

# **Growth**

## **Goal**

Controlled growth and preserved open space through a coordinated, inclusive development plan, efficient use of land, water front, and redevelopment with thoughtful provisions for infrastructure and services.

## **Strategies**

Focus development in areas with existing infrastructure and services in place.

Create a board with a representative from each governmental unit to work closely with the planning authority to identify farmland, parks and open spaces, and wetlands for preservation as well as appropriate methods to protect those areas from development.

Municipal residential development would require planned communities be consistent with an integrated county-wide plan for urban and residential development.

Improve county wide availability of gas, sewer, water, roads, drainage systems and services with respect to measures identified for controlled growth.

Encourage downtown redevelopment through use of federal, state, county, local resources – (existing or new)

Develop a strategy for public waterfront use.

# **Entertainment & Leisure**

## **Goal**

Exciting entertainment day and night for youth, families, and people of all ages, with vibrant shopping malls and independent retailers, restaurants, theaters, special attractions, teen clubs, and communications infrastructure that serves local residents and draws visitors to Monroe County.

## **Strategies**

Partnerships with local municipalities and investors to establish destination dining where a variety of restaurants exist.

Create, for the convenience and accessibility of the residents, incentives to assist small business owners in locating their business in Monroe County to create a shopping destination with an emphasis on boutiques, specialty stores, and markets following established zoning laws.

Establish a “Cool Cities” committee with sub-committees representing all age groups to develop a plan for day and night entertainment for all ages. (Including improving current structures – entertainment buildings)

Create a county-wide Regional Media Board to establish a communication infrastructure which represents and serves the county as a whole.

# **Education**

## **Goal**

Excellent education, beginning at birth, with continued accessible and affordable life long learning opportunities for all members of the community.

## **Strategies**

Support and enhance educational facilities to accommodate massive potential growth providing accessibility and relevant appropriate curriculum for life long learners.

Promote quality education, beginning at birth, by providing human, financial, and physical resources to support career and technical education, specialty programming and a wide array of educational options to all citizens.

Our community college would capitalize on its reputation and attract more students by creating options for advanced placement, internships, nontraditional students, and four year degrees; and expand on specialized training facilities, cultural events, activities and sports.

Schools, community organizations, business members, and residents would work together to offer more integrated use of performing and fine arts, education experiences which support learning throughout life.

The community will provide activities that offer free pre-school programs, latch key services, internships, affordable before and after school care, camps and employer family friendly practices such as release time for parents and volunteers in order to support supplemental educational activities.

# **Environmental Quality**

## **Goal**

A healthy environment through preservation, conservation, education, clean and beautiful lakes, rivers, beaches, downtowns and an active county wide recycling center all maintained with adherence to exemplary environmental standards that include improved air quality, an aggressive brown-field redevelopment plan and ways to reduce foreign trash.

## **Strategies**

The county, village, city and townships would partner with existing Phase II communities to develop environmental strategies for public environmental education and public participation.

Establish a regional recycling center with satellite centers throughout the county.

Establish green spaces, wetland preserves, wildlife sanctuaries and beautify downtowns working in conjunction with community members, schools and other organizations for the benefit of preserving natural habitat that can be studied, maintained and enjoyed by all.

Monroe County residents, business and community leaders would support and encourage improved and reasonable standards for water, air, waste (foreign trash) and land (brown-field development).

Support and encourage state and federal legislators to improve the standards for cleaner air, water, and land.

# **Arts, Culture, History & Events**

## **Goal**

Arts, Culture & Heritage play a key role in community life by developing and promoting arts education, concerts and shows in performing arts facilities and events, tours and programs in other venues throughout the county.

## **Strategies**

The community arts board would represent a wide variety of arts. Stake holders would form ad hoc committee for special interest/skills (i.e. dance, visual arts, poetry, etc.), seek funding from grants, private sector and other stakeholders and promote and market all activities in the arts including street fairs, concerts, local artists, etc.

Stakeholders who represent all geographic areas of county interested in historic heritage and preservation would develop a long range plan to focus on themes to merge together.

Inventory existing venues for cultural (fine arts, concerts, street fairs) activities. Identify a suitable stakeholder to coordinate the inventory and conduct a needs assessment for performances and events. Identify a suitable public relations and marketing specialist/facilitator.

Further develop historic buildings, promote more of our heritage, and offer more educational experiences regarding the county's history.

Group that represents all geographical areas in the county who are capable of handling arts and cultural events would promote county wide arts, activities, street fairs, festivals and tours. Arts education for all age groups including teens.

Create family friendly, interactive, hands on activities for Monroe County History (similar to the arts hands on). Kids wear period clothing, eat period food/candy, play with toys, games, Old Frenchtown Days types of things.

Monroe County Arts Board would create a family friendly venue to promote arts education and hands on activities for the enjoyment of all ages (this could be a COSI type of museum, but with fine arts emphasis rather than science). In order to promote family life, foster creativity and an appreciation of the arts. Could also be a tourist destination, scout badges, schools.

# **Neighborhood & Community Character**

## **Goal**

Clean, beautiful, landscaped, walk-able neighborhoods with attractive building and preserved historic structures that maintain the county's sense of place as well as small communities that retain wide-open spaces that preserve their rural character.

## **Strategies**

Adopt a county wide "main street" philosophy to encourage and assist with creative adaptive reuse, growth, and development.

Establish a county wide task force to promote intergovernmental cooperation to plan and manage growth for industrial, residential, recreational, farmland and parks in order to preserve open space and retain the rural character of all areas of Monroe County.

Encourage state governments, county, townships, villages and cities to fund sidewalks in neighborhoods and walking trails.

Encourage townships, cities and villages to form community pride organizations, using schools, community groups and government to keep communities clean.

Create a plan to enhance the image of the county schools to promote the betterment of all neighborhoods and plan growth of each school.

Under the leadership of the Monroe County Intermediate School District, the school districts would reorganize boundaries and number of districts to gain efficiencies with buildings, transportation, etc.

# **Parks & Recreation**

## **Goal**

A connected system of clean parks and recreation areas throughout the county with active and passive recreation opportunities, paved and natural surface trails, playgrounds, ball fields, historic destinations, promote and utilize water resources and programs for all ages and seasons.

## **Strategies**

Monroe County would establish a task force to: create drawings of the projected plan/locations, obtain property easements/rights for the land, locate funding to complete, promote collaboration between public and private stakeholders.

Create a broad countywide task force to explore and act upon the enhancement of existing waterfront and natural resources in order to improve recreational opportunities for residents and visitors.

Intergovernmental and private sector would cooperatively promote and develop Monroe County's natural water resources to enhance our quality of life.

Formulate recreational programs which would be enhanced in existing and future parks by providing more sport, greenbelt and recreational areas for use by all.

Capitalize on and continue to develop the war of 1812 Battlefield and other historic destinations as commemorative and national tourist destinations.

Identify and empower businesses, community organizations, educational entities and committed individuals to add value to Monroe County's recreational and natural resource heritage.

# **Downtowns**

## **Goal**

Beautiful, vibrant downtown areas with historic themes, an attractive selection of shops, riverfront entertainment, restaurants, housing, adequate parking, and a pedestrian-friendly environment.

## **Strategies**

Make a downtown with a French Historic theme, a pedestrian friendly environment with unique shops/restaurants/cafes to attract residents and visitors and enhance economic development.

Maintain consistent, regular and publicized street cleaning schedule in order to beautify and become more livable downtown

Remove or renovate older, underutilized, vacant or dilapidated buildings.

Provide well-planned signage to identify available parking and work to provide a parking garage.

Downtown areas would have well maintained, landscaped, and attractive sidewalks, riverfront, and streetscape emphasizing walk-ability to encourage gatherings of people, outdoor cafes, shopping, and entertainment.

Develop downtowns into a fun destination for day and evening entertainment by offering arts, music, street fairs, festivals, and promoting historic attractions.

# **Social Issues**

## **Goal**

Improve access to affordable healthcare, housing, daycare, senior services, and public safety that serves the diverse needs of Monroe County's population.

## **Strategies**

Medical Control Authority, in cooperation with area hospitals would coordinate transportation and satellite facilities. Affordability to be advocated by local and state elected officials.

Bring the community stakeholders together to design a healthcare and social support system that allows for a single point of access for "aging in place services."

County, state, and federal agencies should work together to provide safe and affordable housing for low and moderate income families.

Local, private and public agencies will ensure that all who live and work in Monroe County feel they are a valued member of their community.

Coordinate best approach to improve availability of day care at work places and for families in need.

Provide a poverty free community by giving everyone an opportunity to a good paying job.

Include a child care network in improving day care opportunities.

# **Transportation**

## **Goal**

A safe, efficient, accessible public transportation system for vehicles and people with well maintained roads, improved traffic control, adequate parking, bike lanes, sidewalks, and port authority.

## **Strategies**

Local and county agencies would work together with county residents, newspapers, school districts, and transportation professionals to educate the public on the need for additional funding through state and federal grants, county millages, and agencies cost sharing to fund the transportation needs and improvements.

Local and county governmental agencies would work together with area residents who utilize a non-motorized system to design county inter-connected bike, walking and rollerblade path system.

Imagine Monroe County would attract and include county residents as well as transportation professionals in order to develop an accurate identification of priority road improvements.

Develop a system that would utilize existing and future transportation to efficiently connect communities of Monroe County and increase mobility of residents to goods, services, and leisure activities.

Expand affordable public transportation services and opportunities through expanded bus routes in outlying communities with expanded availability during day and evening hours with increased accessibility for all community members including the handicapped and the elderly.

Develop accessibility and convenient free parking for downtown area by creating parking facilities and assigning/designating land use for that purpose.

# **Leadership and Cooperation**

## **Goal**

Better intergovernmental relationships, communication and cooperation that efficiently provide services, plans effectively for the economic development of the county; shares resources, and actively engages citizens in decision making.

## **Strategies**

Volunteer task force would contact local governmental members to create interest in forming MCOG.

Work with county government to promote intergovernmental cooperation and management of infrastructure, roads, and transportation to reduce cost.

All community organizations and governments organize and advertise opportunities for citizen involvement.

Create a county “leadership coalition” to strengthen the relations between schools, businesses, organizations, governments, and municipalities.

Instill community pride and the sharing of resources in a logical manner through an unbiased review of ideas and goals to benefit the community.

# **Jobs/Economy**

## **Goal**

A healthy, diverse economy with large and small environmentally friendly businesses, service oriented businesses (restaurant and retail); a strong manufacturing sector, and a variety of well-paying job opportunities, job training, and exciting entry level jobs that attract and retain a young population and unique Monroe attractions and facilities (like a convention/conference center) that draw capital to the county and support its continued economic growth.

## **Strategies**

A task force to pool information and resources to generate employment, attract new employers, and create an economically diverse county.

Develop a plan to create a convention center with a hotel, meeting center, and restaurants to accommodate 300-500 participants.

Develop a county-wide vocational center to include job placement and internships.

Partnerships to cooperatively advertise and market in and outside the county in order to highlight and promote Monroe County in general.

# **Community Facilities**

## **Goal**

Well advertised programs, activities and facilities for people of all ages, interests, and abilities that include expanded use of fairgrounds, indoor and outdoor sports, volunteer activities, community events, and residential facilities for troubled teens.

## **Strategies**

Create and/or expand year round recreational opportunities for families, youth activities and after school programs.

Initiate a county-wide wellness program in order to increase the overall health of our residents.

Develop a “safe house” for troubled female teens through cooperative efforts.

Heighten the awareness of underutilized recreational facilities and programs to increase use such as more fairground use for youth organized by youth, downtown/St. Mary’s Park.

Create partnership that constructs a conference center to accommodate large groups of people and businesses. Available for local groups, for youth and cultural activities.

# Lake and Riverfront

## Goal

Lake Erie and the River Raisin are clean, accessible, navigable bodies of water for commerce and recreation complete with shops, restaurants, entertainment, and special events as well as walkways, public beaches, preserved areas, and residences along the waterfront.

## Strategies

River Raisin waterfront communities collaborate to implement a vision process to identify, prioritize and initiate a unified waterways project.

Army Corps of Engineers, Department of Natural Resources and Port Authority would dredge from mouth of River Raisin at Lake Erie to City of Monroe for boater access to Downtown.

Shore lands task force inventories potential waterfront access sites and creates strategy for acquisition and development

Promote and strengthen visibility of Lake Erie to attract visitors.