and are prone to flooding, they are an important planning consideration. Any development within floodplains can impact the direction, flow, and level of the watercourse during periods of high water or flooding. In other words, if fill material is placed or a house constructed in a flood plain, it will alter the boundaries of the flood plain downstream. This is because structures or fill utilize valuable space that would otherwise act as a natural retaining area for floodwaters to spread and slow. Enough fill or development could change the probability of flooding downstream from 1 in 100 each year, to 1 in 75 or less. This development and careless filling of the flood plain has increased flooding in this nation, as seen in many parts of the country, including the Great Mississippi Flood of 1993. Not only does development in the flood plain increase dangers downstream, developments within the flood plain are at higher risk of damage due to flooding. This damage includes fill material and debris from destroyed structures upstream colliding with structures in the flood plain downstream. Many bridges are washed out in floods because house and/or construction debris clog their free-flow area, compromising their structural integrity.

Because the potential for public and private damage, the loss of life, and affected insurance rate decisions all are affected by materials and structures in flood plains, Licking County has recently tightened regulations for floodplains. Permits must be obtained from the Licking County Planning Commission before any development, including filling and excavating, can take place in an identified 100-year floodplain. In addition, no new lots may be created that have less than 1.6 acres of land lying outside of a 100-year floodplain. Further protection of the flood plains through township zoning will assist in protecting unsuspecting residents from personal danger and loss of property.

Protecting floodplains from development offers several benefits in addition to reducing the risk of loss of property and life. Floodplains are natural floodwater storage areas. They reduce the impact of any given storm, slowing the water so that it does not become a flash flood. In addition, floodplains are prime areas where groundwater is replenished. Thus the type of land use activity that occurs in these areas must not pollute the surface water, as it will serve as a source of aquifer replenishment. These same floodplains and adjacent land also provide a habitat for a wide variety of plants and animals. Floodplains also have important scenic and aesthetic value, providing a

natural area for passive recreation activities such as nature trails or hiking paths. In more urban and suburban areas, floodplains provide the single best place for trails

Figure 10: Bennington Township 100-year Floodplain Map

BENNINGTON TOWNSHIP
100 YEAR FLOOD PLAIN

100 YEAR FLOOD PLAIN

100 YEAR FLOOD PLAIN

Prepared by
Licking County Commissioners Office
Geographic Information Systems
March 1999

and recreation because they are linear, visually interesting, close to nature, and undeveloped. The waterways with 100-year floodplains of importance to Bennington Township are the Lake Fork of the Licking River, the Otter Fork of the Licking River, and the North Fork of the Licking River. There are many other streams or creeks in the township that may incur minor flooding during major rain events, yet no 100-year floodplain has been established.

Aside from the floodplain, there are several wetland areas in Bennington Township. Wetland areas are defined in a number of ways, depending on the agency involved. Methods of identifying wetlands include examining the plant species present, checking for standing water, and identifying characteristic soil types. Wetlands in Bennington Township identified by the Ohio Department of Natural Resources are shown on Figure 11, along with other land cover including pasture, deciduous forestland, and cropland.

Wetlands are important resources for several reasons. First, there are many unique plants and animals that make their homes in these areas. Second, wetlands provide valuable groundwater recharge by acting as filters for surface runoff percolating back into the aquifers below. Third, wetlands are an important resource because they serve to join surface and groundwater sources, which can improve stream flow during drought periods. Fourth, during rainy periods, wetlands can absorb excess water and then let it slowly back into the surrounding land, averting potential flood damage. Finally, wetlands provide a valuable recreation resource.

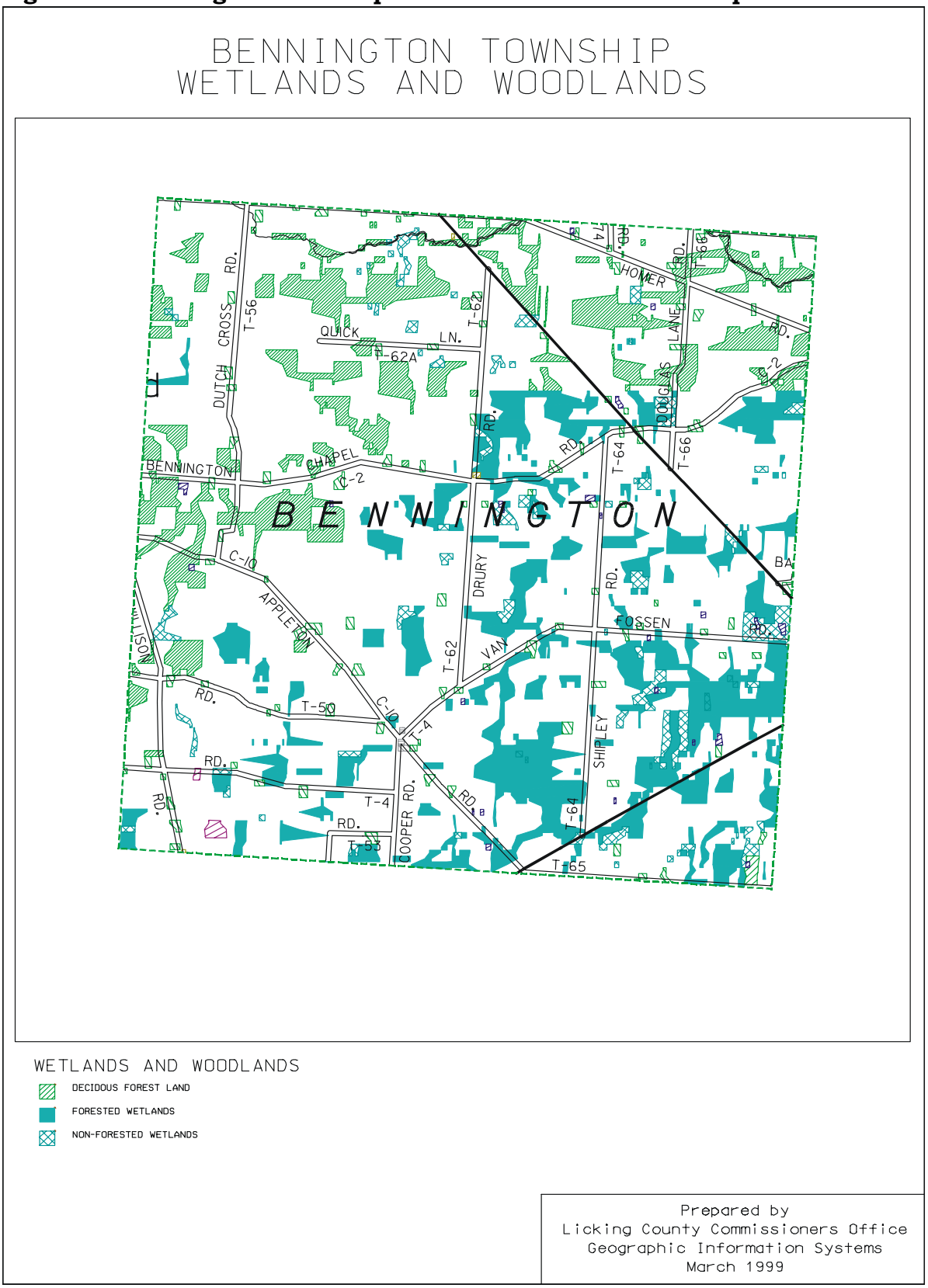
Depending on the size and location of a wetland, various types of permits may be required for fill or development of the wetland.

Groundwater

Groundwater is a very important consideration in the preparation of a comprehensive plan because wells and natural springs are the source of most of the water that sustains residents, crops, and livestock in Bennington Township. Many residential, commercial, industrial, and agricultural activities are not possible without clean, abundant groundwater. Thus an important aspect of future land use planning is locating adequate supplies of groundwater. Groundwater needs to be protected from two things: 1) overuse, i.e. exceeding the safe well yield and/or aquifer recharge rates, and 2) pollution.

Groundwater is water that lies beneath the land's surface. Just as there are streams, rivers, and ponds above ground, water can be found in similar systems underground. As rainwater and surface water flow across the land, water seeps down into the soils and underground rock. Areas underground with particularly large concentrations of groundwater are known as aquifers. Aquifers are like above ground rivers in that they are not static. Most often, aquifers are found in underground layers of porous rock, sand, or other unconsolidated material. Groundwater flows through them while rain and surface water "recharge" (replenish) them. In general, groundwater recharge is the ability of the aquifer to replenish its water supply from surface sources, such as soils, wetlands, rivers, and lakes. Several factors can affect the recharge rate of an aquifer including soil type, soil permeability, and distance to the aquifer from the surface. If the total rate of withdrawal from the aquifer exceeds the aquifer's recharge

Figure 11: Bennington Township Wetlands and Woodlands Map



rate, the aquifer's water level will decline. If this overdraft, or high rate of withdrawal, is continued over several years, the aquifer could be depleted.

The geologic make-up of an aquifer includes underground spaces that are conducive to ground water storage. Such spaces may be found in the pores of sandstone, the joints and fractures of limestone, and between the grains of large deposits of sand or gravel. In some places, as groundwater slowly flows downhill through porous soils and rock, it becomes trapped between hard rock layers until it reaches the surface again further downhill, creating an artesian well. In the Licking County area there are also "lenses" of trapped groundwater. These were created by the glaciers and are pockets of sand sandwiched between other soils. The lenses often contain water and can be found at varying depths and in various sizes. The groundwater here is much more like a pond, in that it doesn't flow and usually recharges slowly, in some instances extremely slowly, if at all. Most of the producing water wells in Bennington Township are pumping water from aquifers or glacial lenses. Groundwater sources are evaluated based on their well yield (measured in gallons per minute), their recharge rate, and their cleanliness.

The Ohio Department of Natural Resources studied, among other things, the topography, soils, and aquifers of the area, in order to determine which areas could support higher population densities based solely on groundwater recharge rates. Using this information, the minimum residential lot sizes that should be allowed in Bennington Township based on groundwater recharge rates can be calculated.

The average minimum daily household demand for groundwater is approximately five to eight gallons per minute (GPM). For commercial and industrial uses, there is no standard minimum demand. This is due to the varying nature and water needs of different commercial and industrial uses. Evaluation of groundwater for such uses should be made on an individual use and site basis.

The ground-water characteristics of Licking County have been mapped regionally based upon interpretations of over 8,000 well records and the local geology and hydrology. Water well data on the map in Figure 12 were selected as typical for the area (Contact the ODNR Division of Water for site specific well data and logs).

Figure 12: Bennington Township Groundwater Map

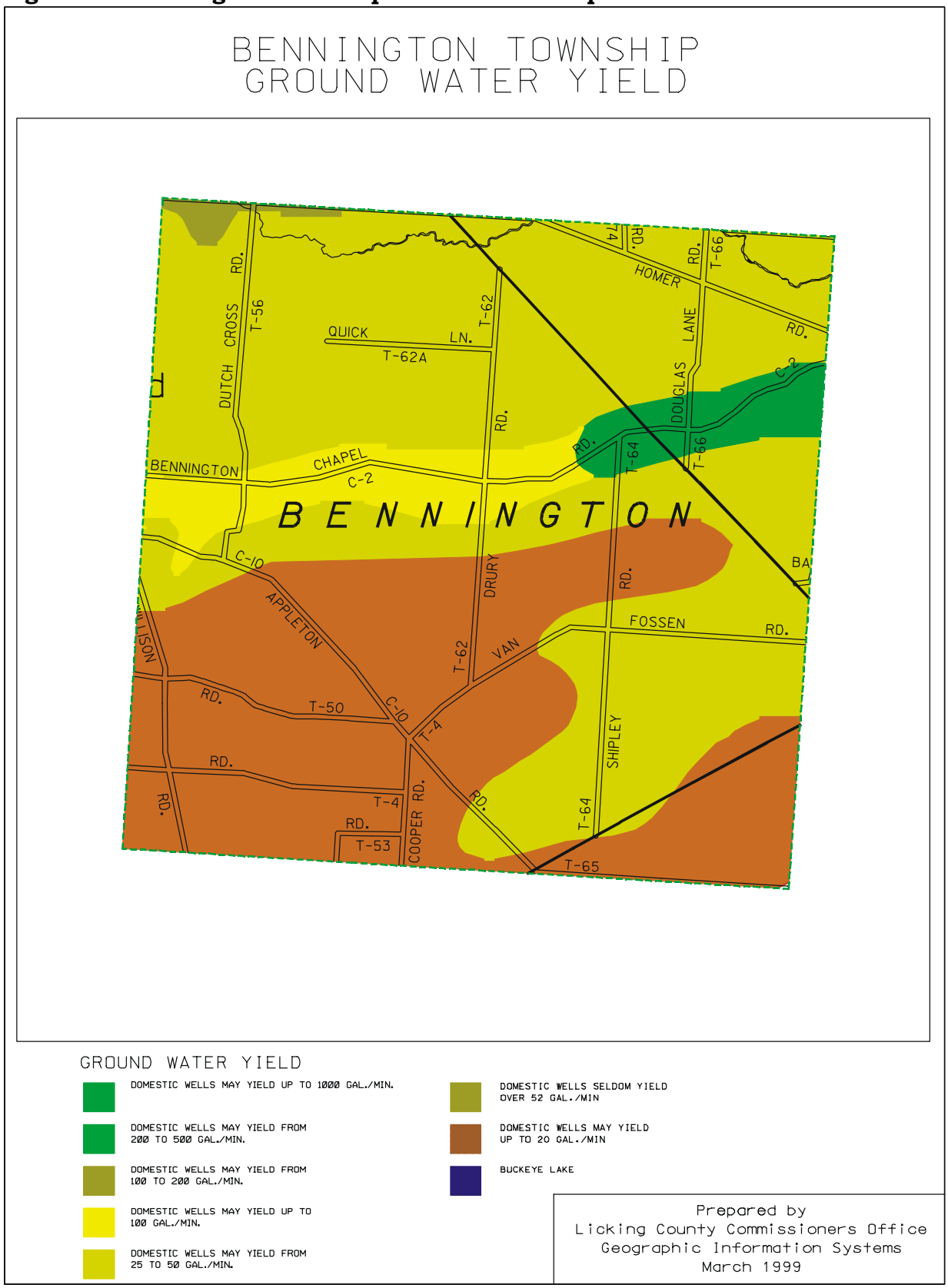
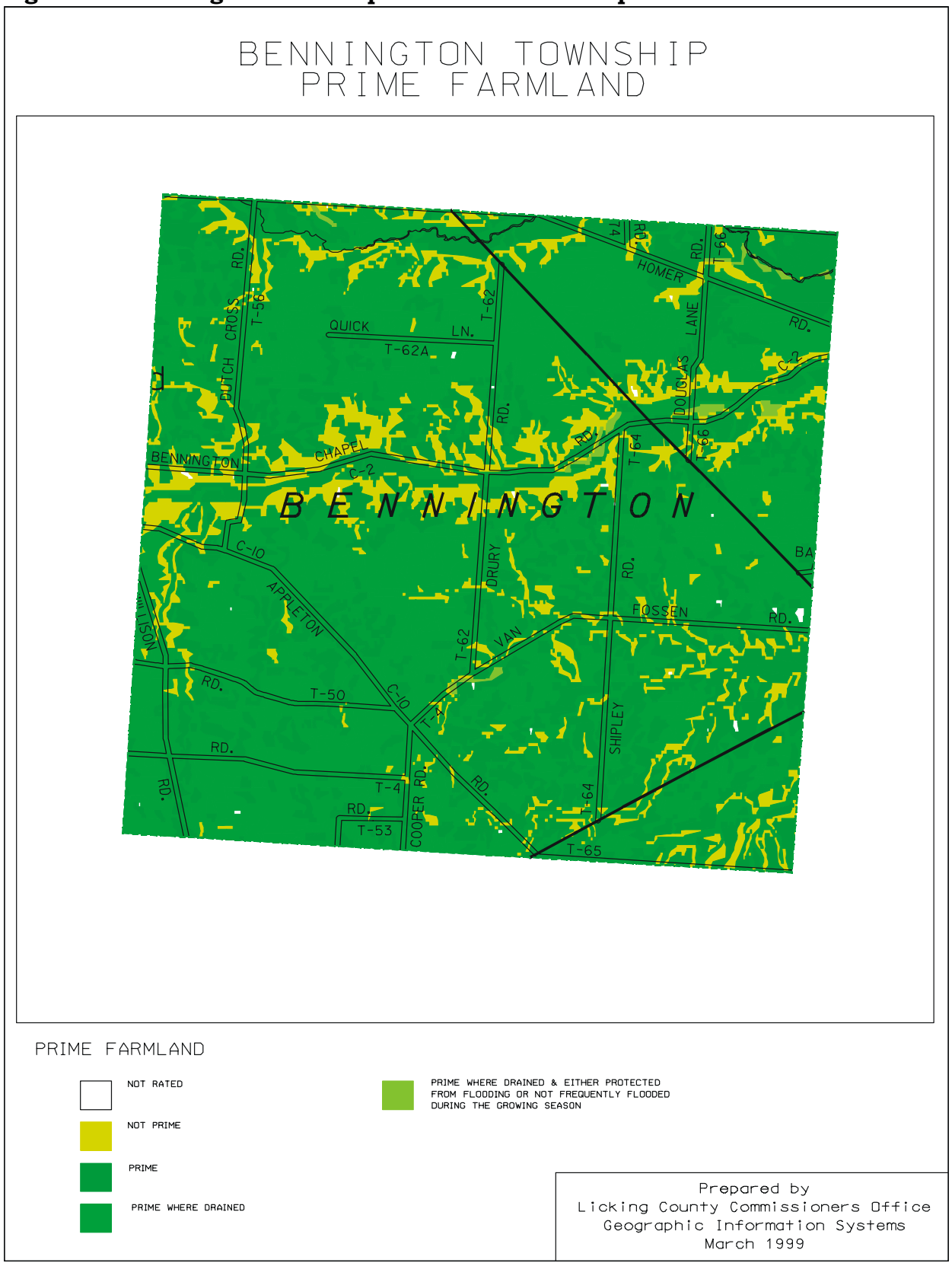


Figure 13: Bennington Township Prime Farmland Map



Community Services

Township Government

The township form of government was brought with the original settlers to the New England states around 1620. Twenty-two states have the Township form (or similar type) of local government. Townships in Licking County were formed in five-mile squares from the Congress Lands 1798-1802 land grant.

A three member elected board of trustees oversees Bennington Township, like all townships in the State of Ohio. Township trustees are elected to four year terms and are charged with the duty of overseeing the business of the township, including but not limited to ensuring the public health, safety and welfare of all township residents. The trustees administer, enforce and execute all policies and resolutions of the township for the betterment of the township and its citizens.

In order to carry out its duties, the board of trustees conducts monthly meetings on the second Monday of each month that are open to the public. These meetings are held at the Appleton Methodist Church located at 10927 Van Fossen Rd. Johnstown, Ohio. The Trustees at each meeting discuss township business and minutes are recorded and maintained by the Clerk. The Board of Trustees appoints the Zoning Inspector, the Zoning Commission, Zoning Clerk, and the Zoning Board of Appeals.

FIGURE 14: BENNINGTON TOWNSHIP GOVERNMENT

Government Officials and Boards	***Number of Members***	***Length of Term***	***Primary Responsibility***
Township Trustees	3	4 years	Conducts all the business of the township; ensures and promotes the public health, safety, and welfare.
Township Clerk	1	4 years	Fiscal officer and clerk for the Township Trustees
Zoning Commission	5	5 years	Makes recommendations to the Township Trustees regarding changes to the township zoning resolution.
Zoning Clerk	1	Not Specified	Clerk for the Zoning Commission; serves at the discretion of the trustees.
Board of Zoning Appeals	5	5 years	Hears appeals from the decisions of the Zoning Inspector and to consider requests for variances and conditional use permits.
Board of Zoning Appeals Clerk	1	Not Specified	Clerk for the Board of Zoning Appeals; serves at the discretion of the trustees.

Bennington Township was initially zoned by the adoption of a zoning resolution in May of 1970. The resolution has been updated and various changes have been made since that time.

To assist with the enforcement of the zoning resolutions, the Board of Trustees employs a paid, part-time zoning inspector. The primary responsibility of the zoning inspector is to enforce the township zoning resolution, as it exists. In carrying out this function, the zoning inspector reviews applications for zoning permits, conducts on-site inspections to ensure construction conforms to approved applications, investigates complaints and violations, maintains a record of non-conforming uses, and maintains the zoning text and map.

A Zoning Commission consisting of five residents of the township is appointed by the Board of Trustees to serve staggered five-year terms. The Zoning Commission is responsible for making recommendations to the Township Trustees concerning the interpretation and application of the township zoning resolution and comprehensive plan, as well as conducting hearings on requested district changes and initiating amendments to the zoning resolution. The Zoning Commission should also be involved in planning activities in their area and keep the Township Trustees informed of their deliberations.

The Board of Zoning Appeals (BZA) is a five-member administrative body also appointed by the Board of Trustees to serve staggered five-year terms. The functions of the BZA are to hear appeals from the decisions of the zoning inspector and to consider requests for variances and conditional uses as outlined in the township zoning resolution.

The funds for Bennington Township are outlined in Figure 15 below:

FIGURE 15: FUNDS FOR BENNINGTON TOWNSHIP	
Fund	*Percentage of Fund 2003*
General Fund	16.64
Motor Vehicle License Tax Fund	5.34
Road and Bridge Fund	17.31
Gasoline Tax	19.82
Fire Levy	37.15
Sinking Fund	2.16
Cemetery Bequest Fund	1.4
Cemetery	0.18
Grand Total of All Funds	100%

Police Protection
The Licking County Sheriffs Office is the current provider of law enforcement in the township. The Sheriff's Department headquarters are located at 155 East Main Street in Newark in the Licking County Justice Center. The facility includes the sheriff's administrative offices as well as the 155 cell county jail. The department responds to the 911 services, and consists of 29 squad cars, at which any given time there are five to 9 of these cars on patrol. Current employment is 191 people. This includes:

- 109 Sworn Personnel
- 1 Sheriff, 1 Chief Deputy, 5 Captains, 5 Lieutenants, 14 Sergeants
- 13 Dispatchers (including central control and radio)
- An additional Auxiliary Force of 20.

Fire & EMS Service
Bennington Township has contracted with the Hartford Fire Department for fire and EMS Services. Hartford is currently a volunteer department that normally utilizes 25 to 30 volunteer firefighters. These firefighters respond to emergencies typically within 5 to 6 minutes of receiving an emergency call from the Licking County 911 Center. The Fire Department utilized the following equipment in 2004:

2 ambulances, 2 tanker trucks, 1 engine, 1 grass-fire truck, and one air wagon

to transport additional air tanks to fire scenes.

Health & Human Services

Bennington Township has two hospitals within a 25-mile radius - Licking Memorial Hospital in Newark and Knox Community Hospital in Mt. Vernon. These hospitals offer a full range of medical services and outpatient surgical services.

Several hospitals fall within a 50-mile radius of Bennington Township. These include all hospitals in Columbus: Children's Hospital, Doctors Hospital, Riverside Hospital, Grant Hospital, Ohio State University Hospital, The Arthur G. James Cancer Hospital, Mt. Carmel Hospitals (East & West) and St. Ann's Hospital. All of these facilities offer a full range of medical services, trauma units and outpatient surgical services.

There are hospice care centers in Licking and Knox counties as well as many other home care services including skilled nursing care facilities, professional rehabilitation services and a full range of therapy services.

Many nursing homes are located within 10 to 20 miles of Bennington Township in Utica, Johnstown, Centerburg and most communities in Licking and Knox counties. Independent living services and communities in Newark and Mt. Vernon are within 20 miles of Bennington Township.

Figure 16: Area Nursing Homes

NURSING HOMES	ADDRESS	PHONE
Amity Assisted Living	755 Cedar Run Road Newark, Ohio 43055	740-349-8024
Arlington Nursing Home	98 South 30th Street Newark, Ohio 43055	740-344-0303
Chestnut House	1065 Johnstown Avenue Newark, Ohio 43055	740-366-5271
Flint Ridge Nursing & Rehabilitation Center	1450 West Main Street Newark, Ohio 43055	740-344-3465
Goosepond Retirement Village	425 Senior Drive E Newark, Ohio 43055	740-366-2969
Newark Healthcare Center	65-85 McMillen Center Newark, Ohio 43055	740-344-0357
Northtowne Senior Living Community	1821 Calash Court Newark, Ohio 43055	740-366-3685
Northview Senior Living Center	267 North Main Street Johnstown, Ohio 43031	740-967-7896
Utica Nursing Home	233 North Main Street Utica, Ohio 43080	740-892-3414

Figure 17: Bennington Township Area Hospitals

HOSPITAL	NUMBER OF BEDS	DISTANCE FROM BENNINGTON*	SERVICES AVAILABLE**
Knox Community Hospital	100	17 miles	Maternity Care ICU & CCU 24-Hour Emergency Outpatient Service
Licking Memorial Hospital	150	25 miles	Birth Center Cardiology Emergency Care Nephrology and Dialysis Psychiatric Care
Mt. Carmel East	292	25 miles	Birth Center Cancer Institute Cardiology Emergency Care Outpatient Service
St. Ann's Hospital	180	26 miles	Birth Care Sports Medicine Emergency Care Cardiology

**These distances are approximate from the center of Bennington Township.*
***This is not an all-inclusive list of available services.*

Utilities
At this time, all of the residents of Bennington Township have on-site wells and septic systems. These on-site water and wastewater disposal systems are regulated by the Licking County Health Department. Current regulations require minimum lot sizes of 1.6 acres of "usable" ground for on-site systems. Useable ground is land that can be used for an undisturbed leach bed, thus it excludes easements of any kind (disturbance) including road right-of-way, driveways, and utilities, and it excludes any type of regularly wet soils including 100 year flood plains, or areas of steep slope.

Schools
Bennington Township is located in the Northridge Local School District, which has 3 elementary schools, 1 middle school and 1 high school. The school district consists of 120 square miles of land in eleven townships and three counties. These townships are Bennington, Burlington, Hartford, Harrison, Jersey, Liberty, McKean and St. Albans Township in Licking County and Milford and Miller Township in Knox County, and Trenton Township in Delaware County. The three elementary schools are located in the Village of Alexandria, the Village of Hartford and in Homer. The middle school and high school are located on US 62 in Liberty Township.

The school district's population was 7,159 people according to the 2000 census. During the 2004-2005 school year the district had 1,413 students in its five buildings and enrolment is increasing approximately 10 students per year. The most recent 10-year projection completed in July of 2004 shows a peak enrollment of 1,520 students in the 2012-2013 school year. Open enrollment has also contributed to the school districts growth. Approximately 70 to 80 students each year enroll in Northridge Schools that live in other districts.

Alexandria Elementary School is located on College St. in the Village of Alexandria. The building consists of 36,053 square feet of modern classroom facilities. There are 274 students that are served by 28 staff members at this building. Alexandria Elementary has the capacity to serve 325 students at this facility. Homer Elementary School was built in 1923. The school includes 26,236 square feet of useable space. The building underwent a major renovation in the 1950's and it has been upgraded over the years to meet the needs of a modern school. 22 staff members serve the 209 pupils at this location. Homer Elementary has the capacity to serve 250 students. Hartford Elementary School was constructed in 1921. The school underwent a major addition in 1951 and a major renovation in 1997. The building consists of 31,109 square feet of well-equipped classrooms with modern technology. There are currently 25 teachers and administrators serving the 194 students that attend Hartford Elementary. The school has the capacity to serve 225 students. With the aging of some of the districts elementary buildings, options are being considered to consolidate the elementary schools, or build new elementary buildings.

The Northridge Middle School consists of 52,450 square foot of space with a capacity for 450 students. There are currently 32 staff members at the facility serving the 314 students. The Northridge high school is located on the same campus as the middle school on US 62. The building has a major renovation and expansion completed in 1996 and now consists of 104,000 square feet and has a capacity to serve 550 students. In 2004-2005 school year there were 422 students attending the school and 45 staff members serving the students needs. Junior and Senior students that wish to gain vocational training may attend the Career Technology Educational Center located on Price Rd. in Newark. 38 students from Northridge attended C-TEC in the 2004-2005 school year.

Students at the high school can involve themselves in many different extra curricular activities including band, vocal music, drama and athletics. Two four-year programs are available in foreign language, and math subjects that includes calculus. Students in the junior high are introduced to foreign language as well. The high school has a computer laboratory and each elementary classroom has one computer for use by all students. The district is North Central accredited and the pupil/teacher ratio is well within state mandated guidelines.

Figure 18: Northridge Schools 2004-2005 Student Enrollment

School Buildings	Student Enrollment	Student Capacity
Alexandria Elementary	274	325
Hartford Elementary	194	225
Homer Elementary	209	250
Northridge Junior High	314	450
Northridge High School	422	550

Local Library

There are no libraries within Bennington Township, however there are a number of Libraries available for township residents to use that are located within close proximity to Bennington Township. The Homer Public Library, located in Homer provides services to many residents of Bennington Township. The library participates in a county wide inter-library loan service that enables the sharing of materials with the Alexandria, Granville, Newark and Pataskala public libraries and their branches.

The library offers a weekly reading program for preschool age children and several summer programs for children preschool age through sixth grade. The Homer library has approximately 8,000 square feet of space and houses approximately 30,000 materials. It has a web page that includes access to the library's online catalog. The library has a 1,600 square foot meeting room that is used for local events and activities. The meeting room is available to area residents and organizations at no fee for appropriate activities. Other libraries near Bennington Township are the Alexandria Public Library, the Public Library of Mt. Vernon and the Johnstown and Utica branch of the Newark Public Library. Most local libraries are listed in Figure 19.

Figure 19: Area Libraries

LOCATION	Days:	Hours:
Utica – Hervery Memorial - 892-2400 Supervisor: Dorothy Layton 15 North Main Street Utica, Ohio 43080	Monday, Wednesday, Friday Tuesday Saturday	10:00 AM to 5:00 PM 12:00 PM to 7:00 PM 9:00 AM to 2:00 PM
Johnstown Public Library Supervisor: Shirley Bean 1 West Coshocton Street Johnstown, Ohio 43031	Monday Tues, Thurs, Friday Wednesday Saturday	1:00 PM to 8:00 PM 1:00 PM to 6:00 PM 3:00 PM to 9:00 PM 9:00 AM to 12:00PM
Alexandria Public Library Supervisor: Dorothy Hannahs 10 Maple Dr. Alexandria, OH 43001	Mon.,Tues., Thursday Wednesday Friday - Saturday	9:00 AM to 8:00 PM 9:00 AM to 4:00 PM 9:00 AM to 4:00 PM
Public Library of Mount Vernon and Knox County – 392-2665 Supervisor: Mr. Chidester 201 N. Mulberry St. Mount Vernon, OH 43050	Monday – Thursday Friday – Saturday Sunday	9:00 AM to 9:00 PM 9:00 AM to 5:00 PM 1:00 PM to 5:00 PM
Homer - 892-2020 Supervisor: Chet Geiger 385 South Street Homer, Ohio 43027	Monday-Friday Monday-Saturday Monday-Thursday	9:30 to 11:30 AM 1:00 PM to 5:00 PM 7:00 PM to 9:00 PM

**Please call the location of your choice to verify current operating hours.*

Local Churches

Places of worship located within Bennington are few, however most religious needs can be met with a short drive to New Albany, Hartford, Johnstown, Granville, or Alexandria.

FIGURE 20: BENNINGTON TOWNSHIP AREA CHURCHES	
Appleton United Methodist Church 10927 Van Fossen Rd. Johnstown, OH 43031 967-7442	Community Christian Fellowship 1044 Crouse – Willison Rd. Johnstown, OH 43031
Appleton Baptist Church Intersection of Appleton and Van Fossen Rd.	Bennington Chapel United Methodist Church Bennington Chapel and Drury Rd.

Parks & Recreation
While no recreational facilities are located within Bennington Township, the residents have excellent access to many active recreational activities.

- The T.J. Evans Foundation bike path runs from Johnstown to Newark and into Madison Township. It is utilized year round for hiking, jogging, skating and biking. The trail is well maintained and easily accessible to township residents in Alexandria or Johnstown.
- The Village of Johnstown also maintains a public park and recreation center located off of Oregon St.
- The Johnstown Recreation Center offers a variety of activities throughout the year for school age children.
- In Johnstown, located off of Edwards Rd. there is a bowling alley, a skating rink and a swimming pool that provide public access to these activities.
- Access to marshal arts, soccer, football and baseball are all available in the Village of Johnstown.
- For children of school age and higher, the Northridge School District offers athletic activities via it's V-Kids program, now updated so that all K-6 schools are considered in one sports league in order to have more participation and greater interaction between the school age children within the school district.
- Lobdell Reserve located in St. Albans Township on Lobdell Rd., offers walking and equestrian trails as well is a Frisbee golf course.
- Dawes Arboretum is easily accessible; the park consists of 1149 acres including nature trails, private fishing, picnic areas, and a nature center. The arboretum offers unique bird habitats, beautiful trees, and well-manicured gardens.

There are many golf courses within close proximity to Bennington Township, but none are within the township boundaries. The following lists a number of area golf courses.

FIGURE 21: BENNINGTON TOWNSHIP AREA GOLF COURSES		
Hillcrest Golf Course 8866 Sportsman Club Rd. Johnstown, OH 43031	**The Links at Echo Spring** 5940 Louden St. Johnstown, OH 43031	**Clover Valley Golf Club** 8654 Johnstown-Alex Rd. Johnstown, OH 43031
Chapel Hill Golf Course 7516 Johnstown Rd. Mt. Vernon, OH 43050	**Table Rock Golf Club** 3005 Wilson Rd. Centerburg, OH 43011	**Villageview Golf Course** 210 S. Main St. Croton, OH 43013

A number of other activities and organizations are available for Bennington Township youth. The Boy Scouts of America, Local Chapter 441 is available to youth ages 7 and up. Girls Scouts is also available to youth ages 7 and up. Young girls may also participate in Brownies at the Hartford Elementary School. Many area youth and adolescents are involved in local chapters of 4-H. These are available to children starting in Kindergarten through age 19. There is a large local chapter of 4-H that is located within Bennington Township.

INFRASTRUCTURE

Infrastructure refers to the facilities and services needed to sustain industrial, residential, commercial, and all other land use activities. These facilities include roads, power plants, transmission lines, water & sewer lines, communication systems, and public facilities. Infrastructure plays a valuable role in the development of an area. If there is no nearby infrastructure, or if it would be cost-prohibitive to access or extend existing infrastructure, then development cannot occur on as large of a scale.

A prime example of the impact infrastructure has on development is the fact that urbanization follows water and sewer lines. Here in Licking County, in the unincorporated areas where no central water and sewer is available, the Licking County Health Department currently mandates a minimum of 1.6 acres of usable ground for building sites. Developers make less money on these large-lot residential subdivisions, and commercial and industrial users that are heavy water consumers cannot locate in these areas. Therefore, areas that have centralized water and sewer lines tend to develop before areas with no infrastructure in place.

Central Water and Sewer Service

It is extremely important in land use planning to understand the capabilities of existing central water and sewer systems and to determine the possibilities for expansion of these systems or the feasibility of new systems. As stated above, urbanization generally follows the path of central water and sewer facilities, and quite often, vice versa.

Municipal Water and Sewer Systems: No centralized services are currently available in Bennington Township. The following is a summary of the general status of municipal water and sewer systems around Bennington Township.

1. *Village Johnstown – lines within two miles of Bennington Township*

- Has both water and sewer systems, with a treatment plant capacity of 1 million gallons per day.
- Basically serves only the incorporated areas of the Village of Johnstown.
- The 20-year service area will probably not exceed a 2-3 mile radius around the Village. Areas to receive the service would probably be located along State Route 37, and US Route 62.
- Johnstown Superintendent: 395 W. Jersey St., Johnstown, OH 43031 (740)-967-4746

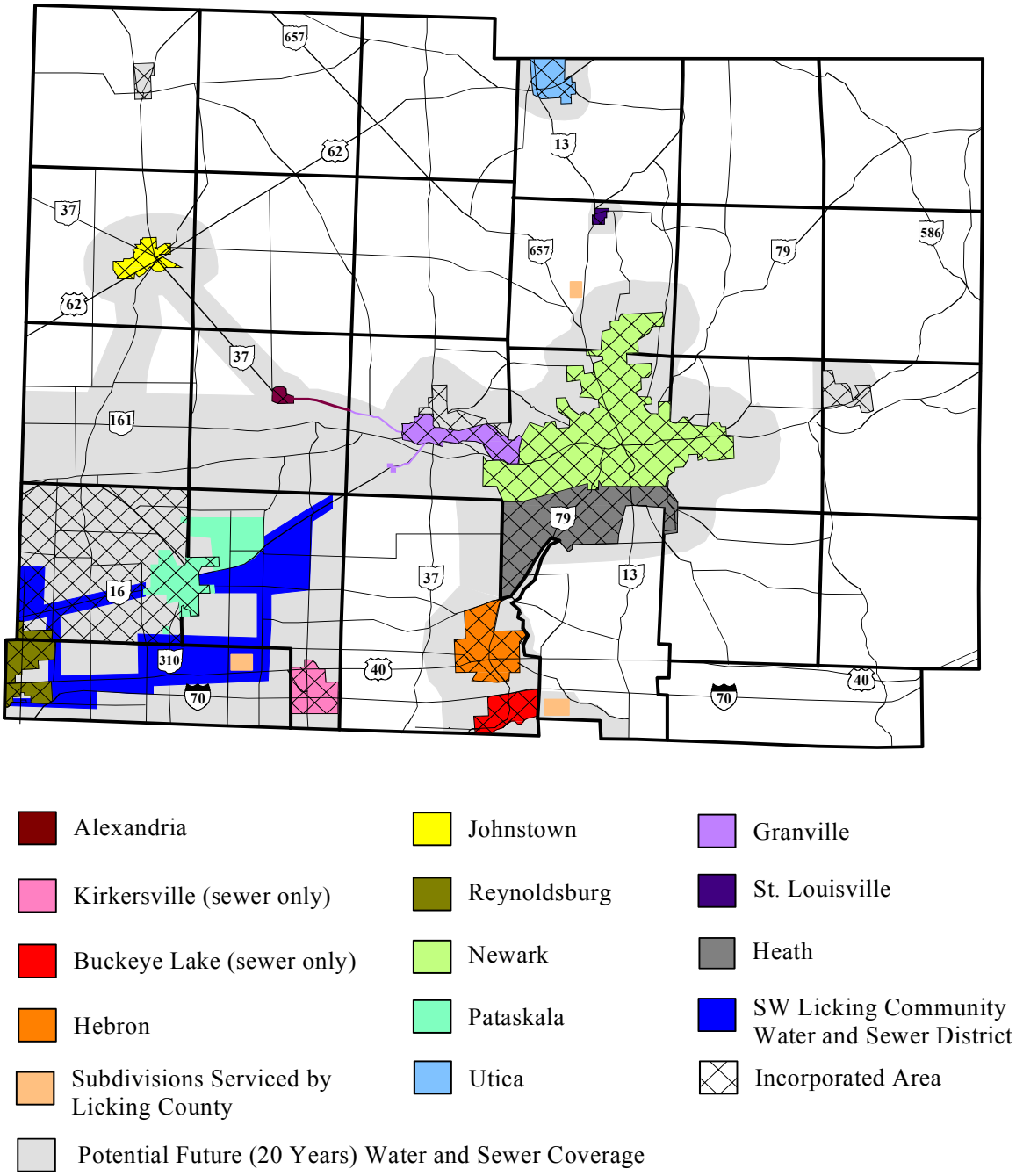
2. *Village of Centerburg – lines within two miles of Bennington Township*

- Has both water and sewer systems, with a treatment plant capacity of 200,000 gallons per day.
- Serves only the incorporated areas of the Village of Centerburg.
- The 20-year service area will probably not exceed a 2-3 mile radius around the Village. Areas likely to receive service are State Route 3 and areas west of the Village limits.
- Centerburg : 52 E. Main St., Centerburg, OH 43011 (740) 625-5167

3. *Village of Hartford – Currently planning to construct a sewer treatment plant.*
    - A capacity of 60,000 gallons per day is planned.
    - Lines will be located within one mile of Bennington Township.
    - The 20-year service area will likely not exceed a one-mile radius around the Village. Areas likely to receive service are located north of the Village limits.

Through the township survey public support for central water and sewer systems in Bennington Township was gauged. Only 27% of respondents stated that they would support central water and sewer district with competitive prices in Bennington Township, while 73% of respondents said they would not support centralized systems in the township.

FIGURE 22: EXISTING AND PROJECTED CENTRAL WATER AND SEWER SERVICE IN LICKING COUNTY



Roads
All roadways in Licking County have been classified for congestion prevention and access management. These classes are "Major Arterial," "Minor Arterial," "Major Collector," Minor Collector," and lower order. Licking County has Congestion Prevention requirements for the first four roadway classes. Within the first four classifications, each has different degrees of access standards, with the most strict applying to major arterials and the least strict to minor collectors. Of major importance to congestion prevention and access management is driveway and roadway spacing; in other words the distance between access points onto a roadway. The requirement for spacing between any access points and/or roads for a lot on any of these classified roadways is the LESS STRICT of the safe stopping distance required for either 1) the speed limit on that road segment, or 2) the designed speed limit for that road segment's classification.

FIGURE 23: AASHTO SAFE STOPPING SIGHT DISTANCE	
Speed (Mph)	***Distance (Feet)***
35	250
45	400
55	550

FIGURE 24: DRIVEWAY SPACING REQUIREMENTS ***For Classified Roads in Licking County***			
Road Classification	***35 mph or Less***	***45 mph***	***55 mph or More***
Minor Collector	250'	250'	250'
Major Collector	250'	400'	400'
Minor Arterial	250'	400'	550'
Major Arterial*	250'	400'	550'

**NOTE: This does NOT apply to spacing with road intersections. Intersection spacing is 550 feet regardless of speed limit or road classification.*

Bennington Township has major east-west corridor (US 62) and one major north-south corridor (SR 657). US Route 62 and SR 657 are classified as minor arterials throughout Bennington Township. The latest traffic counts available for these highways are as follows. The average daily traffic on US Route 62 (count taken at SR 657 intersection) in May of 2002 was 7,250 vehicles per day, and on SR 657 (count taken at US 62 intersection) there were 890 vehicles per day. Six other roads in Bennington Township are also classified as minor collectors; these are Bennington Chapel Rd, Appleton Rd, Homer Rd., Crouse-Willson Rd., Fosdyke Rd., and Van Fossen Rd.

There are a number of county highways located within Bennington Township. The county maintains these roadways.

Figure 25: County Roadways in Bennington Township

County Road Name	Road Number	Mileage in Bennington Twp
Bennington Chapel Rd	(CR 2)	6.1
Appleton Rd.	(CR 10)	4.31
Crouse-Willson Rd.	(CR 13)	3.4
Homer Rd.	(CR 19)	2.55
Lock Rd.	(CR 53)	4.12
Total Mileage		**20.48**

Bennington Township has approximately 24.72 miles of roads to maintain. Approximately 9 miles of township roads are paved. The balance is both chip and seal and gravel roads.

Figure 26: Bennington Township Roads

Township Road Name	Road Number	Mileage	Road Surface
Benner Road	(TR 4)	2.1	Chip/seal
Bennington St.	(TR)	NA	Paved
Cooper Road	(TR 60)	1.0	Paved
Douglas Lane	(TR 66)	1.9	Paved and chip/seal
Drury Road	(TR 62)	3.4	Gravel
Dutch Cross Road	(TR 56)	3.0	Chip/seal and gravel
Fosdyke Road	(TR 20)	0.5	Gravel
Hall Road	(TR 74)	0.2	Gravel
Harmony Church Road	(TR 53)	0.7	Chip/seal
Parsons Road	(TR 50)	2.0	Chip/seal
Quick Lane	(TR 62A)	1.1	Gravel
Riley Road	(TR 65)	1.9	Paved
Shipley Road	(TR 64)	3.3	Paved
Spring Creek Ct.	(TR)	NA	Paved
Van Fossen Road	(TR 4)	3.3	Paved

Economic Development

Economy and Employment

Historically, agriculture has been the main industry of Bennington Township. However, less people are employed by farm occupations in Bennington Township each year. According to the 2000 Census data only 1% of township residents are employed in agriculture, forestry, or fishing occupations. Over the past 40 years, encroachment by individual residences and small subdivisions has drastically reduced the amount of farmland available for cropping; the economy has forced farmers to allow a great deal of farmland to go idle. This loss of farmland is just beginning to accelerate in Bennington Township with in increase in residential development. However a number of large commercial farms still exist and agricultural still remains the most important industry in Bennington Township.

The largest industry people are employed in that live in Bennington Township is manufacturing and production positions with nearly 19% of township residents holding these positions. The next largest employing industries are educational, health and social services with 18.6%, retail trades with 12.9%, and construction related work with 10.5% according to the 2000 Census.

There are two small businesses that employ a significant amount of people in Bennington Township and a number of smaller home occupation businesses. Figure 27 lists most of the businesses in Bennington Township.

Figure 27: Businesses Located in Bennington Township

Business	Address	***Phone #***	***Employees***
Countryside Auto Repair	10500 Crouse-Willison Rd.	967-9525	3
Hi-Tech Excavating	12896 Appleton Rd.	893-4475	26
SBC Recycling	6589 Bennington Chapel Rd.	893-3567	41
S&S Truck and Auto Repair	4356 Johnstown – Utica Rd.	967-0324	2
Nancy's Beauty Boutique	10301 Appleton Rd.	967-7522	1
Black Forest Pines	3527Johnstown-Utica Rd.	614-855-1146	Seasonal
Ohio Fresh Eggs	8251 Benner Rd.	967-0014	NA
Alexander's Drain & Septic	Shipley Rd.	349-8388	NA
Appleton Flea market	Van Fossen Rd.	Weekends	NA

Public Input

One of the most important considerations when formulating a comprehensive plan is public input. Unless the adoption of a plan is subjected to referendum, the residents of a township do not vote on the plan. Therefore, it is imperative for a comprehensive plan committee to gauge public opinion by other means. The Bennington Township Planning Committee drafted and mailed a community survey, and a public input session known as a visioning was held at a local church. In addition, each of the Planning Committee's monthly meetings was open to the public.

Community Survey

The Bennington Township Community Survey was mailed and administered by the Planning Committee in November 2003. The questions contained in the survey were designed to help the Planning Committee gather information about public sentiment on a variety of issues affecting the future of Bennington Township. The questions asked for basic demographic information, as well as opinions regarding current and future services, development within the community, and township leadership, to name a few.

Residents of Bennington Township were notified in local newspapers that they would be receiving a survey in the mail. The Community Survey was then mailed to all registered voter households in the township, and surveys were available on-line at the Licking County Website, and for pick-up at Nancy's Beauty Boutique for all other residents. In total, four hundred and ninety-six (496) surveys were mailed, and of those who received the survey, thirty-one (31%) completed and returned it. A brief summary of the results follows:

- 92% of respondents felt that Bennington Township should proceed with a comprehensive plan.
- The average length of residency in the Township was 17.2 years.
- Township residents associate themselves with Johnstown more than any other surrounding village.
- Only 7.7% of the respondents work in Bennington Township, while about 57% work in Columbus or Franklin County and 45% of respondents were retired.
- 43% of the residents who responded own parcels less than five (5) acres, while 16% own over 50 acres.
- The major reasons why respondents live in Bennington Township include the rural atmosphere (83%), quiet area (74%), low crime rate (60%), agricultural surroundings (59%), and low housing density (56%).
- 26% felt that Bennington Township needs more single-family housing development, while 49% felt that the housing supply is adequate.
- 98% support Bennington Township in maintaining its rural atmosphere, while 53% of those respondents support township zoning to limit residential growth.
- 42% would not like to see any commercial development in the township.
- 73% would not support central water or sewer in the township.
- 27% would like to see open spaces preserved in the township, and 34% would like to see more parks.

For the complete text of the survey and a list of the results, see **Appendix I.**

Community Vision

The Bennington Township Planning Committee organized, advertised, and attended a public meeting on July 8, 2004, at the Appleton United Methodist Church. Approximately ten residents were in attendance. It was an opportunity for residents to provide and share opinions about the township and to assist in formulating some goals for the next twenty years. Participants responded to and discussed the following questions:

1. Describe how you picture Bennington Township in 20 years if current trends in the community continue.
2. Describe how you picture an ideal Bennington Township with no money concerns or limitations.
3. What can we do to make the Bennington Township community the best that it can be in the coming years?

After recording all of the responses to Question 3, participants were given the opportunity to vote for up to five items that they considered being the most important in achieving an ideal Bennington Township. The top priorities were identified as follows:

1. Preserve Farmland.
2. Maintain and improve the present rural and agricultural settings.
3. Provide for a civic association that will help keep the community informed.
4. Protect the natural environment by protecting floodways and forests.
5. Provide for better schools.

For a complete list of responses to these questions and goals identified, see **Appendix II.**

Goals and Objectives

A **GOAL** is a general statement concerning a desirable future state. It could also be described as an aspiration. Goals are something that should be ideal; they should not be impossible dreams or thing that may just happen on their own. Goals should be realized through objectives.

An **OBJECTIVE** describes how the goal might be achieved. These will be realistic, practical, specific steps that can be taken towards the realization of the goal. There will be several objectives for every goal.

The goals and objectives for Bennington Township were developed from the information and opinions gathered in the township survey, the township public visioning meeting, and input gathered from citizens, officials, and planning committee members who met at open public meetings for over a year.

Land Use, and Planning

Goal: Maintain a rural and agricultural atmosphere in Bennington Township.
Objectives:

- Encourage residential development to use conservation development tools and clustering through township zoning.
- Update township zoning while keeping agricultural preservation as a priority.
- Encourage conservation development to group together to produce a network of open space.
- Identify prime farmland and make its preservation a priority.
- Create agricultural awareness by notifying all new homeowners that they are moving into an agricultural area with an informational brochure.
- Provide a levy for acquiring and preserving open space in Bennington Township.

Goal: Work to minimize conflict between different types of land use and consider the effects of land use decisions on surrounding property and the future of the Township.
Objectives:

- Require adequate buffering between different types of land uses.
- In subdivision review, allow for transitional types of uses between conflicting land-uses, such as permanent open space between single-family and agricultural uses.
- Make periodic revisions to the zoning resolution so that it is responsive to current problems and concerns.
- Review the comprehensive plan and land use map every three to five years in order to maintain consistency with changing demographics and development trends.

Commercial and Industrial Development

Goal: Encourage a balanced economy by increasing the tax base through commercial and industrial development.

Objectives:

- Encourage rural and local businesses that foster an agricultural economy.
- New commercial and industrial development should be directed towards main highways, where there is existing infrastructure, and buffered from residential and agricultural uses.
- Encourage home occupational uses when an applicant is located outside of commercially designated areas. (Service types of businesses: home office, computer repair, electricians, tax preparation, etc.)

Goal: Promote existing businesses, including agricultural and farming operations in Bennington Township, and foster their growth.

Objectives:

- Examine the possibility of supporting the sale of Bennington Township agricultural products at regional farmer's markets (Granville, Mt. Vernon, etc.) with labels indicated that goods were proudly produced in Bennington Township.
- Create a local business guide that outlines and promotes all goods and services that are available in Bennington Township. This guide should be produced and distributed by the township and updated annually.

Infrastructure

Goal: Promote safe and orderly traffic flow throughout Bennington Township

Objectives:

- Encourage orderly development along State Routes and county roads that complies with the Licking County Subdivision Regulations in regards to Access Management.
- Continue to work with the County Engineer and the Licking County Planning Commission to help secure various State and Federal funding for the rehabilitation of township roads and bridges.
- Allow commercial and through truck traffic only on specified routes, and encourage their travel on State Routes and County roads.
- Work with the County Engineer and the Ohio Department of Transportation to post speed limits on all township roads.
- Establish a capital improvements plan that is updated periodically that will work towards improving all township roads to 18 feet of paved surface.
- Work with the Licking County Planning Commission to examine the classifications of all roads within the township according to the access management regulations.

Community Services

Goal: Encourage and foster community cooperation and involvement.
Objectives:

- Create a township website that will allow for easier community access to township information and more community involvement.
- Create a periodic township update and make it available to the public.
- Build a township hall to provide a center for community use and to help encourage citizen involvement in local government.

Goal: Maintain adequate services to serve the township's population
Objectives:

- Maintain adequate police, fire, and emergency medical services to meet the safety needs of the township's residents.
- Ensure the level of service corresponds with the growth of the community.
- Develop a long-range capital improvements plan that is consistent with the goals and future needs of the area, and that clearly defines the amount of revenues needed for long-range improvements and services.

Natural Resources

Goal: Encourage the protection and preservation of all environmentally sensitive areas of Bennington Township.
Objectives:

- Take into account all environmental issues when considering rezoning property (i.e. floodplains, wetlands, etc.).
- Require proposed developers to provide all information on effects to the environment that their projects may have, and require them to bear the costs of these studies.

Goal: Protect the water resources and supply of Bennington Township.
Objectives:

- Work with the health department to determine the impacts of proposed developments on water quality and water quantity in Bennington Township.
- Consider effects of zoning on water quality and quantity issues.

Land Use Recommendations

Land Use Recommendations
The recommendations for land use within the Bennington Township Comprehensive Plan, and more specifically the Bennington Township Future Land Use Map, are based upon physical characteristics, existing land uses and infrastructure, and most importantly, the opinions expressed in the Community Survey and community visioning. The Future Land Use Map and this text should be considered and consulted in matters that affect land use in the future. These include, but are not limited to, zoning map and text amendments, variance requests, and development review. In fact, Chapter 519.02 of the Ohio Revised Code states that township trustees may regulate land use, but that it must be "in accordance with a comprehensive plan."

While the comprehensive plan is the vehicle by which land use can be legally regulated, it need not be adhered to rigidly. In order for local governments to remain proactive in planning, they sometimes have to be flexible. This means making decisions based on how they affect the community as a whole, not just one particular parcel. But by the same token, the comprehensive plan is a locally and legally adopted document, and substantial and/or unjustified deviations from the plan can render it ineffective.

The following paragraphs provide general descriptions of the various land uses that are provided for on the Future Land Use Map. These descriptions should be considered in conjunction with the Future Land Use Map, as the name of each proposed land use classification (e.g. Agricultural) may not be entirely representative of the intent of the plan.

<u>Agricultural</u>

Agriculture is already a vital part of both the Bennington Township community and economy. According to the Ohio State University Extension's Exurban Change Project, about 53% of the land in Bennington Township was being used for agriculture in the 1997. Furthermore, the Bennington Township Community Survey indicated that 68% of the respondents who work in Bennington Township have an agriculture-related job.

The results of the Community Survey and the community visioning are overwhelmingly supportive of agriculture and the type of community that it inspires. For example, 83% of the survey respondents stated that they enjoyed living in Bennington Township because of its rural atmosphere, and 98% said they supported Bennington Township in maintaining its rural atmosphere. In addition, preserving farmland and maintaining and improving the rural and agricultural settings of the Township were ranked as the number one and number two priorities at the community visioning session. As a result, preserving agriculture within the community must remain the focus of any plan for the future.

Despite the importance of agriculture in Bennington Township, residential development is still likely to occur. As Columbus and Franklin County continue to grow, and as Central Ohioans continue to look for rural areas in which to live, Bennington Township will become more attractive for non-agricultural uses. This means that residential and commercial uses could be located near agricultural operations, and future residents and business owners should be aware of the inconveniences that can arise, such as odors, noises, and traffic conflicts.

It should also be noted that the areas on the Future Land Use Map that have been designated as Agricultural are not necessarily for agricultural use only. Single-family residences are also permitted and intended for these areas provided that they are low density in nature. However, the Community Survey indicates that approximately 76% of respondents feel that the minimum lot size for a new home should be in the three to five acres range. Maintaining or increasing a three-acre minimum lot size in the Agricultural district would serve to deter major development and would ultimately assist in preserving a rural atmosphere. In this case, residential development in the Agricultural district would be of a *rural residential* nature.

Residential

While preserving agriculture is at the core of this plan, it is also important to allow for some affordable housing in the Township. Many families who would like to live in Bennington Township, and whom the Township would like to count as residents, would find a three-acre or more minimum lot size to be too cost prohibitive to build a home.

During the process of developing the Bennington Township Comprehensive Plan, the Planning Committee learned about Planned Unit Developments, or PUDs. The basic premise behind the PUD is flexibility in subdivision design standards. By allowing homes to be built on smaller lots without increasing the density that would otherwise be permitted, building sites can be clustered on a site. Clustered lots provide for a more efficient design, since they require fewer linear feet of roads and utility lines. More importantly, allowing smaller lots means that local zoning can require more open space to be preserved within a development. (63 percent of the Community Survey respondents felt that it is necessary to plan for open space.) In fact, developers could be required to permanently dedicate up to 50 percent of every proposed development to open space.

In order to promote planned unit developments as the primary choice for residential development in Bennington Township, a PUD district should be designed and added to the Bennington Township Zoning Resolution. It should be created in such a way as to inspire development that is efficient in design; preserves open space, environmentally and ecologically sensitive areas, and rural character; mixes compatible uses; and is pedestrian-oriented. Proposed PUD development plans should also be submitted to and reviewed by Bennington Township officials.

Finally, all other residential districts should be removed from the Bennington Township Zoning Resolution. In doing so, future residential development would be limited to either the requirements set forth in the PUD district or the rural residential requirements of the Agricultural district.

Industrial/Commercial

An important consideration in community land use planning is fiscal stability, and different land uses obviously generate different levels of revenue. There is a general misunderstanding that replacing agricultural land with residential development generates more tax revenue for a community, but one must consider the cost of community services associated with each land use. While farms often contribute less tax dollars to the local economy, they require very few community services. Residential developments, on the other hand, bring miles of additional roads to be maintained and add children to local school districts. Quite often, residential developments end up being a drain on community coffers. Therefore, allowing only residential land uses to infiltrate an agricultural community can be detrimental to its fiscal health.

By contrast, industrial and commercial land uses can be very effective in stabilizing local economies. These types of land uses have very high revenue potential, and they bring jobs to the community. Most importantly, the community services that they require are usually very reasonable in comparison to the tax dollars that they generate. When properly planned, industrial and commercial development can be a huge asset for a community.

In order to maintain the agricultural integrity of Bennington Township, industrial land uses should be reserved for the areas of the township in which infrastructure currently exists to support these more intense forms of land use. These areas include U.S. Route 62 and State Route 657 near its intersection with Bash Lane. Commercial development may also be relegated to these areas. Small, local businesses, such as markets for farm produce or other local goods, and less intense home occupations would be appropriate along State Route 657 throughout the township. These uses would also be appropriate in the areas surrounding the town of Appleton, where a small village center type development would be appropriate.

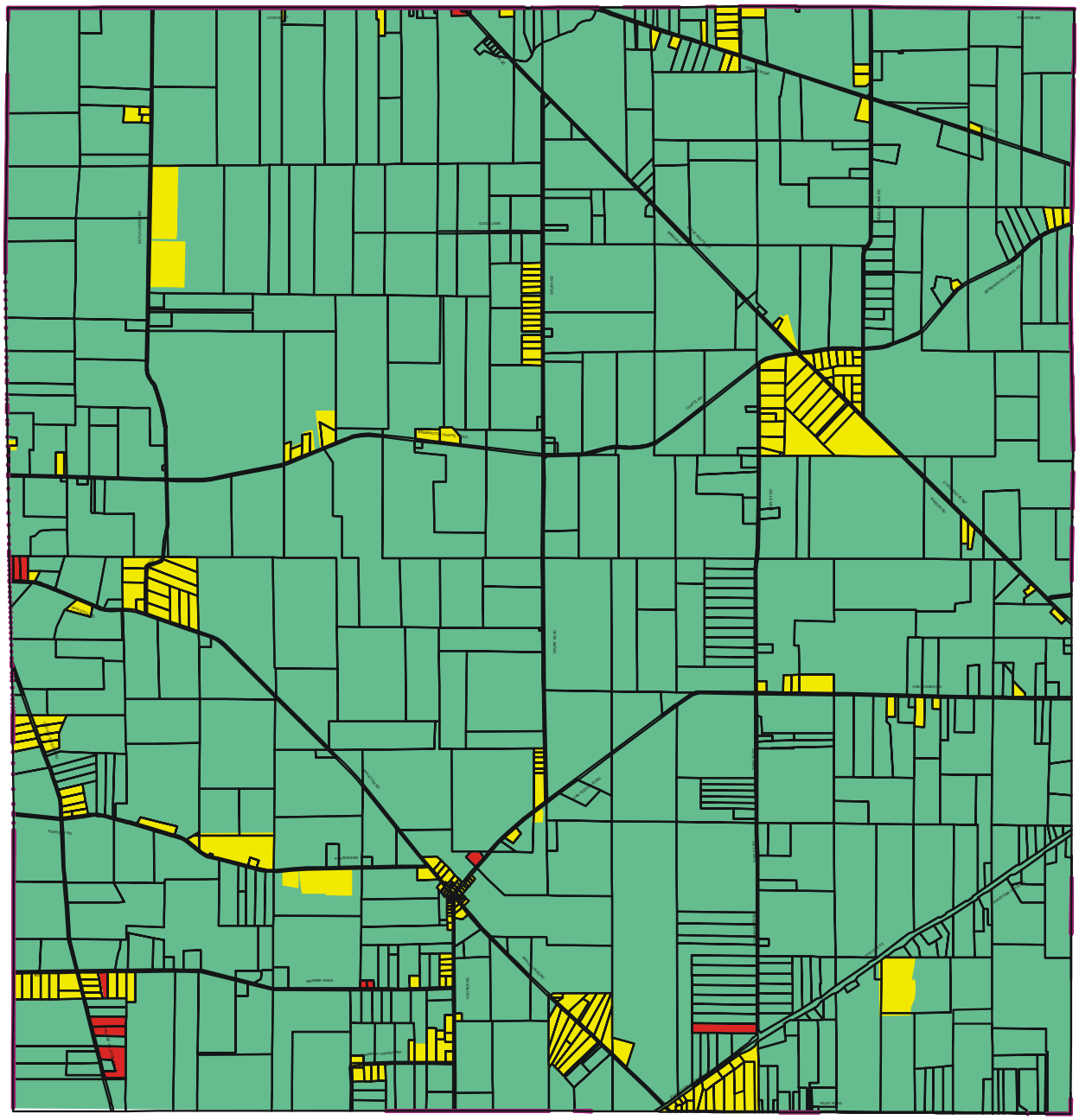
Parks and other Recreational Uses

In order to foster a sense of community within the township and to provide a place where residents can meet for active recreation, areas for parks and recreation should be included on the Future Land Use Map. The area between Appleton Rd., Dutch Cross Rd., Bennington Chapel Rd., and the township line is an appropriate place for this designation, as the Otter Fork of the Licking River and Bowl Run and their associated floodplains provide a park-like setting that would not otherwise be appropriate for development. A park plan for this area should preserve its natural beauty while providing amenities such as trails, educational opportunities, and/or sports facilities for the residents of Bennington Township and other nearby communities.

The floodplain is another important asset that deserves to be protected for the good of all township residents. In the community survey 57% of respondents felt it was very important to protect creeks from development. Protection of floodplains decreases soil

erosion, improves water quality, reduces damage from flooding, and provides many other community benefits. The areas of floodplain on Bennington Township's future land use map should be protected in their natural state and left as recreational areas or open space in residential subdivisions. Township zoning should be updated to work in conjunction with the Licking County Flood Damage Prevention Regulations to protect floodplains from incurring any further development in Bennington Township.

Existing Land Use Map



Residential

Agricultural

Business

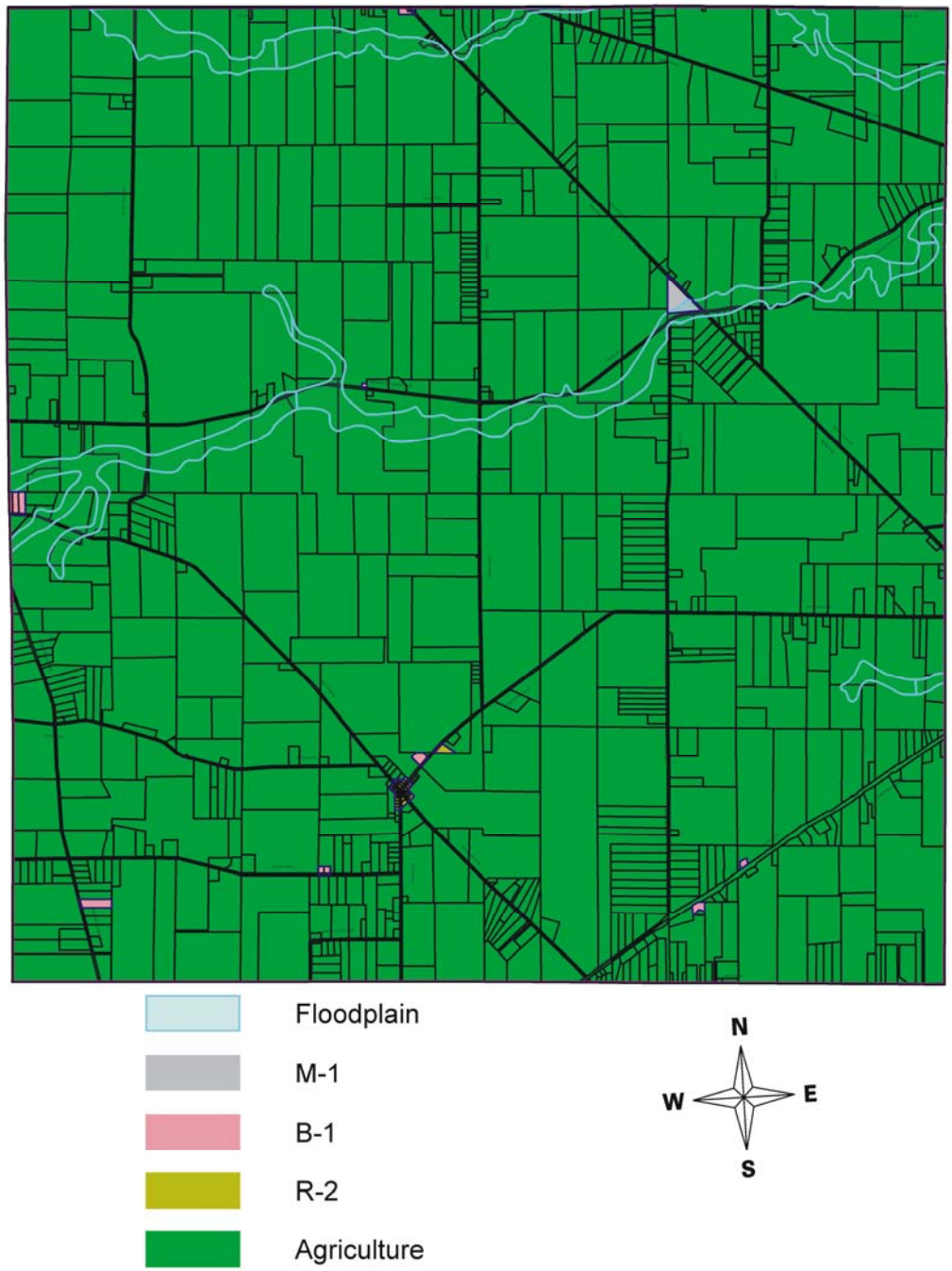
N

W

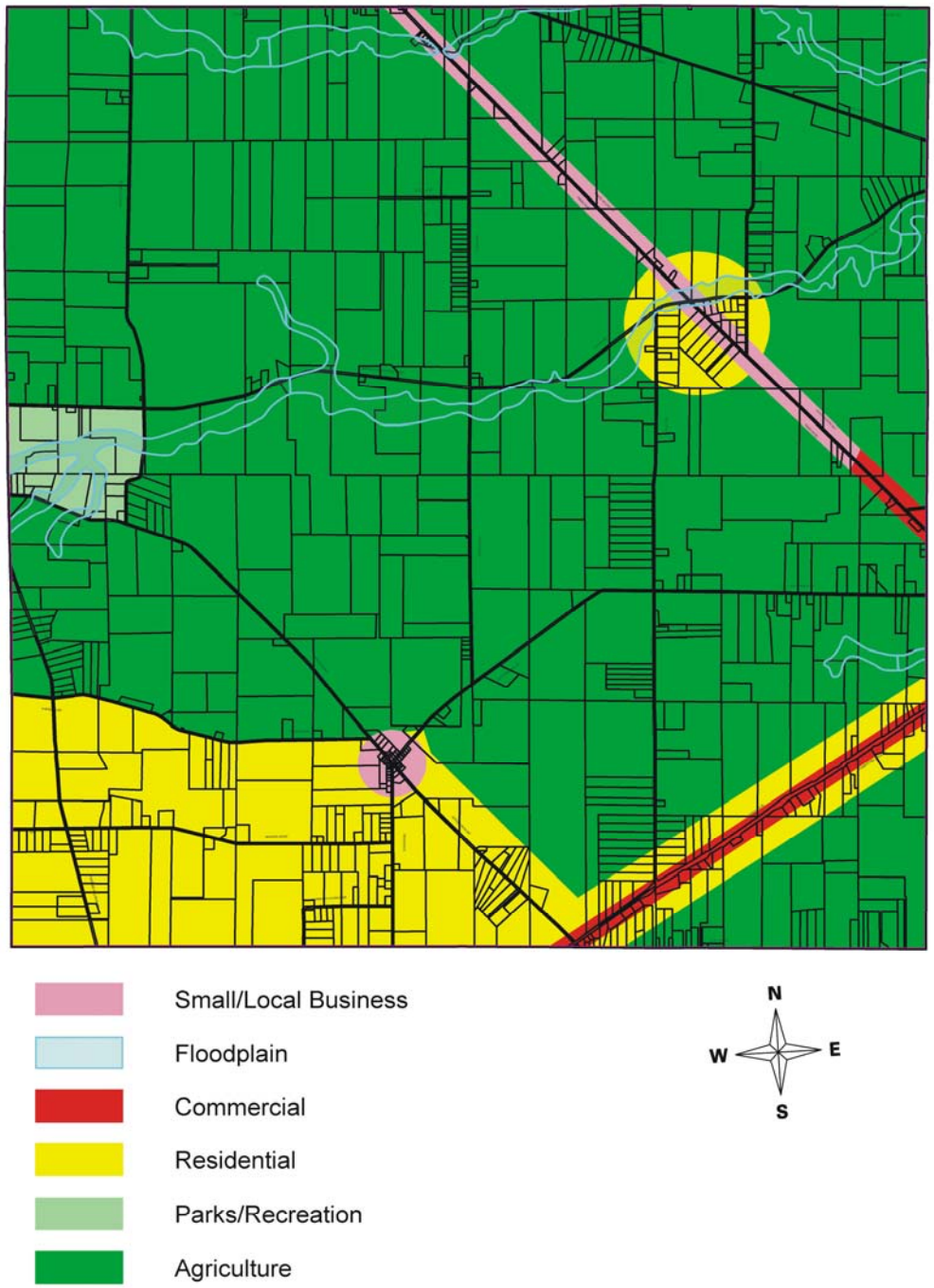
E

S

Zoning Map



Future Land Use Map



Appendix I

Bennington Township Community Survey Results

As members of the Bennington Township Planning Committee, we have an obligation to report the results of the community survey in a responsible manner. Whether it happens intentionally or as a result of faulty methods, statistics can easily become misleading. It is therefore important to exercise care when selecting calculation methods as well as to clearly report the methods that were used.

Following is a brief inventory of the methods used to calculate the data that is presented in the summary of results. It is also recommended that a brief account of these calculation methods is included in the Bennington Township Comprehensive Plan.

Response Rate Methodology

The response rate listed at the top of the survey results reflects the percentage of the *mailed* surveys that were completed and returned. While the answers that were found on the surveys that were available for pick-up at Nancy's Beauty Boutique were compiled with the rest of the results, those surveys are not reflected in the response rate. Furthermore, surveys that were mailed and were returned as "undeliverable" due to incorrect addresses or other reasons were not included in the response rate calculation. The following formula was therefore used to calculate the response rate:

(total surveys completed – surveys from pickup location) ÷ (total surveys mailed – surveys returned by post office)

Percentage Calculation Methodology

The data in the summary of results is presented in two forms for the majority of the questions. When possible, the counts, or actual quantity of responses, for each possible answer are displayed. The percentage of the responses that each answer represents is also displayed. However, the method that was used to calculate that percentage depends upon the nature of the question itself.

In most cases, and unless otherwise noted, the percentage displayed reflects the percentage of the respondents who selected that answer on the surveys on which that question was answered only. In other words, there is not a "did not answer" category, and these percentages do not take into account the surveys on which that particular question was not answered at all. In these cases, the figures indicate the *percentage of total answers for that question* commanded by that selection, and the percentages should sum up to 100%. The formula used is as follows:

% = (# of times answer was selected) ÷ (total answers selected for that question)

Finally, there are several questions on which multiple answers could be selected. For these questions the percentage of total *answers* would not reflect the percentage of respondents who selected that answer and would therefore be skewed. For this reason, the figures for questions on which multiple answers could be selected reflect the percentage of *total surveys completed* on which that answer was selected. For these questions, the figures likely will not sum up to 100%, and the formula is as follows:

% = (# of times answer was selected) ÷ (total # of surveys completed)

Bennington Township Community Survey Results

Surveys mailed:	496	*Surveys returned by post office:*	36
Unmailed surveys from designated pickup location:	3	*Total surveys completed:*	144
		Response rate (mailed):	**31%**

1) Would you like to see the Township proceed with a Comprehensive Plan?

Yes:	100	**92%**
No:	9	**8%**

2) In what section of Bennington Township do you live?

Northwest:	16	**11.9%**
Southwest:	48	**35.8%**
Northeast:	22	**16.4%**
Southeast:	48	**35.8%**

3) What road within Bennington Township do you reside or own property on? (see comments)

4) How many years have you lived in Bennington Township?

Average years of residency: **17.2**

5) Do you own property in the Township, but live outside the Township?

Yes:	11	**8%**
No:	129	**92%**

6) How many individuals fall into each of the following age groups that are living in the household?

Under 10:	54	**15.9%**
11 - 18:	42	**12.4%**
19 - 25:	15	**4.4%**
25 - 40:	74	**21.8%**
41 - 65:	117	**34.4%**
Over 65:	38	**11.2%**

7) Where do members of your household work?

Bennington Twp.:	15	**7.7%**	Elsewhere Franklin Co:	30	**30.0%**
Newark:	9	**4.6%**	Retired:	45	**45.0%**

Columbus:	53	**27.2%**	Other Area:	25	**25.0%**
Elsewhere Lick. Co:	18	**9.2%**			

8) If you are employed in Bennington Township, what is your occupation? (If you are not employed in Agriculture, please jump to Question #15)

Agriculture:	19	**67.9%**
Construction:	3	**10.7%**
Home Occupation:	1	**3.6%**
Other:	5	**17.9%**

9) If you are involved in agriculture, how many acres do you farm?

10 acres or less:	6	**23.1%**
11-50 acres:	10	**38.5%**
51-100 acres:	5	**19.2%**
101-300 acres:	2	**7.7%**
301-500 acres:	2	**7.7%**
500+ acres:	1	**3.8%**

10) Does your family operate a full-time farm?

Yes:	10	**24.4%**
No:	31	**75.6%**

11) If you are full-time farmer:

a) Would you like to continue to earn a primary living from farming?

Yes:	6	**60.0%**	*(% of full-time farmers who responded)*
No:	0	**0.0%**	

b) Would you consider expanding your farm operation?

Yes:	3	**30.0%**	*(% of full-time farmers who responded)*
No:	1	**10.0%**	

c) Would you consider expanding your Total Acreage Farmed?

Yes:	3	**30.0%**	*(% of full-time farmers who responded)*
No:	1	**10.0%**	

d) Are there any other family members interested in farming after you retire?

Yes:	6	**60.0%**	*(% of full-time farmers who responded)*
No:	0	**0.0%**	

e) How can the Township assist you in pursuing your farming activity? (see comments)

12) Does your family operate a part-time farm?

Yes:	15	**38.5%**
No:	24	**61.5%**

13) If you are full-time farmer:

a) Would you like to continue to earn a primary living from farming?

Yes:	12	**80.0%**	*(% of part-time farmers who responded)*
No:	0	**0.0%**	

b) Would you consider expanding your farm operation?

Yes:	8	**53.3%**	*(% of part-time farmers who responded)*
No:	0	**0.0%**	

c) Would you consider expanding your Total Acreage Farmed?

Yes:	7	**46.7%**	*(% of part-time farmers who responded)*
No:	0	**0.0%**	

d) Are there any other family members interested in farming after you retire?

Yes:	6	**40.0%**	*(% of part-time farmers who responded)*
No:	0	**0.0%**	

e) How can the Township assist you in pursuing your farming activity? (see comments)

14) If you are a large land owner (greater than 50 acres):

a) Would you like to continue to earn income from farming?

Yes:	14	**107.7%**	*(% of total respondants to #14)*
No:	0	**0.0%**	

b) Would you consider expanding your property holdings?

Yes:	8	**61.5%**	*(% of total respondants to #14)*
No:	1	**7.7%**	

c) Are there any other family members interested in farming or owning property?

Yes:	7	**53.8%**	*(% of total respondants to #14)*
No:	0	**0.0%**	

d) Is your primary objective to develop your property?

Yes:	1	**7.7%**	*(% of total respondants to #14)*
No:	2	**15.4%**	

15) How many acres do you reside on?

2 or less:	22	**15.6%**
3 - 5:	39	**27.7%**
6 - 10:	29	**20.6%**
11 - 20:	16	**11.3%**
21 - 50:	12	**8.5%**
Over 50:	23	**16.3%**

16) Do you own or rent your home?

Own:	129	**98.5%**
Rent:	2	**1.5%**

*17) What do you feel the minimum lot size should be for a residence in Bennington Township **without** central water and sewer? (The current minimum is 3 acres.)*

2 acres or less:	15	**11.2%**
3 acres:	54	**40.3%**
5 acres:	48	**35.8%**
Over 5 acres:	9	**6.7%**
Over 10 acres:	5	**3.7%**
Other:	3	**2.2%**

*18) What do you feel the minimum lot size should be for a residence in Bennington Township **with** central water and sewer?*

1/2 acres or less:	11	**8.2%**
1 acres:	35	**26.1%**
2 acres:	21	**15.7%**
3 acres:	32	**23.9%**
5 acres:	26	**19.4%**
Other:	9	**6.7%**

19) If a local water and sewer district were formed, offering competitive prices, would you support it with your tax dollars?

Yes:	34	**26.8%**
No:	93	**73.2%**

20) What amount of sq. feet of living space rqmt. would you find acceptable for new homes?

Less than 800 sq. ft.:	6	**4.4%**
800 - 1,000 sq. ft.:	8	**5.9%**
1,000 - 1,500 sq. ft.:	43	**31.6%**
1,500 - 2,000 sq. ft.:	61	**44.9%**
Over 2,000 sq. ft.:	18	**13.2%**

21) Bennington Township needs more of which of the following types of housing? (Please check all that apply.)

Single Family:	38	**26.4%**	*(% of total survey respondants)*
Two Family:	6	**4.2%**	
Multi-Family:	6	**4.2%**	
Senior Citizen	15	**10.4%**	
Housing Supply is adequate:	71	**49.3%**	
Other:	7	**4.9%**	

22) Do you agree or disagree with the following statement: Your neighborhood/area is clean and looks attractive"?

Agree:	104	**79.4%**
Disagree:	27	**20.6%**

23) Check the major reason(s) you enjoy living in Bennington Township.

Rural Atmosphere/Close to Nature:	120	**83.3%**
Quiet Area:	106	**73.6%**
Low Crime Rate:	87	**60.4%**
Friendliness:	68	**47.2%**
Cleanliness:	52	**36.1%**
Lack of Congestion - Schools:	57	**39.6%**
Family Ties:	27	**18.8%**
Lack of Congestion - Roads:	71	**49.3%**
Employment Opportunities:	6	**4.2%**
Lower Cost of Living:	25	**17.4%**
Low Housing Density:	83	**57.6%**
Agriculture Surroundings:	85	**59.0%**
Other:	5	**3.5%**

24) What do you feel are the negative aspects of living in Bennington Twp? (see comments)

25) What areas/services would you like to see more of your tax money spent on? (see comments)

26) Please agree or disagree with the following:

	Agree		Disagree		No Opinion	
Bennington Township should encourage growth:	21	**16.4%**	90	**70.3%**	17	**13.3%**
Bennington Township should carefully plan for growth:	117	**87.3%**	11	**8.2%**	6	**4.5%**
Bennington Township should be mostly residential:	65	**51.2%**	47	**37.0%**	15	**11.8%**
Bennington Township should have a broad tax base:	39	**31.0%**	35	**27.8%**	52	**41.3%**

27) Home Occupation is a zoning term for "Home Based Business". Would you like to see the Township Zoning Resolution provide for greater flexibility in pursuing such Home Occupations?

Yes:	66	**53.2%**
No:	58	**46.8%**

28) Which of the following methods of encouraging business and industry do you support? (Circle all that apply)

Tax Abatements:	11	**7.6%**	*(% of total survey respondants)*
Business Centers:	24	**16.7%**	
Industrial Parks:	18	**12.5%**	
Relaxed Zoning:	12	**8.3%**	
Other:	31	**21.5%**	

29) Please rank the following categories where you would most like to see the Township devote more resources during the next five years (1 being the most important):

	Average Rank	Actual Rank
Encourage business and industrial development:	4.79	**7**
Provide utilities (water and sewer):	4.72	**6**
Improve transportation, maintenance, service roads:	2.29	**1**
Increase parks and recreation facilities:	3.88	**5**
Improve/provide police/fire/emergency services:	2.39	**2**
Improve/increase business of agriculture in community:	2.50	**3**
Other (Describe):	3.59	**4**

30) Would you support an increase in your taxes to pay for the answer you ranked #1 in Question 29?

Yes:	75	**61.0%**
No:	48	**39.0%**

31) With respect to your priority in Question 29, how would you provide such services in the Township? (see comments)

32) In which newspaper are you most likely to read a public notice:

Johnstown Independent:	74	**57.4%**
Utica Herald:	8	**6.2%**
Centerburg Paper:	13	**10.1%**
Other (see comments):	34	**26.4%**

33) Which local city/village do you associate yourself with more than any of the others?

Hartford/Croton:	21	**15.3%**
Utica:	9	**6.6%**
Centerburg:	10	**7.3%**
Johnstown:	97	**70.8%**

34) What Township bodies need to be more strict or more flexible to zoning regulations and enforcement?

	More Strict	Same	Less Strict	No Opinion
Zoning Inspector:	46	37	4	25
Zoning Commission:	38	42	5	26
Board of Zoning Appeals:	33	45	5	29
Township Trustees:	33	47	4	29

	More Strict	Same	Less Strict	No Opinion
Zoning Inspector:	**31.9%**	**25.7%**	**2.8%**	**17.4%**
Zoning Commission:	**26.4%**	**29.2%**	**3.5%**	**18.1%**
Board of Zoning Appeals:	**22.9%**	**31.3%**	**3.5%**	**20.1%**
Township Trustees:	**22.9%**	**32.6%**	**2.8%**	**20.1%**

(% of total survey respondants)

35) Do you feel it is necessary to plan for open space or public parks?

Yes:	81	**63.3%**
No:	47	**36.7%**

Please include any additional comments. (see comments)

36) Zoning can be used to protect certain features of the Township by controlling the location or

density of development. For each of the following features, please mark how important it is to use zoning in this manner:

	Very Important	Important	Not Very Important	No Opinion
Protection of creeks:	82	35	7	1
Storm water run-off:	58	49	18	2
Protection of floodplains:	50	47	19	6
Protection of wetlands:	47	48	20	5
Protect erosion prone areas:	54	53	9	5
Preservation of farmland:	88	31	6	1
Protection of water supplies:	104	24	0	1
Protection of air quality:	83	34	4	4
Protection of road rights-of-way:	53	52	8	7
Protection of rural atmosphere:	99	25	3	0
Protection of water wells:	103	20	3	0
Control of noise levels:	66	45	8	2

36) continued…

	Very Important	Important	Not Very Important	No Opinion
Protection of creeks:	**56.9%**	**24.3%**	**4.9%**	**0.7%**
Storm water run-off:	**40.3%**	**34.0%**	**12.5%**	**1.4%**
Protection of floodplains:	**34.7%**	**32.6%**	**13.2%**	**4.2%**
Protection of wetlands:	**32.6%**	**33.3%**	**13.9%**	**3.5%**
Protect erosion prone areas:	**37.5%**	**36.8%**	**6.3%**	**3.5%**
Preservation of farmland:	**61.1%**	**21.5%**	**4.2%**	**0.7%**
Protection of water supplies:	**72.2%**	**16.7%**	**0.0%**	**0.7%**
Protection of air quality:	**57.6%**	**23.6%**	**2.8%**	**2.8%**
Protection of road rights-of-way:	**36.8%**	**36.1%**	**5.6%**	**4.9%**
Protection of rural atmosphere:	**68.8%**	**17.4%**	**2.1%**	**0.0%**
Protection of water wells:	**71.5%**	**13.9%**	**2.1%**	**0.0%**
Control of noise levels:	**45.8%**	**31.3%**	**5.6%**	**1.4%**

(% of total survey respondants)

37) How effectively do the Township zoning regulations manage the following kinds of development/development encroachment?

	Well Managed	Adequately Managed	Poorly Managed	No Opinion
Residential:	9	50	21	20
Commercial:	3	42	17	35
Agricultural:	9	42	16	30
Industrial:	5	29	18	44

	Well Managed	Adequately Managed	Poorly Managed	No Opinion
Residential:	**6.3%**	**34.7%**	**14.6%**	**13.9%**
Commercial:	**2.1%**	**29.2%**	**11.8%**	**24.3%**
Agricultural:	**6.3%**	**29.2%**	**11.1%**	**20.8%**

(% of total survey respondants)

Industrial:	**3.5%**	**20.1%**	**12.5%**	**30.6%**

38) With respect to Question 37, what zoning changes would you suggest to fix those areas which are poorly managed? (see comments)

39) Bennington Township is facing a decline in the number of large acreage lots. Do you support the Township in maintaining its rural atmosphere?

Yes:	121	**97.6%**
No:	3	**2.4%**

If so, how?

Township zoning to limit growth:	76	**52.8%**	*(% of total survey respondants)*
Township zoning to manage growth:	72	**50.0%**	
Twp. tax dollars to purchase dev. rights:	19	**13.2%**	
Developer initiatives (smaller lots, etc.):	12	**8.3%**	
New subdivision housing impact fees:	32	**22.2%**	
New housing impact fees:	23	**16.0%**	
Shared driveways for limited frontage:	32	**22.2%**	
Other (see comments):	7	**4.9%**	

40) Do you support the use of Flag Lots in order to utilize greater property depth where road frontage is limited?

Yes:	51	**49.5%**
No:	52	**50.5%**

41) Should the Township protect its Agricultural Base?

Yes:	122	**96.8%**
No:	4	**3.2%**

42) Are there any types of commercial development that you would like to see in Bennington Township? (Please circle all that apply)

Neighborhood commercial centers:	17	**11.8%**	*(% of total survey respondants)*
Strip shopping malls:	3	**2.1%**	
Rural home occupations:	37	**25.7%**	
Retail mega stores:	1	**0.7%**	
None:	61	**42.4%**	
Other (see comments):	6	**4.2%**	
Farmers marketplace:	47	**32.6%**	

43) Are there any types of business or industrial development that you would like to see in Bennington Township? (Please circle all that apply)

Heavy (non-polluting) manufacturing:	7	**4.9%**	*(% of total survey respondants)*
Light Manufacturing, Warehousing:	15	**10.4%**	
Office/Service Development:	10	**6.9%**	
Recreation/Resort Type Activity:	20	**13.9%**	
None:	77	**53.5%**	
Other (see comments):	3	**2.1%**	

44) Where would you like to see the following development occur? (see maps on surveys)

45) Would you like to see the Township utilize the Zoning Code to modify existing standards for minimum yard presentation (grass height, fencing, inoperable vehicles, boats, campers, etc.)?

	Stronger Standards	Some Standards	No Standards	No Opinion
Standards for Front Yard:	34	40	32	11
Standards for Side Yard:	27	40	37	11
Standards for Back Yard:	20	37	46	12
Standards for Any Yard on public ROW:	38	42	29	9

Standards for Front Yard:	**23.6%**	**27.8%**	**22.2%**	**7.6%**
Standards for Side Yard:	**18.8%**	**27.8%**	**25.7%**	**7.6%**
Standards for Back Yard:	**13.9%**	**25.7%**	**31.9%**	**8.3%**
Standards for Any Yard on public ROW:	**26.4%**	**29.2%**	**20.1%**	**6.3%**

46) How would the following development changes affect you?

	Positively	Neutrally	Negatively	No Opinion
Increased car/truck traffic:	11	17	87	7
Large business signs/billboards:	5	14	96	9
Business development:	18	29	67	8
Home occupations:	24	56	25	14
Subdivisions (greater than 4 lots each):	7	13	81	13
Lot Splits (4 or less lots each):	9	26	61	12
Other (see comments):	2	0	0	3

	Positively	Neutrally	Negatively	No Opinion
Increased car/truck traffic:	**7.6%**	**11.8%**	**60.4%**	**4.9%**
Large business signs/billboards:	**3.5%**	**9.7%**	**66.7%**	**6.3%**
Business development:	**12.5%**	**20.1%**	**46.5%**	**5.6%**
Home occupations:	**16.7%**	**38.9%**	**17.4%**	**9.7%**
Subdivisions (greater than 4 lots each):	**4.9%**	**9.0%**	**56.3%**	**9.0%**
Lot Splits (4 or less lots each):	**6.3%**	**18.1%**	**42.4%**	**8.3%**
Other (see comments):	**1.4%**	**0.0%**	**0.0%**	**2.1%**

47) Are you aware of any historical sites in Bennington Township that you would like to see preserved? (see comments)

48) Would you like to see the Township involved in a School District-wide plan to help with continuity and development on a school district-wide basis?

Yes:	64	**63.4%**
No:	37	**36.6%**

49) How would you utilize zoning or other tools to meet the challenges of our changing Township? (see comments)

50) Do you have other issues not presented herein that should be addressed? (see comments)

Governmental Survey Section

1) Please rate your understanding of the Township Government:

Excellent:	8	**8.5%**
Good:	51	**54.3%**
Poor:	35	**37.2%**

2) Please rate the following with an "X":

	Excellent	Good	Fair	Poor	No Opinion
Township Government:	9	57	22	6	20
Home Water Supply:	15	64	22	6	7
Road Safety:	5	57	36	15	2
Snow Removal:	17	68	24	7	4
Sign Repair/Replacement:	10	62	24	6	15
County Sheriff:	9	55	31	9	13
Telephone Service:	6	58	29	20	4
Garbage Service:	14	70	22	5	6
Schools:	18	74	14	1	10
Septic System:	11	72	17	3	8
Road Maintenance:	9	47	38	18	4
Mowing:	6	62	26	15	7
Cemetery Maintenance:	9	54	16	3	34
Fire and Emergency:	24	60	18	4	10
Electric Service:	18	53	22	19	4
Recycling Service:	3	28	15	28	37

	Excellent	Good	Fair	Poor	No Opinion
Township Government:	**8%**	**50%**	**19%**	**5%**	**18%**
Home Water Supply:	**13%**	**56%**	**19%**	**5%**	**6%**
Road Safety:	**4%**	**50%**	**31%**	**13%**	**2%**
Snow Removal:	**14%**	**57%**	**20%**	**6%**	**3%**
Sign Repair/Replacement:	**9%**	**53%**	**21%**	**5%**	**13%**
County Sheriff:	**8%**	**47%**	**26%**	**8%**	**11%**
Telephone Service:	**5%**	**50%**	**25%**	**17%**	**3%**
Garbage Service:	**12%**	**60%**	**19%**	**4%**	**5%**
Schools:	**15%**	**63%**	**12%**	**1%**	**9%**
Septic System:	**10%**	**65%**	**15%**	**3%**	**7%**
Road Maintenance:	**8%**	**41%**	**33%**	**16%**	**3%**
Mowing:	**5%**	**53%**	**22%**	**13%**	**6%**
Cemetery Maintenance:	**8%**	**47%**	**14%**	**3%**	**29%**
Fire and Emergency:	**21%**	**52%**	**16%**	**3%**	**9%**
Electric Service:	**16%**	**46%**	**19%**	**16%**	**3%**
Recycling Service:	**3%**	**25%**	**14%**	**25%**	**33%**

Each figure represents the percentage of people who answered that particular question.

3) For those items you rated less than Good, do you have suggestions for improvement? (see comments)

4) Concerning the roads in Bennington Township, which issues do you believe need to be addressed? (Please circle all that apply)

Maintenance/Improvement of existing township roads:	66	**45.8%**	*(% of total survey respondants)*
Maintenance/Improvement of existing county roads:	39	**27.1%**	
Maintenance/Improvement of existing State/US hwys:	16	**11.1%**	
Speed limits:	46	**31.9%**	
Other (see comments):	7	**4.9%**	
None	8	**5.6%**	

5) Which of the following do you feel are needed in the Township? (Please circle those that apply)

Township Fire Department:	32	**22.2%**	*(% of total survey respondants)*
Township Hall:	14	**9.7%**	
Library:	10	**6.9%**	
Elementary School:	13	**9.0%**	
Other (see comments):	11	**7.6%**	

6) Which of the following would you support by an additional township tax? (Please circle all that apply)

Emergency Services:	40	**27.8%**	*(% of total survey respondants)*
Fire Protection:	41	**28.5%**	
Schools:	23	**16.0%**	
Central Water:	14	**9.7%**	
Central Sewer:	9	**6.3%**	
Road Improvements:	37	**25.7%**	
Parks and Recreational Facilities:	19	**13.2%**	
Purchase of Land Development Rights:	11	**7.6%**	
None:	30	**20.8%**	
Other (see comments):	1	**0.7%**	

7) What improvements would you like to see made in your Township Government? (see comments)

8) Would you like to serve in any position within the Township Government? (Please circle all that apply)

Township Trustee:	16	**11.1%**	*(% of total survey respondants)*
Zoning Commission:	8	**5.6%**	
Board of Zoning Appeals:	4	**2.8%**	
Zoning Inspector:	3	**2.1%**	
Township Clerk:	4	**2.8%**	

Other Committees as needed: 28 **19.4%**

Bennington Township Comp Plan Survey Comments

Question #11: If you are a full-time farmer how can the township assist you in pursuing your farming activity?

1. Stop the insurgence of people being able to buy a 5 acre lot or less.
2. Stop cutting the land up into small lots that can't be farmed
3. By not permitting development is destroys farm land and drives out businesses that support farms.

Question #13: If you are a part-time farmer how can the township assist you in pursuing your farming activity?

1. Less land to developers.
2. By keeping land available at AG land-usage.
3. Make fair and good decisions; Make sure all decisions keep the family farm in mind.
4. Control the building of new homes.
5. If people in the township are going to sell land, farmers should be able to purchase it before it is broken up.
6. How do you make cheap dirt?
7. Preserve the farm land.
8. I would love to buy more land, but the price for land has been driven too high. Only the developers can touch it and I think that is wrong.
9. Limit development and encourage and protect green space and wetlands.

Question #17: What do you feel the minimum lot size should be for a residence in Bennington Township without central sewer and water?

No comments were made for other.

Question #18: What do you feel the minimum lot size should be for a residence in Bennington Township with central sewer and water?

1. Should not have central water and sewer.
2. Do not want central sewer and water.

<u>Question #21:</u> Bennington Township needs more of which of the following types of housing.

1. No need for more housing.
2. No more building.
3. A few single-family homes on more than five acres without a development.
4. Please avoid tracts of closely spaced housing and try to maintain an agricultural base.
5. No more double-wides, we don't need them.

<u>Question #23:</u> Check the major reasons that you enjoy living in Bennington Township.

1. No city bureaucrats and no forced water and sewer.
2. Country living.
3. Wildlife.

<u>Question #24:</u> What do you feel are the negative aspects of living in Bennington Township?

1. Trashing all the ditches – cans, paper, garbage, etc. Put up signs pertaining to fines for littering.
2. New Homes being built.
3. Pretty well satisfied.
4. Starting to build new houses.
5. Uncontrolled housing development.
6. The roads, Bennington Township doesn't maintain Shipley Rd. at all. For all the housing on it, it should be paved with blacktop and maintained for all the tax money people pay.
7. Some rough areas/ undeveloped land.
8. Being downwind from egg farms – not nearly as bad in SE part of township as NW section was.
9. Too much building going on; no noise ordinances – barking dogs, etc. Do not mend agricultural noises – don't like neighbor noises.
10. There are few negatives, however speed is one. Most people drive way too fast for the country roads were we live making it dangerous to walk or allow children to ride bikes.
11. Roads need paved badly.
12. There are no housing type regulations – single and double-wides should not be allowed. Some people have unkempt yards that look like a junkyard. Beetles and flies from the egg farm.
13. 15 minute drive to Johnstown.
14. Trustees not representing residents except themselves.
15. Lack of public water system. Riley Rd. needs to be repaved – heavy morning and evening traffic.
16. Posted speed limits are excessive given the nature of the roads and recent residential development. In Appleton it is only a matter of time before a child or children (perhaps yours or mine) are killed or seriously injured.
17. Appleton is a mess.
18. Don't like the nearby abandoned houses.

19. Worst roads in the county, we have mud and that is unacceptable.
20. Egg farm's poor management.
21. The uncertainty of land development. The egg farm should be closed and we should remove all possibility of a mega-farm here. They are blight to the land and the community.
22. High rate of speed on country roads and loss of farmland.
23. 62 traffic/congestion.
24. Gravel roads and deep ditches too close to roads.
25. Chicken Farms.
26. Dutch Cross Rd. needs paved, the road never holds up long.
27. Gravel roads heavily traveled-speed-dust and dirt on house.
28. Back Roads need improvement; holes repaired.
29. 20 miles to major stores, shopping, hospitals.
30. Better roads.
31. Agricultural odor and flies.
32. Kids destroying mailboxes and street signs.
33. Opportunities for additional taxpayer dollars for schools.
34. Meetings are at night – work second shift and cannot attend.
35. Property costs, taxes and too many people moving out here.
36. Flies and muddy roads.
37. Too many people building houses.
38. Taxes.
39. Too Close to Egg Farm.
40. Too many new houses.
41. Buckeye Egg Farm.**
42. A neighbor who is letting several houses just sit here uninhabited, deteriorating, and won't do anything about it. Won't rent or sell.
43. Condition of roads.
44. Code enforcement for rundown property.
45. Always a long way to travel for everything.
46. No township police.
47. Road maintenance.
48. Its beginning to grow in population too fast.
49. Living on the border of the twp. Seems to get little consideration as far as lodging complaints. I've been trying to get rid on a junkyard on this road (Riley Rd.) for 3 years without results.
50. The allowance of eyesores in and around Appleton.
51. High homeowners insurance due to volunteer fire department – no fire within 5 miles – too many trailers.
52. Fire should be under Johnstown in our area as our street divides the current two and Johnstown fire is closer to us.
53. Speeding – lack of police monitoring cars, junk cars.
54. Road conditions.
55. Many locals want to stay the same. Change is inevitable. I found this out when we lost federal money for our schools (keeping the grade schools hurt the area) because of this you will have a hard time selling a truly good comp plan.
56. Isolation.
57. Quicker snow removal.
58. Need more highways.
59. Too many junk cars.

60. Allowing multiple housing additions to be built without proper water, sewer, and streets.
61. Roads in disrepair.
62. Higher cost of living – heat, taxes, school tax (income) and distance to Columbus.
63. Not enough snow removal. Plowing driveways. Electric is not as reliable as it should be.
64. Semi-trucks from local businesses use Bennington Chapel as a cut road to 661 and they drive too fast.
65. While living on US 62 the amount of traffic has increased tremendously over the years.
66. Distance to good hardware store.
67. People who belong in Hilliard-Upper Arlington moving here and expecting things to be like there.
68. I'm afraid taxes are going to get out of hand.
69. Speed limit signs posted – caution children signs – people drive too fast on Appleton Rd.
70. Long drive to Columbus.
71. Too many squatters moving in, getting too many barking dogs, people driving like a bat out of hell while kids are out playing/going to school.
72. Zoning house and lot size.
73. Flies from farms that may be too large. I knew this when I built here and am not complaining about my neighbors!
74. Too much residential development – need green areas and space. We choose to live here because its country, but little villages are being built on every road in the township.
75. Road maintenance and no natural gas hookups.
76. Some bad roads.
77. The growth rate.
78. Snow removal on rural roads is inadequate.
79. No major problems, just congestion on 62 and that is expected.
80. Poor township road maintenance.
81. Some properties are no kept up well and are trashy. I don't like mobile homes.

Question #25: What areas/services would you like to see more of your tax money spent providing?

1. Fire, Police.
2. Maintaining our roads and posting speed limits and enforcing them.
3. Roads and drainage.
4. Snow removal, ditches, and road repair.
5. Permanent road repair, drainage. Quit putting tar & chip on in late spring, summer then scraping it off in the wintertime and doing it again the next year.
6. Business areas.
7. Please try to just maintain, no new taxes.
8. On the country roads and ditches. In the warm months my wife and I cruise a lot on our motorcycle and usually find ourselves on Jersey Township roads because of the well maintained surfaces.
9. Keeping up the roads and providing a public park and play area for the children.

10. Fix Shipley Rd.
11. Road maintenance –large potholes and very little gravel on the roads.
12. Pave, or tar and chip all gravel roads.
13. The minor and smaller roads need work – ditches and pavement.
14. Snow removal and better roads where needed.
15. Road maintenance and natural gas hookups.
16. Road improvements.****
17. Highways.
18. More watchful of rising crime.
19. Public transportation.
20. Better maintenance of roads.
21. Drainage.
22. Police service, land acquisition, and school improvement.
23. Roads – safety factors and conditions, also schools and speed limits.
24. Poorly maintained paved roads and many gravel roads.
25. Trustees and roadman are doing a very good job and have no complaints.
26. Township police.
27. Road repair and maintenance.
28. Improvement of township roads.
29. Better snow removal.**
30. Road maintenance.
31. Mowing the ditches and draining the water off the roadways.
32. Fire/Police/Ambulance – things are fine.
33. Wider roads as it is too close to pass on.
34. Better roads and snow removal.
35. Paved roads.*
36. Roads.****
37. Better roads, township and SR 657.
38. Support for local/family farms.
39. Roads and schools.
40. Utilities, sewer and water.
41. Repairing roads – building to house road equipment.
42. Roads and mowing.
43. Better road maintenance.
44. Keeping roads in good repair.
45. Continue to support strong schools. Road maintenance and traffic planning especially on 62.
46. Fire Dept. and roadways.
47. Police fire and 911.
48. Road repair – snow removal and mosquito spraying.
49. Servicing roads and widening to better accommodate semis or extra wide loads.
50. Fixing the holes at the corner of Harmony Church Rd. and Cooper.
51. Cheaper electric and gas.
52. Pizza delivery.
53. Speed limit signs.

54. Road surfacing.
55. Good roads and bridges.
56. Better roads.****
57. Roads kept up.
58. Road berms should be maintained better to avoid drop offs at edge of pavement.
59. Roads, not just certain roads that wheat and corn farm trucks use, the second half of Shipley Rd. is a disgrace. They redo the east half of Shipley Rd. and we get some gravel and tar, the township says it would cost to much to redo the road (false).
60. Road maintenance and schools.
61. Roads, better drainage along creeks and other ways to prevent flooding of roads and property.
62. No Doctor.
63. Chip and tar and don't tear it up in the spring.
64. Keep the dirt roads, no salt in the winter.
65. Pot holes.
66. Zoning and policing of zoning laws.
67. Recreation.
68. Social events – fund raisers/charity events.
69. More work on the roads; more emphasis on cleaning the roads in the winter.
70. Fire/ Emergency.
71. The township should maintain roads, bridges, drainage ditches, etc. They should not be looking for more ways to spend our tax dollars.
72. Schools, parks, and purchase of wetlands and woodlands for conservation.
73. Fire and emergency.
74. More efficient use of tax dollars maintaining roads.
75. Road repair, not widening, just repair.
76. Road service.
77. Drainage for flooding problems.
78. Maintaining good schools and a library.
79. Water treatment and sewerage, also parks and open space.
80. Natural Gas.

Question #28: Which of the following methods of encouraging business and industry do you support?

1. Keep neat.
2. Industrial should be away from housing.
3. I support no business or industry in residential areas.
4. None in this township.
5. Farming and agricultural business.
6. Do not encourage business and industry to move to Bennington Township.****
7. Aggressive marketing of the area (location, quality of workforce, etc.) strongly opposed to a, c, and d.

8. The township should not be involved in encouraging business.
9. Keep it rural – no industry – only farming and rural living.
10. Head hunting specific interest or Co. investing in area such as motor sports facility that would bring outside monies to the local economy.
11. Encourage home occupations or agriculture. We would rather not encourage any increase in business.
12. Needs to remain agricultural.
13. Small family operated business only.
14. I want the area to be mainly agricultural and residential.
15. We do not want industry or business here; leave the area for farming and homes only.*

<u>Question #29:</u> Please rank the following categories where you would like to see the Township devote more resources during the next five years (1 being the most important):

1. Clean up of roads.
2. Enforce twp. Zoning laws.
3. Land acquisition by township.
4. Spend the next five years developing a township, critically developed, comprehensive plan (your not ready for the rest).
5. Take care of what we have.
6. Natural gas service.
7. Lower speed limits on county roads.
8. Improve cemetery maintenance.
9. Oust Buckeye Egg.
10. Improve schools.*
11. Fix the roads, all of them.
12. Careful planning for growth.
13. More commercial zoning.
14. Rid Buckeye Egg Farm.
15. Work on keeping the township country.
16. Ditches for drainage issues.

<u>Question #31:</u> With respect to your priority in question 29, how would you provide such services in the township?

1. Have packages of regulations available to give to prospective small businessmen interested in start-up business.
2. Aggressive enforcement of existing laws and ordinances – the egg farm is the greatest single barrier to increasing the value of both economic and quality of life of Bennington Township and adjacent areas.
3. My taxes are ridiculous already – quite wasting what you already take! Stop wasting our money elsewhere – use taxes on the property the money comes from and pave the roads!
4. Hire and expert after you spend a lot of time finding the best. Money well spent (to develop a comprehensive plan).
5. Mutual aid of volunteer service.

6. It is very simple to prioritize what is important to the township trustees.
7. Give preferential treatment to those who preserve wildlife habitat or who donate land to be kept as green space. Give farmers preferential treatment to encourage not selling land for development.
8. Repave some of the roads – continue the excellent snow removal the township currently provides.
9. Our county taxes should already provide for better police protection.
10. Use the tax money that was passed for road maintenance used on the roads, all of them not just the ones the trustees live on.
11. Budget money appropriately.
12. This actually would not need a tax incentive but to keep those agricultural businesses and help them with the problems of EPA and other groups place on with restrictions and permits, etc.
13. There are already enough taxes taken for services.
14. I don't know I am not a farmer.
15. Take a survey of other similar townships that have these services and see how they did it and find out best and worst from them on the whole process. Also could pursue grants, levies, fund-raisers, etc.
16. Create a committee to search for and attract agricultural typs business (not chicken farms).
17. Open more areas up with commercial zoning.
18. You need better equipment and vehicles to transport emergencies.
19. The only parts of question 29 the township should be concerned with are road maintenance, and emergency services. Therefore your current resources are adequate.
20. Protect wetlands, farmlands, woodlands, and acquire land for a park and an elementary.
21. Most of our tax money should not go to schools.
22. I would increase my property tax to help farmers buy more ground.
23. Devote more current money to roads.
24. Funding for more and better updated equipment – more training and more personnel.
25. Government loans and hookup fees (for water, sewer)
26. Greater funds dedicated to roads.
27. Parks and utilities by user fees and police and fire by a one-time fee imposed on all new construction to go to buildings and equipment.
28. Blacktop Township roads.
29. Pave and gravel and tar instead of just gravel, and more gravel, and more gravel.
30. Consult a professional in maintenance and service of roads.
31. Restrict housing development.
32. Use current tax dollars.
33. Pave instead of gravel
34. Fire/police station with full-time employees.
35. Paid daytime department (police & fire)
36. Funds now going to our fire and emergency would go to Johnstown.

37. Through our trustees, zoning, and planning commission.
38. Better use of tax money.
39. Team up with local small communities and other townships to provide police services. County Sheriff's Departments are way under-manned.
40. Taxes.*
41. Bonds.*
42. Keep out the developers.
43. Less development means less service, which in turn leads to less taxes.
44. Increased housing which would increase the tax base.
45. Property tax, license fee (auto) should be used for roads.
46. Same as now.
47. Pave or asphalt roads properly.
48. Support the farmers.
49. You are the experts.
50. Repair and widen roads.
51. Take tax money approved and get private businesses to provide road care.
52. Marketing (business development).
53. Prioritize existing funds.
54. Larger percentage of property taxes to police and fire services to improve them and to reduce school taxes.
55. Designate industrial and office areas and ensure good access to major arterials.
56. Fix holes.
57. Make utilities available to all citizens in the township – taxes – fair rate settings.
58. Provide tax money for emergency services.
59. Do a cost analysis and try to multi-accomplish some goals/ communication and execution.
60. Subcontract out maintenance & upgrades of roads to the most qualified company.
61. Prevent developers from buying farmland.
62. Have a staffed fire department.
63. Utilize current taxes paid.
64. Tax abatements (business of AG).
65. I would support a tax increase to maintain roads.
66. Establish a sewer and water district as Jefferson Twp. in Franklin County did.
67. Support the purchase of materials equipment and manpower (transportation).
68. Research utilities and report to all residents if it would be financially feasible.

<u>Question #32:</u> In which newspaper are you most likely to read a public notice?

1. Advocate **********
2. Columbus Dispatch**********

3. Mount Vernon News**
4. Weekly flyer/shopper's mart *
5. US mail to each resident.
6. I don't buy papers – no funds to waste on papers!

<u>Question #35:</u> Do you feel it is necessary to plan for open space/ or public parks? Please include any additional comments.

1. We need places set aside for schools and parks, this should be top priority.
2. If people want zoning standards on grass height.
3. Plan for open space only, not parks.
4. Licking County has plenty of great parks and rec. facilities.
5. Some land needs to be held back and preserved.
6. This is most important to us, and why we moved here. We love country living.
7. If you keep agriculture you will have open space.
8. Not at this time, there is currently plenty of open space in the township.
9. Should listen to the property owners.
10. Rural environment already.
11. Long range plans.
12. This township needs responsible trustees, that don't only think of themselves and their business.
13. A plan is very important feature but it is only as effective as the people that enforce the plan. What usually happens is personal interests alter the plan.
14. Green space is important, but keeping agriculture important in the township will also help with this.
15. Most of the township should be open space.
16. Keep the farmland.
17. This shouldn't be needed unless population density increases dramatically.
18. It's cheaper now than it will be.
19. Should be adjacent to township buildings or a future township fire/EMS/police office with plenty of room for community gatherings and events.
20. Open space/public parks improve the morale of residents and value of property; children need a safe place to play.
21. As we lose farmland open space will be important.
22. More wild life sanctuaries.
23. Control too much residential growth by minimum lot size.
24. Especially true because of increased development, greater population density, and increased number of children.
25. Now is the time to identify and maintain open areas, parks, woods, and nature preserves.
26. As long as the township remains rural there is no need for open space or parks.
27. With consideration of agricultural areas, parks are a low priority.

28. Most land is owned by private owners and it is not feasible to buy land for parks.
29. We need to stop the collecting of junk cars and other stuff on private property because the people who have them now will die and leave a mess for someone else to clean up.

<u>Question #38:</u> With respect to question 37, what zoning changes would you suggest to fix those areas which are poorly managed?

1. Regulations that are already in place need to be enforced.
2. Full-time employee.
3. More incentive so that farms do not have to be put on the selling block.
4. Better definitions and districts.
5. How did they let a septic cleaning business build in the township?
6. More strict zoning regulations.
7. I only have knowledge of zoning regulation dealing with building a house.
8. More commercial and industrial land available.
9. Maintain no less than 3 acres for a residential. I would like to see 5 acres but would accept three.
10. Implement a strong, enforceable plan.
11. Less doublewides or just stop them from moving in at all. As a homeowner I hope to sell and get a good value eventually out of our home, doublewides don't help this.
12. Township residents should have adequate information in writing on just what are the zoning regulations, especially changes. A township committee of area residents who truly want to see improvements in the township be formed to act as the go between for the trustees and the residents.
13. Citations.
14. No mega farms or horrific semi-trailer traffic on Bennington AM to Midnight or at all.
15. We must stop random building all over the township. Tighten the zoning rules/laws. Zone the whole township in order to control housing locations/projects.
16. Enforce existing regulations. Many zoning regulations are overlooked if you have the right friends.
17. Commercial.*
18. Chicken farm problems alleviated.
19. Larger frontage and acreage requirements for residential, no commercial business wanted, promote more agricultural endeavors.
20. Zone for green space and wetland/farmland protection, zone to not allow any planned housing development, also need to protect woodlands.
21. Too late houses have been built.
22. Trustees need to listen to the people they represent.
23. Are the current regulations enforced?
24. All property owners should keep their property cleaned-up and free from junk and old cars. Some people are running used car and salvage yards

from their front yards. I'm not against people making an honest living but it is getting out of hand.

25. Watch the developers who come in and build subdivisions and make sure there is no groundwater draining onto farmland.
26. Restrict new housing development.
27. Managing animal waste better. Remove old structures that are in the process of falling down or have fallen down.
28. Do not let Buckeye Egg Farm expand and if possible close them.
29. A zoning commissioner who tends to his job. Meaning he gets back with you and fills out the papers.
30. I don't know what is already done that I would be putting my ok on.
31. Prohibit large animal operations – factory farms.
32. Restrict or discourage the sale of farmland to developers.
33. Salvage yards – no fences or disrepair of fences for blocking view.
34. 250 ft. of road frontage is good for five acres. 200 ft. of frontage is good for three acres.
35. Zoning changes for drainage from certain lots that retain water that has no place to go.
36. Minimum lot size of five acres.
37. We do not want to see over development of residential with all the problems.
38. No more houses built on less than five acres.
39. Good zoning regulation, comprehensive plan and good thoroughfare plan.

<u>Question #39:</u> Bennington Township is facing a decline in the number of large acre lots; do you support the Township in maintaining its rural atmosphere? If so, how?

1. Planning each housing development with a committee.
2. Increase road frontage requirement to prevent 'bowling alley' lots.
3. People move to the country to get away from housing projects. I'm against large development.
4. No subdivisions at all.
5. Smaller houses.
6. Protect creeks and wooded areas.
7. No new neighborhoods.
8. Because developers will always manage to stick the township with an item that the township taxes will have to fix.
9. Not unless family members (only).
10. Limit acreage for housing – must have 5 acres to build a residence.

<u>Question #42:</u> Are there any types of commercial development that you would like to see in Bennington Township?

1. Light manufacturing – warehousing.
2. Not kennels.
3. Small commercial areas, ie garages, plumbers, small office/warehouse.
4. A motor sports facility or similar attraction.

5. We moved here to be away from all that crap.
6. Agriculture.
7. Industrial Parks.

<u>Question #43:</u> Are there any types of business or industrial development you would like to see in Bennington Township?

1. Good tax base.
2. We already have peace and quite. Please protect that wonderful feature.
3. SBC a very good neighbor.
4. Home based business.

<u>Question #46:</u> How would the following development changes affect you?

1. Conservation Subdivision (positive).
2. Larger lot size in agricultural area (positive).
3. Farmland Preservation (positive).

<u>Question #47:</u> Are you aware of any historical sites in Bennington Township that you would like to see preserved?

1. All cemeteries and old school sites – Appleton Grange.
2. Bennington Township house, and the ? Family cemetery on Bennington Chapel Rd.
3. Hall Rd. cemetery.
4. Graveyard on Bennington Chapel between Douglas and Homer Roads.
5. Cemeteries.*
6. Some of Otto Smith's farm homes, example Van Fossen Rd. down from old school house.
7. Cemetery on the south side of Bennington Chapel east of 657 and east of bridge.
8. Farmhouse at 657 and Bennington Chapel Rd.
9. Lock Community Hall 1840.
10. Appleton School.
11. Make sure all the ones we do have are protected.
12. All of them if we have any.
13. Old schools and cemeteries.**
14. I would like to see the covered bridge on Dutch Cross Rd. rebuilt and maintained.
15. Some of the local homes that are being let go.
16. Old school on Van Fossen Rd.*
17. Lock Cemetery.
18. Iles Cemetery. *
19. Covered bridge and cemeteries.
20. My home and farm which was built in 1840 and is pictured on the 1875 map (Van Fossen Rd.).
21. Bridges.
22. Old graveyards and the mounds in Homer.
23. School in Appleton and old school site and steps on Drury Rd.

24. Not aware of any but there should be an inquiry into the Township history and importance of preserving such a site.
25. A very old large tree on Shipley rd. located on the Otto Smith farm – corner of Shipley and Van Fossen. Also any old school buildings.
26. I know of a tree that is about 300 or more years old. It is northwest of SR 657.
27. The church on Drury and Bennington Chapel Rd. and the Hatfield Dairy Farm.
28. Should preserve any that there are. Lets work on eco-tourism and small-town atmosphere – accentuate rural living.

Question # 49: How would you utilize zoning or other tools to meet the challenges of our changing township?

1. Protect the homeowner.
2. Develop a plan and follow it.
3. How about an informational newsletter quarterly or bi-annually to the residents of Bennington Township to let us know who our Trustees are and the function of the trustees and possibly what each roles are. Then maybe the residents may have more impact or input into our community's rezoning.
4. Layout the whole township map and decide on locations where we will allow housing developments, commercial businesses, parks, etc. Then zone the whole township to prevent all this random building trashy looking. Creating the slums of tomorrow. Grandfather all business that are in place now.
5. Minimize subdivisions, large lot minimums.
6. Businesses as a necessity. Making living easier to this area. More recreation to enhance the style of living.
7. Limit or control resident growth. Very close scrutiny of any business commercial interests.
8. Use zoning regulations to limit abuses that will happen with growth. Keep residential lot sizes large enough to maintain rural atmosphere during future growth.
9. Build homes only – no doublewides. If new businesses move in they can be your tax base for road repairs, new equipment and such.
10. I would eliminate any new shoebox houses on postage stamp lots and forbid any subdivisions. The first 2 miles of Crouse Willison Road off of Route 62 is a prime example. The zoning laws should be clear on any mega farms buying into our community. If I could forbid anything that would be it.
11. When an area is zoned residential it should be kept that way. Any changes should be put before the voters. (You do remember the voters don't you?) As far as what kind of requirements placed on the property owners, they should be held to a minimum. There should be no industrial development within Bennington Township.
12. As stated over and over, keep more building out. Keep country atmosphere. Improve what we have in our schools, etc.

13. Limit any residence to 5 acres – No housing developments or apartment complexes. Cause the crime rate to go up and destroys the environment. Renters do not care because the property is not theirs.
14. Need to minimize and control housing. Allow for single family only and no planned communities by a developer. Only allow for housing that can be supported by well and septic without affecting current residents. Protect farmland, wetland, and woodland areas. Have regulations for type of housing single family only, no single or doublewides, no duplex, and no apartments.
15. Much stricter enforcement of existing laws and passage of laws to increase lot size to 5 acres.
16. I do all we can in support for agriculture. Say it on a full stomach.
17. Preserve rural setting. No more development. Better road maintenance.
18. Enforce building and codes more rigorously. Require permits and/or approval and inspection for any remodeling, modification, or improvement of existing structures.
19. Slow down the building process and try to keep as much land agricultural as possible.
20. Use the zoning to keep out large subdivisions.
21. Keep the area mainly rural, agricultural. No housing developments and limit new housing.
22. I was living in California in a time when massive housing tracts and strip malls were built. The developers were required to set aside areas for parks and schools. In some areas they were required to build the schools. If Bennington Township decides to go with large areas of tract homes, a policy similar should be considered.
23. Zoning should control Urban Sprawl. We should utilize MORPC and any other local, state, or federal office that has studies the impact of urban sprawl and prepare a plan that protects and/or enriches our community.
24. Echo – Balance and Caution.
25. Do not want the city in the country. Enjoy open space, privacy and no regulation that can hamper life style. Do no want housing developments. Want wildlife – not people.
26. Limit industry to state routes only. I would like to see poultry farms limited in size and swine extremely limited or disallowed.
27. Looser zoning laws permitting home based businesses. Setting aside an agreed area in the township encouraging business to locate in these areas.
28. You can't please everyone. Establishes zoning should be communicated and enforced. Our township could really grow tastefully, with forward thinking and proper planning. A clean, safe place to live is desirable. Priority planning for growth areas that positively affect revenues should be examined because it takes money to provide services and infrastructure.
29. Maintain the rural and agricultural atmosphere.
30. Zoning is an important aspect in today's government. If planning is done well our township should be able to keep its rural aspect with a strong agriculture base but welcome new owners into the community. I believe

that zoning and planning are the most important things to keeping the township on track.

31. Restrict developers; attach large financial penalties for new homes and subdivisions.
32. Look at the inconsistency of houses and their erratic placement of them.
33. Change lot size to a larger one. This would stop the 5-acre trailer trash that is farming in the area.
34. There are places where the businesses don't list but equipment is stored only to decrease property value and degrade property appearance. Certain businesses should only be allowed to operate outside of residential areas.
35. Planning-preserve the right of owner to develop and sell. Set high standards – no trash.
36. I would like to see business and industry in one spot like an industrial park.

<u>Question # 50:</u> Do you have other issues not presented herein that should be addressed?

37. I feel this township could be a good township to everyone who lives in it but the trustees must be fair with the tax money. For road repairs, clearing of snow and ice off the roads. I would suggest to the trustees of this township to fake a look at the other townships around Bennington and see how they are able to keep all of their roads maintained and paved and in general good roads. Perhaps you guys will learn something. The people of this township don't need to send more tax money to the current trustees. They just use it for a new grader they don't need or something that won't do the township any good. I would just like to see some responsible and trustworthy trustees. This has been a 12-year mess and debate so far. We know who you are Don Williams, Dean Runyon, and one more I don't know. Treat the taxpayers right for once. Equally.
38. Buckeye egg farm – ponds left with water standing collecting possible diseases also wetlands.
39. Make it harder for people to move in. Get better road maintenance people who know what they should be doing on equipment operation. Improve road repairs and drainage. Have a noise ordinance against barking dogs. I'm tired of having to keep my windows closed because of barking dogs. Heavy fine for people who can't control the animals.
40. As a comprehensive survey I don't understand what's going on with talk of central water and sewer. Sounds like the carts before the horse. I don't know what the present zoning law is but I feel it is wrong to allow property sold at 5 acre limits to one person and that person can split the 5 acres and so on. I should have the right to vote on such. I don't remember voting on such zoning.
41. The township employees like to block the roads with their trucks and take their time doing so called repairs all they do is make a big mess out of Dutch Cross Road.

42. I moved to be a farmer in an agricultural community. In 5 years I see our area changing with farms being split up and new housing being built. I liked it the way it was 5 years ago when I had a dirt road in front of my house and slow traffic. I think farms should be sold to people who will farm. We should encourage farm markets and services.
43. Effect of Buckeye Egg Farms on the quality of life: the effect on drinking water and the air we breathe the effect on property value especially if a house borders their land.
44. Thank you for your willingness to lead our community.
45. Front of our lot and neighbors lot flood bad when we get several inches of rain and it drains very slowly. It could take up to a week to drain off 3-5 inches of rain. It sometimes even floods the road.
46. Priority in speed on the country roads and safety of our children living on these roads. More bird and wildlife areas.
47. This survey is greatly appreciated. It helps relieve the frustration seemingly met having any control over events that can have highly negative affects on our quality of life.
48. Keep Bennington Township citizens informed of all meeting times and places where these issues will be discussed. Keep them open to the public.
49. We moved to this area because it wasn't highly populated, and we know many neighbors who are here for the same reason. Coming from a neighborhood in Delaware we have seen the many negative results from development (i.e. MI Homes, and Dominion Homes). Developers have no ties to the feel of a community. They just over sell homes. And don't' think of the backlash such as road over congestion, over population of schools, and decline in property value. It developing neighborhood is the reason behind this survey I strongly encourage that the people there involved take a ride to Delaware and talk to the people there and see how terrible it has been in that area. Drive around the neighborhoods and look at all the small homes for sale and foreclosed on. Then ask yourselves is this really what you want this beautiful land and area to look like.
50. I do not think that Hartford Township should be allowed to pollute otter creek, which then runs through Bennington Township.
51. Respect homeowner's property when doing roadwork. We lost about 6' of our already small front yard last year when road/ditches were re-graded. We now have a big drop off that can't be mowed and has to be trimmed by hand.
52. Destruction or rehab of abandoned houses. There are 4 within a 2-mile radius.
53. Junk cars, trash in general around the area needs to be cleaned up.
54. The (former) Village of Appleton desperately needs both a reduced speed limit (35 MPH max) and a 4-way stop. Houses are close to roadway, intersection of Appleton and Cooper Roads is blind and there are close to two small children living within close proximity of the intersection. That nothing has been done despite repeated appeals on the part of residents is unconscious able. Whatever public entity is responsible is not merely un-

responsible to the needs of residents but displays an utter disregard for human life. Please talk to the powers that be and convince them to do something before a childe is maimed or killed.

55. There is much litter – field with old equipment sitting and rusting – old fallen buildings, and junk cars are a problem.
56. Township trustees have their own little click, only representing their personal interests, not that of the taxpayers they represent. They have far too much power and it has bone to their heads. Townships should be better regulated by the county. Trustees should stay out of the "Big Brother' government mode and allow personal choice on matters like trash collection, rather than mandating. I would hope the results of this anonymous survey will be sent to all the township residents, otherwise it can be used as a phony tool to only backup the trustees personal agenda.
57. Snow removal in this township is the best that I have ever experienced. My road is better kept than State Route 62 during heavy snows.
58. How much do we pay – for roadside mowing? Why? This service is unnecessary – home and landowners should take care of the mowing themselves.
59. You should notify all residents of meetings and put all issues to a vote.
60. Bottom line – no more commercial or housing developments. We love country living.
61. I find this questionnaire troublesome; as it appears that the Bennington Township Trustees are headed in a direction that they ought not to go. The township needs to maintain the roads and cemeteries and such, but you have no need to expand. You may note that I did not answer questions 6 and 7 on page 1 because the township has no need to know that information. I have nothing to hide; it's just none of your business. As a township government you are simply caretakers of the township not overseers of a kingdom. Please realize that it is not your place to force your visions upon the property owners of Bennington Township.
62. I would love to see the farming community stay as it is. I also know a lot of farmers are selling out or have no one to pass it on to. When that happens tat is when zoning laws are crucial – The land should be kept in 5-10 acre packages to accommodate the growth. We should be using our community to feed ourselves and supporting the farmers both grain, garden and meat produce wise. A farm market would be highly successful I think. The organic farms on Van Fossen Road ship their products to Mt. Vernon or Newark bypassing their own community.
63. During Township Trustee election time the trustees should campaign more – be visible and visit the houses in their township so that new neighbors are aware of who they are being asked to vote for. The days of everyone knowing everyone are over and these people should be visible.
64. We have a relative that shares a driveway with two other people. They have had nothing but problems with the person who did the driveway. This person even put his driveway on our relative's property. He didn't ask for permission. He took about 300 square feet of their property. The reason

why he did this is because he didn't want to have to put a culvert in to go over a stream. There should be something in the zoning to prevent this whether it is in your zoning permit or something different.

65. Maybe, the township looking into investing in wind turbine electric production – seems to be windy quite a bit here. Seems like something worth looking into.
66. Possibly a recreation facility that will attract other parts of the central Ohio area. More golf courses.
67. Consider a moratorium on all building until we have a detailed plan/idea in place.
68. We are very satisfied with the way things are. However, we understand that nothing can stay the same and you are trying to prepare for future problems. We have trust in the Bennington Township Trustees in solving problems.
69. Keep semi trucks off Crouse Willison and Bennington Chapel Roads. Let them use Croton Pike and Route 657 to access Mega-farm and S.B.C. on Bennington Chapel.
70. I would not support giving any consideration at all to using our township to dump public garbage – That would ruin the quality of our water and our air.

Bennington Township Survey Government Section

Question # 3: For those items you rated less than good, do you have suggestions for improvement?

1. Change back to the other trash company, these idiots we have now threw my trashcan away.
2. Township government needs to inform people better. Too many people are drilling water wells. Snow removal – get the trustees to work more. Sheriff – need to hire more or get a township deputy, Road maintenance, mowing, same as snow removal. Hold AEP more accountable for interrupted electrical service. Trim/remove trees above lines.
3. Township government – New residents need to be informed who is involved, etc. Telephone service – Need cable service and more phone service selections.
4. I am just not aware of the services.
5. Post signs for "Children" and "Handicapped" etc. and limited speed such as 35 MPH.
6. We're willing to accept these for the pleasure of living in the country.
7. Print summary of township meeting in the newspaper. Develop H2O treatment and sewer facilities. Post speed limit signs on roads, which are highly populated with homes.
8. Reduced speed limits; more 4-way stops.
9. Pave Riley Road – It needs it. The longer it is just patched – the worse it becomes. Move more in the summer.
10. Check into feasibility of city water and sewer. Reduce speed limits on township roads. Why does our electric service go out every time it even looks like it may storm?

11. Speed limits should be posted along with children playing on Harmony Church Road at crest of our hill. Many young children live in this neighborhood.
12. Fine Sprint for poor service and maintenance – Our phone goes out at least once a month. Recycling services should be offered again.
13. Pave the roads and put in good ditches.
14. More road maintenance. Telephone and electric – offer alternatives (other companies, competition). Make recycling mandatory.
15. Most of the items checked poor are the result of bad management. Such as County Sheriff, Telephone, etc. So there is little that you can do about it. However, garbage service, which is not provided by the township, yet the collection company is determined by the Township and forced on the property owners is an infringement of our rights.
16. Outages of electric were severe but AEP has made several changes and it seems to be better at this time.
17. Keep community aware of Township/County business. I lived in two separate areas of the township for 3 years and am unaware of who township government officials are or even where township offices are. Maybe there are none? I feel I should at least know. I spent 2 years in St. Albans township and felt like we were informed of township business regularly without going to Tuesday meetings.
18. Maintain school systems in a positive way.
19. County Sheriff is just not visible enough. Telephone and electric service need money spent on them.
20. Keep improving.
21. For road safety we need some sped signs on some roads. Recycling – there is none. Glass, Plastic, and paper are recycled in some places I've visited and it works well but you would have go have a place to take it or someone to pick it up.
22. I don't know how to kick most of them in the butt and I know there is only so much time and so many dollars.
23. There is a curve on Bennington Chapel between Dutch Cross and Drury Roads. They installed a guardrail but there are no warning signs. There have been three serious accidents there in the past three years. Maintain berms better on all roads. As near as I can figure SPRINT Phone Co. just sucks.
24. The township has no real control over the quality of the schools. The road maintenance just needs to be re-evaluated on some roads. The highly populated ones are fine but the smaller roads need ditch work and some repair and are often overlooked. The fact that we have to pay an out of zone charge and over $40 dollars for strictly local service with no other options and Sprint just keeps adding more charges and cannot be controlled by the township.
25. Monthly road inspections by all three trustees, which would help with some of the problems before they became more serious.
26. An increase in information on what is happening regarding the area economically, elections, and candidate stances on issues, projected goals for the future and the game plan to achieve those goals.
27. Phone – would be beneficial to have high speed Internet. Garbage – inconsistent pick up days and times. Schools – for paying and extra 1% tax/year schools are still not superior. Recycling – not available with current garbage service.

28. Replace trustees – all of them. Road safety – fix the roads, all of them. County sheriff – poor response time, lots of vandalism. Road maintenance – fix them all, look at the other townships, they do it. Electric service – the electric should not be off as much as it is. Licking rural was a good company. AEP is CRAP, for an electric provider.
29. We need a recycling service. Our garbage service is very poor. Maybe we should look into a new contractor. Need better response from L.C.S.D.
30. Road maintenance needs to be better. There are too many potholes and not enough gravel on the roads.
31. More of our tax dollars need to go toward road maintenance and snow removal. Cooper Road rarely gets plowed in the winter. That makes it hard for us to get out and there are some new houses here that make a bad impression.
32. The roads we drive on are the only tangible item we get for our tax dollars. It's not difficult just grade the roads cut the ditch and gravel/tar and chip then soon as you can surface the roadway with asphalt. If the township trustees have any questions go drive on the Jersey Township roads. Also it is not very difficult to mow the weeds back it's a matter of priority.
33. More police on the road.
34. More phone services other than Sprint and more utilities other than AEP.
35. Provide curbside recycling, however I know this has a price tag. Phone – get rid of Sprint as a local server. You can never get ahold of them or get them out in a timely manner for service or get us cable for our computer and we wont' even use a home phone just our cell phones.
36. More employees/equipment for snow removal, road maintenance and mowing so it can be done more frequently. Change garbage companies. Fire and emergency are too far away.
37. Recycling service – provide bins in Croton, other two wiling to do nothing to deter growth.
38. Township wide police service shared with neighboring townships.
39. Deep ditches are dangerous, steep, blind hills are dangerous we do not see sheriff much around here, roads need patched or paved better, mowing is poor, high weeds at intersections are dangerous, too many electrical outages, do not use recycling services.
40. It takes too long to get a sheriff here, and they never patrol our roads.
41. Roads – county roads like Crouse Willison need center lines and better berms and require mail boxes to be set back farther from road. Electric service – improved repair service to prevent long spans of power outage (9 hours twice in last few years) and to prevent being the last area to restore (which has happened – electric co. realized that they had forgotten to restore a few houses on our road.
42. I think communication, and in fact this survey is a good place to start. Limited revenues and understanding the cause of the problem are understandable. Take one at a time; sometimes-small things can make a great difference.
43. Road safety: Seriously concerned about speeding semi-trucks. Road maintenance: more tar and chip instead of stone. Fire and emergency – cannot hear Homer siren.
44. Garbage service without recycling service…why? A contract we were forced to follow should have had an option for recycling. I now have to drive my recyclables all over the county. Some places take magazines and glass and some do not.

45. Post speed limits on SR 657 due to increased housing and school bus traffic.
46. The electric service has improved if it stays that way. We have contacted them many times and all we get is they're working on it. There is no recycling.
47. A different provider than AEP.
48. Improve and better maintain roads – offer more and better service. Better manage resources – utilize personnel better.
49. Speed zones. Lose power a lot. Not enough convenient.
50. Roads have no berms and many potholes. When repaired they are sometimes worse by making big humps. Recycling is not offered now and when it was it was too expensive. There are no local options for telephone.
51. Lower speed limits. Central school campus saves money on buses, and grade schools are dreary, not conducive to learning. When the school board refused the science teacher a Bunsen burner to do science experiments I took my children out of school and sent them to a private school. The people across the street moved to Granville.
52. Replace services or members of township government.
53. More control of speed limits on township roads and updating of electric lines.
54. Township roads don't get snow removal or salt to accommodate the people – need more mowing and spraying. We have no recycling service to speak of.
55. Better supervision.
56. They are probably doing as well as possible with the mowing. The have such a large county area to cover. I signed up for home recycling, but my home bin was always missed so I cancelled my service from the contracted trash haulers. The county sheriff has too large an area to cover with the population explosion in the county – without a tax increase directed to the police and fire I know of no solution.
57. Telephone: we have no options to switch to lower cost providers (sprint only). Would like more options. Snow removal – is fair to good on some roads, but virtually non-existent on Cooper Rd.
58. Mow ditches and cemeteries more often. Its not that bad and this year it was rainy. Road ditches do need to be mowed more often. It is dangerous and ugly to have tall grass and weeds to the shoulders.
59. The mowing could be done more than two times a year.
60. Road was tarred and chipped down the center, would prefer full width telephone service – a new company.
61. There is no recycling.
62. Snow should be removed within 24 hours. Septic systems struggle dealing with clay base soils. Most roads need resurfaced instead of patched. Every time it storms – the electric goes out for hours. That needs to be addressed more so than anything else.
63. Trash – possibly one or two times a year have a central location that residents could bring items to dump in dumpster that they would not normally put out for pickup. Some local villages have yearly cleanup day or week. Mowing could be done more often than twice per year if not too costly.
64. Sprint has been the worst Co. to work with. They have constantly messed up. I don't know if we could get another phone Co. out here but it would be great.
65. Road safety – lower speed limits. Sprint – too expensive – schools – too much wasted money, not monitored close enough.

Question # 4 – Concerning the Roads in Bennington Township, which issues do you believe need to be addressed (Comments)

1. We've been waiting 12 years for a paved Shipley Road.
2. Good so far.
3. Roads aren't bad, just the berms.
4. We have noticed that people do not stop at the Shipley and Van Fossen Road crossroads.
5. Roads and road maintenance are very good.
6. Adequate roads for rural area – maybe better signage for safety. Seems to be a lot of disregard at 4-way stop signs. I've witnessed way too many people blow through 4-ways without beginning to slow down.
7. Enforce speed limits.
8. Ditches for drainage issues. The mosquito population was awful this past year.
9. Do not blacktop Harmony Church - Roads are in excellent condition now.
10. Shipley Road is way too populated to have no posted speed limit. There are many residents that walk, jog, or bicycle with children and pets.
11. More stop signs specifically in Appleton.
12. Keep up the good work only suggestions. Clean the drains next to all roads filled with broken trees and debris.
13. Good for the most part. Some secondary roads need attention. 62 needs more posting – people think it's 65 MPH.
14. Do not pave.
15. Keep the 4-wheelers off and dirt bikes.
16. Mowing all intersections needs to be improved.
17. Planning for future major routes if an increase in development.
18. People move out here and think they can go 55, 65, or sometimes faster down these country roads. Should be no more than 35 miles per hour.
19. Lower speed limits. A lot of semis on roads.
20. Mowing ditches.
21. Planning.
22. Flashing light at Appleton and 62.
23. Water drainage along roads.
24. Lower speed limits on township and county roads.

Question # 5 – Which of the following do you feel are needed in the Township? (Comments)

1. One central elementary which combines Homer, Alexandria, and Croton – This would save bus costs, allow uniform teaching of academics and get rid of old rivalries that are senseless.
2. One elementary instead of three elementary schools.
3. Police department.
4. Day care center at old Bennington School.
5. Twp. playground/ parks and rec. facilities.
6. All of the above. Maybe needed depending on how developed this area becomes.
7. We have everything we need within the local towns/villages around us. Spend money on road improvement.
8. Improve what we have.
9. Pot holes on back roads.
10. Community newsletter.
11. Township complex.

12. Community center.
13. Fix the roads.

Question # 6 – Which of the following items would you support by an additional township tax? (Comments)

1. I would support a fire levy if it would improve the fire rating to drive down homeowners insurance.
2. You can fix roads without additional taxes. Spread the money around.
3. Already have good school district and paying taxes for it. What are the benefits of central water and sewer – most have significant dollars invested in well/septic – especially newer homes.
4. You already drain us dry – Stop wasting the money.
5. Do not want central water or sewer – it will create too much development.
6. Trash pickup.

Question # 7 – What improvements would you like to see made in your Township Government?

1. Do not know that much about it.
2. It's easy for people to second-guess people and I appreciate the townships efforts and work. I plan to get more involved, but I don't' know just yet how to go about it.
3. We need to know where and when there are meetings, who are the officers and their phone numbers. What are the jobs of the township government?
4. Trustees to let people know what is going on in the township.
5. More communication – coverage in Johnstown newspaper – maybe a website where minutes could be posted.
6. Become friendlier.
7. Plan expansion before its too late. Like Johnstown did.
8. Doing good job.
9. Road maintenance.
10. Favoritism within the township trustees, specifically with trustee in charge of roads.
11. Better road maintenance and supervision.
12. Notify us of more that goes on in the township.
13. Trustees actually doing something other than collecting a paycheck and insurance. They need to be doing more roadwork.
14. Keep personal agenda separate from the issue at hand.
15. More participation of residents – beginning with us.
16. Increase citizen awareness of what issues are brought before to trustee and action taken. Increase awareness of what township government is and how it operates.
17. Not to allow double wide or trailers.
18. Unopposed township trustees should more fairly represent residents. Too much of a good old boy click. Check road conditions in front of trustee homes and compare that to other township roads.
19. Water, and better roads.
20. A comprehensive plan that will keep Bennington Township primarily rural/agricultural with protected wetlands, woodlands, green spaces, and housing, zoning to have single family only without single and doublewides.

21. Need more responsible members. From this survey they obviously do not know any of the people who really live here.
22. More responsive to what the majority wants.
23. I would like to see the township government focus on the tasks that you already have. There is way too much government intrusion into our lives as it is. Part of the privilege of property ownership is that we decide what to do with our own land and houses. We do not need to have a township commission telling us when to mow our grass, what kind of trees to plant, or how large our homes should be. Plus every expansion our government has had has a cost in taxes.
24. A newsletter or information sheet once or twice a year to keep citizens informed, updated and then be receptive to comments.
25. I don't know much about it. Maybe community awareness.
26. Residential growth, recreation.
27. More visibility – send flyers to all residents about meeting dates and issues and place.
28. None that we know of at the present.
29. I don't know enough about our township government to comment on the subject – I know only two of the trustees – In the old days people running for trustee came to your home and you could meet them and ask them questions concerning what they would try to get done for the township.
30. Pretty happy with things. Would like to see a real township complex built.
31. A newsletter to all residents.
32. Get rid of the current trustees, the whole bunch. They fix the roads that they live on and screw everybody else. They fill some holes in the road and leave others not fixed.
33. Give zoning some real teeth.
34. Better maintenance of roads. More monitoring of items needing to be addressed, i.e. mowing, road repair, snow removal.
35. A plan/make the to do list.
36. More information to the residents.

Appendix II: Community Visioning Comments

Vision I: Describe how you picture Bennington Township in 20 years if current trends in the community continue.

1. Too much housing.
2. Increased population.
3. Loss of rural character.
4. Centralized water and sewer available.
5. Commercial businesses mixed with residential.
6. Higher taxes.
7. High crime rate due to lack of law enforcement.
8. Less agricultural land.
9. More friction between agricultural related residents and non-agricultural residents.
10. Increased traffic.
11. Unidentifiable area/districts.
12. Landowner has lack of control over property.

Vision II: Describe how you picture an ideal Bennington Township with no money concerns or limitations.

1. Leave it the way it is.
2. Land owners rights protected and property values protected.

Imagine the Future: What can we do to make the Bennington Township community the best that it can be in the coming years?

1. Farmlands still an important part of Bennington Township.
2. Improve schools.
3. Create affordable housing for young people.
4. Clean and clear waterways and streams.
5. Maintain and improve present rural and agricultural settings.
6. Improve transportation and roads.
7. Create parks.
8. Build more churches.
9. Add businesses and commercial property.
10. Make medical facilities more accessible.
11. Build a community center.
12. Improve water management and drainage management.
13. Increase law enforcement.
14. Protect Agriculture.
15. Maintain freedom and limit rules.
16. Protect the natural environment.
17. More open-minded leadership.