

# BLACKLICK-MADISON

## SECTION 4

## RECOMMENDATIONS

The *Recommendations* section includes:

- The community's vision for the future
- Goals to help achieve the vision
- Action items to reach each specific goal

*How they were developed:* We combined the data in the Current Conditions analysis with the results from our first public input meeting. Public meeting attendees told us what they want the community's future to look like. Over the next 10 to 20 years, the recommendations help achieve that future vision.

*How they are used:* Community members can use the recommendations to improve their neighborhoods. Government officials and others will use the recommendations when making decisions on land use proposals and capital improvements, all directed at realizing a unified community vision.

The recommendations are divided into three themes, *Planned Growth*, *Healthy Living* and *Travel Options*.

### **Planned Growth**, p. 59

These recommendations address future development and the community's desired identity. The recommended smart growth-oriented actions will help the community become an attractive and economically vibrant area with a strong sense of community pride.

### **Healthy Living**, p. 81

Recommendations in the *Healthy Living* chapter address housing, recreation, local foods and the environment. The actions help protect a sensitive environment, develop an accessible, well-maintained park and recreation system, and foster a community with a variety of housing types for all people.

### **Travel Options**, p. 89

These recommendations allow anyone regardless of physical ability or socioeconomic status to travel to, from and within the community. The goals and actions will allow people to travel safely and easily by foot, bicycle, transit and car.







# PLANNED GROWTH

## RECOMMENDATIONS

### VISION FOR PLANNED GROWTH

A range of uses that respects current areas, efficiently uses infrastructure and supports mixed-use areas

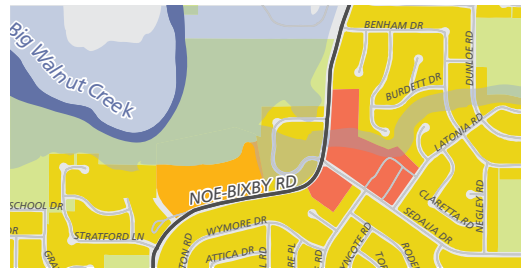
Appropriate development that maintains residential and rural character, and attractive commercial development that promotes lasting economic growth

Safe, well-maintained public spaces and an identity in residential and commercial areas that encourages residents to interact and builds pride in the community

#### **Achieve this vision by:**

- Following the Future Land Use map and supporting explanations
- Using land use regulations to maintain and encourage farming
- Establishing a community gathering space
- Adopting the Smart Growth Overlay for mixed-use commercial areas

The Future Land Use map shows the community's desired land uses for specific locations



### Goal A

#### **Maintain residential and rural character by ensuring appropriate development**

Appropriate development maintains residential and rural character, efficiently uses infrastructure and supports mixed-use areas.

##### Action 1

#### **Require compliance with the Future Land Use map**

The Future Land Use map shows the range of land uses the community would like to see in specific areas.

Franklin County Economic Development and Planning staff will refer to the Future Land Use map when any new development or redevelopment is proposed. A rezoning or variance for a property should only be granted when the proposed use is consistent with the Future Land Use map, land use category descriptions and associated explanations on pages 70–80.

##### Action 2

#### **Allow only appropriate home occupations in existing neighborhoods**

Home occupations help business owners by reducing expenses and benefit communities by encouraging small business development. Existing regulations allow two types of home occupations in residential areas: permitted use and conditional use home occupations.

*Permitted use* home occupations must occur within the business owner's home and allow just one non-resident employee. These home occupations do not change a neighborhood's appearance.

More intense *conditional use* home occupations allow up to three non-resident employees,

business activity in accessory buildings and commercial vehicle parking. Allowing large commercial vehicles to park in residential areas changes a neighborhood's appearance.

The Franklin County Board of Zoning Appeals should not approve conditional use home occupations proposing large commercial vehicles such as semi-trucks, dump trucks and tow-trucks. Only passenger vehicles designed to carry less than one ton should be approved with conditional use home occupation requests.

##### Action 3

#### **Facilitate the creation of neighborhood associations in Blacklick Estates and Qualstan East**

A neighborhood association is a group of residents and property owners who advocate for and organize activities in a neighborhood. A neighborhood association in Blacklick Estates and Qualstan East could provide a collective voice to address new development proposals, work with existing Block Watch groups and address any other issues concerning the neighborhoods.

Madison and Truro Townships should help residents set up a neighborhood association in Blacklick Estates and Qualstan East.

##### Action 4

#### **Require infill development to conform with neighborhood character**

Requiring new housing in existing neighborhoods to conform to the building sizes, setbacks and heights of nearby homes maintains neighborhood character.

Franklin County will ensure that projects built in existing neighborhoods with public funds or seeking approval from decision-making boards conform to neighborhood character. Franklin County can also provide information to builders on ways to conform privately funded projects to neighborhood character.



### Action 5

#### Develop regulations to preserve rural character

Preserving rural character will maintain the community's identity. Development proposals on agricultural land in southern Madison Township should preserve rural character.

Rural areas are defined by very low density housing, agricultural uses and natural areas. Methods to preserve rural character include grouping houses close together using cluster-style development, blending houses into the landscape with trees or hills in the background

and using shared driveways. More information on cluster-style development is provided below.

Franklin County will work closely with the Mid-Ohio Regional Planning Commission, Madison Township and property owners to develop criteria and regulations to preserve rural character.

### Action 6

#### Revise subdivision regulations to reduce conflicts between new residents and farmers

In rural areas, conflicts often arise between new residents and existing farmers over agricultural activities that result in unwelcome noises,

## CLUSTER-STYLE DEVELOPMENT

Cluster-style development preserves land and increases property values. Below is a comparison of conventional versus cluster-style development.

#### Pre-Development site (top image)

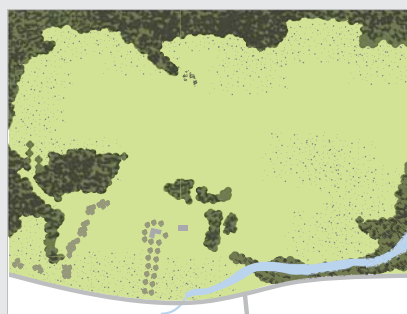
A site prior to development may contain large amounts of farmland and environmentally sensitive features. These areas can provide land for local food production, wildlife and aquatic species habitats and open space.

#### Conventional Development (center image)

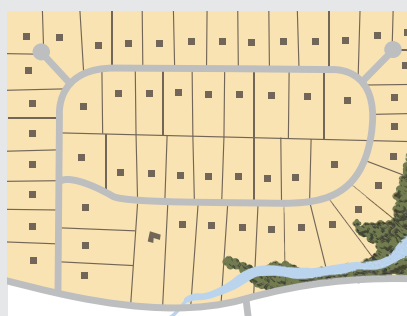
In a conventional development, land is divided into lots without considering farmland and environmental preservation. This practice results in losing farmland, wildlife habitats and open space.

#### Cluster-Style Development (bottom image)

In a cluster-style development, farmland and environmentally sensitive areas are set aside before land is divided into lots. Setting these areas aside before dividing the land preserves farmland, wildlife habitats and open space. Studies show homes in developments with protected open space sell for higher prices and better retain their value. Each lot is slightly smaller than in a conventional development, allowing the total number of lots to remain the same.



Pre-Development



Conventional Development



Cluster-Style Development

All images: landchoices.org

*Maintaining farmland will keep agriculture viable*

smells and dust. To limit conflicts, new residential subdivisions should be separated a minimum of 75 feet from existing agricultural uses.

In addition, new residential subdivision plats should contain a note warning future residents of such potential factors associated with living near agricultural uses. This will increase awareness of these issues and reduce conflicts between new residents and farmers.

Franklin County should revise subdivision regulations to require this buffer and plat note whenever a subdivision proposal is adjacent to agricultural land.

#### Action 7

##### **Encourage the preservation of agricultural barns**

Old agricultural barns are prominent landscape features in rural areas and play an integral role in defining rural character. In central Ohio and across the country the consolidation of family farms into larger farming operations has contributed to a loss of old agricultural barns and subsequently to a loss of rural character.

The Ohio Farm Bureau should encourage local farmers to preserve and restore old agricultural barns. The farm bureau can provide information on the economic benefits of using existing barns and the methods available to preserve and restore them.

Franklin County should require new residential subdivisions to incorporate existing agricultural barns into their design. These buildings can be used as a gathering space for subdivision residents or put to other beneficial uses. Preserving barns will help preserve rural character and add to the aesthetic value of the subdivision.



#### Goal B

##### **Keep agriculture viable by maintaining sufficient farmland**

Farmland protection activities preserve scenic views and rural character, benefit our environment and sustain the agricultural economy.

#### Action 8

##### **Revise zoning regulations to maintain and encourage farming**

Farming requires a sufficient amount of land area to remain viable. Current regulations encourage land divisions that reduce the land area available for farming and convert farmland to non-farm related uses.

Current regulations allow an original parcel to be divided from its 1966 configuration as follows:

- Four parcels, 2.5 acres each
- Any number of additional parcels, 5 acre minimum property size

The 5-acre minimum creates properties with large yards requiring extensive maintenance that are too small for farming purposes. This practice results in the loss of valuable farmland.

Regulations should be revised to protect farmland and ensure sufficient land area exists for farming. The regulation should allow an original parcel to be divided from its 1966 configuration as follows:

- Four parcels, 2.5 acres each
- Any number of additional parcels, 20 acre minimum property size

Franklin County should work closely with Madison Township and property owners to revise the zoning requirements in the Farmland Preservation overlay area shown on the Future

Land Use map to reflect this recommended minimum property size.

### Action 9

#### Support state-level land use regulation changes to allow the transfer of housing units

Allowing the number of houses permitted on one property to be transferred to another property preserves farmland and encourages development in appropriate areas.

The transfer of housing units benefits farmers, developers and the public by efficiently using land. The total number of homes built on two

properties remains the same but those homes are built on just one property, allowing farming to continue on the second property. More information on transfer of housing units is provided below.

State land use laws do not allow the transfer of housing units. Franklin County supports the Mid-Ohio Regional Planning Commission’s efforts to change these laws. If laws are changed, transferring housing units could help protect farmland in the Farmland Preservation Overlay. The housing units should be transferred to appropriate areas shown on the Future Land Use map.

## TRANSFER OF HOUSING UNITS

Transferring housing units helps to efficiently use land by moving development out of prime farmland and into areas appropriate for development.

### Example

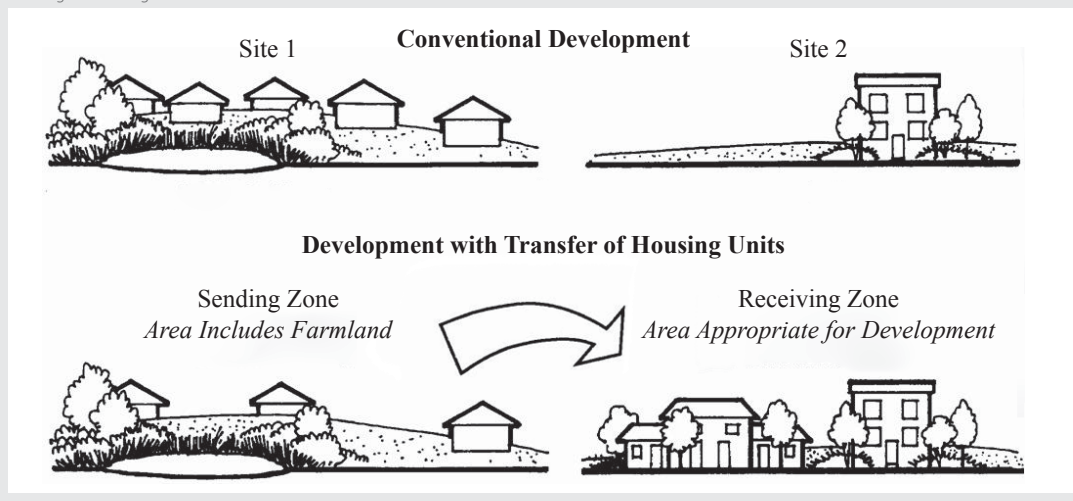
A farmer and a developer each own one property. Each owner could build five housing units. The developer wants to build more than the five homes permitted on her property. The farmer wants to continue farming and build no homes on his property. Transferring housing units allows the developer to build all 10 of the allowed units, but on just one property.

	CONVENTIONAL DEVELOPMENT	DEVELOPMENT WITH TRANSFER
Site 1	5	0
Site 2	5	10
Total	10	10

### Benefits

Farmers benefit financially by selling a permitted number of housing units while still maintaining the ability to farm, and developers benefit by building denser developments. Communities benefit by preserving open space, maintaining rural character and reducing demand for new infrastructure.

All images: hrwc.org



*Well-designed commercial development looks nice and attracts customers*

#### Action 10

##### **Encourage farmers to enroll in Ohio Department of Agriculture farmland preservation programs**

The Ohio Department of Agriculture administers three programs that preserve farmland.

Two programs permanently protect farmland from development by placing an easement on the land. The third program is a voluntary agreement by landowners to only conduct agriculture-related activities on their land for a 10-year period.

The easement programs compensate landowners for their property's development potential or make them eligible for tax deductions while allowing them to continue farming. The 10-year program gives landowners confidence that their area will remain agricultural for that period of time. More information on these programs is provided below.

The Mid-Ohio Regional Planning Commission and the Franklin Soil and Water Conservation District should encourage land owner enrollment in these programs and provide support through the application process.



#### Goal C

##### **Encourage attractive and economically viable commercial development**

New commercial development should have street presence and inviting design to attract and retain business and investment. This will provide a strong, sustainable tax base for Madison and Truro Townships.

#### Action 11

##### **Conduct a design plan for new development at the proposed U.S. Route 33 / Bixby Road interchange**

The proposed investment in the U.S. Route 33 / Bixby Road interchange will spur new development. To ensure attractive new development residents should have an opportunity to express their preferences for the appearance of this development.

Franklin County should conduct a design plan for the U.S. Route 33 / Bixby Road interchange to allow residents to voice their desires for

## OHIO DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE PROGRAMS

The Ohio Department of Agriculture administers three programs that aim to preserve farmland.

##### **Clean Ohio Agricultural Easement Purchase Program**

The easement purchase program is a competitive program with applications reviewed based on multiple factors including land productivity, development pressure and local planning efforts. The program preserves farmland while compensating landowners for the development value of their land.

##### **Ohio Agricultural Easement Donation Program**

The easement donation program allows landowners to donate easements to the state. The donation program yields tax benefits for landowners.

##### **Agricultural Security Area Program**

The program allows one or more landowners of at least 500 contiguous acres to enroll for a 10-year period. The program benefits owners by protecting the area from non-agricultural development and helps ensure sufficient land area remains to continue farming.

commercial development designs before it occurs.

### Action 12

#### Encourage mixed-use development near the proposed U.S. Route 33 / Bixby Road interchange

The proposed interchange will spur nearby economic development. A Cooperative Economic Development Agreement can further encourage development near the interchange by allowing for revenue sharing among jurisdictions. This

can pay for the installation of roads, water and sewer infrastructure. A CEDA can also encourage commercial mixed-use development as recommended on the Future Land Use map.

Madison Township should enter into a CEDA with Canal Winchester, Groveport or Columbus to encourage development near the proposed U.S. Route 33 / Bixby Road interchange.

## SMART GROWTH OVERLAY

The *Smart Growth Overlay* is a proposed change to the Franklin County Zoning Resolution to modify design standards. *Smart Growth Overlay* standards differ from the traditional suburban-style standards commonly used. The overlay makes development more attractive and accessible to pedestrians and motorists. These improved standards support economically successful commercial areas.

Below is an outline of the design standards.

#### Building setbacks

- Approximate 25-foot consistent front building setbacks along main roads
- Maximum side-yard setbacks

#### Accessibility

- Sidewalks, 5 feet wide
- Bicycle parking
- Main building entrances face main roads
- Walkways from sidewalk to entrances

#### Building design

- Buildings are oriented toward a main road
- Minimum building height of 16 feet
- Large buildings incorporate architectural features to break up façade

#### Landscaping

- Front yard is landscaped with shade trees
- Trees and landscaping planted in parking lots

#### Parking and vehicles

- Parking lots at side or rear of building
- Drive-thru windows facing side or rear
- Reduction in minimum required parking
- Screening parking lots with fence or shrubs

#### Signs

- Ground-mounted, monument-style signs
- Pedestrian-scale maximum sign height
- Oversized or numerous signs not permitted



Illustration of selected Smart Growth Overlay requirements



**Action 13****Adopt the Smart Growth Overlay for mixed-use commercial areas**

The Smart Growth Overlay encourages attractive, pedestrian-oriented design. See page 65 for more information.

Franklin County and the townships should work together to add overlay standards to zoning regulations.

The overlay standards should apply in the following commercial areas:

- Chatterton Road and Noe-Bixby Road
- Noe-Bixby Road and Sedalia Road
- Hamilton Road between Big Walnut Creek and Winchester Pike

**Action 14****Establish a façade improvement program**

A façade improvement program provides matching grants as incentives for business owners to reinvest in commercial areas. Attractive building façades support and encourage local business development.

Franklin County should establish a façade improvement program to encourage reinvestment in existing commercial areas.

**Action 15****Partner with the Southeast Franklin County Chamber of Commerce to support small businesses**

Small businesses employ more people in Franklin County than do big businesses, making them a critical component of a healthy local economy.

Franklin County partners with many groups to provide funding and technical, educational, and marketing support to small businesses. Franklin County should provide program information to the Southeast Franklin County Chamber of Commerce on the services available to businesses.

**Action 16****Encourage agricultural support businesses to locate near the community**

Farming and livestock production require support services to remain viable. Support services include food processors, seed and fertilizer providers, and veterinarians. Having these services located nearby helps keep agricultural production costs low and creates jobs.

Franklin County will work with the Mid-Ohio Regional Planning Commission, the Southeast Franklin County Chamber of Commerce, the Ohio Farm Bureau and farmers to identify the area's existing and lacking support services.

Once they are identified, Franklin County and partner agencies should provide funding and technical, educational and marketing support to encourage these businesses to expand or locate in the area.

**Goal D****Nurture a sense of place in neighborhoods and along commercial corridors**

Features such as gateway signs, street signs and decorative streetlights give neighborhoods a common visual identity, which builds pride and ownership within neighborhoods.

**Action 17****Install gateway signs in priority areas**

Consistent gateway signs build a visual identity and tell residents and visitors when they enter a community. The Franklin County Engineer's Office and Madison and Truro Townships should partner to install gateway signs.

Important gateways to the community include the following intersections:

- Chatterton Road and Noe-Bixby Road

*Gateway signs build pride and a sense of community*

- Noe-Bixby Road and Winchester Pike
- Hamilton Road and Harbor Boulevard
- Marwick Road and Winchester Pike

### Action 18

#### Install decorative, uniform street signs

Installing consistent, decorative street signs builds a community's visual identity. Priority areas for these signs include commercial areas and neighborhood streets with higher traffic volumes. Madison and Truro Townships should partner with the Franklin County Engineer's Office to install street signs. More information on street signs is provided below.

### Action 19

#### Install consistent streetlights in priority areas

Streetlights can improve public safety and build a community's visual identity. Madison and Truro Townships should partner with the Franklin County Engineer's Office and utility providers to install streetlights in priority areas such as commercial areas and residential neighborhoods. Streetlights should have an attractive, consistent design.

Since streetlights impose both up-front and long term costs, residents and township officials should agree on a funding plan prior to installing new streetlights.

## GATEWAYS AND STREET SIGNS

A township logo helps residents and visitors identify with the area and builds community identity. The logo design can be used on gateway signage, street signs and lamp posts.

Since the planning area covers portions of two townships, we developed two logo designs. One design is for Madison Township and the

other is for Truro Township's Qualstan East neighborhood.

Gateway signs welcome people to the community and foster pride among township residents.

Lamp posts and street signs with the community logo help orient people and builds a community-wide identity.

All images: Neighborhood Design Center



Proposed lamp posts



Proposed street signs



Proposed gateway signage

**Action 20****Incorporate the agreed-upon community identity design into new subdivision gateway signs**

New residential subdivision gateway signs should include the community identity design to build community identity. Requiring subdivision signs to include the community identity design will help new residents feel like part of the community.

Franklin County should require all new residential subdivisions to include the community identity design on gateway signs.



Luton (UK) Borough Council

*Public gathering spaces encourage interaction among residents*

**Goal E****Create public spaces that promote community pride and encourage residents to interact**

Interaction between residents builds a strong community, and creating public spaces encourages interaction.

*Well-kept homes support quality neighborhoods and maintain property values*

**Action 21****Establish a community gathering space in Blacklick Estates**

Blacklick Estates lacks an adequate gathering space for community events and activities. A community gathering space should include features accessible to all ages, provide sufficient open area for outdoor events and be located near residents.

Madison and Truro Townships and residents should identify possible gathering spaces in Blacklick Estates.

**Action 22****Consider a levy for community gathering spaces**

Public spaces require continued maintenance and funding, and a new public gathering space requires funding for construction. Property owners should consider a levy as an option to generate funding. If approved by voters, dedicated funds could be used for general maintenance, capital improvements or land acquisition.

**Action 23****Organize community events**

Community events such as concerts and fairs encourage interaction and use of community spaces.

Madison and Truro Townships should encourage a group of interested residents to organize community events and to oversee maintenance of the gathering space.

**Goal F****Maintain quality neighborhoods by improving the housing stock**

New development should complement the use, density, setback and scale of existing development. Existing development should be maintained and improved to retain property values and the quality of neighborhoods.

**Action 24****Facilitate home rehabilitation and compatible infill housing**

Well-maintained housing supports neighborhood stability. Building in existing neighborhoods uses land efficiently. Franklin County should direct financial assistance to vacant lots and homes in need of rehabilitation. This

will provide quality housing and maintain the neighborhood's character.

#### Action 25

##### **Identify vacant and abandoned properties for improvement**

Vacant and abandoned properties affect neighborhood appearance and reduce property values. Franklin County and the townships should work together to identify and prioritize these properties for improvement. Developing in existing neighborhoods increases property values, reduces development costs, and preserves farmland and open space.

Franklin County should make the locations of vacant and abandoned properties available to private developers and the Franklin County Treasurer's office. Developers can help revitalize neighborhoods by redeveloping these properties. The Treasurer's office can acquire properties with overdue taxes and help return them to productive uses.

#### Action 26

##### **Improve the appearance of rental homes and properties**

Rental housing is an affordable option for singles, young families and seniors. Affordable rental housing should be preserved and rehabilitated to appear consistent with the surrounding housing. The curb appeal of rental homes can be improved through landscaping and home improvements.

Franklin County, Madison and Truro Townships and local rental agencies should work together to target resources at improving the appearance of rental homes.

#### Action 27

##### **Consider enacting a residential property code**

A residential property code sets requirements for the upkeep of properties and ensures they are maintained. These properties affect the image of neighborhoods and reduce properties values.

Madison and Truro Townships, should consider adopting a residential property maintenance code to ensure properties are maintained.

#### Action 28

##### **Direct financial assistance to help low-income families perform home maintenance and resolve code violations**

Many property owners are unable to resolve zoning and building code violations due to limited financial resources. Franklin County should continue to fund programs that help home owners perform home maintenance and resolve violations.

## LAND USE CATEGORY DESCRIPTIONS



### Low Density Residential

Allowed land uses: Single-family homes

Density: Maximum of 0.4 units per acre, minimum 2.5 acre lot size



### Medium Density Residential

Allowed land uses: Single-family and two-family homes

Density: Minimum of 2 units per acre, maximum of 8 units per acre



### Office + Residential

Allowed land uses: Offices, single- and multi-unit housing. Uses may mix within the same building.

Density: For buildings without offices, minimum residential density of 4 units per acre. For all buildings, maximum residential density of 24 units per acre



### Commercial: Limited range + Multi-unit

Allowed land uses: Limited range of retail uses, mostly neighborhood-scale, plus offices and multi-unit housing and townhomes.

Density: Maximum residential density of 24 units per acre



### Commercial: Full range + Multi-unit

Allowed land uses: Full range of retail and office uses, plus multi-unit housing and townhomes.

Density: Maximum residential density of 24 units per acre



### Light Industrial + Office

Allowed land uses: Range of uses including office, industrial, storage and warehousing.



### Parks/Open Space

Intended for nature or recreation with minimal buildings.



### Farmland Preservation overlay

Farmland preservation is a high priority. The Farmland Preservation overlay identifies focus areas for preservation. The areas were selected based on soil productivity, enrollment in the Current Agricultural Use Value (CAUV) assessment, property size greater than 20 acres and connectivity to other land meeting this criteria.



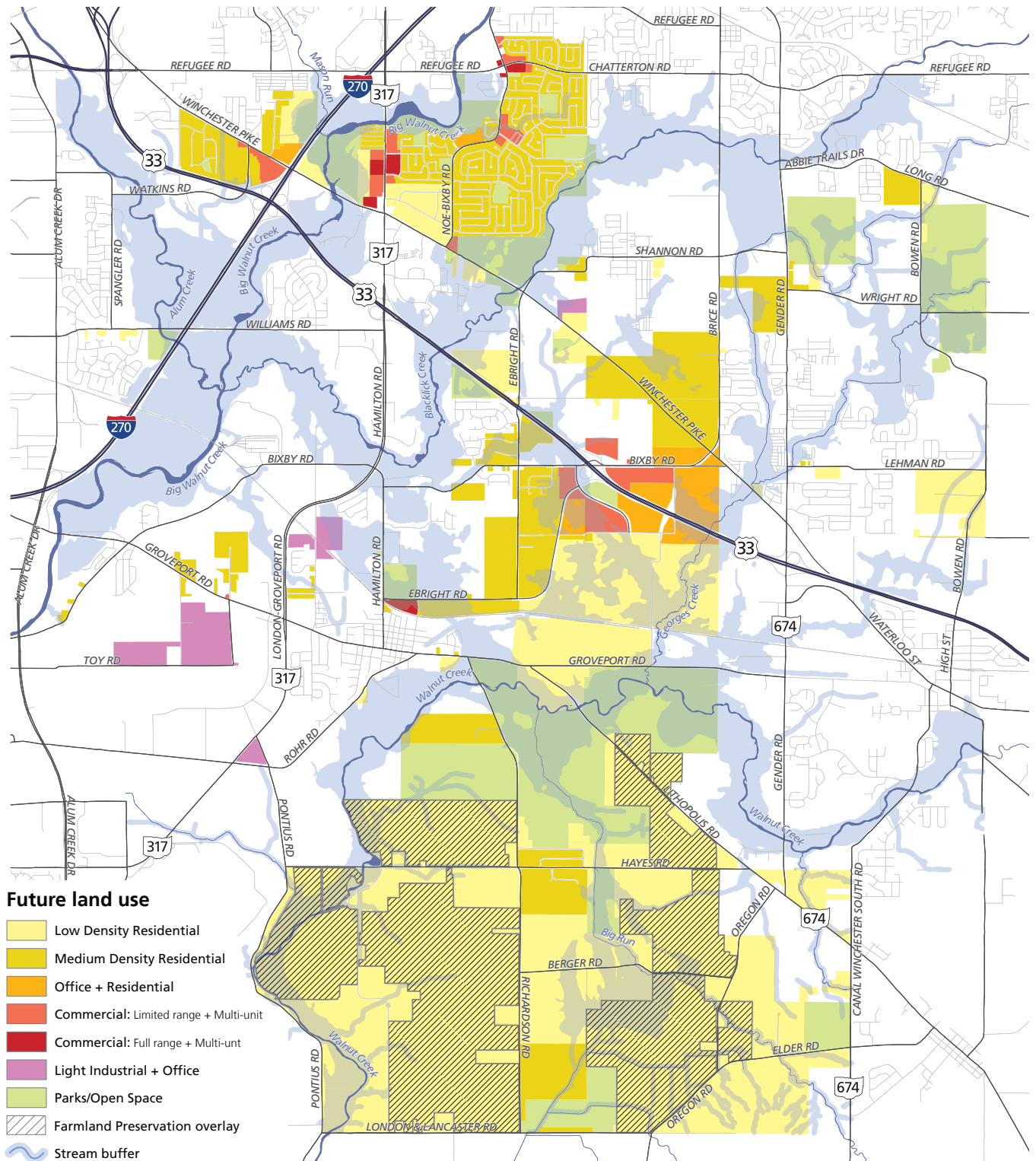
### Stream buffer

Environmentally-sensitive area that includes streamways and 100-year floodplain.

Preservation of the stream buffer area is critical to the health of waterways. Development is discouraged in the buffer area and any disturbances should be mitigated.



Use this map in conjunction with the Land Use Category Descriptions on the previous page and explanations on pages 72–80









## FUTURE LAND USE MAP

The map above shows anticipated road improvements in the vicinity of the proposed Bixby Road and U.S. Route 33 interchange

## CORRESPONDING ZONING DISTRICTS

Use this page in conjunction with the  
Land Use Category Descriptions on page 70

Land Use Category	Zoning Districts											
	Residential						Commercial				Industrial	
	R-24	R-12	R-8	R-4	R-2	Rural	CS	CC	NC	SO	LI	RI
 Low Density Residential						●						
 Medium Density Residential			●	●	●							
 Office + Residential	●	●	●	●						●		
 Commercial Limited range + Multi-unit	●								●	●		
 Commercial Full range + Multi-unit	●						●	●	●	●		
 Light Industrial + Office										●	●	●

● Any use listed in this zoning district is permitted in the land use category

### CORRESPONDING ZONING DISTRICTS TABLE

*What it is:* The Blacklick-Madison Area Plan's future land use categories are matched to existing zoning districts in the corresponding zoning district table.

The Future Land Use map shows the community's desired future land uses. The zoning district regulations govern which uses are permitted.

*Why we need it:* When evaluating a development proposal, public officials use the table to determine whether a development proposal's desired zoning district matches the Future Land Use map. Since the map represents the community's desires for the future, following the map ensures the community's wishes are followed.

### KEY TO ZONING DISTRICTS

#### Residential

R-24: Multifamily apartment  
R-12: Urban residential  
R-8: Restricted urban residential  
R-4: Suburban residential  
R-2: Limited suburban residential  
Rural: Rural

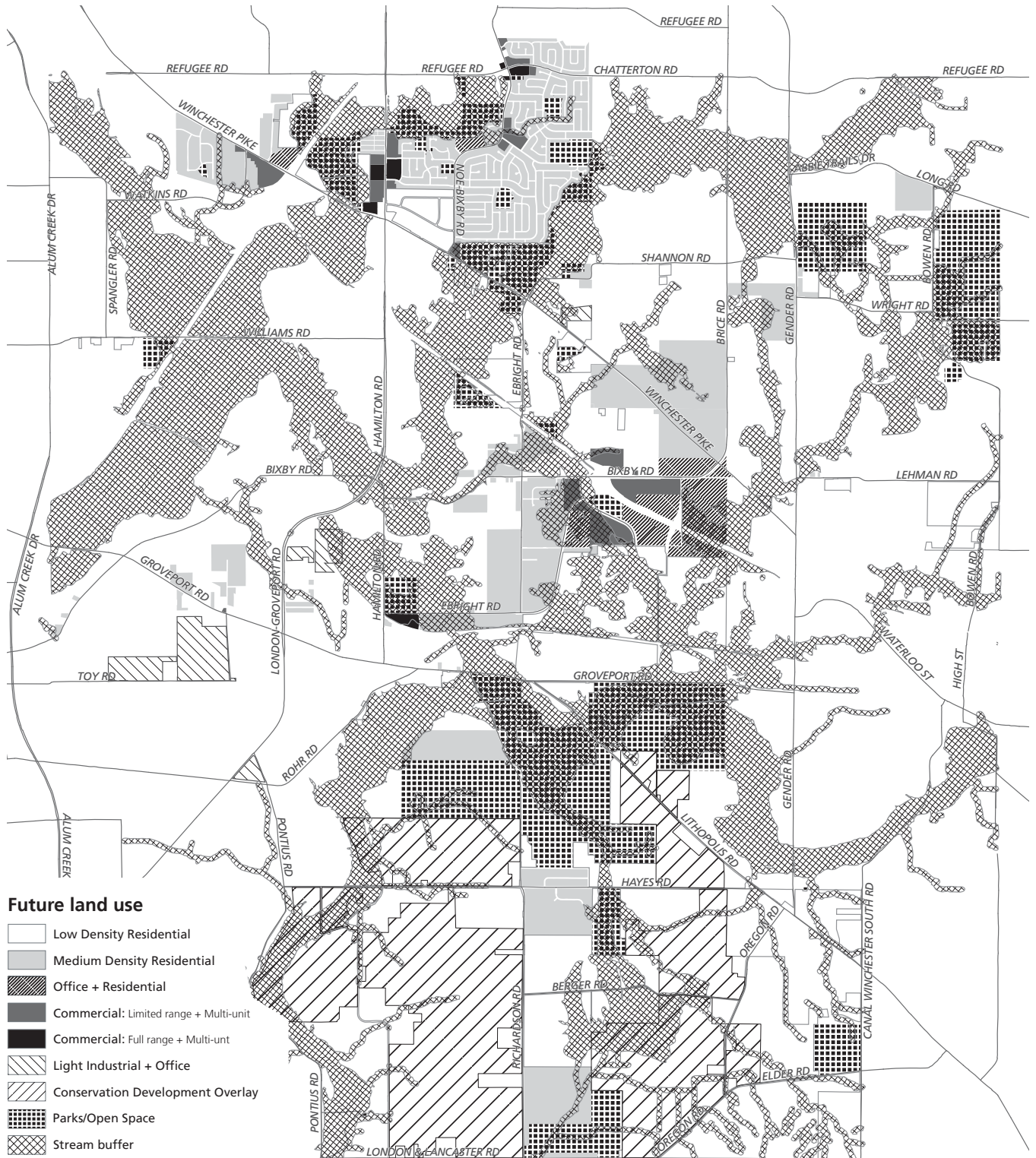
#### Commercial

CS: Community Service  
CC: Community Commercial  
NC: Neighborhood Commercial  
SO: Suburban Office

#### Industrial

LI: Limited Industrial  
RI: Restricted Industrial

Use this map in conjunction with the Land Use Category Descriptions on page 70 and explanations on pages 72–80

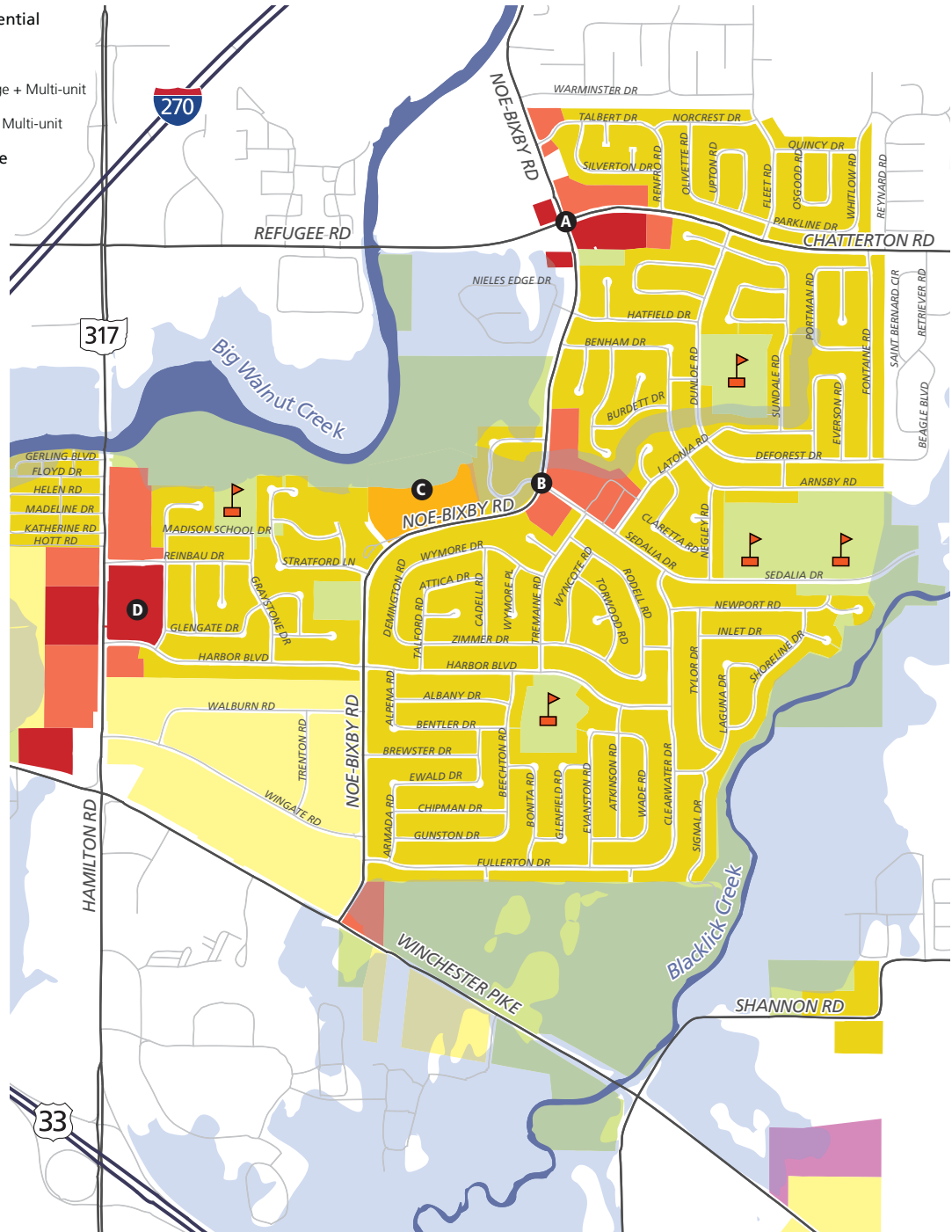


## FUTURE LAND USE MAP IN BLACK AND WHITE

The map above shows anticipated road improvements in the vicinity of the proposed Bixby Road and U.S. Route 33 interchange

## Future land use

- Low Density Residential
- Medium Density Residential
- Office + Residential
- Commercial: Limited range + Multi-unit
- Commercial: Full range + Multi-unit
- Light Industrial + Office
- Parks/Open Space
- Stream buffer
- Existing School



**BLACKLICK  
ESTATES**





## FUTURE LAND USE MAP EXPLANATIONS

The explanations below and on the following pages more fully explain appropriate uses and recommendations for building designs. These recommendations should be used with the Future Land Use map to ensure appropriate development.

### **A** Chatterton Road and Noe-Bixby Road Commercial

This intersection will continue to serve as a commercial activity center. Commercial redevelopment should include attractive façades and signage. Multi-unit residential development is permitted. Commercial and residential uses should mix within buildings.

Commercial uses at the intersection's northeast corner should be appropriately sized to protect the residential development to the north.

### **B** Noe-Bixby Road and Sedalia Drive Commercial

Commercial uses at the intersection will serve the everyday needs of neighborhood residents. Buildings should be appropriately sized to complement the neighborhood's character.

### **C** Noe-Bixby Road Office and Residential

Developing office and residential uses in this area will efficiently use land near existing road, water and sewer infrastructure. Developing near existing infrastructure reduces the cost of development and prevents sprawl into undeveloped areas.

### **D** Hamilton Road Commercial

Hamilton Road should serve as an attractive commercial corridor for Madison Township, complementing commercial development south of Winchester Pike. A wide range of commercial and residential uses will serve residents in Blacklick Estates, Edgewater Park and the surrounding area. Multi-unit residential uses exist nearby and should continue.

### **E** Groveport-Madison school sites

School sites no longer used for education should be converted to recreational facilities or community gathering places.



# BLACKLICK ESTATES

## BLACKLICK ESTATES

### BLACKLICK ESTATES

#### SITE DESIGN CONCEPTS

#### SITE DESCRIPTION

#### CURRENT CONDITION

##### Sedalia and Noe-Bixby Roads

The vacant land at Sedalia and Noe-Bixby Roads is an ideal location for an attractive commercial or retail use.



##### Walnut Knolls

The former apartments on Noe-Bixby Road could become offices or other commercial uses, or a new community center to bring neighbors together.



##### Refugee Center

This site design concept for the Refugee Shopping Center on Chatterton Road consolidates signage, reduces curb cuts and introduces landscaping.



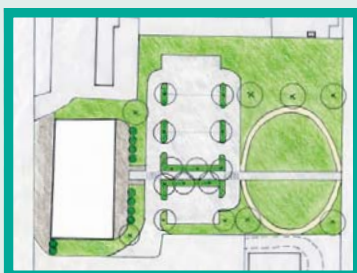
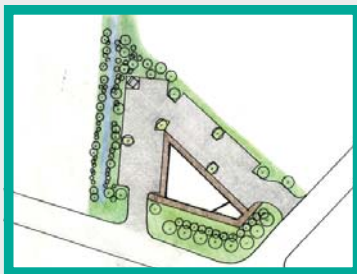
##### Hamilton Road

The vacant property near Hamilton Plaza is an ideal location for a new commercial development with space for retail.



Franklin County partnered with the Neighborhood Design Center to develop site design concepts for locations with development potential. Locations were chosen based on input from the first public meeting and stakeholder interviews. Better site designs improve the look of the community and help attract customers.

## POTENTIAL SITE LAYOUT



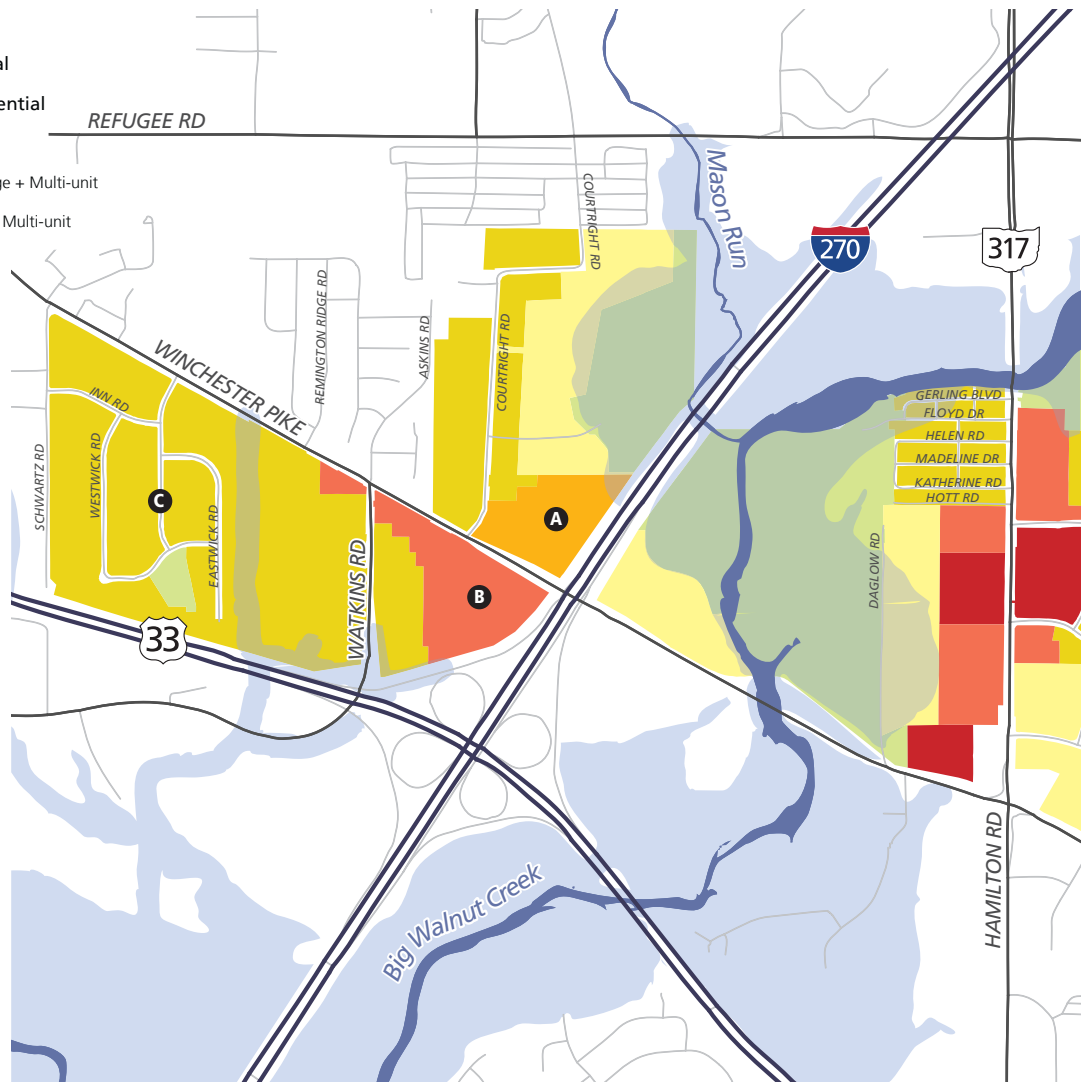
## POTENTIAL SITE PROFILE



All images: Neighborhood Design Center

### Future land use

- Low Density Residential
- Medium Density Residential
- Office + Residential
- Commercial: Limited range + Multi-unit
- Commercial: Full range + Multi-unit
- Parks/Open Space
- Stream buffer



## EDGEWATER PARK / MARWICK ESTATES

### **A** Winchester Pike Office and Residential

Development between Courtright Road and Interstate 270 should provide a buffer to the existing residential area.

Building height along Courtright Road should be limited to two stories to reduce visual impacts to nearby residents.

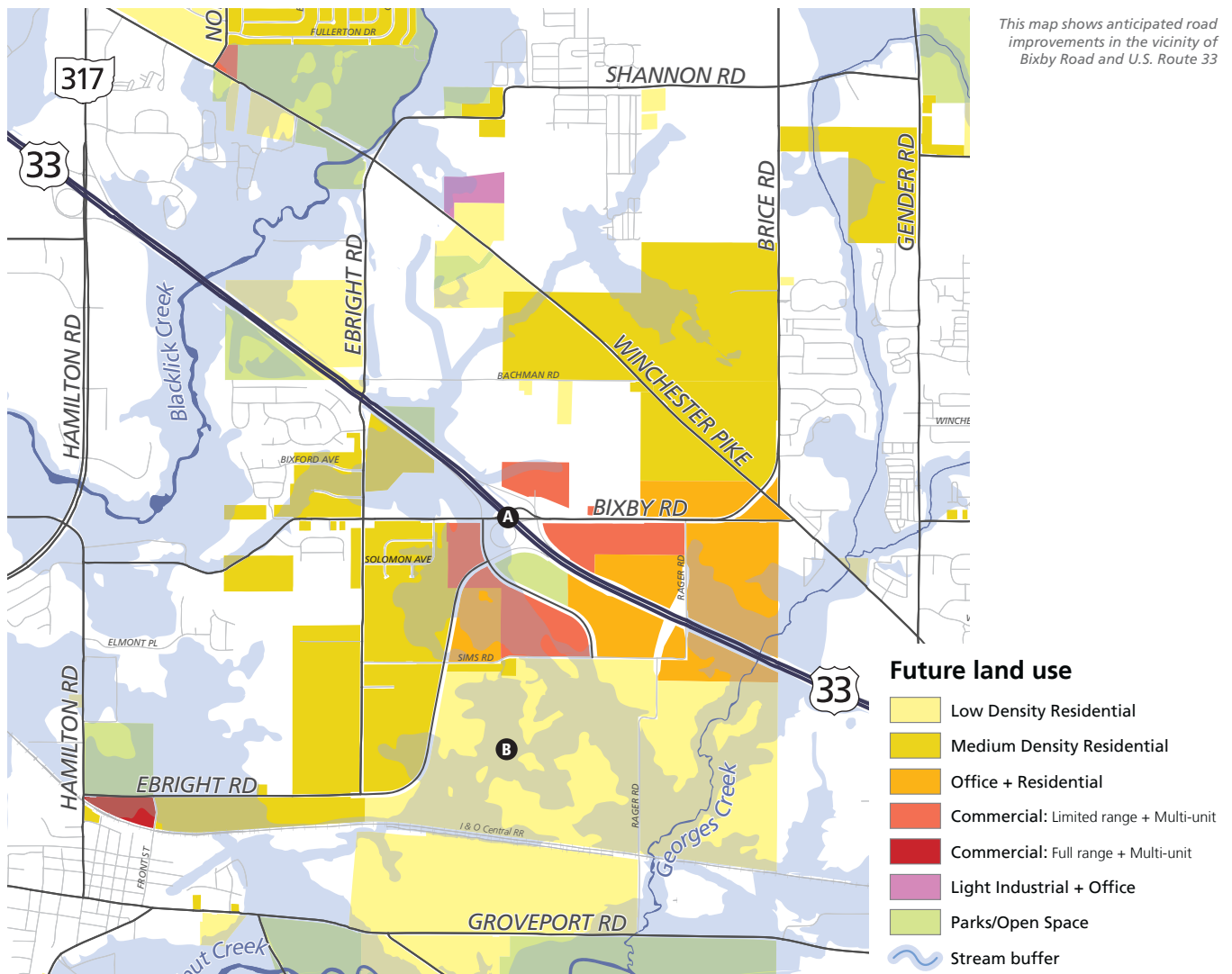
### **B** Winchester Pike Commercial

Commercial uses should provide services to meet the everyday needs of nearby residents. Buildings should be constructed close to Winchester Pike with building heights limited to two

stories. This will provide a buffer and reduce visual impacts to existing residential uses.

### **C** Existing Residential

Medium density residential development currently exists along Winchester Pike and along Hamilton Road. These residential uses should be maintained.



#### A U.S. Route 33 and Bixby Road

Recommendations assume the construction of the proposed interchange and adjacent road improvements. Concentrated development will efficiently use infrastructure and limit impacts to residential and agricultural uses. The recommendations near the interchange complement nearby Columbus land use plans to ensure compatible land uses.

A significant amount of flood-prone land exists near the proposed interchange. Development in this area should include innovative stormwater management techniques to prevent increased flooding to nearby residents. Buildings should

be designed to provide flood protection while limiting floodplain fill.

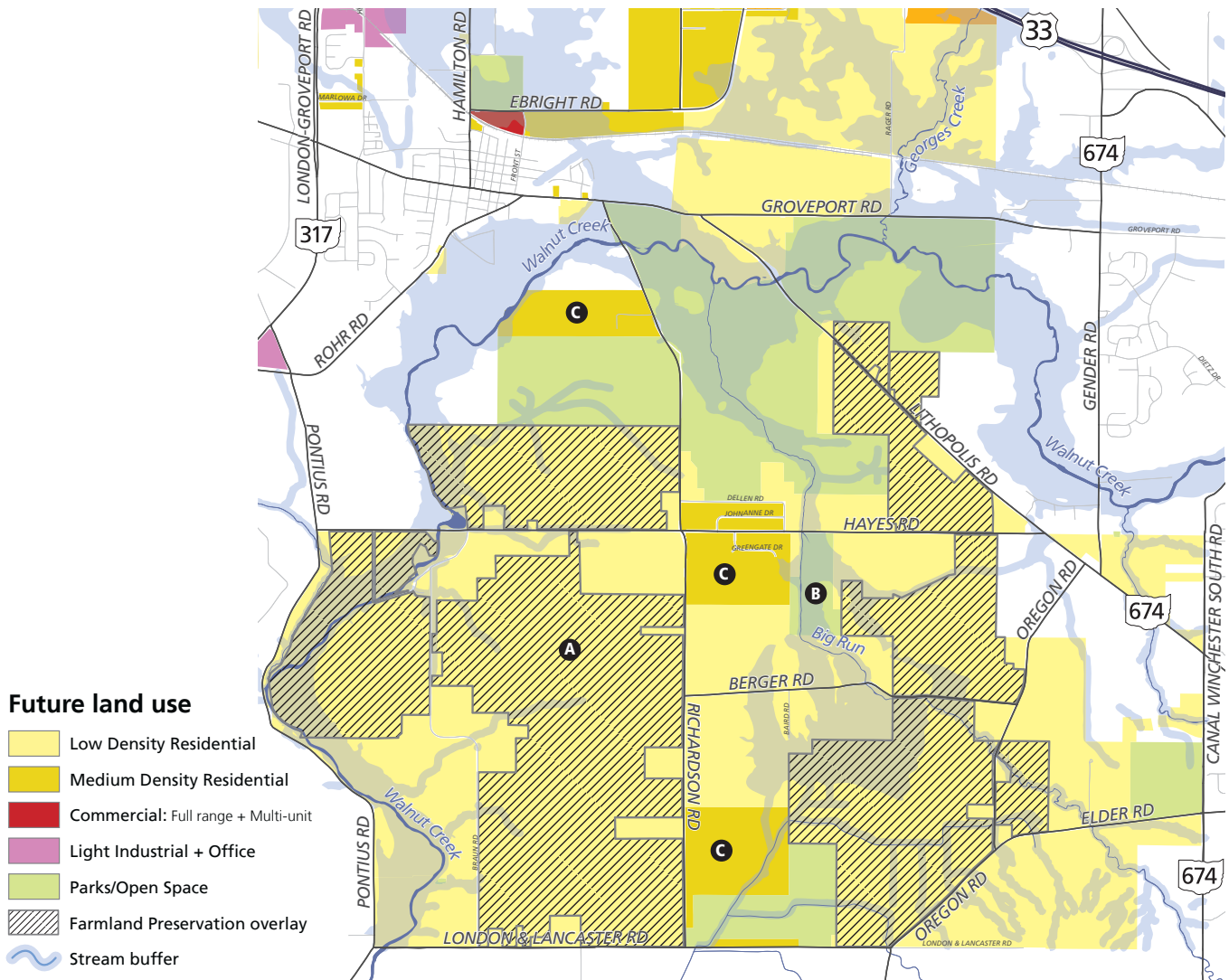
Residential uses are discouraged between Bixby Road and U.S. Route 33, east of the interchange. Office uses in this area should be large scale and visible from the highway. All development should incorporate high quality building design.

#### B Sims Road Low Density Residential

The area between Sims Road and the railroad is flood-prone. Agricultural uses should continue in this area to preserve floodplains.

CENTRAL  
MADISON





## SOUTH MADISON

### **A** Agricultural Uses

A large amount of land is currently used for agricultural purposes and residents desire to preserve farmland. Actions provided in the Planned Growth and Healthy Living Recommendations sections will preserve farmland.

### **B** Open Space

The South Madison area has a large amount of existing parkland. The Future Land Use map recommends additional land for parks and open space. These additional areas were selected based on existing park plans and the flood-prone nature of certain areas.

### **C** Medium Density Residential

Areas located near existing residential developments and amenities should develop with medium density residential uses. The location west of Richardson Road near the park, golf course and downtown Groveport is an attractive location for residential development.

Medium density residential developments should maintain the area's rural character by using cluster-style development techniques described more thoroughly on page 61.





# HEALTHY LIVING

## RECOMMENDATIONS

### VISION FOR HEALTHY LIVING

A parks and recreation system accessible to all that provides opportunities for physical activity and enjoyment of the natural environment

Healthy and accessible developments that have minimal impact on the natural environment

A natural environment that provides clean water, open space and wildlife habitat

A food system that provides access to local foods, encourages healthy eating and supports the local food economy

#### **Achieve this vision by:**

- Establishing new parks and playgrounds in Blacklick Estates
- Complying with *AWARE* universal design guidelines
- Implementing recommendations of the Central Ohio Local Food Assessment and Plan

*Parks are community assets, providing recreational opportunities for residents*



### Goal A

#### **Expand recreational facilities and opportunities for physical activity**

Parks and recreational facilities are assets to a community because they provide outdoor space, opportunities for physical activities and areas for community interaction.

#### Action 1

##### **Establish new parks and playgrounds in Blacklick Estates**

Blacklick Estates residents expressed a need for parks and recreational space in their neighborhood. Parks should include playgrounds for children and activities for adults.

Franklin County can work with Madison Township to establish a new park in Blacklick Estates. Franklin County and Madison Township should work with residents to identify a location and funding source prior to establishing the park.

#### Action 2

##### **Encourage physical activity**

Columbus Public Health developed the Franklin County Physical Activity Plan to promote physical activity throughout Franklin County. The plan outlines recommendations for communities, schools and employers to implement that will encourage physical activity.

Madison and Truro Townships, Groveport-Madison schools, and area employers should endorse the plan and become partners in its implementation.

#### Action 3

##### **Provide connections to existing parks and bikeways**

The planning area contains numerous parks and bikeways that are not easily accessible. Connections to these existing facilities should be provided to increase the physical activity opportunities available to residents.

The Bikeways map on page 97 shows proposed bike paths, including trails that provide access to parks. This map should be used when planning future bikeways.

## FRANKLIN COUNTY PHYSICAL ACTIVITY PLAN

Columbus Public Health developed the Physical Activity Plan with input from individuals and organizations representing communities, local governments and employers. Plan goals are grouped into the following four themes:

#### Community Goals:

- Promote physical activity
- Improve infrastructure
- Increase perceived safety
- Monitor progress of plan implementation
- Educate residents about physical activity

#### School Goals:

- Implement school wellness initiatives
- Increase student physical activity
- Increase physical education

#### Worksite Goals:

- Allow physical activity program sharing between worksites
- Increase employee physical activity

#### Transportation Goals:

- Fund bikeways and sidewalks
- Promote mixed land use and active transportation



## Goal B

**Ensure the community has accessible developments that are energy efficient with healthy living areas.**

A community with accessible, energy efficient and healthy development is an attractive place

to live and maintains a high quality of life for everyone.

## Action 4

**Require conformance with *AWARE* sustainability and universal design standards**

*AWARE* standards create sustainable, accessible homes that help people stay in their homes as they grow older. Columbus and Franklin County developed the *AWARE* manual to standardize requirements for building and rehabilitating homes that are energy efficient and accessible. The standards also ensure healthy air inside homes by limiting the use of products and mate-

*No-step entrances make it easier for people to enter buildings*

## AWARE STANDARDS FOR SUSTAINABLE, ACCESSIBLE HOMES

The *AWARE* Manual (Accessible, Water conservation, Air quality, Resource conscious, Energy efficient) provides building standards and contractor requirements for residential projects receiving federal funds through the city of Columbus and Franklin County.

Homes built to *AWARE* standards help people live better and stay in their homes as they grow older. The standards use environmentally-sustainable materials, keep indoor air clean and healthy, and make it easy to get around.

Standards apply to both new construction and housing rehabilitation. Below are examples of what the *AWARE* standards require.

### Accessible standards:

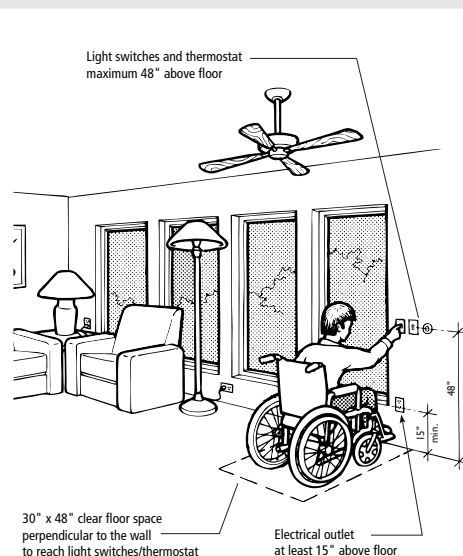
- No-step entries for easy access
- One bedroom and full-bath on the first floor, to avoid climbing stairs
- Lever-style handles to easily open doors
- Switches, phone jacks and thermostats within reach
- Low-step showers to prevent falls

### Sustainable standards:

- Energy-star rated appliances and fixtures
- Low/no use of volatile organic compounds, avoiding harmful fumes
- Recycled building materials
- High-efficiency air conditioning

Following *AWARE* standards makes homes friendlier to people of all ages and abilities. This supports strong communities and benefits property values.

U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development



*Illustration of selected AWARE accessibility standards*



*Appropriate development protects our natural environment*

rials containing volatile organic compounds. See page 83 for more information.

New or rehabilitated homes receiving public funds must follow *AWARE* standards and trainings are held periodically to educate home builders on green building practices. Privately funded projects are encouraged to use the standards as guidelines.

Current State of Ohio building regulations do not require these standards. Franklin County encourages the Ohio Board of Building Standards to adopt similar requirements for all residential construction.

#### Action 5

##### **Provide information to property owners about energy efficiency programs and alternative energy sources**

Reducing household energy consumption and using alternative energy sources is environmentally friendly and reduces utility costs. Franklin County should provide information about the variety of financial incentives to retrofit buildings and purchase energy-efficient appliances, equipment and lighting. MORPC administers a Home Weatherization Program that replaces inefficient household appliances to reduce energy consumption and utility costs.

#### Action 6

##### **Require new residential development within airport noise areas to comply with noise reduction standards**

Residential developments in areas close to airports experience higher noise levels than do residential developments farther away. Reducing noise levels in homes improves the quality of life for those living near airports.

Current regulations require the use of building materials that reduce noise levels in these airport noise areas. Franklin County will reduce noise levels in new housing construction by sending development applications in airport noise areas to the airport for recommendations on appropriate building techniques and materials.



### Goal C

#### **Protect the natural environment from negative impacts of development**

We rely on the natural environment to provide clean air and water in addition to many other benefits. We should protect the natural environment from the negative impacts of development.

Development that is sensitive to the natural environment uses recycled materials, minimizes waste entering landfills, reduces stormwater impacts and pollution.

#### Action 7

##### **Use recycled and sustainably harvested products in new construction**

Using recycled and sustainably harvested materials lessens development's impact on our natural environment.

Many building products can be produced with recycled plastics, cement and metals. Sustainably harvested materials include wood products with a fast growth rate and products produced locally.

Franklin County should continue to provide information to home builders and developers about these products to encourage their use.

#### Action 8

##### **Require the use of stormwater best management practices**

Stormwater best management practices such as rain gardens and bioswales, control stormwater runoff and stabilize soil. These techniques filter pollution that runs off hard surfaces such as rooftops, driveways and parking lots when it rains.

Franklin County will continue to require best management practices for projects seeking approval from decision-making boards.

Franklin County, the Franklin Soil and Water Conservation District and the townships should work with environmental partners to promote the use of stormwater best management practices in existing developments.

#### Action 9

##### **Adopt regulations creating a stream buffer zone along Big Walnut Creek, Walnut Creek and their tributaries**

The buffer zone is a sensitive area along creeks and tributaries that filters pollution, replenishes groundwater, and provides open space and wildlife habitat.

A stream buffer zone should provide sufficient space to allow the stream's natural flow and include the area adjacent to waterways, the 100-year floodplain and steep slopes.

Development such as construction, parking lots, and dredging and filling are prohibited. Permitted uses include passive recreation, multi-use trails and lawn maintenance. Limiting construction in the buffer zone helps protect structures from damages caused by flooding and erosion.

Franklin County will work closely with the townships, property owners, environmental organizations and other county agencies in establishing watershed-wide stream buffer regulations.

#### Action 10

##### **Prevent reductions in floodplain storage capacity**

Floodplains provide natural storage areas for flood water. New developments in floodplains reduce this storage capacity and cause increased flooding in nearby areas.

To prevent increased flooding, development proposals in floodplains requiring approval from decision making boards must provide information on how the proposal will offset lost storage capacity. One possible method is to remove an equal amount of material from the floodplain

on the site as is added for the project. This will protect nearby areas from increased flooding.

#### Action 11

##### **Support the acquisition and protection of wildlife habitats, open space and sensitive land along creeks**

Sensitive land along creeks provides habitats for plants and animals, filters water, and maintains the community's rural character.

Franklin County and Madison Township should support public acquisition of these areas through grants and other resources. Public acquisition of sensitive areas will ensure their protection and conservation.

#### Action 12

##### **Encourage farmers to enroll in conservation programs administered by the United States Department of Agriculture's Farm Service Agency**

The Farm Service Agency administers conservation programs that protect soil and water resources while benefiting farmers. Eligible properties can enroll in these programs and farmers receive payment for the land they enroll. The programs include the Conservation Reserve Program, Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program and the Farmable Wetlands Program.

The Franklin Soil and Water Conservation District and Ohio Farm Bureau should encourage land owner enrollment in these programs and provide support through the application process.



*Education and awareness help keep waterways clean*



#### Goal D

##### Promote environmental awareness and stewardship

Public awareness of environmental issues promotes the responsible use of natural resources.

#### Action 13

##### Build and maintain relationships with local watershed groups

Friends of Big Walnut Creek and Tributaries and the Walnut Action Group are non-profit organizations that support watershed protection and stewardship. These groups should continue to educate residents on the importance of protecting our waterways.

Watershed groups and public agencies should work together to implement recommendations of Ohio Environmental Protection Agency plans and reports to improve water quality.

#### Action 14

##### Sign the Central Ohio Green Pact

The Central Ohio Green Pact is a multi-jurisdictional commitment to make our region more sustainable. Sustainability means meeting our economic and environmental needs today while ensuring that future generations can also meet their own needs.

The Green Pact outlines policies that enhance quality of life, protect the environment and facilitate economic development. By signing this agreement the Madison and Truro Township Trustees would affirm their community's commitment to a sustainable future.

#### Action 15

##### Mark storm drains to educate residents

Storm drains empty directly into waterways, and when it rains, grass clippings, litter and chemicals on streets get washed into these drains.

Watershed groups and the Franklin Soil and Water Conservation District should organize a storm drain marking event. The event should take place in all neighborhoods that have storm drains and inform residents that whatever goes down the drain ends up in our waterways.



#### Goal E

##### Support a sustainable local food system

A local food system is a network of farmers, consumers and communities that partner to create a more locally-based, self-reliant food system. A complete local food system provides healthy food choices and economic growth in agricultural areas.

#### Action 16

##### Establish a neighborhood farmers market

Access to fresh food encourages better eating habits and a healthier community. Farmers markets connect producers and consumers of local foods.

Possible locations for a farmer's market include:

- The Refugee Center Shopping Center
- The vacant property at the Noe-Bixby Road and Sedalia Road intersection
- The vacant property along Hamilton Road between Reinbeau Drive and Harbor Boulevard
- A Groveport-Madison school site

A farmers market could be supported through Community Supported Agriculture, an arrangement in which customers buy a share of a farm's harvest and receive food throughout the season.

*Farmers markets bring fresh foods directly to neighborhoods*

This arrangement gives farmers capital up-front and enables consumers to receive a variety of fresh food.

#### Action 17

##### **Identify and convert under utilized sites to community gardens**

Community gardens are vacant or under utilized plots of land that residents have reclaimed for local food production. Community gardens build self-reliance, a sense of community and support local food systems. They are maintained by members of a neighborhood or community organization.

Franklin County, Madison and Truro Townships, and neighborhood organizations should collaborate to identify and acquire properties for community gardens.

#### Action 18

##### **Establish educational gardening programs at schools**

Educating school children about healthy food choices can influence their lifelong eating habits. School programs can teach children about

healthy food choices and how to grow and cook fresh foods.

Groveport-Madison schools should partner with a non-profit organization such as Local Matters to implement a program to educate children about fresh, healthy foods. Local Matters is an organization working to improve the quality of life for children and adults by promoting healthful nutrition.

#### Action 19

##### **Implement recommendations of the Central Ohio Local Food Assessment and Plan**

The Central Ohio Local Food Assessment and Plan summarizes the various aspects of a sustainable local food system. This includes producers, processors and distributors, consumers, resources, and barriers to a sustainable food system. The plan identifies 24 recommendations to achieve a sustainable regional food system.

Actions identified in this document's Planned Growth section will meet multiple recommendations listed in the Local Food Assessment and Plan.

## CENTRAL OHIO LOCAL FOOD ASSESSMENT AND PLAN

The Central Ohio Local Food Assessment and Plan is an analysis and policy strategy developed by the Mid-Ohio Regional Planning Commission for the regional local food system covering 12 central Ohio counties.

The plan seeks to:

- Increase the local food supply and food-processing capacity
- Ensure that fresh, safe, healthy and locally-produced food is accessible to people of all incomes

deadwildroses.wordpress.com



- Strengthen the local economy by creating jobs in food production and processing
- Improve the viability of local farms and food businesses
- Work with planners, policy makers and farmers to preserve farmland
- Reduce the distances travelled to distribute and sell food
- Promote agriculture on vacant and under used land in urban areas
- Coordinate local food efforts throughout the region
- Educate the public about the benefits of local foods

Franklin County, townships, neighborhoods and schools should work with MORPC to implement these recommendations in the planning area.

Franklin County, townships, neighborhoods and schools should work with the Mid-Ohio Regional Planning Commission to implement the recommendations of its Central Ohio Local Food Assessment and Plan. See page 87 for more information.

#### Action 20

##### **Support farming by providing information on the economic benefits and markets available for specialty crops**

A limited number of the planning area's farms produce specialty crops, livestock and poultry. Specialty crops include fruits, vegetables and nuts. Central Ohio's large population provides a market for these products.

To encourage specialty crop, livestock and poultry production, MORPC should provide information to farmers on the economic benefits and markets available for these products.

#### Action 21

##### **Create incentives for farmers to convert to specialty crops**

Converting from row crop to specialty crop production requires different equipment and methods of farming. The conversion may include high upfront costs that can prevent farmers from converting to specialty crop production.

Franklin County and its partners should provide incentives from existing small business programs to help area farmers cover these farming expenses.



# TRAVEL OPTIONS

## RECOMMENDATIONS

### VISION FOR TRAVEL OPTIONS

A well-maintained pedestrian network in built-up areas

A complete bicycle network for recreation and transportation

A transit network offering riders sufficient destinations with bus stops to increase ridership

A well-maintained road network with convenient access to major roads and appropriate traffic controls for safety

#### Achieve this vision by:

- Installing and maintaining sidewalks
- Providing bikeway connections to existing trails
- Improving bus stops
- Improving roads and intersections



*Crosswalks and sidewalks allow residents to travel safely to nearby destinations*



### Goal A

#### **Establish and maintain a complete network for pedestrian traffic**

Walking has environmental, social and health benefits. A complete network for pedestrians helps people reach destinations safely on foot.

#### Action 1

##### **Install new sidewalks and improve crossings in targeted areas according to the Sidewalk Priorities map**

Sidewalks are essential to public safety and beneficial to neighborhood stability. They encourage people to walk, promoting public health while reducing traffic congestion and energy use. Sidewalks connect people to jobs, shopping and other destinations.

Madison and Truro Townships, in collaboration with the Franklin County Engineer's Office and the Ohio Department of Transportation, should plan for sidewalk installations according to the Sidewalk Priorities map on page 99. Road improvements should include sidewalk installation. Sidewalks should be at least 5 feet wide.

#### Action 2

##### **Maintain and improve existing sidewalks**

The majority of streets in the existing residential neighborhoods have sidewalks. Sidewalks in disrepair are unattractive and dangerous.

Madison and Truro Townships should work with the County Engineer's Office to maintain sidewalks to ensure safety and their continued use.

#### Action 3

##### **Install sidewalks to encourage walking and improve pedestrian connectivity**

New office, commercial, industrial and multi-unit residential developments seeking rezonings or variances must install sidewalks. This will create safe sidewalk connections for pedestrians.

#### Action 4

##### **Use pedestrian-friendly design within shopping centers and commercial areas**

In large shopping centers with lots of automobile traffic, defining walkways for pedestrians can prevent accidents. In turn, better pedestrian friendliness can lead to more people traveling on foot.

Any redevelopment of existing shopping centers should include both pedestrian connections from the street to the shops and connections within the parking lot once people leave their cars. These connections should be accompanied by improved landscaping.

#### Action 5

##### **Complete a Safe Routes to School Travel Plan**

The Safe Routes to School program encourages children to walk or bicycle to school and makes walking and bicycling to school safer for children. This can enhance children's health, ease traffic congestion and improve the quality of life in a community. See page 91 for more information.

A Safe Routes to School Travel Plan studies routes that lead to and from schools, identifies dangerous intersections and proposes solutions. Franklin County should partner with the Groveport-Madison Local School District, the Mid-Ohio Regional Planning Commission and the Ohio Department of Transportation to complete a Safe Routes to School Travel Plan.



**Action 6****Maintain and improve school access paths as shown on the Sidewalk Priorities map**

School access paths provide convenient connections between the neighborhoods and schools. Maintaining these paths will increase child safety.

Madison Township and Groveport-Madison Local Schools should develop a maintenance agreement for school access paths.

**Goal B****Develop a complete bicycle network for recreation and transportation**

Bicycling has environmental, social and health benefits. A complete network allows bicyclists to travel safely to destinations.

**Action 7****Use the Bikeways map to guide development of an area-wide bicycle network**

The Bikeways map on page 97 shows recommendations to create an area-wide bicycle network. Recommendations for Madison and Truro Township bikeways will connect with existing or proposed bikeways nearby.

Franklin County and Madison and Truro Townships should consult the Bikeways map when expanding bicycle facilities or reviewing development proposals. This ensures the creation of a well-connected bikeway system.

**Action 8****Provide connections to existing bikeways**

Residents cannot easily access the Alum Creek and Blacklick Creek trails. Connections to trails give residents access to more recreational opportunities.

The Bikeways map shows proposed links from neighborhoods to the existing trail system. The Bikeways map should be consulted whenever a new bikeway is proposed to ensure it will connect with the neighborhoods.

*Bikeways provide transportation and recreation opportunities*

**SAFE ROUTES TO SCHOOL**

The Safe Routes to School program encourages children to walk or bicycle to school. It makes walking and bicycling to school safer and more appealing.

Successful projects have included:

- Improvements to crosswalks, sidewalks, bikeways, bicycle parking and traffic-calming features around schools
- Teaching children and parents about transportation choices and pedestrian and bicycle safety
- Community crossing guard programs and increased enforcement of speed limits and other traffic laws around schools
- Participation in *Walk to School Day*
- Maintaining a school car pool list for those who cannot walk or bicycle to school

Since 2005 communities across the state have received millions of dollars for Safe Routes to

School projects. To be eligible for this funding, a school needs a Safe Routes to School Travel Plan. Plans can focus on a single school, multiple schools or an entire school district.

The Blacklick-Madison Area Plan recommends creating a Safe Routes to School Travel Plan for one or more of the schools in Blacklick Estates.



#### Action 9

##### **Require new development to provide easements to accommodate shared use paths**

New development and redevelopments along bicycle corridors should dedicate easements to allow the installation of bikeways. These easements should be a minimum of 20 feet to accommodate future shared-use paths as designated on the Bikeways map.

#### Action 10

##### **Require the installation of bicycle racks for all new commercial development**

New commercial and multi-unit developments must provide racks for bicycle parking. Providing parking for bicyclists encourages more people to bike. One bicycle space is required for every 20 vehicle parking spaces.

#### Action 11

##### **Add bicycle parking at parks**

Providing bicycle parking reduces vehicle parking demands and encourages more bicycling. Bicycle parking is limited at Robert M. Brobst

Park. Madison Township should provide at least one bicycle space for every 20 parking spaces.



#### Goal C

##### **Support a transit network that offers access to sufficient destinations and frequent service**

Transit complements other modes of transportation and provides options to those who do not drive.

#### Action 12

##### **Improve pedestrian infrastructure near bus stops**

Safe paths to bus stops and benches, route displays and trash receptacles at bus stops encourage transit use. Madison and Truro Townships,

*Amenities such as benches make transit services easier to use*

## COTA LONG-RANGE TRANSIT PLAN

The Central Ohio Transit Authority hosted a series of public meetings in 2005 and 2006 seeking input on transit service improvements. State and regional planning agencies, local municipalities, and business and community leaders provided additional input to identify transit needs and possible solutions.

The COTA Long-Range Plan makes recommendations to meet transit needs and to create a viable, responsive and modern transit system.



Key recommendations include:

- Using the newest technology to enhance the transit experience
- Increasing access, convenience and reliability for people with limited mobility
- Improving passenger convenience by providing real-time information at major bus stops and transit centers
- Expanding service to employment and activity centers
- Making strategic transit investments
- Adding several neighborhood-oriented circulator or LINK routes

A LINK route is proposed to serve the greater Eastland area. The Blacklick-Madison Area Plan recommends that the circulator route serve Blacklick Estates, Qualstan East, Edgewater Park and Marwick Estates.

the Franklin County Engineer's Office and the Central Ohio Transit Authority should partner to install sidewalks and pedestrian infrastructure to encourage ridership.

### Action 13

#### Improve existing bus stops and shelters

COTA provides shelters at bus stops to protect transit users from weather and provide a place to sit. The presence of bus shelters encourages more people to use transit. In areas without shelters, installing trash and recycling bins, benches, and schedule displays can decrease litter and increase convenience for transit users.

Franklin County will work with COTA to identify locations for bus stop upgrades.

### Action 14

#### Encourage COTA to establish a circulator route serving Blacklick Estates, Edgewater Park and Marwick Estates

Circulator buses provide transportation within and between neighborhoods. COTA's Long-Range Transit Plan calls for the creation of neighborhood-oriented circulator or LINK

routes to expand access to commercial areas, community facilities and existing bus lines. The Long-Range Transit Plan recommends the creation of a LINK route in the greater Eastland area to serve the Blacklick Estates, Edgewater Park and Marwick Estates neighborhoods. See page 92 for more information.

Franklin County, Madison and Truro Townships and COTA should work together in planning a neighborhood circulator route.



City of Charlotte

*Complete streets safely accommodate pedestrians, bicyclists, and drivers*

### Goal D

#### Maintain a safe, well-connected automobile network

The road network is the primary means of transportation within the planning area. The com-

## COMPLETE STREETS

A complete street is designed to balance safety and convenience for everyone using the roads. Communities that adopt a Complete Streets policy make a commitment to consider and provide appropriate facilities for motorists, pedestrians, bicyclists and transit users during new and retrofit road projects.

By adopting a complete streets policy, a community can:

- Support economic growth by providing accessible and efficient connections between residences, schools and businesses
- Reduce crashes and improve safety
- Ease traffic congestion by increasing travel options such as walking and bicycling
- Help children get physical activity and gain independence through bicycling and walking

- Reduce carbon dioxide emissions by riding a bicycle or walking
- Save on later street retrofitting costs by integrating sidewalks, bike lanes, transit amenities and safe crossings into the initial design of a project



City of Sammamish, Washington

munity's easy access and proximity to freeways and major roads is an asset.

#### Action 15

##### **Use the Road Improvements map to guide road and intersection improvements**

The Road Improvements map on page 101 shows the community's desired locations for improvements. Recommended improvements include road repaving, stop sign and stop light installations, and road realignments. The Road Improvements map should be consulted when funding is allocated for road projects.

#### Action 16

##### **Adopt a Complete Streets policy for future road improvements**

Complete streets are designed for all users including pedestrians, bicyclists, transit users and motorists. A network of complete streets is safer, more livable and welcoming to everyone. Adopting a complete streets policy ensures that future road projects are designed and constructed with all users in mind. Franklin County should work with the Mid-Ohio Regional Planning Commission to adopt a complete streets policy. See page 93 for more information.

#### Action 17

##### **Reduce the impacts of the U.S. Route 33 / Bixby Road Interchange on existing residents**

The proposed U.S. Route 33 / Bixby Road interchange is an economic opportunity for the township however it concerns nearby residents.

Franklin County and Madison Township should work with the Ohio Department of Transportation to prevent negative impacts to existing residents.

Preventive measures should include easy-to-read signage directing motorists to appropriate routes to reach their destinations and streetscape improvements such as mounding, trees and landscaping. These preventive measures will limit the increase of traffic on existing roads and reduce noise and visual impacts of increased traffic.

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## TYPES OF PROPOSED BIKEWAYS

### Bikeways map

*What it is:* The Bikeways map shows locations of existing and proposed bikeways. The proposals support a bikeway network for transportation and recreation.

*Why we need it:* Since bikeways allow people to cover wide distances, communities plan for bikeways on a regional basis. This ensures we connect destinations for people living in the planning area and throughout central Ohio.



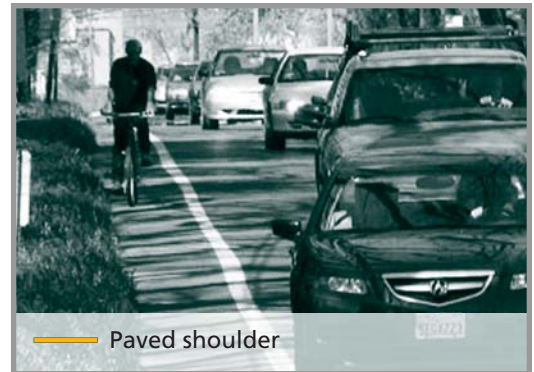
Shared Use Path

A path for bicycles and pedestrians, separate from a road. Generally 10 to 14 feet wide.



Bicycle lane

On-street striped lane for bicycles, 4 to 6 feet wide, usually next to the outermost travel lanes.



Paved shoulder

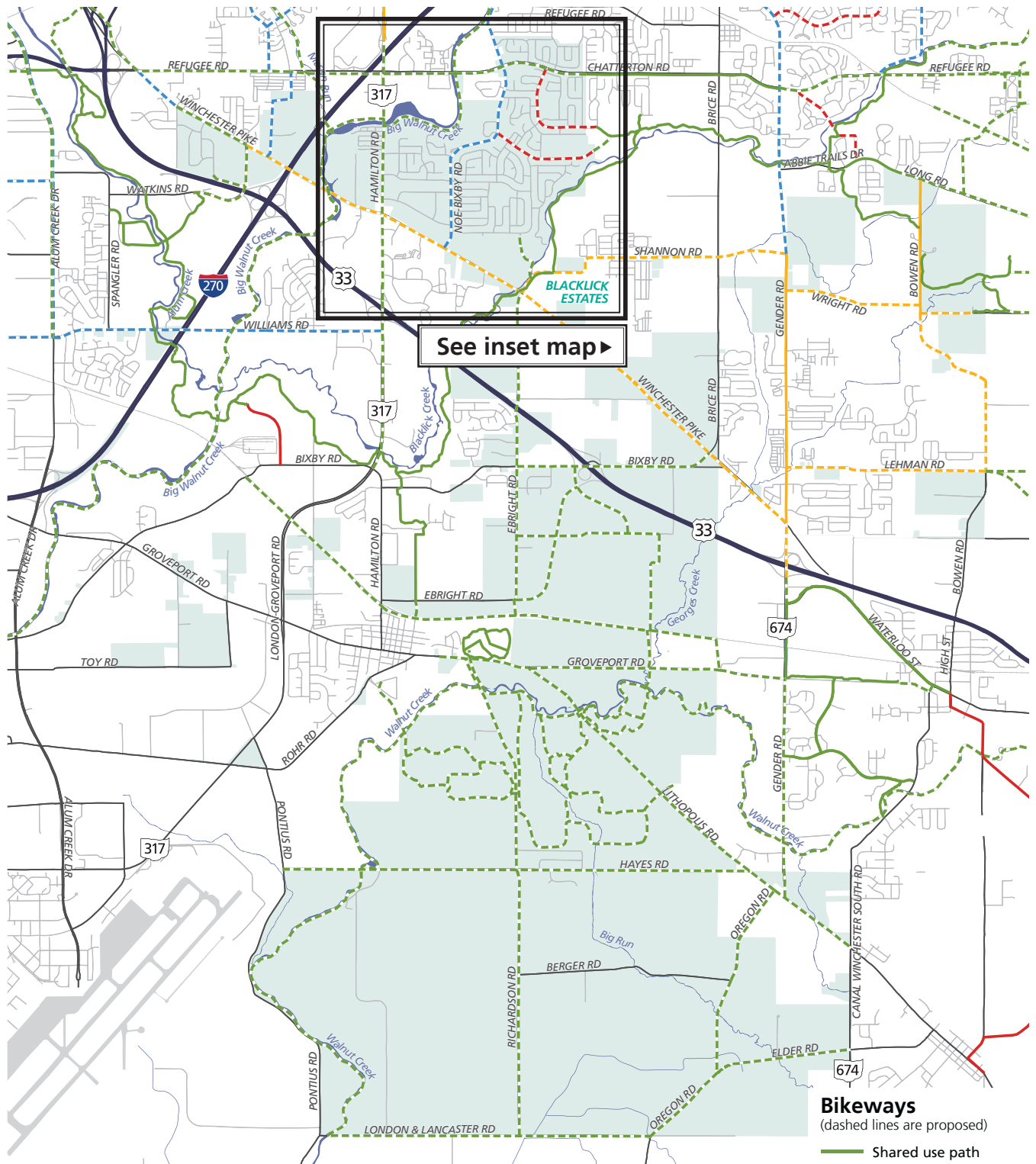
A paved area beyond outside travel lanes, 4 feet wide. Common on narrow rural roads.



Signed shared roadway

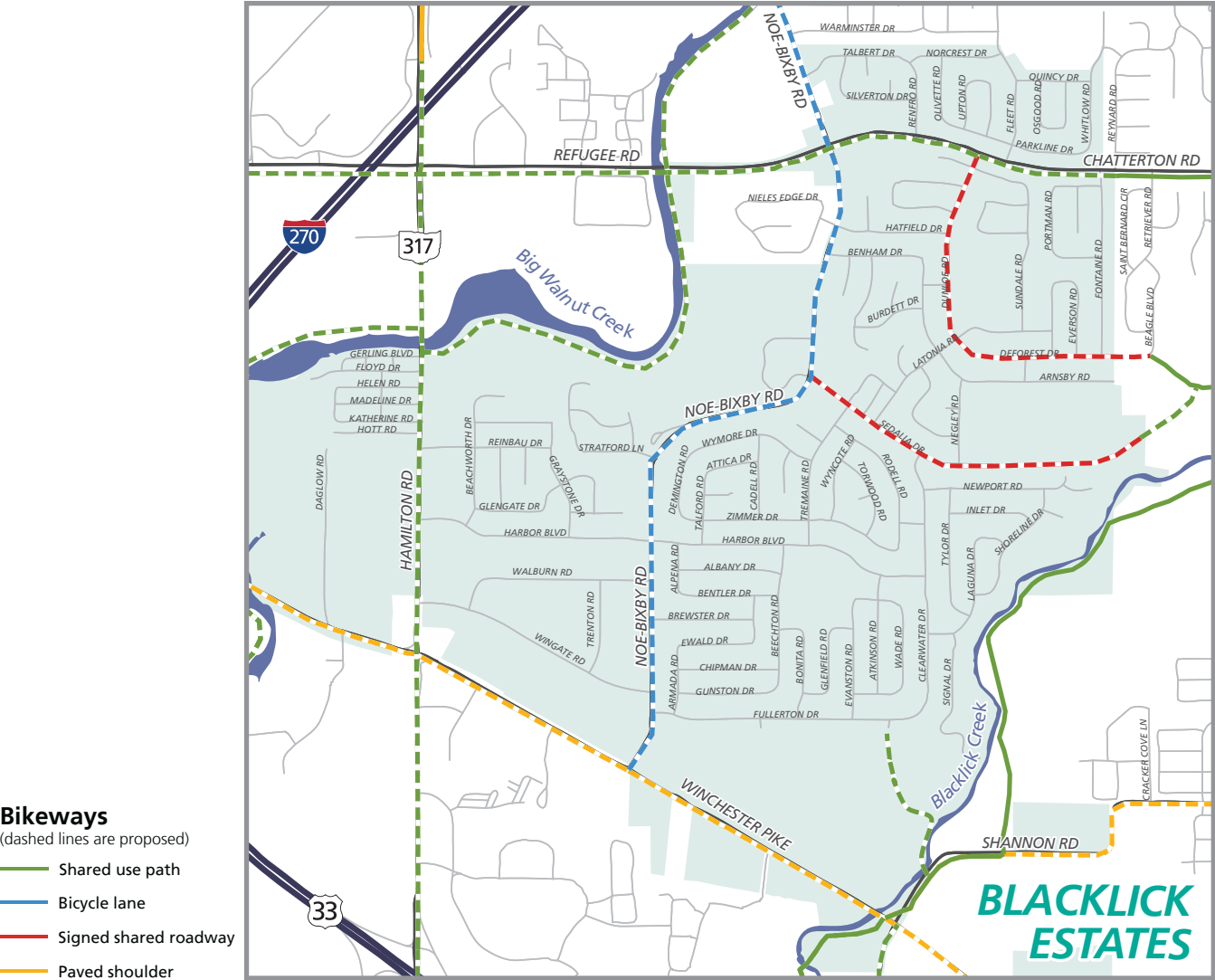
Standard road with a combination of traffic calming, signage and “sharrows” (shown at right), or a high-volume road with 14-foot or wider outside lanes.

In addition to Blacklick-Madison Area Plan bikeways recommendations, the map contains information from these sources: Columbus Bicentennial Bikeways Plan, MORPC Regional Bikeways Plan, Metro Parks, Groveport Parks and Recreation, Canal Winchester Development Department and Pickerington Engineering Department.

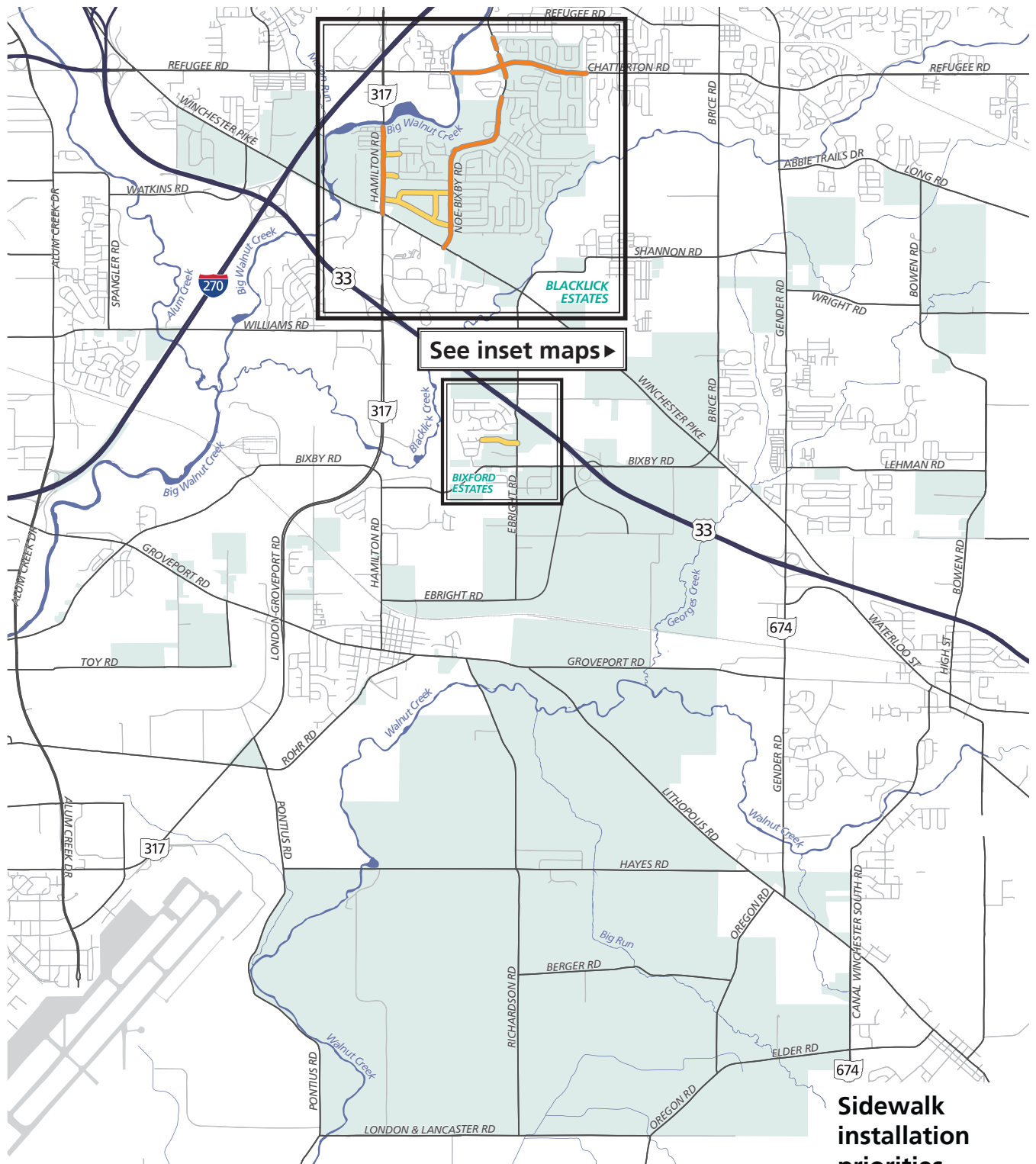


## BIKEWAYS MAP

The map above shows anticipated road improvements in the vicinity of the proposed Bixby Road and U.S. Route 33 interchange

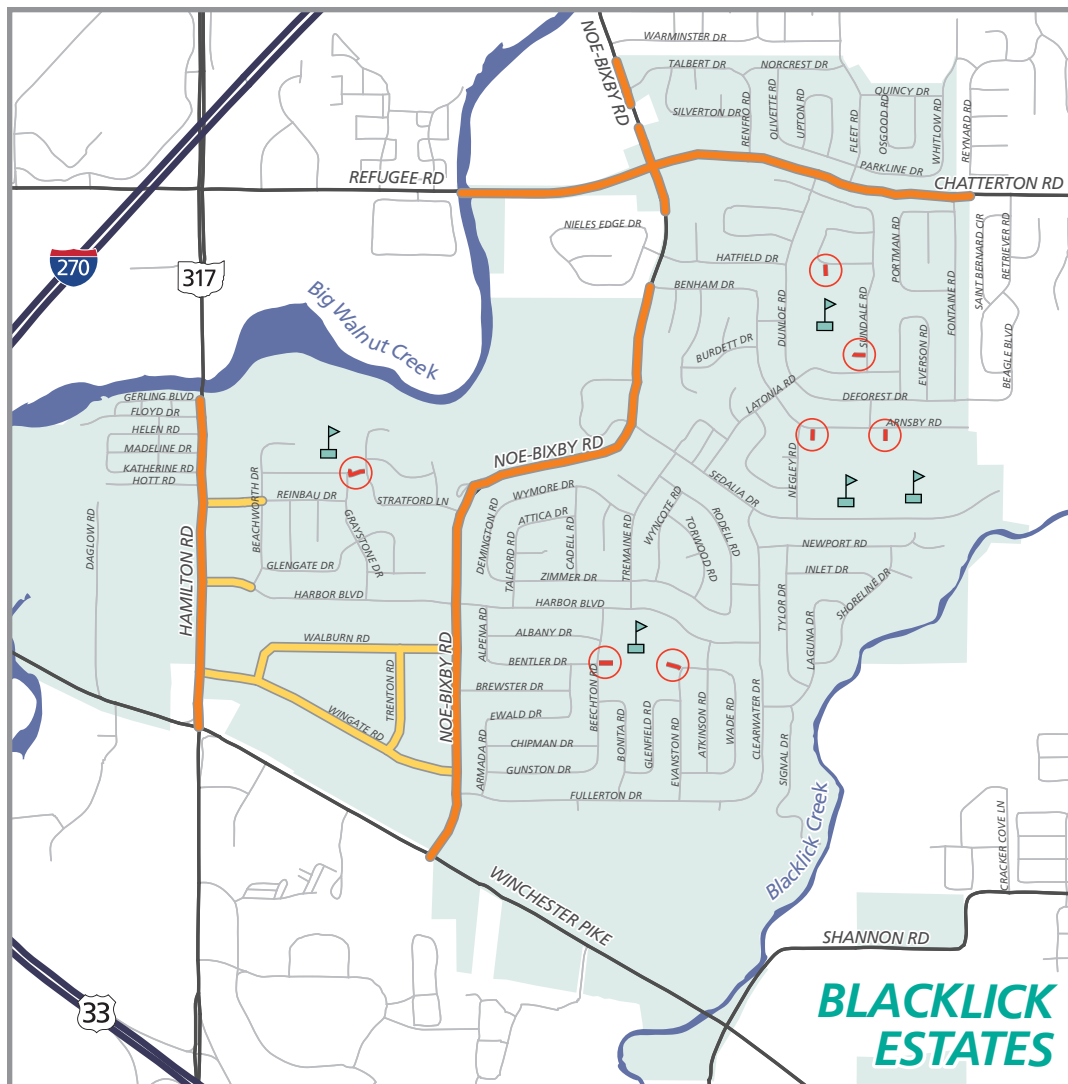






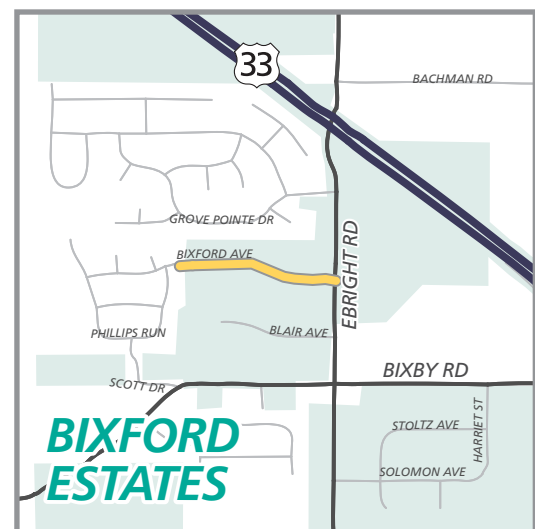
## SIDEWALK PRIORITIES MAP

The map above shows anticipated road improvements in the vicinity of the proposed Bixby Road and U.S. Route 33 interchange

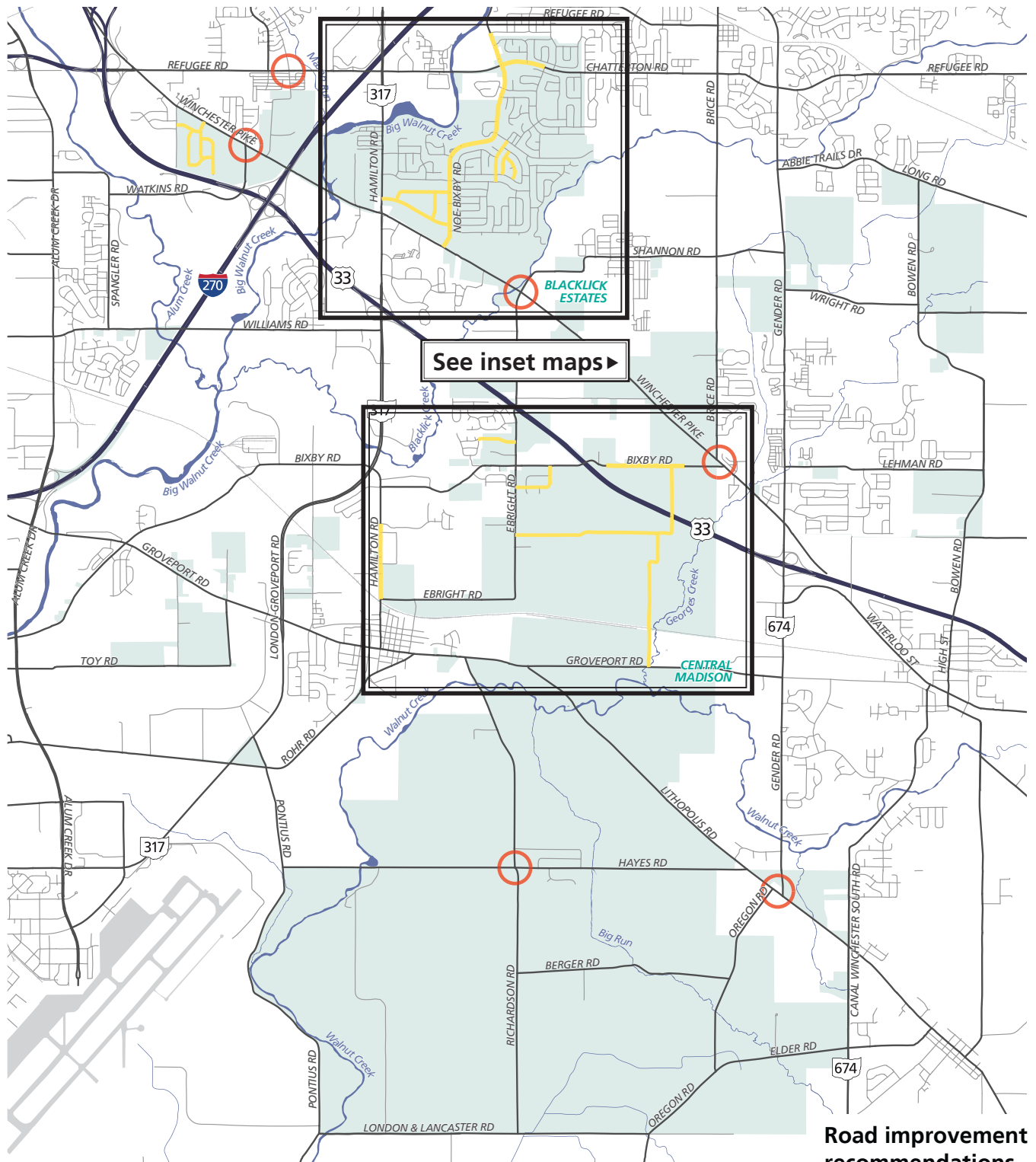


### Sidewalk priorities

- Primary priority installation
- Secondary priority installation
- ⊖ Existing School Access Path
- 🚩 Existing School

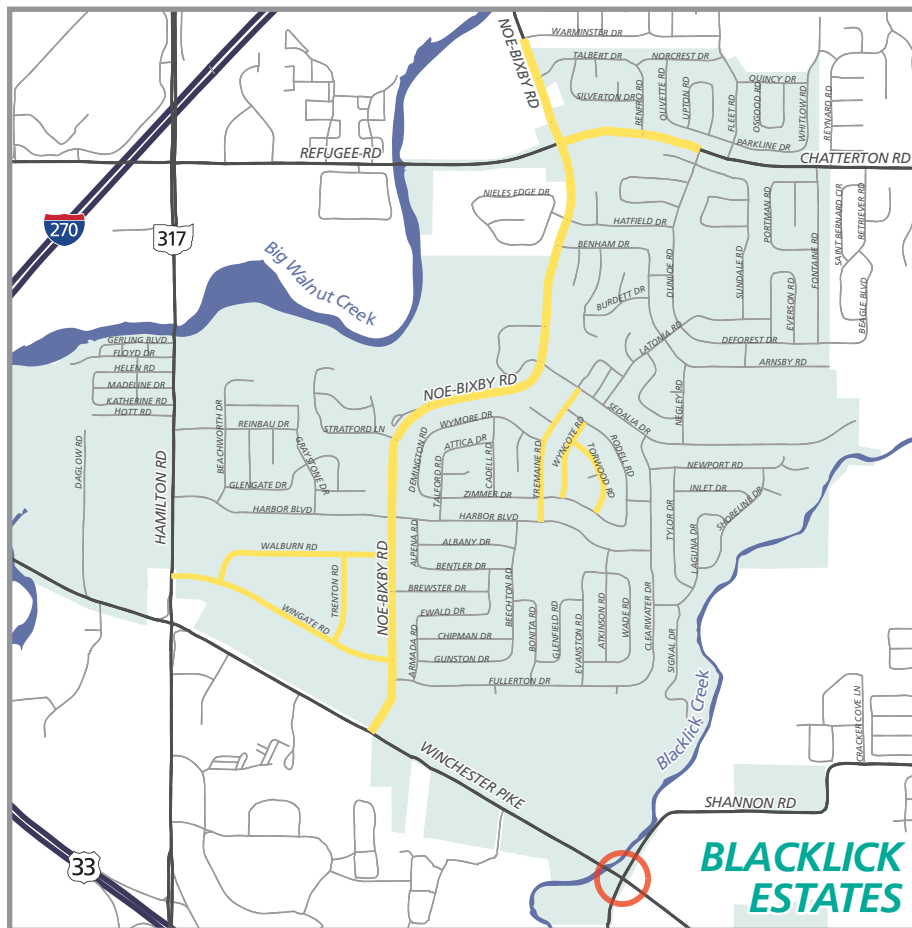






## ROAD IMPROVEMENTS MAP

The map above shows anticipated road improvements in the vicinity of the proposed Bixby Road and U.S. Route 33 interchange



The map above shows anticipated road improvements in the vicinity of the proposed Bixby Road and U.S. Route 33 interchange

### Road improvement recommendations

- Road
- Intersection

