

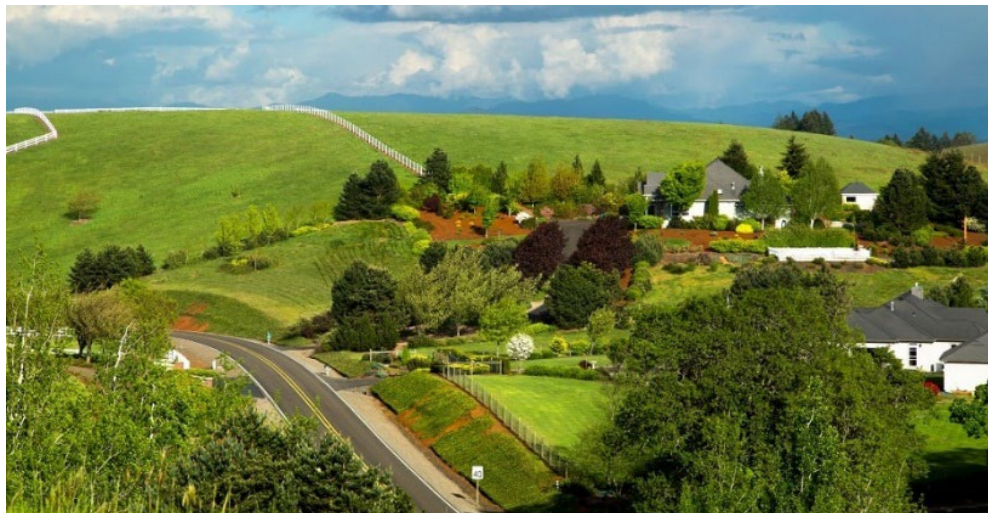


5 – County Northwest Ohio Collaborative Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy

AMENITIES / SERVICES / FACILITIES / HOUSING / COST OF LIVING

Draft Vision Statements

#2 Allen #3 Hancock #3 Hardin #3 Putnam (shorten)	1. Our region will offer high-quality amenities, reliable services, modern facilities, and diverse housing options that meet the needs of residents at every stage of life. By maintaining a competitive cost of living, investing in community assets, and ensuring access to essential services, the county will create vibrant, welcoming communities where people choose to live, work, and raise families. This balanced approach will enhance quality of life, support workforce attraction and retention, and strengthen long-term community vitality.
#3 Allen (tie) #3 Hancock #1 Hardin	2. Our region will be a mecca of restored neighborhoods, quality amenities, and diverse housing to meet the needs of residents at every stage of life. By maintaining competitive costs of living and investing in community assets and essential services, we are building strong economies and welcoming communities that attract people, investments and opportunities.
#3 Allen (tie) #2 Hardin (tie) #1 Putnam #2 Van Wert	3. Our region will be one where every resident enjoys access to vibrant, inclusive, and thoughtfully designed amenities and community services that enrich daily life and foster meaningful connections by creating welcoming public spaces, diverse recreational opportunities, and accessible services that support physical, mental, and social well-being.
#1 Allen #2 Putnam #3 Van Wert	4. Our region will be made up of thriving communities where high-quality amenities, accessible services, and a diverse mix of housing options come together to support residents at every stage of life, fostering a welcoming environment that reflects the diversity of our population and offering walkable neighborhoods, engaging public spaces, and essential services that promote health, connection, and opportunity.
#1 Hancock #2 Hardin (tie) #1 Van Wert	5. Our communities will support high-quality facilities and services that are accessible to all, and the cost of living supports a diverse and thriving population where families, individuals, and businesses can flourish. By promoting affordability in housing, transportation, and daily life, we strive to ensure that every resident can enjoy a safe, healthy, and fulfilling lifestyle without financial strain.





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BUSINESS CLIMATE / INNOVATION / RESILIENCY

Draft Vision Statements

#2 Hancock (tie) #1 Hardin #2 Putnam	1. Our region will foster a strong business climate that values innovation, encourages collaboration, and promotes resilience. By working together across our five counties, we will strengthen local businesses, attract new opportunities, and ensure that our small cities and rural communities remain steady and prepared for the future.
#3 Allen #2 Hancock (tie) #3 Putnam (tie)	2. Our region will foster a dynamic business climate that supports growth, entrepreneurship, and innovation across all sectors. By strengthening local industries, encouraging business creation and expansion, and embracing new technologies, the county will build an economy that is competitive, adaptable, and resilient in the face of change. Through strategic partnerships and a commitment to long-term sustainability, our region will position itself as a place where businesses thrive, investments grow, and the community prospers.
#2 Allen #1 Hancock #3 Hardin (tie) #3 Putnam (tie) #1 Van Wert	3. Our region will build a vibrant and resilient business climate by fostering innovation, entrepreneurship, and collaboration through strategic partnerships. By strengthening local businesses and industries and embracing new technologies, we will drive growth and ensure our communities are future ready.
#3 Hancock #3 Hardin (tie) #2 Van Wert	4. Our communities will embrace innovative business development opportunities that adapt to technological changes by supporting entrepreneurship, business creation & expansion and public and private infrastructure development.
#1 Allen (shorten) #2 Hardin #1 Putnam #3 Van Wert	5. We support the creation of a dynamic business climate that empowers innovation, embraces adaptability, and supports long-term community and economic resilience that can be fostered by collaborating across industries, investing in infrastructure and talent, and streamlining access to resources thereby creating an environment where entrepreneurs, startups, and established enterprises can thrive.



ENTREPRENEURIAL ECOSYSTEM





5 – County Northwest Ohio Collaborative Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy

REGIONAL COLLABORATION / ATTITUDES / MINDSET

Draft Vision Statements

#2 Hancock #1 Hardin (tie)	1. Our region will embrace a spirit of collaboration and forward-looking mindset that unites communities, businesses, and institutions across the region. By working together to share resources, align priorities, and build partnerships, the county will strengthen its influence, expand opportunities, and foster a culture of optimism and innovation. This cooperative approach will ensure that our region is not only prepared for change but positioned to lead in a competitive regional economy.
#3 Hancock (tie) #3 Hardin #2 Putnam (combine 2.3) #2 Van Wert	2. We envision a region where collaboration is second nature – driven by a shared mindset of openness, trust, and mutual respect. Together, our communities, organizations, and leaders embrace a spirit of partnership that transcends boundaries, recognizing that collective success depends on working together toward common goals.
# 2 Allen #3 Hancock (tie) #1 Putnam	3. Through transparent communication, aligned priorities, and a commitment to inclusive problem-solving, we aim to build a resilient and innovative region where resources are shared, challenges are met jointly, and opportunities are realized across all regional communities.
#1 Allen (tie) #3 Hancock (tie) #2 Hardin #1 Van Wert	4. By fostering open communication, aligning strategic priorities, and leveraging collective resources, we aim to solve complex challenges and seize emerging opportunities that no single entity could tackle alone.
#1 Allen (tie) #1 Hancock #1 Hardin (tie) #3 Putnam	5. We will support a region where cooperation is the cornerstone of progress—where communities, organizations, and leaders work together with mutual respect, shared purpose, and a commitment to collective success. Through open dialogue, joint planning, and resource sharing, we aim to strengthen regional connections, address common challenges, and unlock new opportunities for our residents, businesses, and workforce.





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DEVELOPMENT / REDEVELOPMENT

Draft Vision Statements

#1 **Hancock**
(tie)
#3 Hardin (tie)
#1 Putnam
#3 Van Wert

1. Our region will strategically guide growth and reinvestment to strengthen its communities, enhance **quality** of place, and create spaces where people want to live, work, and invest. By revitalizing existing sites, repurposing underutilized properties, and preparing new areas for sustainable development, counties will balance preservation of rural character with opportunities for modern growth. This approach will foster vibrant downtowns, resilient infrastructure, and attractive business and residential environments that support long-term prosperity.

#1 Allen
#1 Hardin
#2 Putnam
#1 Van Wert

2. Our region will strategically develop and redevelop properties to drive economic growth, attract capital investment, and create jobs while strengthening the vitality of our communities. By investing in existing sites, repurposing underutilized properties, and preparing new areas for sustainable growth, we will ensure a future-ready region with flourishing communities, people, and businesses.

#2 Hardin
(tie)

3. Our communities will continue to embrace our strengths to compete in a global environment and identify our **weaknesses** by prioritizing investments and planning initiatives to enhance the solutions to challenges we face in order to better prepare ourselves for business development and economic growth.

#1 Hancock
(tie)
#2 Allen
#2 Hardin
(tie)
#3 Putnam
#2 Van Wert

4. We will support thoughtful development and strategic redevelopment to foster vibrant, inclusive, and resilient places to live, work, and thrive. By embracing smart growth principles, preserving local character, and investing in infrastructure and innovation, we aim to transform underutilized spaces into dynamic hubs of opportunity and make our region known as a place to locate, develop, and succeed.

#2 Hancock
#3 Allen
#3 Hardin
(tie)

5. Our region will help drive an economic landscape where strategic development and thoughtful redevelopment drive innovation, inclusivity, and long-term prosperity. By reinvesting in underutilized areas, supporting local entrepreneurship, and attracting diverse industries, we aim to create vibrant commercial districts and resilient job centers.





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FINANCIAL / RESOURCE CAPACITY / FUNDING

Draft Vision Statements

#1 Hancock (tie) #2 Hardin #2 Putnam #2 Van Wert	1. Our region will cultivate a robust and sustainable financial and resource base to support strategic investments, economic growth, and community priorities. By leveraging public and private funding, maximizing grant opportunities, and efficiently allocating resources, the region will ensure that programs, infrastructure, and initiatives are well-supported, resilient, and capable of driving long-term prosperity.
#1 Allen #1 Hancock (tie) #3 Hardin #3 Putnam #1 Van Wert	2. Our region will work together to build a resilient economic ecosystem where financial tools (e.g., grants, incentives, investment mechanisms/districts), and partnerships are leveraged to unlock potential, reduce barriers, and ensure that every project contributes to a more vibrant, inclusive, and prosperous region.
#2 Hancock #1 Hardin #1 Putnam	3. By aligning our region’s coordinated economic and community development priorities, we will work to combine resources and voices to cultivate strong relationships with state and federal agencies, philanthropic partners, and private investors – showing that our region speaks with one voice and acts with collective purpose – to bring development funding resources to the region that benefits businesses of all sizes and types.
#3 Allen #3 Van Wert	4. Through open communication, data sharing, and a commitment to mutual success, we will enhance our competitiveness, attract larger funding opportunities, and ensure that economic growth is inclusive, resilient, and sustainable for all communities within the region.
#2 Allen	5. The five-county region, together with economic development organizations, will work together to attract financial and resource capacity to a community by strategically aligning local needs with broader investment goals, building trust with funders, and demonstrating impact.





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INFRASTRUCTURE / TRANSPORTATION / CONNECTIVITY

Draft Vision Statements

#1 Allen #1 Hancock #3 Hardin #3 Van Wert	1. Our region will create a coordinated, reliable, and sustainable infrastructure and transportation network that connects businesses and residents across our five-county region, enhancing mobility, economic opportunity, and the quality of life in our communities.
#2 Hardin	2. Our communities benefit from robust transportation infrastructure and public infrastructure; however, communities in some circumstances need investments to enhance public infrastructure that is near or past its useful life.
#2 Allen #2 Hancock #1 Hardin #1 Putnam (add transportation) #1 Van Wert	3. Our region will work together to modernize roads, bridges, transit systems, broadband networks, and utility infrastructure to unlock new opportunities for growth, attract private investment, and improve quality of life for residents and businesses alike.
#2 Putnam	4. The five-county region identifies the importance of supporting and facilitating investments in modern infrastructure, efficient transportation, and seamless multimodal connectivity which form the backbone of inclusive growth and shared prosperity.
#3 Allen #3 Hancock #3 Putnam #2 Van Wert	5. Our region will commit to supporting construction of systems that are resilient, sustainable, and accessible – supporting economic vitality, environmental stewardship, and a high quality of life for all. Through this collaboration and innovation, we will help shape a future where mobility empowers every community.





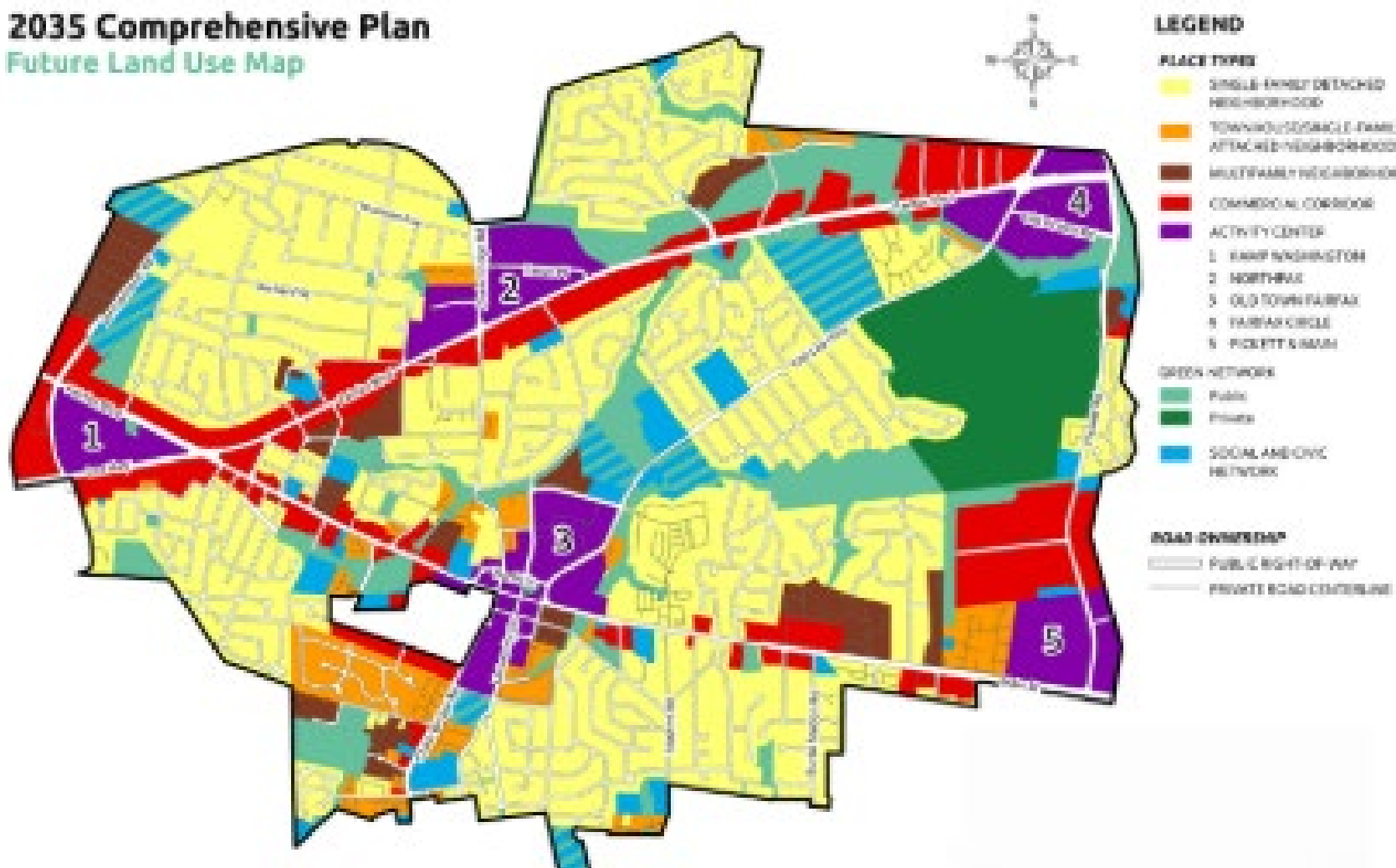
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LAND USE / QUALITY OF PLACE / LIVABILITY / LOCATION

Draft Vision Statements	
#1 Allen (tie) #1 Hancock #1 Hardin #2 Putnam (tie)	1. Our region will be a connected, vibrant place where the charm of small-town living and the beauty of rural landscapes meet opportunities for growth. By thoughtfully planning land use, we can strengthen our community's unique character and enhance the quality of place, creating welcoming environments that attract residents, businesses, and visitors. Through collaboration across our five counties, we aim to balance the preservation of natural resources with smart development, ensuring that every community - no matter its size - offers opportunity, livability, and pride of place.
#2 Allen Co (tie) #3 Hancock #2 Hardin #3 Putnam (tie) #2 Van Wert (tie)	2. Our communities will continue to strive to provide the quality of life our citizen's desire. Enhancing the quality of life, housing options and vibrancy of our communities will help us retain our talented and skilled citizenry and attract new talent.
#2 Allen Co Tie #2 Hancock (tie) #3 Hardin #3 Putnam (tie) #1 Van Wert	3. Our region will support land use and planning elements that reflect thoughtful planning, environmental stewardship, and a deep commitment to livability, so we are seen as an attractive location for new residents at all stages of life to want to live, and our existing residents feel connected and valued.
#2 Hancock (tie) #1 Putnam #3 Van Wert	4. By prioritizing smart growth, responsible land use planning, support for mixed-use development, and access to green space, our region aims to create vibrant neighborhoods that support healthy communities, accessibility for all residents, and economic opportunity.
#1 Allen Co (tie) #2 Hancock (tie) #2 Putnam (tie) #2 Van Wert (tie)	5. Through intentional design and collaborative decision-making, we will support forward-thinking yet balanced land use and efforts to build places where people can thrive, businesses can grow, and quality of life is elevated for all.



2035 Comprehensive Plan
Future Land Use Map



LIVABLE COMMUNITIES ARE GOOD FOR PEOPLE AND BUSINESS

Higher property values, increased economic activity and savings for communities are some of the benefits you'll learn about in **THE LIVABILITY ECONOMY**



A LIVABLE COMMUNITY ...

- Features housing choices that are suitable for people of all ages and life stages.
- Reduces automobile dependence and supports a socially vibrant public realm.
- Integrates land uses so people can live closer to or within walking distance of jobs, community activities and the services they need.
- Has transportation options that enable residents to get around even if they don't drive.



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WORKFORCE / TALENT

Draft Vision Statements

#2 Allen #2 Hancock #1 Hardin #1 Van Wert (tie)	1. Our region will cultivate a skilled, adaptable workforce that builds on rural strengths while competing in a global economy.
#3 Allen #3 Van Wert	2. We will prepare, connect, and grow an adaptive, highly skilled workforce for the region.
#1 Hancock #3 Hardin #2 Putnam #2 Van Wert	3. We will prepare, train, and educate a skilled workforce that is ready for the dynamic workforce skills necessary in a changing and competitive global environment.
#1 Allen #2 Hardin #1 Putnam (tie) #1 Van Wert (tie)	4. Our region will continue to make workforce development and talent attraction central to economic development and community prosperity by investing in continued partnerships with education, industry, and policy makers to support career pathways that are aligned with industry needs and create a skilled, adaptable workforce ready to meet the challenges of tomorrow.
#3 Hancock #1 Putnam (tie)	5. Our region will continue its commitment to support the creation of an environment where talent thrives – supported by inclusive access to opportunity, strong employer partnerships, and vibrant communities that attract and retain diverse professionals. Through collaboration with educational institutions, businesses, and civic leaders, we will build a dynamic ecosystem that empowers individuals, strengthens local economies, and positions our region as a destination for innovation, growth, and lifelong success.

