



# **ACTION PLAN**





#### IV. ACTION PLAN

The Owensville Comprehensive Plan is a broad, community-based vision of the future of the Town of Owensville. It has been developed through analysis of current community data sources, a series of meetings with the Owensville Comprehensive Plan Steering Committee, interviews with various community leaders and residents, and input gathered at the Owensville Community Visioning Workshop. From these activities five focus areas have emerged and have been further developed.

- Physical Character and Land Use
- Transportation
- Community Services, Facilities, and Programs
- Local Economy
- Community Participation

Each focus area represents a specific aspect of the Town of Owensville that the community has identified as an opportunity for improvement or enhancement. The focus areas are inter-related and general in nature and scope. Each focus area section gives an overall goal, several objectives that will help the community reach the goal, and specific strategies that can be pursued to meet the objectives. The strategies are “idea pieces” meant to give direction to the Town Council and its implementation teams for each objective.

As the Town of Owensville accomplishes success with implementing strategies, conditions may change. Additional strategies will likely emerge. They should be encouraged and added to the effort. Some strategies may need to be revised, or some may prove to be unnecessary. All this is good and to be encouraged. A Comprehensive Plan is not intended to be a static “snapshot in time” document, but rather a guiding document that sets the community on its course in a lively, fluid way.

Some of the strategies detail activities that will require the development of citizen committees and task forces. These are opportunities to develop skills and capacities in tomorrow’s leaders. By accepting all offers of volunteer time and effort, and creatively looking for the right task or function for each volunteer’s abilities, the Town Council and the implementation teams can encourage civic pride and engagement. They should provide plenty of gratitude and praise, and develop extensive networks for information sharing and contact development. A sense of ownership of the plan, the strategy, or even the smallest of tasks, will keep volunteers interested and engaged. Without volunteers, no community plan will be implemented.



Other strategies will require the Town Council to review and upgrade ordinances and policies and maintain vigilant enforcement of these ordinances and rules. While enforcing ordinances may sometimes be unpleasant and unpopular, the greater good of the community requires it. By building implementation teams that are community based and proactive about implementing the plan, the Council's actions will be supported and appreciated by the larger community.



## A. Land Use

Comprehensive Planning is a unique process that seeks to understand and control the significant elements that form a community and allow it to function and prosper. These elements come from a diverse range of human interactions in the natural and built environment. Some elements are strictly related to the land we inhabit and some relate exclusively to the habits and behaviors of the people of the community regardless of the land they inhabit. However, most are a blend of characteristics of the land, coupled with human behavior on that land. Land Use is one of these community elements that are a blend of the characteristics of the land and human behaviors on that land. Planning for land use involves describing how the community intends to use its land and what values the community places on that land. Land Use Planning implies an intention to control land uses, in some fashion.

The basic premise for Land Use Planning is that communities, having democratically entrusted powers to their elected leadership, can take an active role in determining the legal control of a parcel of land in terms of use and intensity. Perhaps the primary intention of land use control could be stated as the intention to minimize the negative impacts of the use of one parcel on its neighboring parcels. This is often done by separating land uses or by creating buffers between incompatible land uses. Land use zoning is usually the mechanism that allows potentially incompatible uses to be located adjacent to those land uses that are most compatible. One example of a buffer could be the required development of a raised landscape that screens one parcel from another, such as between a parcel being used for commercial endeavors and adjacent parcels that are used for residential development. In other situations, no buffer may be necessary because adjacent uses are compatible, as in the case of a residential area and a school. Thus, the effect of land use control is the protection of individual property rights and values through control of adjacent property uses.

### ***Land Use Inventory***

The predominant land use with the Town of Owensville is residential, with single-family use being most common. There are 5 duplexes and 1 apartment building located within the community. A complex housing the elderly and disabled is located in the northwest corner of the community, and a nursing home can be found in the southeast section. There are a few mobile homes found throughout the community and concentrated into two mobile home parks, one in the northeast sector and one in the southwest sector.



The next most common land use in Owensville is institutional, which includes public buildings, religious buildings, parks, and the cemeteries. For the purposes of this analysis, recreational and utility uses can also be included in the institutional category.

The third most common land use in Owensville is Industrial, followed by Commercial. Vacant parcels are scattered throughout the town, with two large parcels in the northeast sector.





The Town Council of Owensville has adopted the following Goals and Objectives, with supporting strategies to address the physical character and land use practices of the Town of Owensville:

### **Physical Character and Land Use Goal**

**The Town of Owensville shall maintain the small town atmosphere and appeal of Owensville by enforcing property maintenance codes, optimizing the use of downtown assets, providing opportunities for new development, and promoting good land use within the Town of Owensville.**

***Objective 1 – Community Appearance:*** Encourage community pride and caring stewardship of the Town of Owensville by encouraging the general beautification of the community, promoting collaborative efforts through local organizations, and supporting local aesthetic improvements to homes and businesses.

### **Strategies:**

- a. Develop a *Beautification Committee* to plan and coordinate ways to address the appearance of the community, including its transportation corridors, community gathering spaces, neighborhoods, and downtown square.
- b. Utilize the *Beautification Committee* to identify public areas that could benefit from landscaping and aesthetic improvements and organize volunteers to make these improvements.
- c. Evaluate the expansion of the annual *Community-Wide Clean-Up Program* to twice a year.
- d. Develop a *Community Awards Program* to honor local residents and business owners who participate in beautification efforts on their properties, complete the best rehabilitation and restoration projects, and display exemplary volunteer efforts.
- e. Encourage local volunteerism by developing incentive programs to recognize youth and adult volunteer groups who participate in clean-up and beautification projects.
- f. Develop a list of volunteers and volunteer groups, both youth and adult, to match with residents who may need extra help in the regular maintenance of their properties or with bi-annual clean-ups.
- g. Identify and pursue opportunities to collaborate with county, state, regional, and national organizations and programs that encourage beautification, community pride, and volunteerism, such as *World Changers* and the *Adopt-a-Highway Program*.
- h. Set annual numerical goals to correct properties with existing or reoccurring code violations.



**Objective 2 – Historic Preservation:** Preserve the historic built environment of the Owensville Community by supporting local and regional historic preservation efforts, collaborating with preservation organizations and agencies, and encouraging local residents to preserve history. Promote restoration and the rehabilitation of problem properties by choosing restoration over demolition to maintain neighborhood appeal, symmetry, and sense of place.

Strategies:

- a. Identify ways to collaborate with state preservation organizations and agencies to educate local residents about historic preservation and local architectural styles.
- b. Compile a list of historic structures, homes, and sites within the Town of Owensville that are significant to the history of the community.
- c. Develop a *Historic Preservation Awareness Program* to educate the public on the benefits of preserving historic structures.
- d. Develop a *Historic Walking Tour* of the Town of Owensville to promote the history of the community.
- e. Encourage the Owensville Public Library to maintain a special collection of information regarding history, historic preservation, and structural restoration and rehabilitation.







**Objective 3 – Downtown Revitalization:** Promote the Owensville Downtown Square as the focal point for community gatherings, the center of local commerce, and an opportunity for local business development.

Strategies:

- a. Develop a *Downtown Revitalization Plan* for the Town of Owensville to address downtown revitalization, marketing, aesthetic improvements, and economic development.
- b. Provide additional resources and support to the *Owensville Merchants Association* to enable them to become more proactive in downtown development.

**Objective 4 – Future Growth:** Identify opportunities for carefully-planned growth by exploring the costs and benefits of annexation, promoting affordable multi-unit housing for a variety of age groups, identifying developable areas within and adjacent to the Town’s boundaries, and promoting future growth opportunities to interested parties, such as developers and economic development organizations.

Strategies:

- a. Perform a *Cost and Benefits Analysis* regarding the annexation of areas where property owners are currently receiving services and utilities provided by the Town of Owensville to provide specific information crucial to a constructive decision-making process.
- b. Develop a detailed *Annexation Plan* that addresses potential and future annexation activities for the next ten years.
- c. Share and discuss the *Town of Owensville Comprehensive Plan*, and related documents with county, state, and regional representatives, and seek their assistance and support regarding future residential, business, and industrial growth opportunities in the Owensville Area.
- d. Convene a group of local, county, and regional developers who are interested in the future development of the Owensville area to share and discuss the *Owensville Comprehensive Plan* and related documents with them.
- e. Conduct a *Housing Study* to identify the specific housing needs for all age groups and income levels, including new families, young professionals, renters, home buyers, seniors, low-income populations, and those individuals needing assisted-living facilities.
- f. Develop a regular meeting schedule for the *Owensville Plan Commission* to discuss local land use issues and code enforcement concerns.
- g. Establish a schedule for the *Owensville Plan Commission* for their annual review of the *Owensville Comprehensive Plan* to ensure applicability and continued progress.



**Objective 5 – Land Use Controls:** Assess the need for land use control ordinances within the Town of Owensville to promote community pride, protect the small town appeal of the community, address the placement and performance of undesirable businesses, and ensure that new development is compatible with existing land uses.

Strategies:

- a. Form a small group of concerned citizens to research existing local and state ordinances to find ways to address existing issues within the community.
- b. Research other small towns and rural communities throughout the State of Indiana and the mid-west to develop an understanding of the advantages and disadvantages of developing local land use controls for the Town of Owensville.
- c. Identify potential refinements and addendums to existing local ordinances to address existing issues of concern within the community.
- d. Actively enforce local and state ordinances through local police and fire department personnel, as well as other town employees and elected officials.
- e. Maintain a *Code Violation Reporting System* and mechanisms to ensure that specific issues are resolved once reported.
- f. Develop a fair and reasonable *Land Use Control Ordinance* for the Town of Owensville that protects the community's small town values and ensures that new development complements the existing land use pattern within the community.



**Objective 6 – Natural Environment:** Preserve the natural environment by addressing local environmental concerns, working closely with local, county, state, and regional entities, and promoting the sustainable use of environmental assets in the Owensville Area.

Strategies:

- a. Identify specific areas within the Owensville Area where persistent flooding and pooling of water poses hazards to motorists, property owners, and the general health, safety, and welfare of local residents.
- b. Identify problem areas within the Owensville Community where illegal dumping, persistent littering, and other waste by-products are collected.
- c. Identify specific complaints concerning local and regional businesses and industries in the Owensville Area that pose potential health hazards or public concern for air and water pollution.
- d. Develop methods to address existing and potential environmental hazards in the Owensville Area by working closely with county, state, and regional agencies.
- e. Develop a plan to address pollution issues related to the water supply, flooding, and soil erosion by coordinating local efforts with neighboring communities, land owners, and elected officials.
- f. Identify natural features, such as streams, wooded areas, old growth trees, open meadows, rock formations, and wetland areas located in the Owensville Area that should be preserved as new growth and development continues.
- g. Identify new opportunities for the development of park and recreation amenities through the preservation of natural areas throughout the Owensville Area.
- h. Strengthen the local *Waste Management Program* by encouraging recycling, working with local businesses to manage industrial waste, and coordinating with regional waste management programs to improve the quality of life for local residents.
- i. Develop a strong collaboration with the *Indiana Department of Environmental Management (IDEM)* to monitor coal mining development and operations near the Owensville Well Fields.
- j. Conduct regular meetings of the *Owensville Wellhead Protection Committee* to discuss affects, remedies, and solutions regarding the development of coal mining operations near the Owensville Well Fields.
- k. Develop a *Ground Water Monitoring System* in collaboration with local residents, IDEM, and the coal mine to closely monitor the quality of water.
- l. Develop a *Water Resource Rehabilitation Plan* in coordination with IDEM and the coal mine in the event that the Wellhead Protection Area is contaminated.



## B. Transportation

Transportation facilities and infrastructure are essential attributes of any community and are intimately linked to the land use and economic prosperity of a community. This is especially true of small communities that are remote from large urban centers and employment hubs.

### *Inventory*

The Town of Owensville is situated at the junction of Indiana State Routes 65, 165, and 168, approximately eight miles north of Interstate 64. Additionally the town has approximately 8 miles of local roads and 4 miles of sidewalks.

In June 2007, the *Indiana Department of Transportation* (INDOT) adopted an update of the *2030 Long- Range Transportation Plan* which includes a Functional Classification System and an Access Classification System. These classification systems, which are found respectively in *Chapter 6: System Definition*, and *Chapter 12: Access Management*, illustrate and control the balance between the two primary functions of roadways: traffic movement and land access. (Source: INDOT 2030 Long Range Transportation Plan. June 2007. Indiana Department of Transportation. Indianapolis.)

According to this document, the road segments of SR 65, SR 168, and SR 165 that pass through Owensville are functionally classified as Rural Major Collectors, and Owensville Princeton Road is functionally classified as a rural Minor collector. The remaining roads in Owensville are functionally classified as local roads.

Although INDOT has not designated roads according to Access as yet, State Roads 65, 168, and 68 will likely be access classified as Tier 3: Sub-Regional Corridors, Type A. This classification includes all multi-land roads that provide access to local residences and businesses in rural areas and small towns. This type accommodates low to moderate speed traffic, short distance trips, and moderate traffic volumes.

Air transportation assets available to the Owensville area include the *Evansville Regional Airport*, approximately 30 miles to the south-east, and the *Louisville International Airport*, approximately 125 miles to the east of Owensville, and the *St. Louis International Airport*, approximately 160 miles to the west.

Currently the nearest active rail lines are the Norfolk-Southern line that runs through Lyles Station and Princeton, Indiana, approximately eight miles to the north, the Indiana Southwestern line that runs through Poseyville, approximately nine miles to the south, the Indiana Southern line that runs through Mackey, approximately 17 miles to the east of Owensville, and the CSX line that runs through Fort Branch and Haubstadt, just 7 miles east



of Owensville. All of these rail lines are for freight. The nearest passenger connections are in Centralia, Illinois, Cincinnati, Ohio, and Indianapolis.

Bicycle and similar personal transportation modes, while not well established in the Owensville Region, are becoming more common. A bicycle trail has been established for southern Indiana by the *Dubois County Tourism Commission* in conjunction with the Tourism Bureaus and Commissions of Crawford, Gibson, Orange, Perry, Pike and Spencer Counties with Owensville as its most westerly point of contact. While this route is used predominantly for recreational purposes it may in the future be used more by commuters traveling to Fort Branch and as a connector to US 41.





The Town Council of Owensville has adopted the following Goals and Objectives, with supporting strategies concerning transportation in and around the Town of Owensville:

### **Transportation Goal**

**The Town of Owensville shall capitalize upon the regional transportation system by finding a balance between the conflicting values of easy, direct access to highways and the protection afforded by the remoteness of the Owensville Community.**

***Objective1 - Local Streets and Roadways:*** Promote the safe and reasonable use of local streets and state roads by identifying ways to address issues related to vehicular traffic throughout the Town of Owensville.

### **Strategies:**

- a. Conduct a *Traffic Study* to analyze, prioritize, and identify solutions to persistent traffic problems within the Town of Owensville.
- b. Reconfigure the parking pattern and inner roadway along Brummitt and Main Streets on the north and east sides of the town square to increase the number of angled parking spaces and improve pedestrian safety in the Downtown and Library Park area.
- c. Identify specific areas where traffic calming techniques such as brick crosswalks, pedestrian signage, and landscaped medians are needed to increase the safety of pedestrians, cyclists, and vehicles.
- d. Develop a *Corridor Improvement Plan* that addresses traffic calming, pedestrian safety, parking, beautification, and other improvements to the downtown area.
- e. Develop an ongoing dialog with the *Indiana Department of Transportation (INDOT) Vincennes District Office* to address existing and potential increases in traffic due to regional industrial growth.
- f. Request additional traffic collection data from the *Indiana Department of Transportation (INDOT) Vincennes District Office* to monitor increases of through-traffic and identify needs for future road improvements.
- g. Assess existing speed limits and weight capacities of streets and roads that experience high volumes of vehicular traffic through the Town of Owensville to identify any needed changes in signage and traffic limitations.
- h. Enforce traffic laws and ordinances through increased patrols, a persistent ticketing program, and additional enforcement mechanisms, such as signage, warning lights, or cameras at intersections.
- i. Identify a parking lot or area where semi-trucks and other heavy-weight vehicles, such as buses, RV's, and transport trailers can be safely and conveniently parked overnight and designate and encourage this area for such use.



**Objective 2 - Accessibility:** Capitalize upon the proximity of the Town of Owensville to significant industries, local state highways, regional airports, regional economic centers, and the Wabash River.

Strategies:

- a. Identify primary roadways that will serve as future links to the growing economic hub surrounding the convergence of Interstate 164, Interstate 64, SR 57, US 41 and the future I-69 extension. Develop a *Corridor Improvement Plan* for these primary roadways.
- b. *Identify ways for the Town of Owensville* to capitalize on its *close proximity* to the Wabash River for increased waterway commerce, tourism, economic development, and recreation.
- c. Develop a *Promotional Strategy* that identifies the Town of Owensville as a bedroom community for the Evansville Metropolitan Area with convenient access to primary transportation corridors, neighboring economic centers, significant industries, and regional airports.

**Objective 3 - Mass Transit:** Pursue opportunities to develop mass transit solutions for medical purposes, regional travel, and regular commuting.

Strategies:

- a. Identify a detailed list of the specific needs of various resident groups who would benefit from and utilize any form of mass transit to and from the Owensville Community.
- b. Distribute publications from existing county, regional, and private rural transit providers to residents and groups that would benefit from mass transit opportunities to and from the Owensville Community. Provide links to these organizations' websites on the Owensville Town website.
- c. Work with existing rural transit service providers to ensure that Owensville residents have good access to transportation for medical appointments, and to commuter transit services that travel to and from regional industries, such as Toyota Motor Manufacturing, Duke Energy Power Production Plant, and Evansville job centers.
- d. Develop additional mass transit opportunities to fill gaps in local transportation by working with existing social service providers, such as the *United Way* and the *Gibson County Area Council on Aging*.
- e. Investigate opportunities to utilize the abandoned railroad bed as a transportation connection for additional industrial development in the Owensville Area.



**Objective 4 - Bicycle and Pedestrian Transit:** Promote healthy lifestyles and decreased dependency on the automobile within the Town of Owensville by developing a well-connected bicycle and pedestrian infrastructure system that also connects to county, regional, state, and national bicycle and pedestrian systems.

Strategies:

- a. Complete a *Street Lighting Survey* throughout the Town of Owensville to locate gaps in safety and service to areas of the community.
- b. Complete a *Sidewalk and Curb Survey* throughout the Town of Owensville to identify gaps in connectivity and areas where maintenance and improvements are necessary.
- c. Develop a *Sidewalk and Curb Maintenance Plan* that will help local leaders to prioritize and schedule improvements to existing infrastructure, make necessary repairs, and complete gaps in pedestrian connectivity within the Town of Owensville.
- d. Develop a *Pedestrian Connectivity Plan* for the Town of Owensville that will help to direct the decisions of local leaders for the next 10 years
- e. Clearly mark crosswalks that experience significant use to ensure pedestrian safety.
- f. Install additional traffic calming features in high-traffic areas to increase pedestrian safety.
- g. Identify areas where additional walking, hiking, and bicycle trails could be developed.
- h. Identify funding opportunities available to develop new bicycle and pedestrian infrastructure or to make improvements to existing bicycle and pedestrian infrastructure throughout the community.
- i. Collaborate with regional on-road bike trail systems to develop safe routes and appropriate signage through the Owensville Area.
- j. Research the potential use of the abandoned railroad corridor as a regional connector for bicycle and pedestrian use.
- k. Develop links to existing trails, recreation areas, schools, other community destinations, and county, state, regional, and national bicycle and pedestrian systems to improve pedestrian connectivity throughout the region.





### **C. Community Services, Facilities, and Programs**

Community services, facilities and programs include the wide variety of public services, buildings, and utilities that the Town of Owensville provides to its citizens. Such services, facilities, and programs are intended to meet the community's needs relative to safety, health, access, economic and land development, education, and culture. These attributes have significant effects of the quality of life in the community.

#### ***Inventory***

##### Police

The Owensville Police Department is staffed by one (1) Town Marshall, one (1) Deputy Marshall, and two (2) reserve officers. They currently have one cruiser and are exploring funding options for purchasing an additional vehicle.

##### Fire Protection and Emergency Rescue

The Town of Owensville and its surrounding townships are served by the Owensville Montgomery Township Fire Protection District, a volunteer corporation of 25 volunteer firefighters and seven (7) volunteer first responders. The department consists of two (2) stations and has plans to enlarge the existing Station One within the next five years. The improved Station One will include a helicopter landing pad. Currently there are one (1) pumper truck, one (1) 4000 gallon tanker truck, one (1) brush truck, and one (1) rescue truck stationed at Station One, and one (1) brush truck, and two (2) pumpers stationed at Station Two.

In addition to the Rescue Truck noted previously, Owensville Emergency services are provided around the clock by a staff of Emergency Medical Technicians. They are housed at Fire Station 1, and are employees of Gibson County Emergency Medical Services.

##### Water and Wastewater

The Town of Owensville maintains its own wells and water system. It has in place a well-head protection plan, with four (4) wells that are capable of producing 450 gallons/ minute and one (1) 300,000 gallon pressure tower. The Town of Owensville Water and Sewer Utility provides water to all buildings within the Town of Owensville and to some homes and businesses in the Owensville growth area. Gibson Water also provides water to areas outside the corporate limits.

The Town of Owensville Water and Sewer Utility also maintains an aeration wastewater treatment facility capable of processing approximately 400,000 gallon per day. Constructed in 2003, it is currently at 100% capacity. The utility is working to eliminate infiltration points which will increase efficiency and



provide additional capacity. All the homes within the current town boundary are served by this utility as are some homes in areas outside the town corporation limit that are in Owensville's growth area. Graphic Information System (GIS) maps of all Owensville Water and Sewer Utility facilities and lines are available through the Town Clerk Treasurer's office.

Properties in the growth area not served by the Town of Owensville Water and Sewer Utility are served by site-based systems, predominantly septic systems.

#### Stormwater

Currently there are no treatment facilities for stormwater in Owensville or its growth area. There are currently no plans to construct such facilities.

#### Solid Waste

Gibson County Solid Waste maintains a solid waste transfer station for the use of Gibson County residents.

#### Community Buildings

The Town of Owensville is fortunate to have two general purpose buildings available to its citizens for community events and private rentals. The Owensville Community Center is a large hall with a kitchenette and restrooms, capable of holding 125 people. It is managed by the Owensville-Montgomery Township Parks and Recreation Board.

The Recreational, Educational, & Historical (REH) Center, which served Owensville High School until 1974 and then Owensville Elementary/Middle School until 1993, provides the Owensville Community with a large gymnasium. This was the first gymnasium of its kind in Indiana. The facility is an underground gym similar to the gym in Huntingburg and Roberts Stadium in Evansville. The Owensville REH gym is the smallest of the three. The same architect built all three gyms. This facility contains a large museum filled with numerous memorabilia including hundreds of class pictures, 158 class and honor jackets, and the first glass basketball backboard.

The REH gym is host to a "Walker's Club" and a winter basketball league for the youth entitled South Gibson Bidy Ball Program. The "Walker's Club" provides an indoor facility for people to exercise in inclement weather. These two programs, along with rental of the facility for private events, monetarily support the day to day operations of the facility, which is managed by the REH Center Board. The Owensville Alumni Association holds a biannual alumni banquet which attracts around 400 people. The Town of Owensville, Owensville Montgomery Township Park & Recreation Department, Montgomery Township Trustee, the Owensville Alumni Association, and private donations help fund capital improvement projects to the facility.



Parks and Open Space

The Town of Owensville has formed a strategic partnership with Montgomery Township to provide park and recreation services for the entire Owensville community through the Owensville-Montgomery Township Park and Recreation Board. Through this partnership the community has been able to offer more recreational programs and facilities than are typically available in a community of its size. This relationship should continue to be nurtured and preserved.





Montgomery Park, in the northwest sector of Owensville, provides a playground, volleyball court, picnic area, flower gardens, and walking trail. It is owned and managed by the Owensville-Montgomery Township Park and Recreation Board.

The ball fields adjacent to the REH Center are also maintained by the Owensville-Montgomery Township Park and Recreation Board. The Owensville Summer Ball Program, Inc. offers baseball and softball leagues for children and youth. Gibson County Youth Soccer attracts a large group of children from the area for soccer leagues, which utilize the soccer fields maintained by the Owensville-Montgomery Township Park and Recreation Board. The Titan Youth Football League serves many of the youth of the Owensville Community, which its practices and games are held at Gibson Southern High School.

#### Local Schools

Students and families in the Town of Owensville are served with public education by the South Gibson School Corporation through the Owensville Community School (grades K-8) and the Gibson Southern High School (grades 9-12). Non-public educational options include the Bethel Christian School in Princeton and the Catholic Diocese of Evansville with schools in Fort Branch, Princeton and Haubstadt.

Special Education services are offered at the Gibson-Pike-Warrick School, in addition to services in the local public schools. Both the Owensville Community School and Gibson Southern High School are within their capacity limits for student enrollment at 83 percent and 69 percent respectively for the 2007-2008 school year.

The Town Council of Owensville has adopted the following Goals and Objectives, with supporting strategies to address community services, facilities, and programs available to the Owensville Community:

#### **Community Services, Facilities, and Programs Goal**

**The Town of Owensville will strengthen local resources, provide excellent community services, and develop additional programs for the Owensville Community by maintaining existing services, identifying gaps in local services, strengthening partnerships with regional entities, and pursuing available funding opportunities.**



**Objective 1 - Crime Prevention:** Maintain the quality of the Owensville Police Department by increasing local resources, improving education and skills to address local issues, strengthening partnerships with local, state, and regional law enforcement groups, and improving the enforcement of local and state laws within the Owensville Area.

Strategies:

- a. Form collaborations with county, state, regional, and federal law enforcement agencies to maximize local resources.
- b. Develop strategies to focus on the particular safety and crime concerns of Owensville residents.
- c. Participate in regular *Law Enforcement Training and Crime Prevention Seminars* to improve the knowledge and skills of the *Owensville Police Department*.
- d. Train local police officers, fire department personnel, town employees, and elected officials to enable multiple reporting sources for violations of local ordinances and state laws.
- e. Develop a *Neighborhood Watch Program* to encourage residents to be watchful for problems and knowledgeable about how to report and abate criminal activity.
- f. Provide *Education Programs* for leaders and participants of the *Neighborhood Watch Program* on significant crime problems such as methamphetamine production and use.
- g. Develop a *Collaborative Security Plan* with fertilizer plant management to improve security of the plant and limit access to the facility, equipment, and its products by criminals.

**Objective 2 – Public Safety:** Reinforce public safety throughout the Owensville Area through adequate planning, preparation, training, and local services.

Strategies:

- a. Develop an *Emergency Management Plan* for the Town of Owensville that addresses natural disasters, potential foreign attacks, and medical outbreaks.
- b. Create an *Emergency Management Committee* to address local public safety needs, local utility infrastructure security, crime prevention, and emergency management strategies in relation to the development of an *Emergency Management Plan* for the community.
- c. Maintain a sustainable and reliable ambulance program to provide service to the Town of Owensville and other nearby areas.
- d. Develop strong collaborations between county government, the *Gibson County Emergency Management Office*, and regional medical and safety service providers to improve local public safety.
- e. Participate in regular *Fire Prevention and Protection Training* to maintain the skills and knowledge base of the *Owensville Volunteer Fire Department*.



**Objective 3 – Town Management:** Empower the elected officials representing the Town of Owensville by providing adequate training, encouraging courageous leadership, planning for the future, and providing local support for decision-making.

Strategies:

- a. Participate in annual *Training for Local Government Officials* to develop skills and knowledge in decision-making, funding opportunities, legal issues, code enforcement, and problem-solving.
- b. Train fire and police personnel about local ordinances and code enforcement processes to empower them to report and prosecute code violations, such as those concerning building and lot maintenance.
- c. Continue to provide opportunities for public comment on critical decisions being made by elected officials through surveys, public forums, or similar means.
- d. Utilize the website of the Town of Owensville to effectively distribute important information and gather public input.
- e. Amend local ordinances or develop new ordinances to improve the resolution of specific issues in a timely manner.
- f. Maintain adequate community services by making policy decisions that will maintain and strengthen the local tax base.
- g. Develop strategies to address potential financial shortfalls while still maintaining adequate local services.
- h. Develop a *Capital Improvement Plan* to assess and budget for required maintenance and upgrades to publicly-owned facilities and to budget for development of new facilities.
- i. Utilize the *Owensville Comprehensive Plan* and other future planning documents to assist in making local decisions.



**Objective 4 – Local Utilities:** Strengthen the Town of Owensville utilities by maintaining adequate local services, resolving potential issues, and preparing for future growth.

Strategies:

- a. Develop a *Master Utility Plan* to guide regular maintenance, improvements, and future growth.
- b. Coordinate with regional communications service providers to identify ways to improve communication services in the Owensville Area.
- c. Develop a *Marketing Campaign* to promote the *Owensville Water Utility* as a clean, safe, and affordable public water source.
- d. Construct improvements to local utility infrastructure to increase their capacity for future growth.
- e. Extend local utility infrastructure into areas where future growth is expected
- f. Complete a *Cost Benefit Analysis* for additional local services such as trash service, postal delivery, and snow removal to evaluate affordability.

**Objective 5 – Teen Center and Youth Activities:** Promote healthy lifestyles for all area residents by developing programs and activities for children, youth, adults, and seniors in the Owensville Area.

Strategies:

- a. Create a *Youth Advisory Council* comprised of adults and youth to develop recreational and enrichment opportunities for teens and ‘tweens’.
- b. Identify opportunities for area youth to better utilize existing facilities and programs, and develop new activities and events.
- c. Identify a list of potential collaborations with local, county, regional, and state youth organizations, such as *4-H*, the *Gibson County Youth Center*, and the *YMCA*, to increase local opportunities for youth.
- d. Develop a *Youth Assistance Corp* to build inter-generational relations by assisting in local projects, community events, and services to senior citizens and disabled residents in need of extra help with regular property maintenance.
- e. Develop a *Summer Jobs Resource Program* to link teens to summer job opportunities that can provide valuable skills training, connections to career mentors, and access to employment resources.
- f. Identify fundraising opportunities for non-sports recreational activities, such as art, drama and music, to increase youth involvement in the community.



**Objective 6 – Parks and Recreation:** Pursue the ongoing development of local park and recreation opportunities, programs, and facilities within the Owensville Area through increased funding, continued maintenance, and strategic improvements to serve local residents throughout the community.

Strategies:

- a. Develop and maintain a current *Park and Recreation Plan* for the Town of Owensville to remain eligible for Indiana Department of Natural Resources (DNR) funding programs, identify local park and recreation needs, identify areas where new or revitalized park and recreation facilities or properties are needed, and coordinate local parks and recreation programs with county, state, and regional organizations and service providers.
- b. Develop additional parks and recreation services that are not sports-related to broaden local opportunities and interests.
- c. Maintain an *Annual Maintenance Schedule* for all local park and recreation facilities, including lawn care, landscape design, painting, trash clean-up, and winterization.
- d. Create an *Annual Task List* to be completed, discussed, or explored by the *Owensville-Montgomery Township Park and Recreation Board* to strengthen local Park and Recreational services in the Owensville Area.
- e. Identify funding opportunities available for improvements and additions to existing park and recreation facilities and infrastructure throughout the community.
- f. Provide funding and support for elected officials, town employees, and the *Owensville-Montgomery Township Park and Recreation Board* to attend training programs about the general care of greenspace, park and recreation amenities, and requirements for ADA compliance to provide better facilities maintenance and community decision-making.
- g. Pursue grant opportunities on an annual basis to ensure that funding is available for improvements and regular maintenance.





**Objective 7 - Local Schools:** Support high quality education by increasing community involvement with the *Owensville Community School* and *Gibson Southern High School*, developing connectivity to the physical community of Owensville, and encouraging local residents of all ages to capitalize on continuing education and life-long learning opportunities in the region.

Strategies:

- a. Develop a *Youth Advisory Council* to develop programs that build opportunities and inter-generational relationships within the Owensville Community.
- b. Identify gaps in local educational skills and services to youth and children that could be developed through collaborations with local schools.
- c. Develop a format for regular communication and interaction between local residents, community leaders, and school administrators.
- d. Coordinate an *Education Fair* at the REH Center to introduce higher education opportunities for high school graduates, youth, and adults in the community.
- e. Develop collaborations with local schools, community organizations, and regional social service providers to address education, child welfare, and other child and youth related issues.
- f. Work with administrators and educators at the *Owensville Community School* and *Gibson Southern High School* to identify and publicize opportunities for local residents to get more involved in the education of children, youth, and adults.
- g. Develop collaborations with regional institutions of higher education to provide local continuing education opportunities through satellite college courses, computer training, and skills development classes within the Town of Owensville.
- h. Create an *Owensville Community School Booster Club* to encourage all area residents (not just parents) to regularly support school academic and sporting events and other activities at the *Owensville Community School*.



#### **D. Local Economy**

Economic Development is concerned with diversifying a local economy, and creating additional jobs and income to maintain and enhance the local quality of life. Local, regional, national, and international factors can all affect a local economy, but usually a community can only do so much to affect these factors and usually by only local and regional actions. For small communities, such as Owensville, a key activity is predicting the events and circumstances that may impact the local economy and having plans in place to enhance positive effects and mitigate any negative effects. Being aware of available resources and developing the skills and capacity to influence economic development decisions are critically important. This can require substantial time and commitment but is rewarded with increased prosperity and quality of life for the community and its citizens.

According to the *Indiana Business Research Center* at *Indiana University* in their April 2008 publication, *Indiana Population Projections 2010 – 2040*, Gibson County is projected to experience a population growth of 4.1% to 8% between 2005 and 2025. The median age of the population of Gibson County is projected to be 40.1 to 44 years in the year 2035. And the labor force of Gibson County is projected to decline by 10% or less between the years 2005 and 2025. (It should be noted that this statistic is for a labor force aged 25 to 54, which may not be reflective of true working patterns as the current population ages and the challenges of retirement become more pronounced.) In all, Gibson County (and by inference Owensville) should expect to experience a natural increase in population that offsets its net out-migration. Gibson County should also expect to experience increased demand for high quality labor.

#### ***Inventory***

##### Local Businesses

The Town of Owensville has a traditional downtown with a central square surrounded by businesses and community services. The square contains the *Owensville Carnegie Public Library*, the *War Dads Memorial*, and a band shell. The square is landscaped and is a pleasant place to linger while shopping or otherwise involved in business. Among the surrounding businesses are two restaurants, a furniture store, a pizza shop, a florist, a bank, a Dollar General store, a child day care, and several assorted service companies. The town hall and post office are also on the square, as is a local church. On the northern approach to town on SR 65 is a relatively new ceramics craft shop. On the approach from the east on SR 168/Walnut Street are a convenience store, a packaged liquor store, and a funeral home.

The majority of Owensville's industrial businesses are south of SR 168/Walnut Street. These include *Superior Ag* and *Consolidated Grain and Barge*.



The most predominant industry surrounding Owensville is agriculture. To the east, south and west, vast acres are utilized for grain, vegetable, fruit and animal farming. Concurrent with agricultural use, oil wells are common in the surrounding area, predominantly in the growth area to the east and beyond the growth area to the north of Owensville.

#### Regional Businesses

Among the regional businesses that contribute significantly to the Owensville economy are the *Duke Energy Generating Plant* to the northwest of Owensville; the Toyota Motor Manufacturing Plant, located on US 41, north of SR 168 ; and *Alliance Coal, LLC*, which has indicated its intention to begin mining operations to the north of Owensville. Other significant employment centers include the City of Evansville and its surrounds and the City of Princeton.

#### Pending Opportunities

Expected population growth, as projected by the *Indiana Business Research Center at Indiana University* can be expected to support continued growth of housing development in Gibson County. Housing growth will be enhanced by *South Gibson School Corporation's* current Southern Gibson High School Renovation Project. According to the *South Gibson School Corporation* website, this \$32,510,000 project will add and improve classrooms, arts and physical education facilities, administration and support areas, and technological capacity. Scheduled for completion in 2010, this facility will complement Owensville's existing facilities and programs for families with children.

Another potential growth stimulus is Alliance Coal, LLC's intention to expand its mining operations north of Owensville. Owensville is well positioned to take advantage of the mine's need for water and sewer services. Providing services to the mine would require extending Owensville Water and Sewer Utility lines to that region. Such an expansion would improve access to water and sewer services for the growing residential neighborhoods to the north of Owensville and would likely stimulate homebuilding in the region. This would of course be balanced by homebuyer concerns about environmental impacts on nearby neighborhoods; none-the-less, growth will likely occur in this sector.

Other opportunities may develop for Owensville due to the planned extension of Interstate 69 from Indianapolis to Interstate 64. The proposed route will travel through eastern Gibson County between the communities of Snake Run and Mackey. This phase (Phase 1) of the project is projected to be completed by 2012. This project, which is about 14 miles to the east of Owensville, will bring enhanced opportunities for economic growth to the South Gibson region and the communities within. Owensville residents may benefit from increased employment opportunities from businesses and industries that develop along the corridor. The County may also experience growth in housing production as a result of the increase in employment opportunities.



The Town Council of Owensville has adopted the following Goals and Objectives, with supporting strategies to address the opportunities and challenges to the local economy:

#### **Local Economy Goal**

**The Town of Owensville will strengthen the local economy of the Owensville Community by attracting new businesses, improving available job opportunities, and supporting existing businesses.**

***Objective 1 – Business Retention:*** Encourage the retention of existing businesses within the Town of Owensville through the avid support of local residents, coordinated efforts of local organizations, and the implementation of economic development strategies that will benefit local business owners.

#### **Strategies:**

- a. Develop a local *Economic Development Committee* to develop and implement a *Strategic Business Retention Plan* for the Town of Owensville that will guide the Committee and the community in their efforts to retain businesses.
- b. Develop a *Shop Owensville Campaign* to keep local dollars in the Town of Owensville.
- c. Improve the visibility of the *Owensville Merchants Association* with promotional tools and events.
- d. Provide educational opportunities to improve the marketing and business skills of existing and future business owners within the Owensville Area.

***Objective 2 – Business Attraction:*** Support the attraction of new businesses within the Town of Owensville by developing a local niche market, proactively seeking new businesses, and encouraging local residents to develop new businesses within the community.

#### **Strategies:**

- a. Develop and implement a *Strategic Marketing Plan* to market the community on a state and regional level.
- b. Maximize marketing opportunities of local businesses during community events where the outside public, tourists, and other visitors are present.
- c. Explore ideas for a specific niche market, such as quality furniture, interior design, and related products and services, to strengthen the local economy.
- d. Develop a *Façade Improvement Program* to improve commercial storefront space in Downtown Owensville.
- e. Develop a regularly-scheduled *Farmer’s Market* or *Co-operative Grocery Store* to provide more local food sources.



**Objective 3 – Employment and Industry:** Capitalize on existing regional industries to attract new employers to the Owensville Area, identify workforce skills and education needs, and recognize opportunities for the development of complementary businesses and services.

Strategies:

- a. Develop strategies to be used by the local *Economic Development Committee* to address local employment opportunities and the future development of local and regional industries.
- b. Assess the education and skills of the local workforce to identify strengths and areas that need improvements and to develop marketing talking-points about the local workforce.
- c. Identify opportunities to partner with county, regional, and state economic development agencies and educational institutions to improve local workforce education and skills.
- d. Produce a local *Economic Development Plan* to prioritize needs and create strategies to develop local industries and attract new businesses.
- e. Develop a vibrant website for the Town of Owensville to promote the community and its assets to potential employers and business developers.





### E. Community Participation

There are many reasons why neighbors come together to engage in community planning: they are interested in their personal and collective futures; they want to be involved in decision-making that will affect their lives and the lives of their families; and they want to protect the assets they have built in their homes, businesses, and properties. A community such as Owensville is a physical place with a variety of amenities and features. But it is also a community of common human interests and associations.

Communities that embark on planning projects experience a great opportunity for building the social capacity of their populations. These effects result from the study and development of common understandings about the community and its defining features, a shared vision for the future, a clear set of written goals and objectives that will shape future growth and protect important assets, and the development of strategies, programs and projects that the community will undertake together through the implementation stage.



Opportunities for personal leadership capacity development are abundant due to the scope and effort required to implement a community plan. Such leadership opportunities should be freely shared and distributed among all segments of the community. Once clear authority for plan elements is established by the elected body, a chain of command can be developed that provides appropriate skills development opportunities to all interested parties. In this way, the leaders of tomorrow are identified and cultivated.



Owensville is a community with a rich history of community involvement and participation. Throughout its history, the community has engaged in social and cultural activities that have fostered the close-knit fabric of community life. Civic projects, such as the *War Dads Memorial*, have developed in the citizenry a strong sense of pride in their place and culture. Religious and social organizations have fostered the values and networks necessary for communities such as Owensville to remain viable and cohesive. As we embark on the implementation of this Comprehensive Plan, recognizing and supporting the importance of community involvement and development is key to our success.



The Town Council of Owensville has adopted the following Goals and Objectives, with supporting strategies to address overall community engagement by residents in the Owensville Area:

### **Community Participation Goal**

**The Town of Owensville will capitalize upon the small town values of the Owensville Community by promoting community pride and public participation in community events and local organizations.**

**Objective 1 – Social Values:** Promote the traditional small town, family values held by the Owensville Community to strengthen acceptance of others, embrace diversity within the community, increase pride in the image of the community, and provide support for local families and residents.

#### **Strategies:**

- a. Develop ways to promote community pride and local values throughout the community to reinforce positive growth and enrichment for current and future residents.
- b. Develop programs with the *Owensville Ministerial Association* to promote community values and service to others.
- c. Develop a *Diversity Fair* at the REH Center or Town Square to educate the community about other cultures, traditions, and nationalities and to reinforce the acceptance and understanding of others.

**Objective 2 – Community Identity:** Promote the Town of Owensville as a clean, safe, and vibrant community that provides culturally-rich living in a small town atmosphere.

#### **Strategies:**

- a. Develop an *Advertising Campaign* that includes a town logo and tagline that can be used to promote the Town of Owensville.
- b. Identify ways to utilize community events opened to the general public as a way to promote the quality of life of the Owensville Community.
- c. Create a *Public Participation and Volunteerism Campaign* that encourages public participation by all members of the community to strengthen the close-knit, safe, small town atmosphere of the Town of Owensville.
- d. Develop additional community events to create more opportunities for interaction among local residents and regional promotion for the Town of Owensville.



**Objective 3 – Community Events:** Promote the Town of Owensville by capitalizing on existing community events and identifying future community-wide gatherings that could be planned to increase public participation, strengthen local pride in the community, and provide additional opportunities for social interaction among area residents and visitors.

Strategies:

- a. Seek assistance with tourism development from county and regional agencies, the *Indiana Office of Tourism Development*, the Cooperative Extension Service, and regional educational institutions.
- b. Develop a *Marketing Brochure* or flier to promote community events and gatherings held in the Town of Owensville.
- c. Create a *Distribution List* that includes local businesses, governmental offices, churches, local media, and area convention and visitors bureaus to circulate marketing brochures or fliers to area residents and visitors.
- d. Identify a list of additional community-wide events that could be developed in the community to provide additional opportunities for tourism, commerce, and community involvement.
- e. Create a list of media and other resources that can be used to promote local events, programs, and activities held throughout the year.
- f. Develop an *Advertising Campaign* to publicize existing community events through local, county, regional, and state outlets to increase awareness and visitors to the community.





**Objectives 4 – Local Organizations:** Encourage community involvement in local community groups to strengthen outreach activities, increase the frequency and scale of community projects, and provide new opportunities for local residents to interact socially.

Strategies:

- a. Develop a *Marketing Strategy* that improves communication to area residents and encourages citizens to become involved in existing community groups, projects, and endeavors.
- b. Encourage the *Owensville Ministerial Association* to increase their involvement in and provide leadership support to all aspects of the community, especially social involvement and service to others.
- c. Identify ways in which local community groups can collaborate to improve local activities and projects.
- d. Create a list of grant opportunities that could be pursued by local organizations or collaborations to improve local services, fund community projects, and develop additional activities for children, youth, adults, and senior citizens.
- e. Develop a local *Skills and Equipment Loan or Rent Database* for local organizations to consider when planning for local projects and activities.
- f. Develop a *Membership Campaign* to increase the membership and ability of the *Owensville Merchants Association*.
- g. Identify ways to utilize the internet, email, and other electronic sources to promote community events, opportunities for public participation and volunteerism, and area programs and activities.
- h. Create a *Community Volunteer Award Program* to encourage public participation and volunteerism in local projects, community outreach programs, and planning for local events.



## F. Plan Implementation, Evaluation, and Review

The work of the Owensville Plan Commission begins with the adoption of the Owensville Comprehensive Plan by the Owensville Town Council. They should expect to take the lead in organizing the implementation phases of the comprehensive plan and reporting periodically to the Town Council on their progress. Most of the members have served on the Comprehensive Plan Steering Committee throughout the creation of the plan, so they are very familiar with the plan and its elements.

Implementation is the act of accomplishing or carrying out the elements of a plan. To implement is to make it happen, to cause a plan to become reality. In the business and engineering worlds, implementation is often referred to as project management – the application of knowledge, skills, tools, and techniques to execute and complete a planned project.

The Owensville Comprehensive Plan can be viewed as a project or perhaps more realistically as a program consisting of a series of related projects. In some instances, the strategies listed in the Action Plan can be thought of directly as projects. However in most instances the strategies are a frame for the project, and additional planning needs to be done to really make progress toward the related objective and goal.

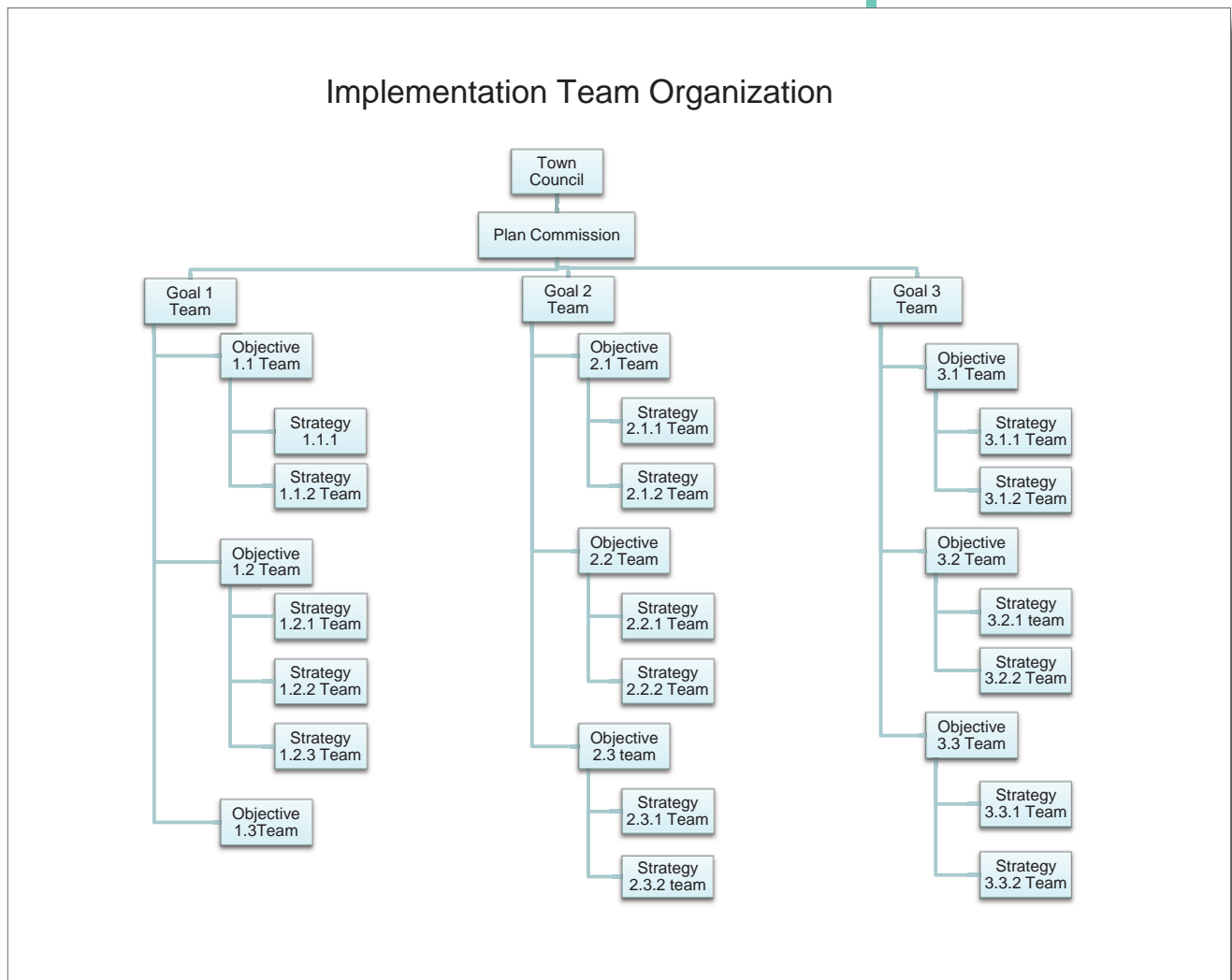
Because all projects are subject to the triple constraints of cost, time, and scope (or the standards and extent of the work to be accomplished), the first order of business is to prioritize the strategies. Making things happen is dependent on having a clear sense of which things are more important than others. It is also wise to evaluate which strategies are more easily achievable than others. In the Action Matrix, each objective and strategy has a designated completion date and a responsible party. Assessing the feasibility of these designations and making any adjustments necessary will help the Plan Commission to set these priorities. It is recommended that implementation teams chose as their first priority an “easy win”. Completing a project and implementing a strategy with relative ease will boost the confidence of the Plan Commission and other volunteers that the plan is achievable. It will also be a sign to the community that the implementation team is prepared to do its job, therefore shining a positive light on the community as a town that is making good things happen.



### Developing Implementation Teams

Humankind has long recognized that success of any project involving two or more people in any arena is dependent upon organization and a clear hierarchy of roles and responsibilities. Business, military, religious, social, and family organizations all rely on a chain of responsibility and authority where information and resources are shifted up and down a pyramidal structure. Implementation of community plans works much the same way, with the understanding that many of the people in the structure are volunteers.

Communities choose to organize their committees on a number of models. A recommended model is as follows:





### Implementation of Specific Projects

As noted by Susan Harden and Al Zelinka in their 2006 book, *Placemaking on a Budget*, “communities that are most successful in realizing their visions are those that organize and plan for implementation – identifying who, what, when, where, why, how, and how much for each step of the project”. Where the implementation of the Plan causes the need for a specific project, a thorough understanding of those seven key questions can also lead to the effective completion of that project.

- **What** is the project; what are the project’s individual components?
- **Where** will the project be located?
- **Why** is the project needed or desired?
- **When** should the project be carried out (i.e., is it a short term or long term project)?
- **Who** will lead the project; who will be part of the team to help implement it?
- **How much** will the project cost to implement and maintain? How much can the cost of the project be reduced through in-kind services or donated resources?
- **How** does the project relate to other planned or existing projects? How will the project be funded or otherwise made possible (including grants, volunteers, and in-kind services)?

Some of these questions are addressed in the Action Plan. As the specific projects or action steps are further discussed and prioritized, more of the questions noted above can be answered.

### Using the Comprehensive Plan with Development Proposals

The Plan Commission, Town Council, and Town staff should review the Comprehensive Plan to determine whether a submitted request or other item under consideration is in compliance with the Comprehensive Plan. Updating development regulations and processes should be made a priority. Officials, departments, and individual staff members within the Town of Owensville and Gibson County should be aware of the recommendations of the Plan as annual work programs and budgets are prepared and approved. Proposals that include the provision of economic incentives should be evaluated in terms of the Plan’s recommendations, especially the land use and economic development goals and objectives.



### **Use by the Plan Commission**

Plan Commissions are often faced with making some of the most controversial and difficult local government decisions. Although the Owensville Plan Commission will typically function in an advisory role to the Town Council, the Commission will be responsible for overseeing the implementation of this Comprehensive Plan, and any subsequent action plans, maintaining a long-range perspective for the Town and Community and providing sound recommendations to the Town Council. Should the Town Council decide to enact land use regulations, the Plan Commission will find itself responsible for conducting public hearings, balancing opposing facts and opinions, and making recommendations to the Town Council regarding development proposals. This Comprehensive Plan, as well as subsequent updates and revisions, embodies the vision for the Town of Owensville and are a guide for the Plan Commission in its deliberations.



### **G. Comprehensive Plan Updates**

Like all communities large and small, Owensville will never be “done” planning. This Comprehensive Plan is in one sense a “snapshot in time” of the circumstances Owensville is currently experiencing. These circumstances will change as will the values, opinions and resources that are addressed in this plan. Therefore, The Town Council, Town Plan Commission, and Town staff should expect to revisit and revise this plan over the coming months and years and should expect to repeat the comprehensive planning process in five to ten years.

In order for the Comprehensive Plan to be effective and remain useful for the community over time, it is critical that the Plan be reviewed and evaluated periodically. This Plan evaluation should be a collaborative partnership between the Owensville Plan Commission and Town Council. A periodic, systematic review of the Plan and its implementation should be conducted by the Plan Commission. It is recommended that the Commission carry out an annual review towards the end of each year and report to the Town Council on the progress that has been made towards accomplishing the Plan’s objectives, along with noting any specific emerging issues, changing conditions, and “best practices” that have been identified for possible incorporation into the Plan.

#### **Five Year Review and Update**

Because conditions and goals change with time, it is recommended that the entire Comprehensive Plan be evaluated for possible revision every five years. The Plan Commission should initiate the five-year revision process, including the following steps:

- The Plan Commission should engage the services of a qualified consultant or staff to update the Community Profile and other relevant Plan information which may have become outdated.
- The Plan Commission should conduct at least one public community workshop, facilitated by members of the Plan Commission or a qualified consultant, to re-evaluate the strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, and threats to the Owensville Community as well as to continue to gauge the overall needs and desires of the citizens of the community.
- Based on the findings of the community workshop and the community profile review, the Plan Commission should make recommendations for changes to the plan, including updated goals and objectives, to the Owensville Town Council.