

Purpose

The Community Facilities and Services chapter focuses on how facilities and services impact the overall quality of life for residents, businesses, and visitors. Facilities and services related to education, emergency services, parks and recreation, and much more are addressed, including City-managed facilities and facilities and services provided by other public entities.



08 COMMUNITY FACILITIES AND SERVICES

As Dublin continues to attract new residents, the demand for high-quality community services and facilities will continue to grow. While excellent municipal services support a predictable operating environment for businesses, municipal infrastructure such as public art, parks, community gateways, public gathering spaces, and street design help shape how residents experience their community. As the needs and desires of residents change over time, the City should plan for increases in service demands as well as the community's expectation for the provision of new amenities.

The Community Facilities and Services chapter recognizes the importance of community amenities and City services. It provides recommendations for practical actions the City can take to ensure that all parts of Dublin have access to quality facilities and services that sustain and enhance quality of life and support future development aims. As Dublin changes, it is vital that facilities and services keep up with demand to provide a quality living environment for all residents.

*Goal and Objectives for
Community Facilities and Services*

ENSURE ALL AREAS OF THE COMMUNITY HAVE ACCESS TO QUALITY COMMUNITY FACILITIES AND SERVICES THAT ENRICH THE QUALITY OF LIFE AND ACCOUNT FOR FUTURE GROWTH OBJECTIVES.

- Maintain high standards for Dublin's services.
- Provide needed facilities and enhance access to serve the population and to promote a high quality of life.
- Provide a variety of recreational and open space facilities for all residents.
- Consider Dublin's place within the region for parkland and open space.
- Support culture and public art.
- Coordinate with school districts to maintain excellence in the public education system.
- Continue to maintain neighborhood safety through community policing and a proactive and engaged police force.
- Coordinate with Washington Township to ensure emergency services and facilities continue to meet the community's needs.
- Preserve the Historic District and protect other historic resources in outlying areas in and beyond Dublin's corporate boundaries.
- Ensure the preservation of archaeological resources.
- Incorporate sustainability best practices in community facilities and services where appropriate.

The goal and objective of the Community Facilities and Services Chapter were developed in response to what we heard from the community, an analysis of existing conditions, and a review of relevant past planning efforts.



Most Sustainable.

By anticipating growth in the years to come and planning accordingly with respective service providers, Dublin is continuing its commitment to being a leader in sustainability. Ensuring the efficient and equitable distribution of new and expanded facilities and services upholds Dublin's reputation as a city that delivers world class and efficient services to its residents, business, and visitors.



Most Connected.

Through innovation, conscientiousness, and forward thinking, Dublin is preparing to address the current and future needs of the community in terms of education, culture, recreation, and health services. The increased exposure to arts, parks, and culture can create a more cohesive community where residents can feel more connected and engaged.



Most Resilient.

Planning for increased municipal and support services aids in creating a community that prides itself as the safest place to live and is prepared to withstand and quickly recover from any crisis. Additionally, robust, reliable, and responsive facilities and services provide the foundation for a stable local environment for business and residents to thrive and be better prepared for any future uncertainty.

PUBLIC SERVICES

Public services enhance the quality of life and contribute to the overall well-being of both residents and businesses. These include government services such as public works, police and fire, and utilities. It also includes services provided by outside agencies such as education services and access to healthcare. Maintaining and improving these services is vital to sustaining and enriching the lives of those in the community, demonstrating the City's commitment to progress and prosperity. Dublin can take the following action to achieve its objective of providing excellent, reliable public services.

CONTINUE TO PROVIDE HIGH-QUALITY SERVICES

The City is committed to delivering high-quality, up-to-date public services to its residents to enhance efficiency and safety. Dublin provides many public services including roadway maintenance, parks and recreation, water and sewer utilities, and public safety. Collectively, these services ensure a well-maintained, safe community. As the City grows, meeting the standards of public services is crucial, guaranteeing that growth does not undermine the community's security and appeal. Through long-term planning and close coordination with providers, Dublin can facilitate efficient and equitable distribution of quality facilities and services.

Space Needs and Facility Programming

Dublin operates seven major public buildings that house City staff and services. The principal administrative location is City Hall. Other include the Justice Center, Development Building, Dublin Community Recreation Center, Fleet Maintenance Center, Dublin Service Center, and Dublin Arts Center. The City maintains other smaller facilities in addition to those described above. The City also owns the Dublin Chamber of Commerce and a variety of historic barns and small storage facilities throughout the City to enhance preservation efforts and to provide more efficient service to Dublin's neighborhoods.

In 2006, the City of Dublin conducted a Space Needs/Facility Programming Analysis to evaluate the office space needs of its departments and the architectural integrity of City buildings. Though this study was intended to identify short-term recommendations to house City employees until a future municipal building could be constructed and is now past its useful life, it is detailed and provided an in-depth analysis of City facilities. Although the analysis was updated in 2013, the City should continue to monitor the needs of its facilities and consider conducting a similar study, should the need arise.

Commitment to Sustainability

Dublin has taken significant strides towards sustainability, exemplified by the City's adoption of a Green Fleet policy aimed at reducing fuel consumption and vehicle emissions. This policy not only underscores the City's dedication to preserving and enhancing the local environment but also positions Dublin as a leader in mitigating vehicle emissions. Such efforts have earned Dublin recognition as a Top 50 US Government Green Fleet, a testament to the City's commit-

ment to sustainability across various parameters including fleet composition, fuel efficiency, and policy implementation.

Additionally, sustainability initiatives like retrofitting City facilities with energy-efficient materials and LED fixtures, as outlined in the 2018-2020 Dublin Strategic Framework, showcase the City's proactive approach towards environmental stewardship. Building upon these achievements, the City should continue to set the standard among municipalities within the region by demonstrating its ongoing commitment to sustainability.

ENSURE ACCESS TO HEALTH FACILITIES

Dublin has a robust healthcare system. Residents enjoy access to a range of medical services and facilities. The City is home to several hospitals including The Ohio State Wexner Medical Center, OhioHealth Dublin Methodist Hospital, and Mount Carmel Dublin. Additionally, there are medical centers, clinics, and specialty practices, providing comprehensive healthcare services to residents and surrounding communities.

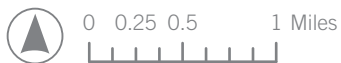
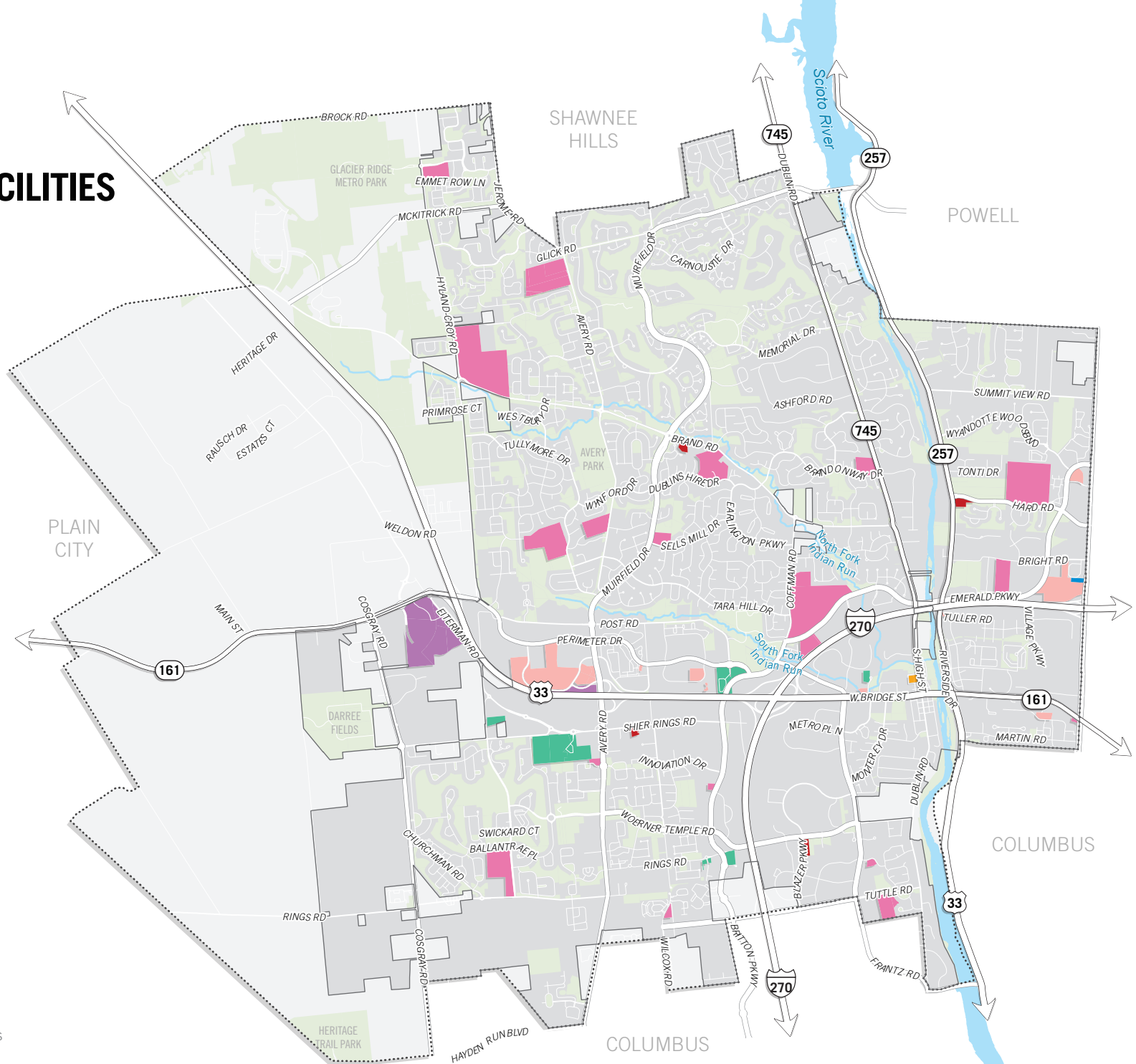
As the City grows, there will be additional need for health services. There will also be an additional need to create awareness of available services, as programs are often underutilized. In the future, the City and private organizations should work to coordinate efforts to inform and educate the community and ensure equitable access for Dublin's residents.

COMMUNITY FACILITIES

- Fire Services
- Police
- Government
- Library
- School (K-12)
- Higher Education
- Hospital or Medical

Context Layers

- River
- Parks and Open Space
- City of Dublin
- Planning Area Boundary





MONITOR SCHOOL DISTRICTS NEEDS

School districts can have a significant impact on where residents choose to live, spurring development potential, and the desirability of different locales within a community. Additionally, providing quality education is critical for professional preparedness, economic mobility, and self-efficiency. Dublin has become a destination, in part due to the quality of its school systems. Currently, a majority of the City is served by the Dublin City Schools, while a significant part of southwest Dublin lies within the Hilliard School District. There are also portions of the planning area within the Jonathan Alder District, and Columbus School District.

In addition to public schools, Dublin-area residents have additional private and public education alternatives. The City is host to a wide variety of non-religious and religious-affiliated facilities and institutions ranging from preschool and early learning to middle school ages. The City also has a library, the Columbus Metropolitan Library, which operates a branch in Historic Dublin. As Dublin's population grows, the City should collaborate and plan with the library and school districts to ensure that facilities and services can meet the educational needs of the community and accommodated new residents.

New Development and School Capacity

Throughout the engagement process, many residents discussed the school system and how it will continue to be integral to the City prosperity in the future. The quality of Dublin's schools is well known throughout the Columbus region, and participation in public engagement activities emphasized that the quality education system is a top priority for residents and a crucial element of Dublin's identity.

As the housing stock has grown to accommodate demand, the pressure on the school systems has also grown. With existing schools at capacity and plans to build new ones, the need for proactive coordination between the City and school districts is a key consideration to position the community for long-term growth and success. Additionally, Dublin and Hilliard City Schools are conducting a capacity needs assessment to ensure that future planning and development align. By continuing a coordinated approach, new neighborhoods can be developed alongside new educational facilities as needed, thereby sustaining a high quality of life and educational standards.

EDUCATIONAL FACILITIES

School Type

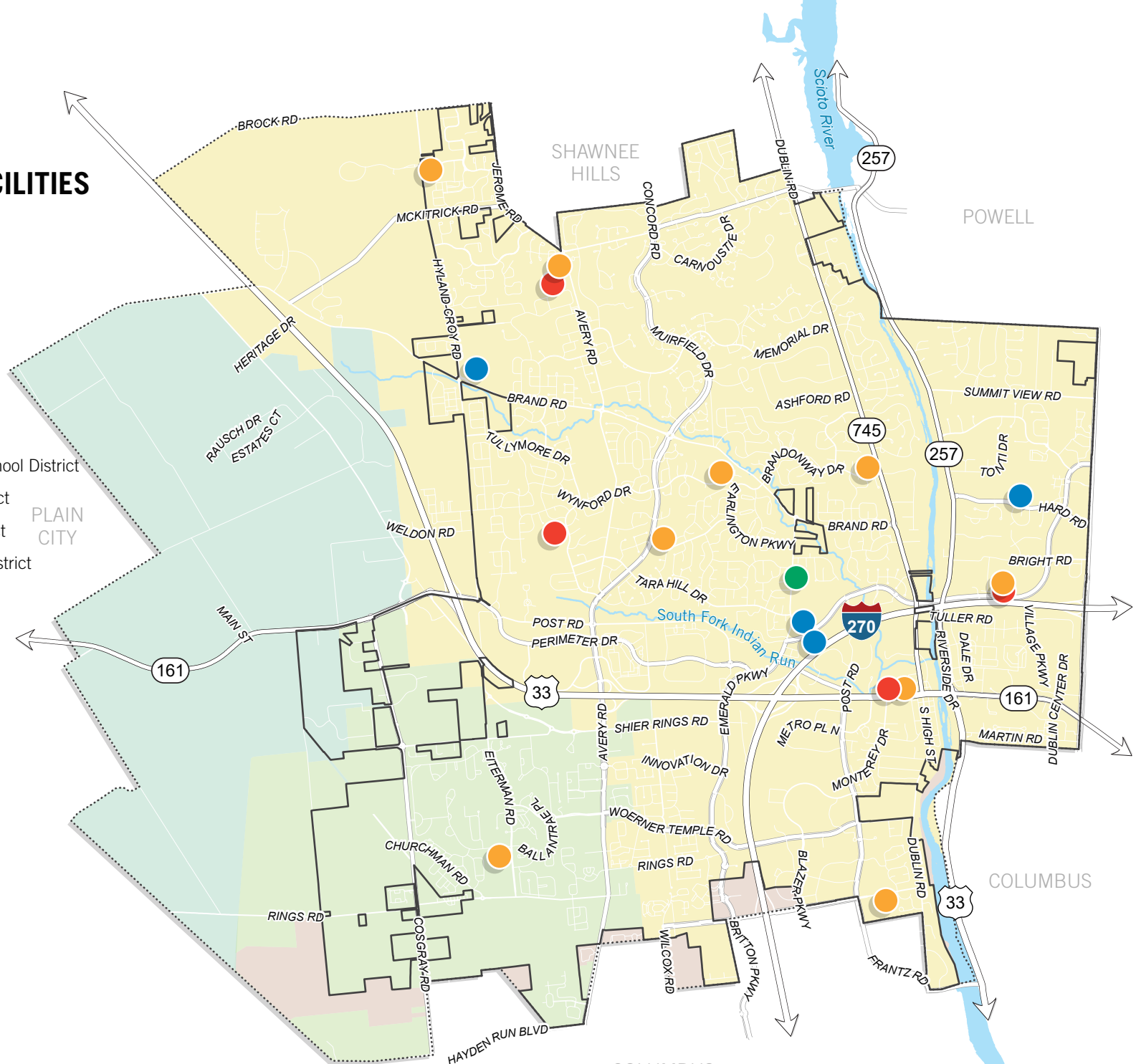
- PreSchool
- Elementary School
- Middle School
- High School

School District

- Jonathan Alder Local School District
- Hilliard City School District
- Dublin City School District
- Columbus City School District

Context Layers

- City of Dublin
- Planning Area Boundary
- River



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CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

To maintain the quality of government and administrative services within Dublin, the City should consider the following recommendations.

- Identify desirable sites for facilities as the City grows and develops, to ensure that municipal buildings and facilities can be established in suitable locations that will best serve the community's future needs.
- Reevaluate existing facilities functionally and spatially to ensure that public facilities meet the intended need.
- Acknowledge population changes and ensure that Dublin's facilities and programs reflect changing demographics and needs as the City's population ages, grows, and diversifies.
- Adopt financing plans and funding for community facilities that will accommodate the construction of future municipal facilities in a timely and efficient manner.
- Use space effectively to provide the greatest level of service from existing and future public facilities, including the combination of multiple services in one area to provide the most convenient public access and greatest community benefit.
- Continue to maintain and update the City's Emergency Operations Plan as necessary.
- Ensure the placement and construction of future facilities is adequately coordinated and planned in a manner that will ensure future needs are met.

- Continue to maintain and update the City's Green Fleet Plan as necessary.
- Continue to assess the anticipated workload of the Dublin Police Department in relation to population trends and update the Department's 2018 Multi-Year Strategic Plan as necessary.

To increase the efficiency and effectiveness of feedback between Dublin and educational institutions, the City should consider the following recommendations.

- Collaborate with community members to address the evolving needs of the population, creating an inclusive and responsive educational system.
- Make necessary infrastructure improvements to ensure schools and other facilities are highly accessible by transit, walking, and biking from all neighborhoods.
- Continue to work with school districts and other educational entities to provide support as they seek new facility locations or expansion.
- Encourage school partnerships with the business community to provide opportunities for education and training.
- Consider cooperative partnerships between the City, the library district, and other strategic partners as a means to enhance service to Dublin residents. Explore opportunities to co-locate other civic and institutional uses with library facilities.

To maintain residents access to healthcare facilities, the City should consider the following recommendations.

- Collaborate with regional healthcare organizations and agencies to monitor health issues and develop policies, services, and environmental improvements to address them.
- Invest in healthcare workforce development by supporting medical education programs, facilitating training opportunities, and offering scholarships within the community.
- Enhance wayfinding to medical treatment centers and urgent care facilities in a manner that will provide for the safe and consistent treatment of all Dublin residents and visitors.
- Foster better communication between Dublin's various organizations and the general public to enhance awareness and utilization of available services.

HISTORIC AND CULTURAL ASSETS

Dublin's historic resources make the City distinct and contribute significantly to its character. They enhance the community's sense of place, stimulate the local economy, and create opportunities for civic activities. Additionally, arts and culture bring life to the City, promote its rich heritage, and contribute to community vibrancy, acting as an engine for economic activity and development. The following section provides recommendations on how Dublin should continue to promote its historic assets, public art, and cultural amenities.

PROTECT HISTORIC SITES

Historic resources provide important insight into the lives of earlier generations and helps residents and visitors understand the Dublin of today. Historic structures still standing in Dublin present evidence of daily life, as well as preserve information about construction techniques and architectural styles spanning several periods of history – the oldest dating back to the early 1820s.

One of Dublin beautiful attractions, Historic Dublin, is a well-preserved designated historic area that reflects Dublin's rich history and cultural significance. The many physical remnants present in Dublin, dating back over two centuries, provide a sense of the community's agricultural history and the typical Ohio village character of the 19th and early 20th centuries.

Ongoing preservation efforts, spearheaded by the Architectural Review Board since 1970, have been guided by a 2016 Historic and Cultural Assessment identifying over 900 relevant historical and cultural resources in Dublin. Notably, the award-winning updates to the Historic District Code and Guidelines in 2022 further enhance preservation initiatives. Redevelopment and revitalization will continue to occur in Historic Dublin, and pressure from development will begin to encroach on outlying historic farmsteads. It will be important to ensure that the quality of Historic Dublin and the rich historic character of the Dublin area be maintained and enhanced for future generations as new growth and development is considered.

SUPPORT COMMUNITY ART AND CULTURE

Public art throughout Dublin adds significantly to the community's character, identity, and sense of place, enhancing community life for residents and visitors. The City should continue its commitment to public art and seek opportunities for new installations. The City should work with key stakeholders to identify potential locations for local public art, and work with partners to fund the development and installation of vetted pieces.

Dublin has a history of embracing and celebrating its heritage and culture, and public art is a key part of that identity. The City should continue to work with local cultural institutions that promote public art, local artists, exhibitions, and the overall arts culture. Cultural institutions working cooperatively with the City and other stakeholders, provide positive economic impact and reinforce a rich cultural environment that attracts visitors and enriches the daily lives of residents. These institutions help maintain and define the City's heritage and identity by supporting the community's commitment to arts and culture.

Dublin Arts Council

The Dublin Art Council's (DAC) mission statement is to engage the community, cultivate creativity, and foster life-long learning through the arts. The Council was founded in 1983 and has continued to champion the arts in Dublin over the decades. The Council has established several programs including the Art in Public Spaces projects, Visual Arts series, and DAC Sundays at Scioto concert series.

CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

- Encourage appropriate development practices that are sensitive to known areas and sites of historic importance and significance.
- Acquire properties or options for known sites to preserve and maintain the quality of significant historical locations.
- Consider additional study of sites that could warrant nomination to the National Register of Historic Places.
- Explore federal and state grants and other assistance for property owners to create a better balance between preservation and the feasible utilization of structures.
- Provide municipal support for the Dublin Historical Society as an important public institution through financial and promotional support or other available means.
- Encourage public and private art within Historic Dublin to provide information and to create ties to the past that will improve the public value of preservation efforts.
- Continue to preserve historic stone walls to safeguard Dublin's agricultural past.

PARKS AND RECREATION

At an *Envision Dublin* public event in April of 2023, participants were asked to describe what word, phase, or place(s) they most identify with Dublin. “Parks and Green Space” was the most selected choice by a significant margin. Results from the *Envision Dublin* Community Survey also showed “Parks and Open Space” ranked in the top five of Dublin’s most desirable attributes. Also, within the survey, respondents were prompted to select “currently strong”, “needs improvement”, or “neutral” when considering Dublin’s existing parks and recreation. “Currently strong” was the most selected answer for areas which included:

- Neighborhood parks
- Community parks
- Playgrounds
- Sports fields and courts
- Recreation programs
- Accessibility of parks and recreation
- Open space and natural areas
- Environmental features such as rivers, forests, or unique topography
- Proximity and access to regional open space such as preserves and state parks
- The amount of trees in the City
- The community’s efforts toward sustainability

It is clear that Dublin’s parks and recreation amenities are a source of immense pride and a great sense of identity for the community. The access to parks and recreation play a crucial role in enhancing the quality of life in the community by promoting environmental sustainability, supporting physical and mental well-being, and contributing to the community’s overall livability. To meet the demand of the growing community, it is vital to actively plan to enhance the level of service and accessibility to parks and recreation amenities.

IMPLEMENT PARKS AND RECREATION MASTER PLAN

Dublin has 64 parks encompassing 1,522 acres of green space. These parks include 49 fishing ponds, 57 playgrounds, eight pickleball courts, and two outdoor aquatic facilities. In 2023, the City adopted the Parks and Recreation Master Plan (PRMP) that serves as a framework for the planning, development, and rehabilitation and maintenance of Dublin’s parks, open spaces, recreation facilities and programming. The PRMP provides detailed recommendation related to the improvement of City’s parks and recreation amenities. Recommendations found within the PRMP that are tied to future growth and development with the City have been highlighted within this chapter to provide consistency and convey a unified vision for parks and recreation improvements across planning efforts. The City should continue to use the PRMP as a guiding document and implement recommendations found within the Plan.

EXPAND PARKS, RECREATION, AND OPEN SPACE OPTIONS

Parks and open spaces play a crucial role in enhancing the quality of life in a community by providing a counter-balance to the built environment, promoting environmental sustainability, supporting physical and mental well-being, and contributing to the overall livability of a place. Dublin has garnered a reputation for its recreational options, often being cited as vital to the City’s core identity.

As part of the PRMP, a level of service analysis was conducted based on National Recreation and Parks Association (NRPA) standards. The analysis identified a need for additional neighborhood parks, community parks, basketball courts, pickle ball courts, dog parks, and splash pads based on the current population as well as the projected 2032 population. Additionally, the analysis marked outdoor pools, indoor creation and aquatic space, and special use facilities as high priorities. The City should continue existing efforts to expand access to parks, recreation, and open space amenities and programs.

PARKS AND RECREATION

Parks and Open Space

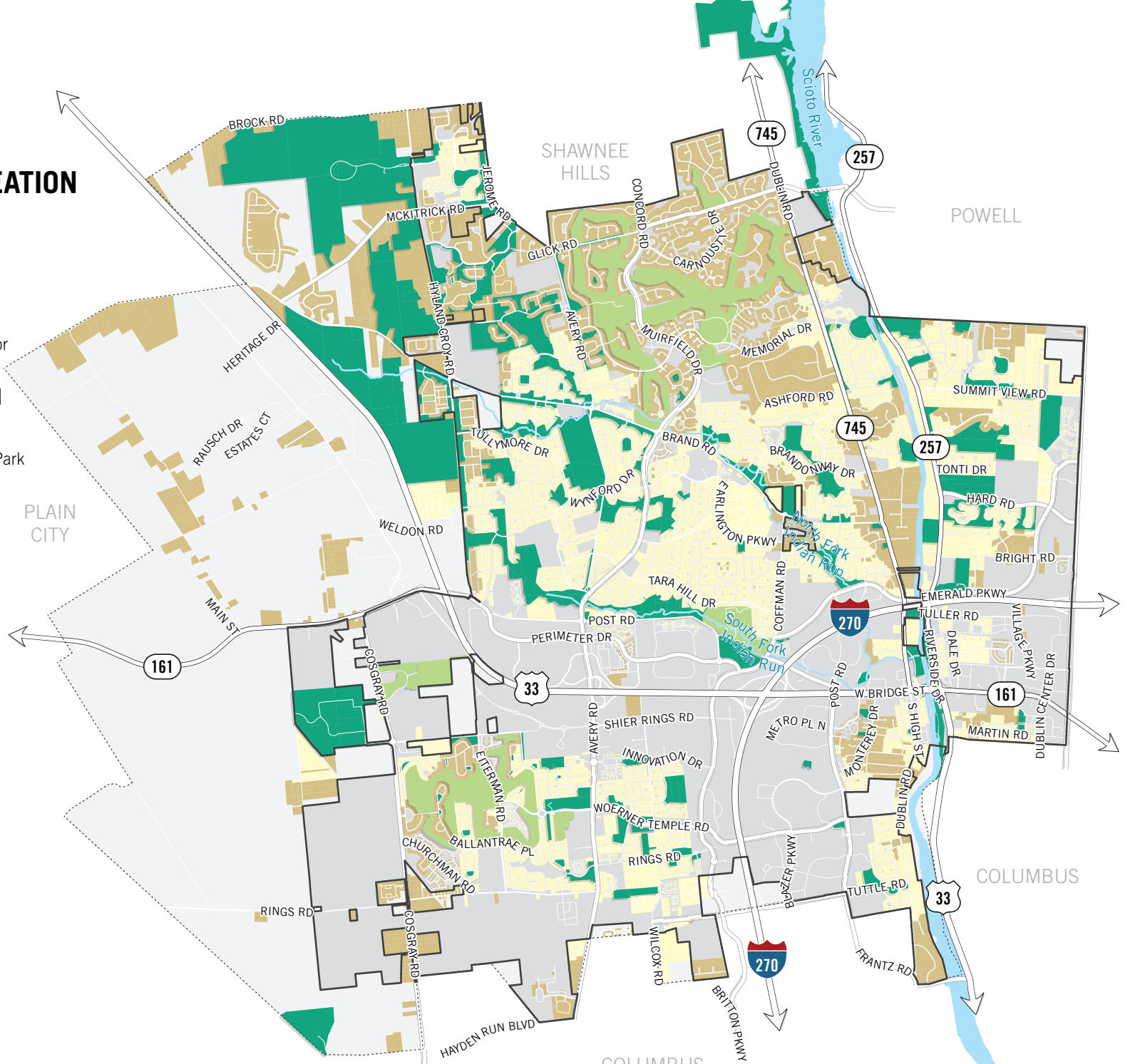
- Parks and Open Space
- Recreation Facility (Public or Private); Golf Course

Existing Parks Residential Service Area

- 10-Minute Walkshed from Park
- Outside a Park Walkshed

Context Layers

- City of Dublin
- Planning Area Boundary
- River



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IMPROVE GREENWAYS AND TRAILS

Like sidewalks and multi-use paths, bikeways, greenways, and trails contribute significantly towards mobility for active transportation within Dublin.








According to the Parks and Recreation Master Plan, greenways and trails are recognized for their ability to connect people and place and often include either paved or natural trails, and can include looped trails within parks. Linking neighborhoods, parks, recreation facilities, attractions, and natural areas with a multi-use trail can help protect natural areas along a river and/or open space areas and provide people with a way to access and enjoy the natural areas. Multi-use trails also offer a safe, alternative form of transportation, and provide substantial health benefits, habitat enhancements for plants and wildlife, and unique opportunities for outdoor education and cultural interpretation.

Dublin is home to a high-quality trail system with more than 140 miles of trails, 98% of which are paved. This means there are 2.78 miles of trails per 1000 residents, far surpassing peer communities in the Columbus area. In coordination with the CIP, the City should continue to expand its bikeway, greenway, and trail network across the community. This may require future acquisition of land or easements to construct publicly accessible routes. The expanded network should also be marketed as a tourism asset to draw visitors to the community.




CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

- Review the PRMP's Priority Investment Rating Analysis to inform updates to existing parks and facilities, making spaces as multifunctional in design, as possible.
- Explore opportunities to provide recreational amenities in commercial districts to serve employees. These amenities could provide alternate space for meetings and remote work, areas for rest or fitness breaks and mental health benefits, and at-work window sightlines to nature.
- Continue to connect parks through non-motorized infrastructure to ensure all residents can access parks.
- Utilize parkland to counter urban heat as well as improve citywide stormwater management.
- Prioritize strategic land acquisition to facilitate future park development. This includes identifying areas with growing parks and recreation needs, as well as compiling an inventory of potential properties capable of accommodating these requirements.
- Identify new dedicated funding options for development or enhancement of parks, recreation facilities and program services.
- Prioritize neighborhoods that lack trail access for future infrastructure investments. Greater priority should be given to low-income neighborhoods.
- Implement traffic calming design strategies around parks through design elements such as raised crosswalks, speed tables, and proper signage.

TRAILS AND GREENWAYS

-  Pedestrian Trails
-  Bike Path
-  Other Bikeway
-  Parks and Open Space
-  Planned Signature Trail
-  Heritage Rail Trail
-  Emerald Trail

Context Layers

-  City of Dublin
-  Planning Area Boundary
-  River



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