

WAYNE COUNTY

COMPREHENSIVE PLAN UPDATE



Wayne County Commissioners

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Wayne County Comprehensive Plan Update

Chapter I - Introduction

The Wayne County Comprehensive Plan is a framework for assessing existing conditions, reviewing projections from the past Comprehensive planning efforts that resulted from it along with addressing the needs of the County looking towards the future. It builds upon traditional Wayne County themes while acknowledging and creating strategies to plan for change. There was considerable public input throughout the preparation of this document, nearly all of which supported this pragmatic, practical approach to planning.

A comprehensive plan's most basic function is the development of governmental policies for addressing growth and change in a community. A comprehensive plan, in its very nature, involves no rules or regulations but is a guide for the County and municipalities. It inventories assets, identifies potential problems, suggests possible solutions and articulates the philosophy of County government with respect to current issues, anticipated growth, and changing cultural dynamics.

As a result of the findings in the 2010 Comprehensive Plan Update, the Wayne County Commissioners developed the Wayne Tomorrow! Initiative to help translate the recommended goals into real world actions that endeavor to meet the objectives laid out in that plan. More than a decade later, Wayne Tomorrow! engages many sectors of the community in a broad coalition working toward a shared vision of opportunity and prosperity for all.



Mural in Honesdale
Photo Credit: Woodland Design

Wayne County contains 28 local municipalities. These 28 municipalities include 22 townships of the second class and six boroughs. The County is approximately 55 miles in straight line distance, and 75 miles by highway, from its northern border with Broome County, New York to its southern border with Monroe County, Pennsylvania. No other county within the Commonwealth has a longer span between its northern and southern borders. It includes, as a result, geographic areas of widely differing economic, demographic, and physical characteristics.

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Background data provided in this plan offers a thorough description of Wayne County and explores its strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, and threats. The background data, comments obtained from the public meetings and input from a questionnaire all aided in the preparation of this Comprehensive Plan.

As we look forward to the next decade, the Wayne County Comprehensive Plan will be available to assist municipal, County, and private sector decision makers in creating the conditions for healthy growth of the area that preserves what is best about our past while looking to the future. Wayne County views the role of county government as one that supports and builds upon the work of the private sector, community organizations and municipalities. Each of the plans that, together, compose the Wayne County Comprehensive Plan is infused with this principle.



Bethany Public Library - One of Wayne County's earlier seats of government