

QUALITY OF PLACE & WORKFORCE ATTRACTION PLAN

GREENE COUNTY, INDIANA

DECEMBER 2025



REGIONAL
OPPORTUNITY
INITIATIVES

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Updated by TPMA in 2025

INTRODUCTION

As part of an overarching strategy for improving economic and community prosperity in the Indiana Uplands, Regional Opportunity Initiatives (ROI) established a grant opportunity for the 11 counties of our region to help ensure the region is ready for the opportunities ahead.

Ready Communities grants provide communities and organizations with resources to strategically develop programs and projects that build quality of place, grow regional capacity for workforce development and attraction, and improve the attributes and amenities that make the Indiana Uplands a desirable place to live, work, and play.

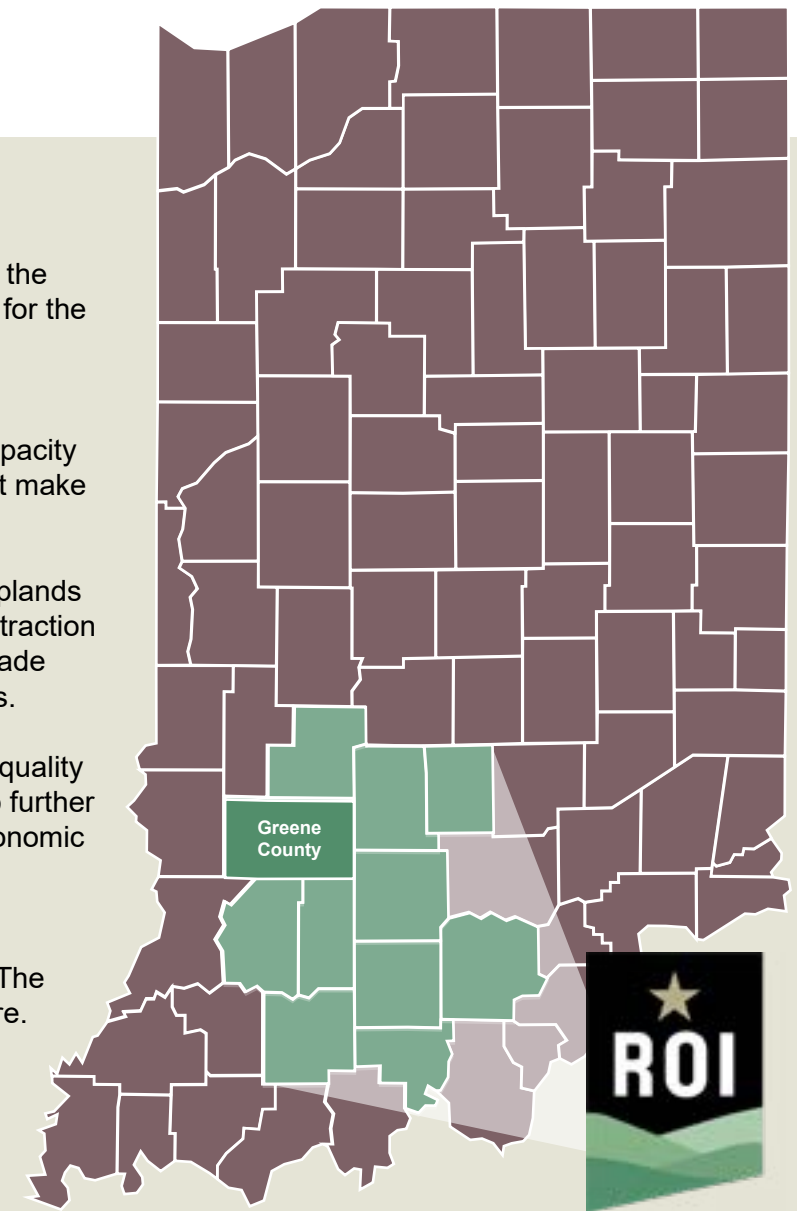
In 2019, the process began with Ready Communities Planning Grants. Each Indiana Uplands county received a \$50,000 planning grant to develop Quality of Place and Workforce Attraction Plans. Following the Ready Communities Planning Grant stage, up to \$3 million was made available for competitive quality of place and workforce attraction implementation grants.

These planning and implementation grants from ROI provided the foundation for many quality of place and workforce attraction initiatives and projects. Uplands counties were able to further utilize their plans to capitalize on funding opportunities through the state's Regional Economic Acceleration and Development Initiative (READI 1.0 and 2.0).

Recognizing the success of these initial planning efforts, ROI sought to reconvene our county partners to update the Quality of Place and Workforce Attraction plans in 2025. The hallmark of these plans is inclusive community input in developing priorities for the future. The consensus built around these priorities provides a roadmap for success.

What Is A Quality of Place and Workforce Attraction Plan?

The Quality of Place and Workforce Attraction Plans provides county and community leaders a strategic plan for, developing and implementing projects and initiatives to build quality of place amenities, strengthen local and regional capacity for workforce attraction and improve residents' quality of life. Together these efforts make the Indiana Uplands a desirable place to live, work and play.



The plan that follows was funded by a grant from the Regional Opportunity Initiatives, Inc. (ROI) and was completed as part of a wholistic strategy for improving economic and community prosperity in the Indiana Uplands counties (Brown, Crawford, Daviess, Dubois, Greene, Lawrence, Martin, Monroe, Orange, Owen and Washington).

OUR STORY

Greene County is the fourth-largest county in Indiana and home to approximately 30,000 residents, offering a small-town scale with regional impact. Known for its wide-open landscapes, the county is strengthened by residents who work tirelessly to improve their communities. From Main Street volunteers to broadband and housing partners, local leaders are dedicated to building Ready Communities and enhancing quality of place.

Innovation and history intersect in Greene County. The iconic Tulip Trestle—one of the world’s longest steel-girder railroad bridges—reflects the county’s industrial roots, while more than 4,000 scientists and engineers supporting NSA Crane represent a highly skilled, modern workforce with national reach.

Outdoor recreation is central to life in Greene County. Goose Pond Fish & Wildlife Area, Shakamak State Park, Greene-Sullivan State Forest, and the Sculpture Trail offer thousands of acres of forests, lakes, wetlands, and hiking paths, contributing to both quality of life and tourism.

The county’s seven incorporated communities—Linton, Bloomfield, Jasonville, Worthington, Lyons, Switz City, and Newberry—each contribute to its distinctive character. Bloomfield is home to the historic 1885 courthouse, while Linton serves as the county’s population center. Agriculture, healthcare, manufacturing, NSA Crane, WestGate@Crane, and the I-69 corridor drive a diverse and resilient local economy.

Greene County is ready to build on its strengths, enhance quality of place, and welcome new residents and businesses who will quickly see why this is a place to call home.





QUALITY OF PLACE

Quality of place refers to the physical, social, and cultural characteristics of a community that shape the experience of living, working, and visiting there. Research shows that strong quality of place is essential for attracting and retaining the creative and skilled workforce needed for economic growth. It can be understood through three questions:

What's there?—the built and natural environment.

Who's there?—the diversity and connectedness of residents.

What's going on?—the vibrancy of local activities and culture.

Greene County reflects these strengths with thriving small towns, exceptional outdoor recreation, a diverse workforce from agriculture to engineering, and growing momentum behind quality-of-place initiatives. As part of the Indiana Uplands, the county embraces regional collaboration.

Downtowns across the county have placed a renewed emphasis on family-friendly, community-wide events—especially since the pandemic underscored how essential connection and shared experiences are to our well-being. Bloomfield Downtown Revitalization, for example, recently built a new stage to host more events and draw even more people into the heart of their community.

GREENE COUNTY WORKFORCE AND EDUCATION

Building the next-generation workforce strengthens both students and local businesses. By connecting students with hands-on experiences, internships, and skills-based curriculum, Greene County shows that viable careers exist right here. A strong workforce supports business growth, attracts new residents, and fosters entrepreneurship.

Greene County's school districts—Bloomfield, White River Valley, Eastern Greene, Linton-Stockton, and Shakamak—are aligning PK-12 programs with regional workforce needs through the ROI Ready Schools initiative and UpSkill Work & Learn. Participating schools include, Bloomfield School District, Linton-Stockton, and White River Valley.

Wagler Education & Training Center, a State-approved Adult Education Site, offers the Indiana High School Equivalency and trade certifications in fields such as IT, welding, CNC machining, CDL, HVAC, medical assisting, and medical billing & coding. Its hands-on curriculum and supportive learning environment help students gain skills, confidence, and opportunities for the next step in their education and careers.

WestGate@Crane Technology Park continues to grow, driving high-tech careers, a stronger focus on STEM education, and an increased demand for housing and amenities. The recent announcement of the 1,141-acre National Security Industrial Hub in Greene County, located just five miles north of the Tech Park, further highlights the need for diverse housing options in the region. ROI's recently updated Housing Study has been an invaluable resource in guiding these discussions.

The county's first coworking space, Open Desk, opened in downtown Linton in April 2019 through the Greene County General Hospital Foundation. It quickly became a hub for five local businesses, entrepreneurs, and students, supporting collaboration and innovation.

To fully support workforce and education, the county is also addressing broadband access, one of rural America's biggest challenges. Participation in the Indiana Office of Community and Rural Affairs (OCRA) Broadband Readiness Pilot Program has positioned Greene County for future opportunities, including the Broadband Equity, Access, and Deployment Program. With forward-thinking county leadership and strong partnerships with UDWI REMC, Smithville, and other regional collaborators, Greene County is steadily expanding reliable broadband, connecting residents and businesses to the digital infrastructure needed to live, work, and play in the community.

2025 UPDATE

Since the completion of the previous plan, Greene County has experienced notable changes and improvements that reflect the community's commitment to growth, revitalization, and quality of place. Downtown areas have seen renewed focus, with investments in building renovations, public spaces, and events that draw residents and visitors alike. Efforts to attract and retain both population and workforce have strengthened, supported by initiatives that promote local businesses through shop small campaigns, expand housing options, and improve infrastructure. Broadband enhancement projects have increased connectivity across the county, while partnerships with regional organizations, NSA Crane, and neighboring communities have created opportunities for workforce development, tourism, and economic growth. Greene County has much to celebrate, from thriving small towns to outdoor recreation assets and vibrant community events. These successes are the product of strong regional partnerships, collaboration across local governments, organizations, and residents, and a shared vision for a thriving, resilient, and welcoming county.

ENGAGEMENT

Engagement played a vital role in the creation of the previous plan. We were able to use existing data and programs through Sustaining Hoosier Communities, Broadband Study, Parks Master Planning, the Greene County Comprehensive Plan, the Linton Comprehensive Plan, and conducted a variety of community outreach efforts.

The strong emphasis on engagement produced the results we needed to execute a plan we were not only proud of, but one we could implement immediately. Additionally, a larger group of QPAT members helped facilitate meetings, surveys, and other connections necessary to gather valuable input.

2025 QPAT MEMBERS

- Brianne Jerrels
Greene County Economic
Development Corporation
- Ashley Veatch
Greene County General
Hospital Foundation
- Suzanne Jackson
Greene County Foundation



WHERE ARE WE NOW...

When asked which improvements would most benefit Greene County in the previous survey, respondents identified higher-paying jobs, addressing social services, and—closely tied—greater access to high-speed internet along with additional public parks and trails. While a formal survey was not conducted for this update, feedback from community leaders and stakeholders indicates that these priorities remain unchanged, with housing emerging as an additional and increasingly urgent need.



Since the last plan, a comprehensive housing study has been completed and updated, confirming housing as a top priority—particularly in light of anticipated population growth associated with the new munitions campus being constructed south of Bloomfield. The projected creation of approximately 350 new jobs presents significant opportunities for Greene County, including population growth, increased student enrollment, expanded demand for amenities, growth in the local tax base, and the need for continued investment in infrastructure. Addressing housing availability now is essential to ensuring the county is prepared to capture the full benefits of this economic momentum.

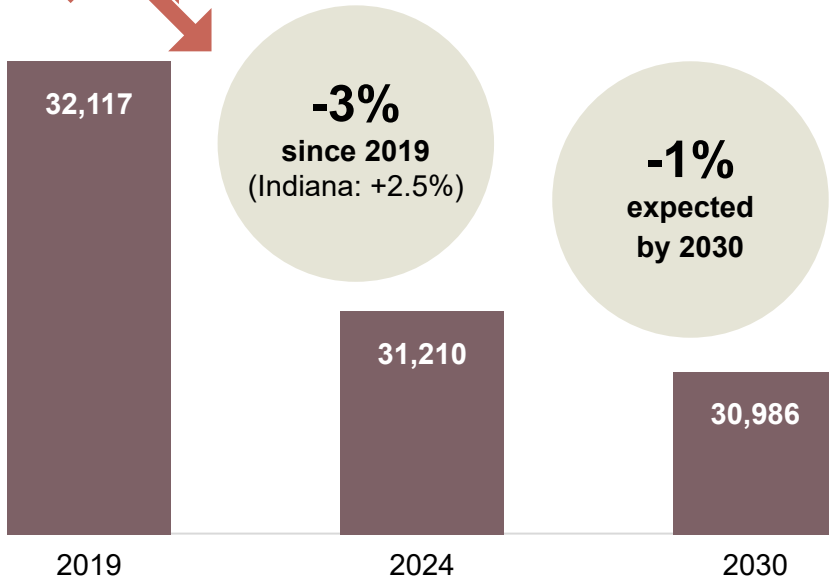
With housing growth comes an increasing need for amenities that enhance quality of life. Greene County residents have expressed a desire for more sit-down restaurants, workout facilities, and community events. Growth at the WestGate@Crane Technology Park and surrounding areas has highlighted the need for restaurants, convenience stores, and other retail operations near the local hotel. A recent survey exploring interest in a facility such as a YMCA produced overwhelming support in a very short period, demonstrating strong community demand. While organizations like Main Street programs and Chambers of Commerce are already hosting family-friendly downtown events, there remains an opportunity for more!

DATA PROFILE



POPULATION CHANGE

Source: Lightcast, 2024



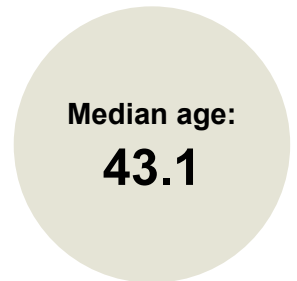
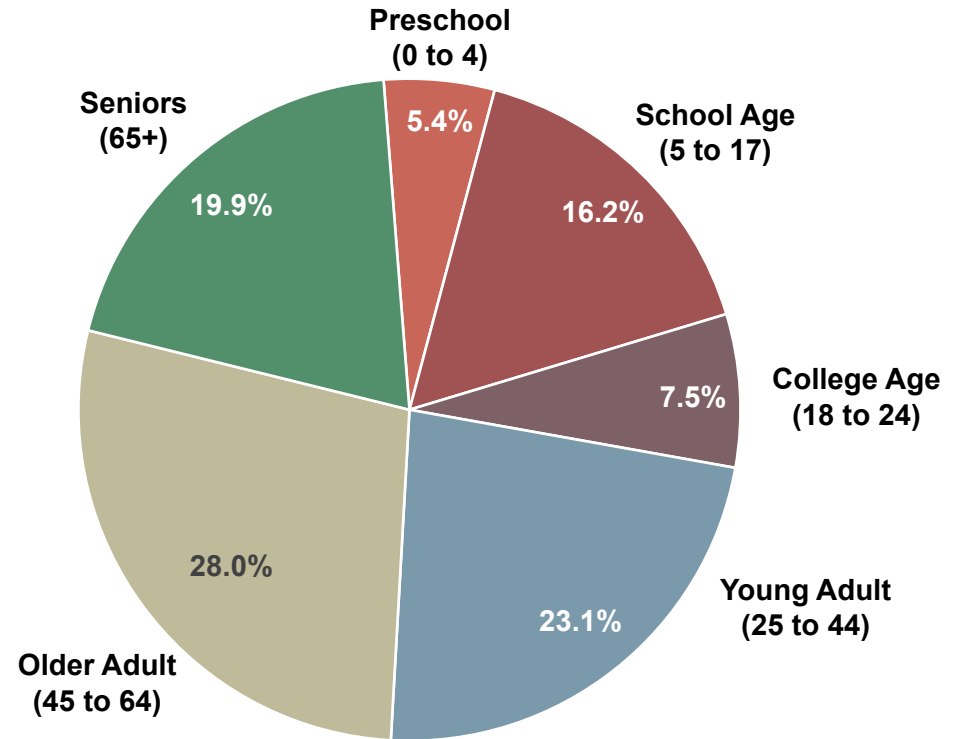
RACE & ETHNICITY

Source: Lightcast, 2024

White	95.1%
Hispanic/Latino	2.4%
African American/Black	0.5%
Asian	0.5%

AGE DISTRIBUTION

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2023



(Indiana: Seniors 17.5%; Older Adult 23.9%; Young Adult 25.9%; College Age 9.7%; School Age 17.0%; Preschool Age 5.9%)

MEDIAN HOUSEHOLD INCOME

Source: American Community Survey, 5-year estimates, 2023



\$59,753

(Indiana: \$70,051)

MEDIAN HOME SALE

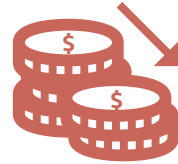
Source: Indiana Association of Realtors, 2025



\$185,000

POVERTY

Source: American Community Survey, 5-year estimates, 2023



19.6%
AMONG CHILDREN

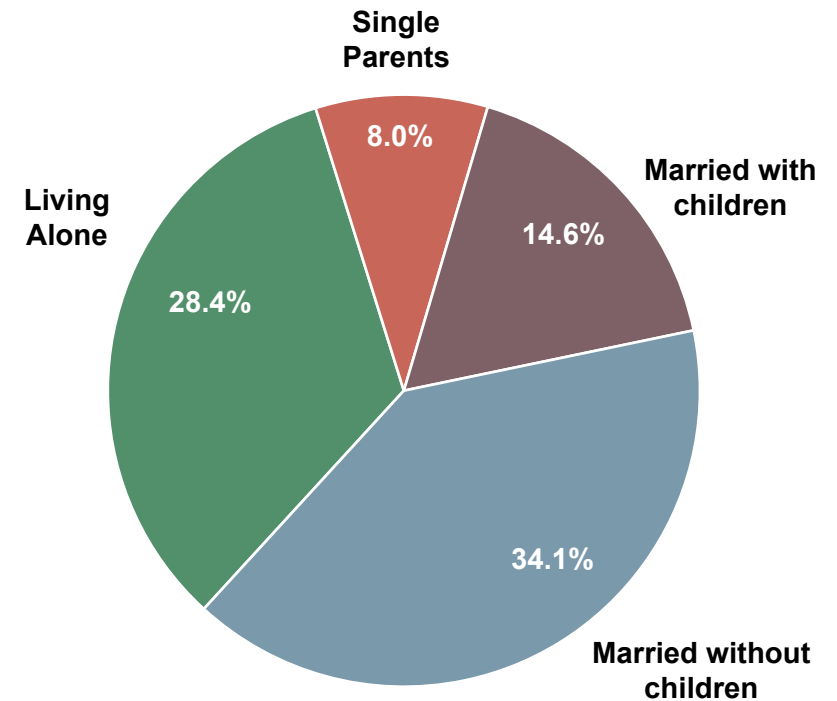
(Indiana: 15.7%)

13.3%
OVERALL

(Indiana: 12.2%)

HOUSEHOLD TYPE

Source: American Community Survey, 5-year estimates, 2023



(Indiana: Single Parents 9.0%, Married with children 17.2%; Married without children 29.4%; Living Alone 29.8%.)

CHILD CARE

Source: Transform Consulting Group, 2024



\$6,274

Average Annual Cost of Child Care in the County

(Indiana: \$8,590, Source for Indiana data: Early Learning Indiana, 2024)



COMMUTING TRENDS

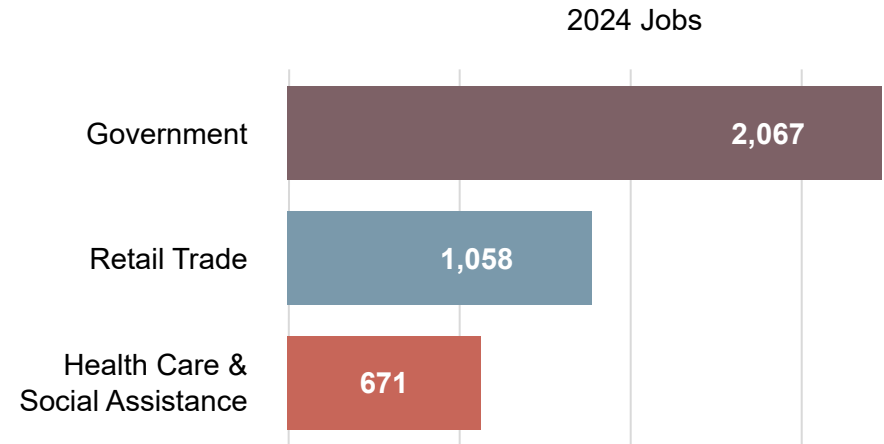
Source: Lightcast, 2024

Top Counties for Inbound Commuters	Top Counties for Outbound Commuters
Sullivan	Monroe
Vigo	Marion
Monroe	Vigo



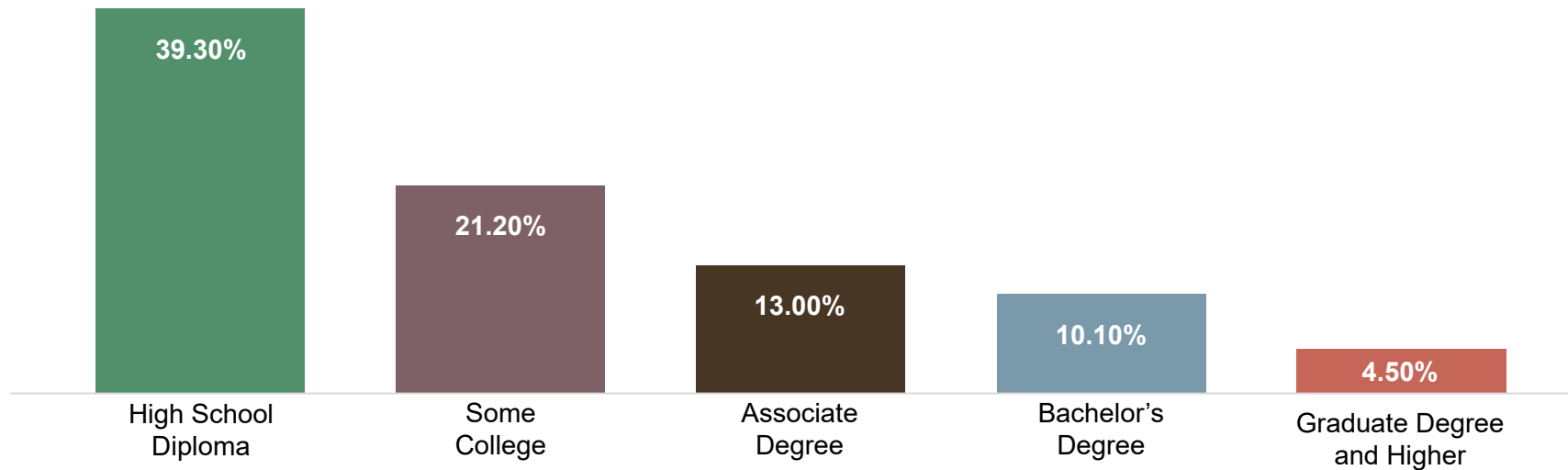
TOP INDUSTRIES

Source: Lightcast, 2024



EDUCATIONAL ATTAINMENT

Source: Lightcast, 2024



CONTEXT

The 2019 Quality of Place and Workforce Attraction Plan provided a realistic and attainable starting point—one that not only allowed Greene County to achieve its original goals, but also created momentum to build upon them while establishing new priorities.

The emphasis on community pride emerging from the previous plan has carried forward, resulting in the engagement of new volunteers and the emergence of new leaders. Indiana Main Street organizations across the county are hosting community events, participating in façade improvement programs, developing strategies to encourage residents to shop locally, and actively recruiting younger generations eager to get involved. Communities not currently affiliated with the Main Street program have formed their own downtown groups, focusing on beautification efforts and the creation of welcoming public spaces.

These downtown and community improvement efforts have proven contagious. The visible progress made since the last plan has been encouraging and energizing. As Greene County continues to attract new residents, equal attention is being given to ensuring the community remains a place where people want to stay. Population retention plays a critical role in long-term growth and sustainability, reinforcing the importance of continued investment in quality of place.



PROGRESS

Greene County had more successes than failures that came out of the 2019 Quality of Place and Workforce Attraction Plan. That said, there's still plenty of work to be done in those areas and more.

A new county logo was created with the help of the Sustaining Hoosier Communities/IU Center for Rural Engagement program. A team from Greene County partnered with a graphic design class who provided them with a variety of designs, color schemes, and potential uses. The class made a formal presentation to the county commissioners, who made the final decision on their preferred logo, which is currently being utilized on both the Greene County website and the Greene County Convention, Visitor and Tourist Commission website.

The Greene County Convention, Visitor and Tourist Commission submitted an application for a grant for wayfinding signage. While the application wasn't approved, they have plans to apply again in the future. The idea for kiosks will need to be revisited also.

3. Strengthened Collaboration & Regional Participation

- Active involvement in READY Communities and the Indiana Uplands regional network.
- Creation and growth of the Lawrence County Workforce Coalition, with over \$1 million secured for workforce and education programming.
- Increased collaboration among county leaders, school systems, nonprofit partners, and economic development organizations.

4. New and Expanded Partnerships

- Partnerships with hospitals, credit unions, tourism leaders, nonprofit organizations, and private employers have broadened the county's capacity to address quality-of-place needs beyond the scope of the original plan.

5. Increased Focus on Mental Health & Recovery

- While not central in the 2019 plan, the county has increasingly coordinated on issues related to substance use, mental health services, and recovery, recognizing their importance for workforce participation and community stability.

6. Enhanced Public Engagement and Communication Efforts

- Local leaders, school districts, and civic organizations have experimented with new communication channels, events, and outreach strategies, acknowledging that residents want more coordinated access to information.

ASSETS

ARTS, CULTURE, ENTERTAINMENT & RECREATION

- Bloomfield Town Park
- Wagler Motorsports Park
- Sculpture Trails Outdoor Art Museum
- The Phil - Linton Golf Course
- Tulip Trestle
- Shawnee Summer Theatre
- Carnegie Heritage & Arts Center
- Goose Pond Fish & Wildlife Area
- Shakamak State Park
- Greene County Soccer Fields
- Linton Youth Sports Complex
- Redbird State Recreation Area
- Worthington City Park
- Humphrey's Park
- Hanna Field

AESTHETICS AND BEAUTIFICATION

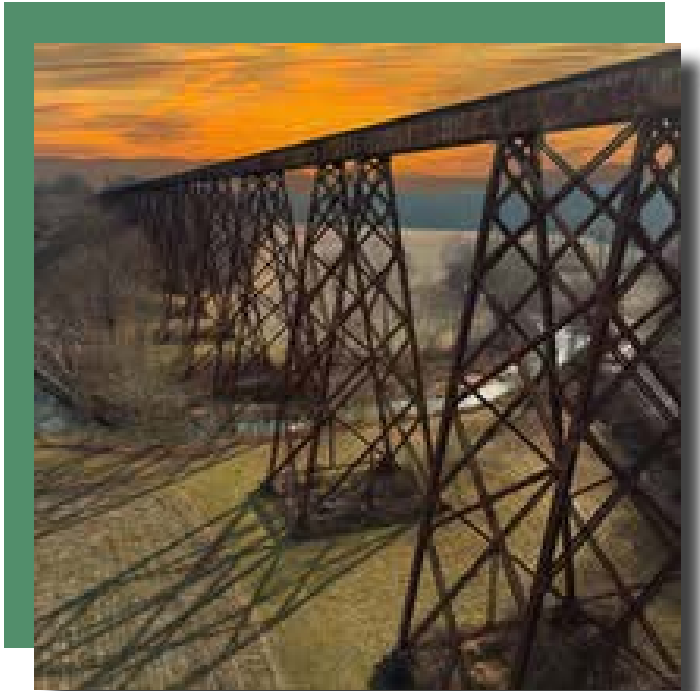
- Greene County Logo
- Bloomfield Downtown Revitalization
- INergize Linton
- Worthington Merchants and Friends
- Pride in the Park
- Bloomfield Park Board
- Jasonville Park Board
- Linton City Park Board
- Purdue Extension
- Greene County Government

CONNECTIVITY INFRASTRUCTURE

- Broadband Readiness Plan
- ROI Digital Inclusion Study
- Broadband Equity, Access, & Deployment
- Infrastructure Development Zone



ASSETS



EDUCATION & WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT

- Wagler Education & Training Center
- ROI - UpSkill Work & Learn
- ROI - Ready Schools Initiative
- Bloomfield Education Transformation Team
- NSWC Crane STEM Program
- Twin Rivers
- Junior Achievement
- Career Coaches
- WorkOne
- ROI Makerspace

HOUSING & UTILITIES INFRASTRUCTURE

- Westcott Housing Development
- Downtown Housing Developments
- Waste Water Treatment Plant at WestGate
- Greene County Recycling Centers

HEALTH & SAFETY

- Greene County General Hospital
- My Clinics
- Greene County Health
- Autumn Trace
- Glenburn Senior Living
- Hamilton Center, Inc.
- Erin's Purpose
- Insight Works
- Fast Pace Health Urgent Care
- Good Samaritan Society
- Greene County EMS
- Greene County EMA
- Hickory Treatment Center
- Linton Police Department
- Bloomfield Police Department
- Jasonville Police Department
- Greene County Sheriff's Department

PRIORITIES

STATEMENT:

Greene County is geographically divided by a river that runs through the center of the county, creating a divide between communities on either side. It is important to establish and embrace a shared identity that all of Greene County can recognize and leverage within their individual communities.

WHY IS THIS A PRIORITY?

For Greene County to remain competitive in economic and community development, it must project a strong sense of cohesion. Doing so will distinguish us from competitors outside the region and position us for continued success. With significant positive growth on the horizon, now is the time for Greene County to claim a clear and unified identity.

Objective 01

Create and implement a county-wide identity that will be embraced and recognized throughout Greene County.

KEY CONSIDERATIONS:

Each community has developed its own identity through events, tourist attractions, amenities, and services. While we aim to create a unified, countywide image, it is important to recognize the work already completed and build upon it. Additionally, the unincorporated areas of the county offer unique attractions that should also be considered and included in our marketing efforts.

PRIORITIES

Objective 02

Proactively increase housing development opportunities to support growth and talent attraction.

STATEMENT:

Greene County has experienced a gradual population decline since the completion of the previous Quality of Place and Workforce Attraction Plan. However, the recent announcement of the munitions campus positions the county for significant near-term growth. With limited existing capacity to accommodate an expanding population, Greene County must act proactively to ensure it can fully capitalize on this economic opportunity. Engaging early and intentionally with potential residential and mixed-use developers will be critical to meeting future housing needs and supporting workforce attraction.

KEY CONSIDERATIONS:

We need to carefully consider our landscape and limitations when it comes to infrastructure development. Water and wastewater systems are critical components as we identify potential areas for housing development—particularly sites near emerging growth areas such as I-69, WestGate, and the National Security Industrial Hub. Additionally, we must take into account the housing needs of empty nesters, young families, and college graduates who may be looking to live elsewhere in the county.

WHY IS THIS A PRIORITY?

A growing population with higher wages will drive the positive growth Greene County has long been working toward. Housing will serve as the catalyst for the amenities we need, provide students to fill classrooms across our five school districts, and expand the tax base—benefiting all of Greene County and supporting its continued prosperity.

PRIORITIES

Objective 03

Bridge the gap between education and industry to attract and retain workforce.

STATEMENT:

With its close proximity to NSA Crane and a strong history in manufacturing and agriculture, Greene County is well-positioned to support local schools and employers as they address ongoing workforce challenges. To fully leverage these strengths, the county must engage in more intentional and collaborative conversations with educators and employers to better understand their needs and identify opportunities for targeted support.

WHY IS THIS A PRIORITY?

Greene County is at a critical moment as the development of the 1,200-acre munitions campus brings the potential for significant high-wage job growth. Prioritizing workforce development allows the county to prepare local residents to fill these positions and keep economic benefits within the community. Retaining local youth is essential to this effort, as access to education, training, and quality jobs increases the likelihood that young people will stay, invest locally, and contribute to Greene County's long-term success.

KEY CONSIDERATIONS:

Strong connections between education and industry contribute directly to quality of place by strengthening schools, supporting family stability, and reinforcing community confidence in the local economy. Families are more likely to choose and remain in communities where schools are connected to real-world opportunities and where students can envision successful futures without leaving the region. Leveraging regional educational partnerships also enhances Greene County's reputation as a forward-looking community that invests in its people, which supports civic pride, economic resilience, and overall community well-being.

PRIORITIES

Objective 04

Provide affordable, quality care for children ages 0-3.

STATEMENT:

Strengthen early childhood education in Greene County by expanding access to high-quality, nurturing, and affordable early learning opportunities for all families. Through cooperative partnerships with local school districts, the county will support children ages 0–3 by providing safe, engaging learning environments, investing in dedicated educators, and fostering strong community collaboration. This approach builds a solid educational foundation, supports working families, and helps develop the next generation of community leaders rooted in Greene County.

WHY IS THIS A PRIORITY?

Investing in high-quality early childhood education is a priority because it directly supports workforce participation, talent retention, and long-term community growth. Strengthening early education now ensures that Greene County can meet the needs of both current and future residents while sustaining economic growth and enhancing quality of place.

KEY CONSIDERATIONS:

As Greene County prepares for workforce and population growth driven by new job opportunities, access to affordable, high-quality early childhood education is essential. Early learning supports workforce participation by enabling parents to work, strengthens long-term workforce development by building foundational skills, and enhances Greene County’s ability to attract and retain young families. Coordinated partnerships among schools, employers, and community organizations will be critical to scaling early learning capacity alongside housing and infrastructure, ensuring equitable access and reinforcing Greene County’s quality of place as a family-friendly, growth-ready community.

PRIORITIES

Objective 05

Revitalize downtown areas by promoting mixed-use development and enhancing public spaces.

STATEMENT:

Revitalization and the creation of public spaces have become key elements of Greene County's Quality of Place. Residents increasingly value attractive downtowns, walkable streetscapes, and vibrant community events. Bloomfield and Linton have embraced these efforts by forming Main Street organizations, which connect them to the Indiana Office of Community and Rural Affairs (OCRA) program. Participation in OCRA provides these communities with access to additional grant funding, technical assistance, and planning resources, further supporting downtown improvements and community vibrancy.

WHY IS THIS A PRIORITY?

Downtown redevelopment is a priority because vibrant, attractive, and well-maintained downtowns strengthen Greene County's economy, enhance quality of place, and attract residents, businesses, and visitors. Improving existing structures, creating engaging public spaces, and supporting local enterprises fosters community pride, encourages investment, and positions Greene County's downtowns as central hubs for growth and long-term sustainability.

KEY CONSIDERATIONS:

Key considerations for downtown redevelopment in Greene County include improving and preserving existing structures, supporting local businesses, and encouraging mixed-use development to strengthen the economy. Public spaces, walkable streetscapes, and gathering areas enhance livability and attract visitors, while programs like Main Street and OCRA provide critical funding and technical support. Engaging residents and business owners ensures redevelopment aligns with community needs, and planning for long-term sustainability balances short-term improvements with economic resilience, environmental stewardship, and lasting quality of place.

PRIORITIES

Objective 06

Create and enhance parks and trails for overall health, well-being, and vibrancy of Greene County.

STATEMENT:

Improving and enhancing Greene County's parks and trails, while increasing accessibility, strengthens quality of place and makes the community more attractive to current and prospective workers by promoting recreation, well-being, and vibrant, livable communities throughout Greene County.

WHY IS THIS A PRIORITY?

With Greene County's rural landscape, walkability can be a challenge. Investing in parks and trails is therefore a priority, as accessible, well-maintained recreational spaces enhance quality of place and promote health and well-being. Vibrant green spaces and connected trail networks foster community engagement, support family-friendly living, and help attract and retain workers—key factors for sustainable growth and long-term economic vitality.

KEY CONSIDERATIONS:

Enhancing accessibility, safety, and amenities in Greene County's parks and trails ensures they serve residents of all ages and abilities. Connectivity between parks, trails, and neighborhoods encourages active lifestyles and supports community health, while well-maintained and attractive green spaces contribute to overall quality of place. Investments should balance recreational needs with environmental stewardship, ensure equitable access across the county, and create spaces that attract and retain workers by making Greene County an active, livable, and desirable community.

SOLUTIONS

Objective 1 aligns with two of our county’s focus areas: Aesthetics & Beautification Enhancements and Arts, Culture, Entertainment, and Recreation.

Objective 01
 Create and implement a county-wide identity that will be embraced and recognized throughout Greene County.

STRATEGIES AND ACTIONS

1.1 Engage with communities

- 1.1.1 Gather partners and introduce the objective.
- 1.1.2 Get input from residents; survey, for example
- 1.2.1 Showcase new logo at initial meeting

1.2 Incorporate new Greene County logo

- 1.2.2 Market the logo - social media, websites, news articles
- 1.2.3 Make the logo available to those who will need to use it; county departments, marketing materials, merchandise “store”

PERFORMANCE MEASURES

- 1.1 Does each community embrace the identity w/n their events
- 1.2 Is the logo more present throughout the county? Signage, emails, merchandise, etc.

STATUS	1.1 Planning	1.2 Planning
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TIMELINE	1.1 ST	1.2 ST
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PARTNERS

- Chambers of Commerce
- Main Street Organizations
- Economic Development
- Downtown Organizations
- County Leadership
- Tourism

SOLUTIONS

Objective 2 aligns with four of our county’s focus areas: Connectivity Infrastructure Development, Education and Workforce Development, Housing and Utilities Infrastructure, and Health Wellness & Safety.

Objective 02
Proactively increase housing development opportunities to support growth and talent attraction.

STRATEGIES AND ACTIONS

2.1 Develop housing committee

2.1.1 Greene Co. Economic Development created housing committee with realtors, utility partners, and leadership

2.1.2 Conduct regularly scheduled meetings with action items and takeaways.

2.2 Send property list to developers - target marketing

2.2.1 Partner with realtors to identify properties suitable for housing

2.2.2 Share list with utilities to understand existing infrastructure

2.2.3 Have list of developers; both local and regional

PERFORMANCE MEASURES

2.1 Committee meetings are productive

2.2 List is detailed and gains interest from developers

STATUS	2.1 Completed	2.2 In Progress (5% complete)
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TIMELINE	2.1 ST	2.2 ST
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PARTNERS

- Realtors
- Utility Partners
- Leadership
- Main Street Organizations
- Economic Development

SOLUTIONS

Objective 3 aligns with 2 of our county’s focus areas: Education and Workforce Development and Housing Utilities and Infrastructure.

Objective 03

Bridge the gap between education and industry to attract and retain workforce.

STRATEGIES AND ACTIONS

3.1 Engage with Schools

- 3.1.1 Communicate with schools to identify their needs
- 3.1.2 Understand offerings to students; such as list of employers, transportation assistance, scheduling assistance, for example.
- 3.1.3 Offer and communicate local and regional resources to schools.

3.2 Engage with local employers

- 3.2.1 Communicate with employers to identify their needs/challenges.
- 3.2.2 Understand level of interest in involvement with schools
- 3.2.3 Offer and communicate local and regional resources

PERFORMANCE MEASURES

- 3.1 The schools communicate opportunities for local employers to be in front of students
- 3.2 Local employers offer internships, job shadowing, work-based learning opportunities.

STATUS

3.1 In progress; 25% complete

3.2 In Progress; 25% complete

TIMELINE

3.1 ST

3.2 ST

PARTNERS

- Economic development
- County Foundation
- Educational Advocate Team (has been created)
- Career Coaches
- Counselors
- Principal/Superintendent
- Employers

SOLUTIONS

Objective 4 aligns with two of our county’s focus areas: Education and Workforce Development (including childcare) and Health Wellness and Safety.

The overall solution is to provide affordable, quality care for children ages 0-3 of Greene County by collaborating with the schools.

Objective 04 Provide affordable, quality care for children ages 0-3

STRATEGIES AND ACTIONS

4.1 Develop a school-based collaborative network

- 4.1.1 Conduct a survey
- 4.1.2 Meet with schools and stakeholders
- 4.1.3 Make a plan

4.2 Develop family education and engagement events

- 4.2.1 Promote this initiative through speaking engagements, press releases, and other forms of marketing
- 4.2.2 Connect with parents through the schools

PERFORMANCE MEASURES

- 4.1 Enrollment at 80%
- 4.1 Enrollment kick off Fall 2026
- 4.2 Parents have enrolled their children in the program

STATUS	4.1 Complete	4.2 In progress, 60% complete
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TIMELINE	4.1 LT	4.2 ST
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ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

- Lily GIFT VIII
- Greene County Foundation
- Bloomfield
- Eastern Greene
- MSD Shakamak
- WRV School Districts.

PARTNERS

- Greene Beginnings Director
- Greene County Foundation
- Bloomfield School Superintendent
- Eastern Greene School Superintendent
- MSD Shakamak School Superintendent
- WRB School Superintendent
- Uplands Smart Start, T.C.G.
- Halstead Architects

SOLUTIONS

Objective 5 aligns with three of our county’s focus areas: Aesthetics and Beautification; Arts, Culture, Environment, and Recreation; Housing and Utilities Infrastructure

Greene County’s downtowns face challenges with dilapidated buildings, absentee owners, and vacancies. Prioritizing building renovations, activating underused spaces, and improving structural integrity will enhance safety, encourage activity, and create vibrant, welcoming downtown areas that support businesses and community engagement.

STRATEGIES AND ACTIONS
<p>5.1 Identify buildings with extensive need of repair</p> <p>5.1.1 Work with structural engineers - create a plan for unsafe buildings</p> <p>5.2 Identify buildings with absentee owners</p> <p>5.2.1 Partner with community leadership - who owns the buildings</p> <p>5.2.2 Make contact with owners to understand their level of interest to repair/renovate buildings</p> <p>5.3 Improve downtown activity</p> <p>5.3.1 Identify space for community events</p> <p>5.3.2 Work with downtown organizations to promote events</p> <p>5.3.3 Work with small businesses and promote local spending</p> <p>5.4 Update existing plans and seek funding</p> <p>5.4.1 Research grants for renovations/repair and understand matching requirements</p> <p>5.4.2 Market and promote activity for potential investors</p>

Objective 05

Revitalize downtown areas by promoting mixed-use development and enhancing public spaces

STATUS	<p>5.1 Not started</p> <p>5.2 In progress; (10% Complete)</p>	<p>5.3 In progress; (25% Complete)</p> <p>5.4 Not started</p>
TIMELINE	<p>5.1 ST</p> <p>5.2 ST</p>	<p>5.3 MT</p> <p>5.4 LT</p>
PARTNERS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Community leadership, Office of Community and Rural Affairs (OCRA) Economic Development Chambers of Commerce Downtown Organizations Redevelopment Commissions Engineers 	
RESOURCES	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Health Resources & Services Administration Family & Social Services Administration USDA Rural Development Area Agencies on Aging 	
PERFORMANCE MEASURES		
<p>5.1 Communities have an inventory of buildings to repair</p> <p>5.2 Communities have an understanding of building ownership and have developed a solution</p> <p>5.3 More activity downtown, small businesses profits increase</p> <p>5.4 Funding is in place to renovate/repair buildings and the downtowns are noticeably more attractive and safe.</p>		

SOLUTIONS

Objective 6 aligns with three of our county’s focus areas: Aesthetics and Beautification; Arts, Culture, Entertainment, and Recreation; Connectivity, Infrastructure Development.

The previous plan outlined attainable strategies to advance this objective. While significant progress has been made, the work remains ongoing. Additionally, opportunities for trails and park improvements in other areas of Greene County should be integrated to further support this objective.

STRATEGIES AND ACTIONS

6.1 Work cohesively between park districts to identify a project list

- 6.1.1 Create a list of park districts and their POCs
- 6.1.2 Approach the county regarding a parks department/trail system
- 6.1.3 Strategize and prioritize project list and phasing

6.2 Coordinate between the local park districts and gauge interest in trail planning

- 6.2.1 Create a list of current and potential trail systems
- 6.2.2 Create a formal plan for implementation

6.3 Secure funding

- 6.3.1 Research grant opportunities

PERFORMANCE MEASURES

- 6.1 Frequent meetings between park districts are held and project list created
- 6.2 Trail locations have been identified and working towards expansion of current trails and creation of new trails
- 6.3 Funding has been secured and trails/parks are seeing activity.

Objective 06

Create and enhance parks and trails for overall health, well-being, and vibrancy of Greene County.

STATUS

6.1 Not started	6.3 In progress; (10% Complete)
6.2 In progress; (35% Complete)	

TIMELINE

6.1 ST	6.3 ST
6.2 ST	

PARTNERS

- Park Districts
- DNR
- County Commissioners
- Tourism Department
- Economic Development
- Radius Indiana
- Greene County Foundation
- OCRA
- Purdue Extension



Regional Opportunity Initiatives (ROI) would like to thank all of our county and community partners who participated and devoted many hours to updating the Quality of Place and Workforce Attraction Plans. Meaningful conversations, problem-solving and innovation took place throughout the course of this process. Your continued partnership and collaboration make the Indiana Uplands a region on the move.

We would also like to extend gratitude to all of the residents who participated in townhall meetings and submitted their thoughts on the direction and priorities of their community through the survey tool. This level of engagement steered the local committees in their work.

ROI looks forward to assisting stakeholders throughout the region as the plans' priorities are implemented. Together the Indiana Uplands will continue to build a vibrant and prosperous future for our residents.