



SECTION 1

INTRODUCTION

IN THIS SECTION...

This Section provides the overall structure of the Carthage Comprehensive Development Plan.

- Introduction
 - Purpose
 - Standards
- Planning Process
 - Framework
- How to Use this Document
- Public Involvement
- Key Terms and Phrases



INTRODUCTION

Communities are constantly interacting with and responding to changing factors that relate to quality of life at the local level. Sometimes these changing factors are focused around local shifts, while others are derived from regional and national trends. Population demographics will shift, the economy will respond to new markets, technologies will improve, and preferences will change for services and housing. These changes will inevitably influence current and proposed uses of land, capital, and property. As we look into the future, we can choose to merely react to change or anticipate and direct changes that occur. When engaging to changes that have occurred and planning for change that the community would like to occur in the future.

PURPOSE

The State of Indiana establishes the minimum requirements and purpose of a comprehensive plan (500 series of IC 36-7-4). The primary purpose of a comprehensive plan is to articulate the broader vision and establish guiding principles and policies for future growth and development of an entire community. Indiana Code states that “it should promote the public health, safety, morals, convenience, order or the general welfare and for the sake of efficiency and economic in the process of development.” It does not focus on the needs and desires of one property owner, business or neighborhood. Comprehensive plans are intended to be broad in nature. This provided community leaders with the flexibility to implement the community-wide vision, goals and objectives while responding to changing community conditions that are likely to occur over the life of the plan.

STANDARDS

The State of Indiana has developed specific requirements and minimum content for a comprehensive plan (500 series of IC 33-7-4). The elements of a comprehensive plan, at a minimum, should include:

- A statement of objectives for future development of the jurisdiction;
- A statement of policy for the land use development of the jurisdiction; and



- A statement of policy for the development of public ways, public spaces, public land, public structures, and public utilities.

A comprehensive plan may also include a multitude of additional topics, community issues and strategies, such as surveys/studies of current conditions, maps/graphic, reports, and recommendations.

THE PLANNING PROCESS

The Carthage Comprehensive Development Plan was initiated by the Town of Carthage with the intent of serving as the community's guide for future development over the next 1 to 5 years (short term) and up to 20 years (long term).

Throughout the development of the plan there were many opportunities for the public to provide feedback through public meetings, a steering committee and key person interviews. The information and ideas gathered from these public input opportunities were used to establish recommendations and concepts included in this plan.

FRAMEWORK

The framework of the plan serves as a foundation of the planning process which is used in creating this plan – guided by four key questions:

"Where are we now?"

"Where are we going?"

"Where would we like to go?"

"How do we get there?"



HOW TO USE THIS DOCUMENT

This Plan is the first step in establishing Carthage as a community with a rich history and promising future. It will serve as the guiding document that town officials, decision makers, developers and resident can reference as development and reinvestment occurs. As result, Carthage's Comprehensive Development Plan should serve as the primary, guiding document and be the basis for all decisions about the location, quality and quantity of future growth and its supporting infrastructure. This plan is also intended to be a flexible document and broad in nature so that the Town can respond to changes.

The following sections provide the research and analysis of demographic and economic characteristics of Carthage, documentation of the public participation process, an explanation of the vision, goals, and objectives and a description of elements of the Plan.

SECTION 1: INTRODUCTION: This chapter provides a brief overview of the Indiana Code requirements, the planning process and framework of the plan document. It also includes an explanation of how portions of the plan are intended to be used and definitions for key terms.

SECTION 2: COMMUNITY PROFILE: This section gives the background of Carthage including a historical background, location and its geography. This section also includes demographic and socioeconomic information about the population in Carthage.

SECTION 3: COMMUNITY ENVIRONMENT: The community's overall quality of life is examined in this section looking at such items as the community's image, different social issues and community involvement. The facilities element identifies the current inventory of utilities such as water, sewer, and stormwater systems, schools, emergency response departments, and public buildings.



SECTION 4: ECONOMIC ENVIRONMENT: This section looks at the economic trends for Carthage as well as the existing conditions. It also includes strategies and policy recommendations that relate to development opportunities and funding strategies as they relate to economic development.

SECTION 5: LAND USE: The land use section is the central focus of a comprehensive plan. This element looks at the existing land use, annexation and the housing trends in Carthage. It includes growth and land use strategies for Carthage, the rationale behind land use decisions, a future land use map and a description of each land use category.

SECTION 6: TRANSPORTATION: This section looks at future funded projects and local need for all forms of transportation in Carthage. This includes different multi modal transportation improvements and projects.

SECTION 7: NATURAL RESOURCES: This section looks at the local need for all forms of outdoor recreation in Carthage. This includes parkland improvements as well as bicycle and pedestrian trails. It also looks at environmental protection policies as they pertain to the local community.

SECTION 8: IMPLEMENTATION: This section is used to identify and prioritize tasks necessary to accomplish the plan's overall goals and plan elements. Action steps are outlines in implementation tables which include a brief description of the action and identify responsible party(ies) & partners and appropriate timelines. Specific plan goals associated with each action step are also referenced.



APPENDIX A: PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT: This appendix reinforces the elements presented in the various chapters by providing a summary of the public participation process. Exercise results gathered during the Steering Committee meetings and public workshops are included.

APPENDIX B: CITIZEN SURVEY: This appendix describes the process used to gain information from the public about their community. The results are gathered through an online survey as well as hard copy surveying.

APPENDIX C: HISTORIC SITES: This appendix shows the historic properties list and accompanying map from the Rush County Interim Report updated for the 2015 Historic Designation Study.

APPENDIX D: 2015 ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT & DOWNTOWN REVITALIZATION ACTION PLAN: This appendix is the resulting Action Plan from the study.

APPENDIX E: PAVEMENT ASSET PLAN: This appendix includes the roadway inventory and rating matrix as well as the project priority listing.

APPENDIX F: SIDEWALK MANAGEMENT PLAN: This appendix includes the sidewalk inventory and ratings matrix as well as the project priority listing.



PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT

Listening to the voices of engaged, knowledgeable residents and business owners is an important part of any planning process. Citizen participation is a process that gives private individuals an opportunity to influence public decisions. It has long been a component of the democratic decision process. The concept of citizens participating in government decision-making is fundamental to the functioning of a democratic system of governance.

In preparing the Carthage Comprehensive Development Plan, public input initiatives were established early on in the process to ensure the issues addressed by the Plan would be influenced by the citizens of the community as much as possible. While in general, public participation is an ongoing process, an initial round of public input procedures was conducted to establish an understanding of how citizens feel and think about their community.

MEETINGS

Steering Committee

The Town of Carthage was asked to provide a list of community volunteers that would take the responsibility to form the Steering Committee. This included not only residents of the community, but some stakeholders who participate in community life who reside outside the community. The Steering Committee members were then named by the town council. The following individuals participated on the Steering Committee:

- *John Hancock, Town Council*
- *Kelly Land, Town Council, Rush Co. Area Plan Commission member*
- *Kathy Gibson, Future of Carthage*
- *Jim Neal, Henley Library Board*

The initial planning meeting was held on October 18, 2017 at the Carthage Town Hall and those attending were introduced to the planning process, review of the timeline and the duties of being on the Steering Committee. The 2015 Economic Development and Downtown Revitalization Plan was discussed and the steering committee was introduced to the Needs,



Assets and Liabilities (NAL) exercise. (Agendas and sign-in sheets for all meetings are shown in **Appendix A.**)

At the second meeting on November 1, 2017 the Steering Committee met and continued the NAL exercise to identify the positive and negative issues related to the community and to review the citizen survey that would be advertised through the local newspaper via SurveyMonkey. They were then briefed on the upcoming first Public Meeting to be held on November 15th.

The third Steering Committee meeting was held on December 21, 2017. During this meeting the group finished the review of the NAL issues and then a review of the NAL exercise from the Public Meeting was discussed. The results of the citizen survey were reviewed as well.

The fourth meeting of the Steering Committee was held on January 31, 2018. The NAL review continued from the last meeting. The committee then began the formulation of the Goals & Objectives.

The fifth meeting of the Steering Committee was held on February 28, 2018. The committee continued the formulation of the Goals & Objectives and discussed future land use. The date for the second public meeting was set for March 20th.

The sixth meeting of the Steering Committee was held on April 4, 2018. The final draft of the Action Plan was reviewed. The next steps for the finalization of the Plan were then discussed.

Public

The first of two Public Meetings was held at the Town Hall on November 15, 2017 at 6:30 P.M. The meeting was advertised in the The Banner, the Rushville Republican and announcements were posted at various locations throughout the town. Approximately four people were in



attendance. Introductions were made and then an overview of what a Community Development Plan consisted of and why the Town was undertaking this Comprehensive Plan. The public then participated in an exercise which identified the needs, assets and liabilities (NAL's) related to the community.

The second Public Meeting was held on March 21, 2018 and was held at the Town Hall. The meeting was advertised in the The Banner, the Rushville Republican and announcements were posted at various locations throughout the town. Approximately four people were in attendance. An overview of the Plan development and the context were given. Then the Goals & Objectives in each planning area were discussed. The discussion then turned to how the Plan would be implemented and who would be responsible for the task. (see **Appendix A**)

CITIZEN SURVEY

In order to more fully determine the thoughts and desires of the community, a citizen survey was taken during two weeks from November 3, 2017 to November 17, 2017. It was primarily targeted to the residents of the Town of Carthage in order to help determine the major needs and identify issues which are important for the growth and development of the town. A survey was prepared using SurveyMonkey and was available to the public. Hard copies were also available at the Town Hall, Post Office and the local gas station/grocery store. Public participation was garnered by newspaper advertising, social media outreach and word of mouth. In all, 52 surveys were completed. With a 2015 American Community Survey estimate of 325 occupied households (owner occupied and rentals), the survey garnered a 16% return rate.

The citizen survey was in three sections. The first section asked about basic demographic information. The second section asked questions relevant to the community character (quality of life issues) and to community services. The third section was more open ended and asked



what respondents felt about the future of their community, their likes, dislikes, wants and needs.

Demographics

Who responded...

The demographic information showed that out of the survey responses, female responders (62%) outnumbered the male responders (38%). By age group, the largest response rate were those between the ages of 35 to 44 (26%) followed by those groups in the 55 to 64 (24%), and 25 to 34 (22%).

Why they live here...

When asked “How many years have you lived in Carthage”, the majority responded over 20 years. The largest groups were those who have lived 20+ years (54%), followed by those who have lived 6 to 10 years (14%), 2-5 years and 11 to 20 years (12%). When asked “if they expected to remain in Carthage 5 years from now”, the vast majority (81%) said they were very likely to somewhat likely, only 14% of the respondents were somewhat or very unlikely to continue to live in Carthage. Only 5% said they were unsure.

Working status...

When asked the question “Do you work within the boundaries of Carthage”, the highest response was those who worked outside of Carthage at 56%. Those who worked in Carthage and those who were retired or unemployed (18%) were the second largest group. Most of the respondents work full time (64%), those who work part time (14%) were the second largest group. 12% were fully retired and only 10% were unemployed.

2015 American Community Survey info...

The population of Carthage is 794. The median age of persons living in Carthage is 39.6 years as compared to Rush County at 41.3 and Indiana at 37.3. The median household income is \$36,382, lower than both the County median of \$45,121 and the State median of \$47,697. The



major occupation is that of Production and Transportation (29.7%) followed by those in the Construction, Extraction and Maintenance (19.7), Service (17.5) Office and Sales fields (16.9%)

and Management and Professional services (16.3%). The current (2016) unemployment rate (Rush County) is 3.2%. The highest levels of education attained were those with a secondary education (48.8%) followed by those with some college no degree (20.8%).

Quality of Life/Community Services/Growth

In these sections, respondents were asked various questions about how they perceived their community. They were asked to answer the questions on a scale of Agree, Somewhat Agree, Not Sure, Somewhat Disagree, Disagree. Some questions were open ended and respondents were allowed to choose multiple answers or write in their own opinions.

The following sections of this plan will address the results according to subject and a summary of all results are shown in **Appendix B**.

NAL ANALYSIS

NAL stands for Needs, Assets and Liabilities, and offers a structured process for a community to explore their current situation. The process helps a community gather information from a small, but representative, group of local residents and leaders. They are then asked for their community perceptions, in four separate areas. The first two areas are internal: the strengths and weaknesses from within the community. The second two categories are external: the opportunities and threats from outside the community. For example, an external threat may be the national economy, or decreased federal funding that affects local schools. When all the factors are combined, the community can then begin to form a clearer picture of the community's situation.



Steering Committee

The Steering Committee over a period of two meetings participated in a NAL exercise. The Steering Committee members were given an overview of how NAL works and then were asked to fill out a NAL worksheet individually. The exercise was to cover five separate areas of issue:

Quality of Life, Community Services, Economic Development, Land Use, Transportation and Natural Resources. The Steering Committee then discussed their opinions and worked to develop the top issues in each category. These were then used to formulate the goals and objectives for the Action Plan.

Public Meeting

A shorter version of the NAL exercise was presented during the public meeting where the attendees were asked about their views in each of the same five categories. These would be combined with the results from the Steering Committee and used to help derive the goals and objectives. The following sections of this plan will address the results according to subject.

ACTION PLAN

The results and information gathered from the Citizen Survey; the Needs, Assets and Liabilities (NAL) exercises by both the Steering Committee and from the first public meeting; the Steering Committee meetings; and interviews with town officials were used to then formulate the Goals and Objectives for each of the planning areas.

The resulting Action Plan which includes the Goals and Objectives along with a first Action step, the entity or entities responsible for carrying out the Action as well as a timeline for completing the Action can be found in Section 8, Implementation.



KEY TERMS & PHRASES

Action Plan – Specific steps that are recommended by the plan and are important to understand in order to effectively use the document and implement the plan’s vision.

Steering Committee – A group of people chosen to represent a cross – section of the community and guide the comprehensive planning process. They serve as liaisons between the community, the consultant, and town staff during the planning process.

Goal – a broad statement that supports the vision while adding a specific area of focus. Goals are usually lofty in scope yet attainable within the planning horizon of 20 years.

Key Person/Stakeholder – A person who is in some way responsible for implementing the plan, in whole or in part, or has a vested interest in the outcome of the plan.

Objective – A statement that adds a level of specificity to the goal without identifying the individual actions that must be taken for implementation. Objectives are generally measurable so that the community can monitor implementation progress.

Planning horizon – The period of time the plan intends to address community development or the community’s vision. This plan uses a 20 – year planning horizon.

Policy – A definite course or method of action to guide present and future decisions. Policies can be legislative or administrative in approach.





SECTION 2

COMMUNITY PROFILE

IN THIS SECTION...

This Section gives background information for the Town of Carthage.

It includes:

- Introduction
- Location
- History Background
- Demographics
- Topography
- Soils



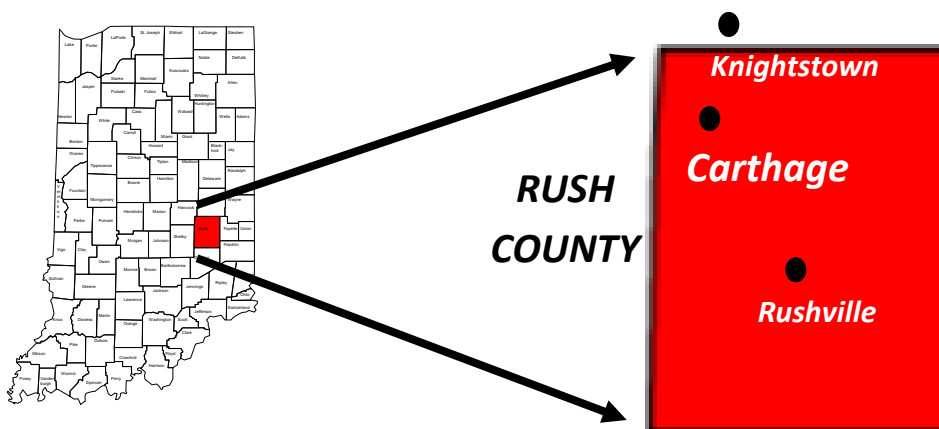
INTRODUCTION

For any Comprehensive Development Plan to be effective, it should address the existing conditions of the community as well as its needs and desires for the future. This section updates those factors through a summary of data, trends and facts about the Town of Carthage. The information collected and presented in this inventory is used as a guide to update this plan.

As the first step in the process, this inventory identifies the issues, opportunities and constraints that serve as a basis for the remainder of the Comprehensive Development Plan. Overall, the information reported here will provide valuable direction to assess the existing needs of the existing needs of the community, county, and region. It is important to identify where a community has been and what natural course it may follow. Utilizing this information in the development of this updates plan will substantiate further actions as the community evolves in the future.

LOCATION

The Town of Carthage is located east central Indiana. It is in Ripley Township in the northwest corner of Rush County. Its location has made the community in more of an alignment and association with nearby Knightstown (5 miles to the north) which is in Henry County.





The county seat of Rushville (population 6,341), which is the largest city in Rush County is approximately 15 miles southeast of Carthage. Carthage lies approximately 60 miles east of Indianapolis which is the capital and largest city in Indiana with a metro population of over 1.2 million.

HISTORY

Carthage is Rush County's second largest population center. It is located on the east bank of the Big Blue River near the center of Ripley Township. The settlement of the area developed around a store and mill that was operated by Robert Hill and son. Many of the early settlers were Quakers who emigrated from the Carolinas in order to seek better farmlands and a separation from the slavery in the South. The Town of Carthage was formally platted in 1834 by John Clark and Henry Henley.

Commercial activity in Carthage was bolstered by railroad service. Construction of the Shelbyville and Rushville Railroad began in 1848. This line was short-lived because of the materials shortage of the Civil War which led to the removal of the rails. The railroad service resumed in Carthage in 1888 following the completion of a branch of the Cincinnati, Wabash, and Michigan Railroads. This led to period of economic growth and prosperity in Carthage.

Some of the early industries were the Carthage Strawboard Company, one of the largest of its kind in Indiana, a woolen factory, a sawmill, and the Tweedy Lumber Company. A barrel stave manufacturing company and a grain elevator also contributed to Carthage's commercial activity.

Two of the four gas stations in the Carthage Historic District are notable remnants from the early decades of automobile transportation which reflect popular domestic architectural trends. The station at 1 East Mill Street is a picturesque English Cottage-style building while the



station on the west side of Main Street (no longer in service) typifies a functional style related to the Prairie or Bungalow styles.

Other than the industries, Carthage's main commercial enterprises are located along Main and Mill Street. These are the 23 structures contained in the Carthage Historic District. Most of the buildings have been modernized but few retain their original features. The State Bank of Carthage and the Henley Memorial Public Library remain essentially unaltered. They both were built in the Neo-Classical style, which befits their respective functions in the community. The building at 2 North Main Street is a notable early example of the Italianate style as applied to a commercial block.

Outstanding among the scattered sites in Carthage is the 1881 Carthage Friends Meetinghouse. The Hill House at 205 N. Main Street is a building which at one time was an I-house but underwent a transformation when decorative millwork was in vogue. Important in Carthage's social and ethnic history is the Booker T. Washington School East Street. Built in 1908 in the Mission Revival style, it was the school for the area's black community which had close ties with Quakers who were strongly anti-slavery in their belief.

An Historic Designation Study was completed in 2015. The Historic Designation Study (HDS) provides the background, description, and historical content for the Town of Carthage area and explain the historical development pattern. It also describes the physical features of the existing buildings, sites, and landscape and the level to which they contribute to the historical integrity of the potential historic district. The report also acted as an update to the Rush County Interim Report which was completed in 1988. This Interim Report and the historic places designations can be found in **Appendix C**.



DEMOGRAPHIC TRENDS

The demographic analysis considers characteristics such as population, age, race, ethnicity, place of work, and educational attainment to identify demographic trends that will impact the future housing, education, jobs recreation, transportation, community facilities and other need of Carthage.

Data gathered and analyzed for the purposes of this comprehensive plan was primarily from the U.S. Census Bureau, Census on Population and Housing, and U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics. Unless otherwise stated, the data used in this analysis was derived from the most recent, readily available data from the U.S. Census. As the community continues to change and updated data is released, trends and projections should be verified to ensure that the assumptions made about Carthage's population change, demographics, education and economy remain true.

HOW DOES CARTHAGE COMPARE

An important first step in any planning effort is to identify demographic and economic trends that may be unique in addition to those which mirror regional, state or national trends. This provides the community with the knowledge needed to guide Carthage in the direction to which they aspire. By analyzing historical data on the demographics of Carthage and comparison communities trends are revealed. Comparison communities are used to further identify the trends by comparing the changes over time.

The comparison communities share similar characteristics to Carthage, and were selected based on the following:



Geographic Characteristics

- Not located immediately adjacent to major highways.
- Mainly surrounded by rural landscape.

Demographic Characteristics

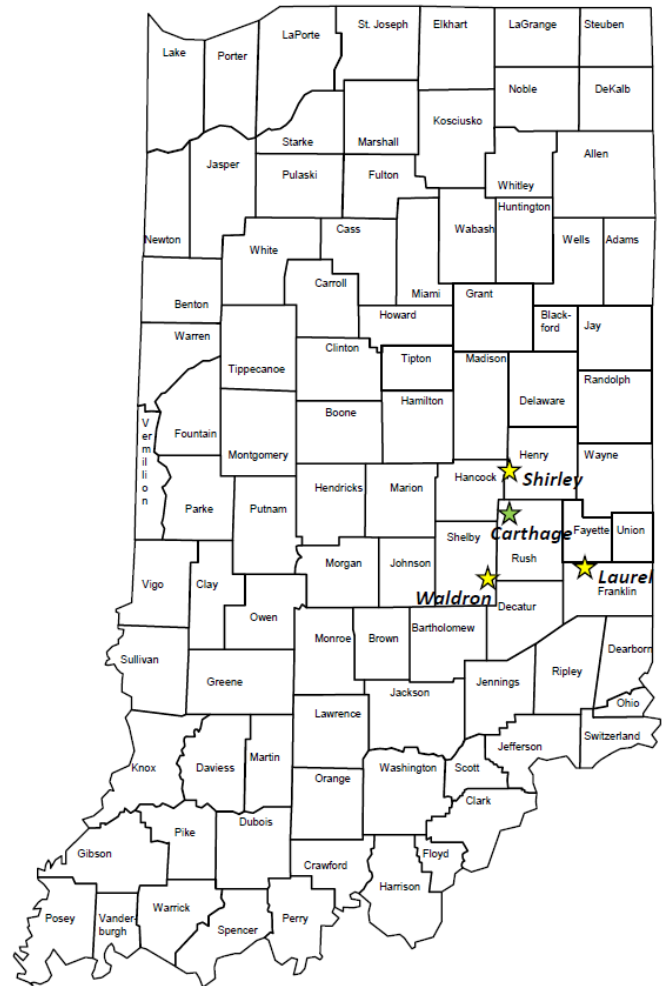
- Contain a population between 500 and 1,000 people.

Economic Characteristics

- Similar industry and occupational profiles

Comparison communities used in this analysis include:

- *Waldron, Shelby County*
- *Shirley, Hancock/Henry Counties*
- *Laurel, Franklin County*



It is also important to note that Census Geographies are not static; boundaries can change or be redrawn entirely due to changes in political boundaries, population growth or other factors. For the purposes of comparing historical (such as 2000) and current estimated (such as 2015) Census data, the geographic areas are considered to be generally equivalent.



POPULATION

Carthage's Population Trends

Carthage population in 2010 was 927 people, representing a population decrease of 1% since 2000 (928). During the same period (2000-2010) the population of Rush County decreased by 869 or 4.7%. Although Carthage is losing population in contrast to gains in contrast to large geographies, many of the comparison communities in this region are reflecting the same loss. According to the 2015 Census Estimate, Carthage had 892 residents. It is projected a decline in the population for the Town of Carthage in the next 5 years.

Population by Age

Shown the table below is the breakdown by an age group for the Town of Carthage. As can be seen by comparing it to the percentage for the State as a whole, the Town of Carthage has very similar percentage of persons in several age groups, but is higher in the age group of older adults (65 +) and adults between the ages of (45 to 64).

Population by Age (2015)						
	Town of Carthage, Indiana	Percent of Total Town	Rush County	Percent of Total County	Indiana	Percent of Total State
Total	794	100%	16,991	100%	6,568,645	100%
Preschool (0 to 4)	46	5.8%	901	5.3%	420,393	6.4%
School Age (5 to 19)	181	22.8%	3,449	20.3%	1,353,140	20.6%
College Age (20 to 24)	44	5.5%	968	5.7%	479,511	7.3%
Young Adult (25 to 44)	175	22.1%	3,857	22.7%	1,668,436	25.4%
Adult (45 to 64)	231	29.1%	4,842	28.5%	1,734,122	26.4%
Older Adult (65 +)	117	14.7%	2,956	17.4%	913,042	13.9%
Median Age	39.6		41.3		37.3	



A stable population would have generally equal numbers for almost all age groups except the oldest. The presence of a wide base in population pyramid indicates high birth rates (growing population) while a narrow base indicates low birth rates (naturally declining population in the absence of migration).

In the U.S. the Baby Boom generation is also usually very evident, producing a bump-out in the chart from those born in the late 1940s to early 1960s. Carthage does exhibit a small increase in the population pyramid as a result of this demographic occurrence.

In 2015 the median age in Carthage was 39.6 years old, higher than the median age of Indiana (37.3 years old). Carthage has an older population.

Population Projection Table			
Year	Town of Carthage	Rush County	Indiana
1980	886	19,604	5,490,224
1990	887	18,129	5,544,159
2000	928	18,261	6,080,485
2010	927	17,392	6,417,198
2015	892	16,511	6,743,728
2020	836	15,680	7,024,457

Above is a population projection table where it shows the history of the population for the Town of Carthage, compare to Rush County and the State of Indiana and the projections for 2020.



RACE & ETHNICITY

The population breakdown by gender and race:

- 47.7% Male, 52.3% Female
- Median Age: 39.6
- 98.2% White; 0.0% Black or African American; 0.0% American Indian; 0.0% Asian; 0.04% Hispanic or Latino; 0.04% some other race.

Carthage's population was 98.2% white in 2015.

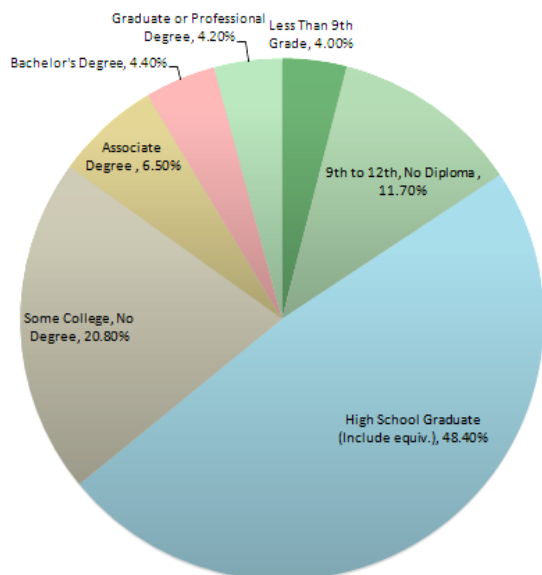
Carthage is less diverse in racial composition than Indiana (84.2% white) and the United States (73.6% white). However, Carthage is very similar to Rush

County (97.2% white). When compared to the surrounding region, Carthage falls in the middle of the comparison communities in racial composition.

Defining Race & Ethnicity:

Race and ethnicity are considered two separate & distinct Characteristics. Race categories include White, Black, African American, American Indian/ Alaska Native, Asian, Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander, and Other Race. Ethnicity refers to a person's origin. Examples of Hispanic origin could include a person of Cuban, Mexican, Puerto Rican, South/Central American, or other Spanish culture or origin. People who identify their origin as Hispanic Latino or Spanish can be any race.

Carthage's Educational Attainment



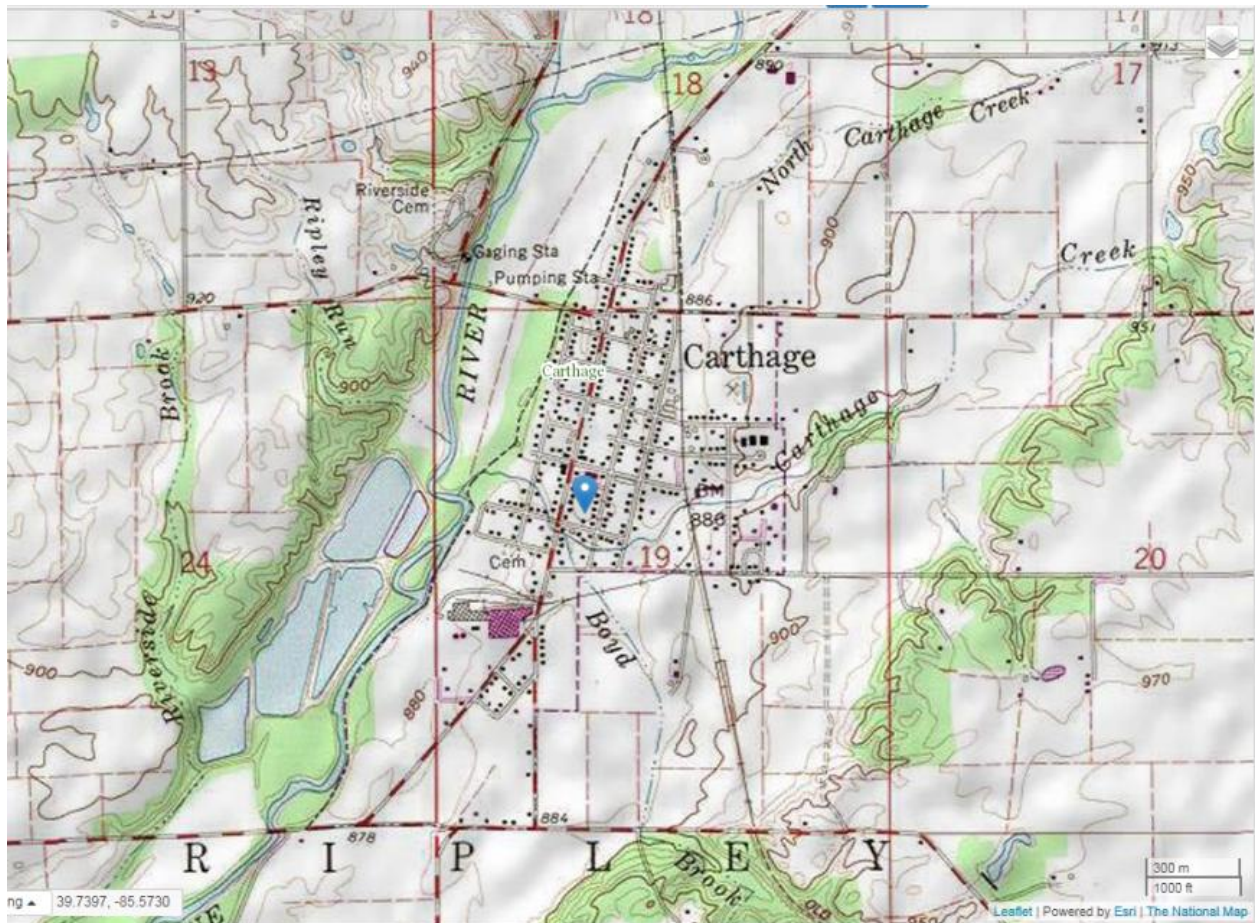
EDUCATIONAL ATTAINMENT

Carthage has a significantly higher percentage of its population (25 years and older) that have achieved a high school diploma as their highest level of education earned (48.4%) when compared to Indiana (34.6%). In regard to higher education, Carthage has 8.6% of the population who have earned a Bachelor's degree or higher. Measured against the comparison communities of Rush County (14.9%), Indiana (24.1%) and the United States (29.8%), Carthage is lacking in this educational attainment.



TOPOGRAPHY

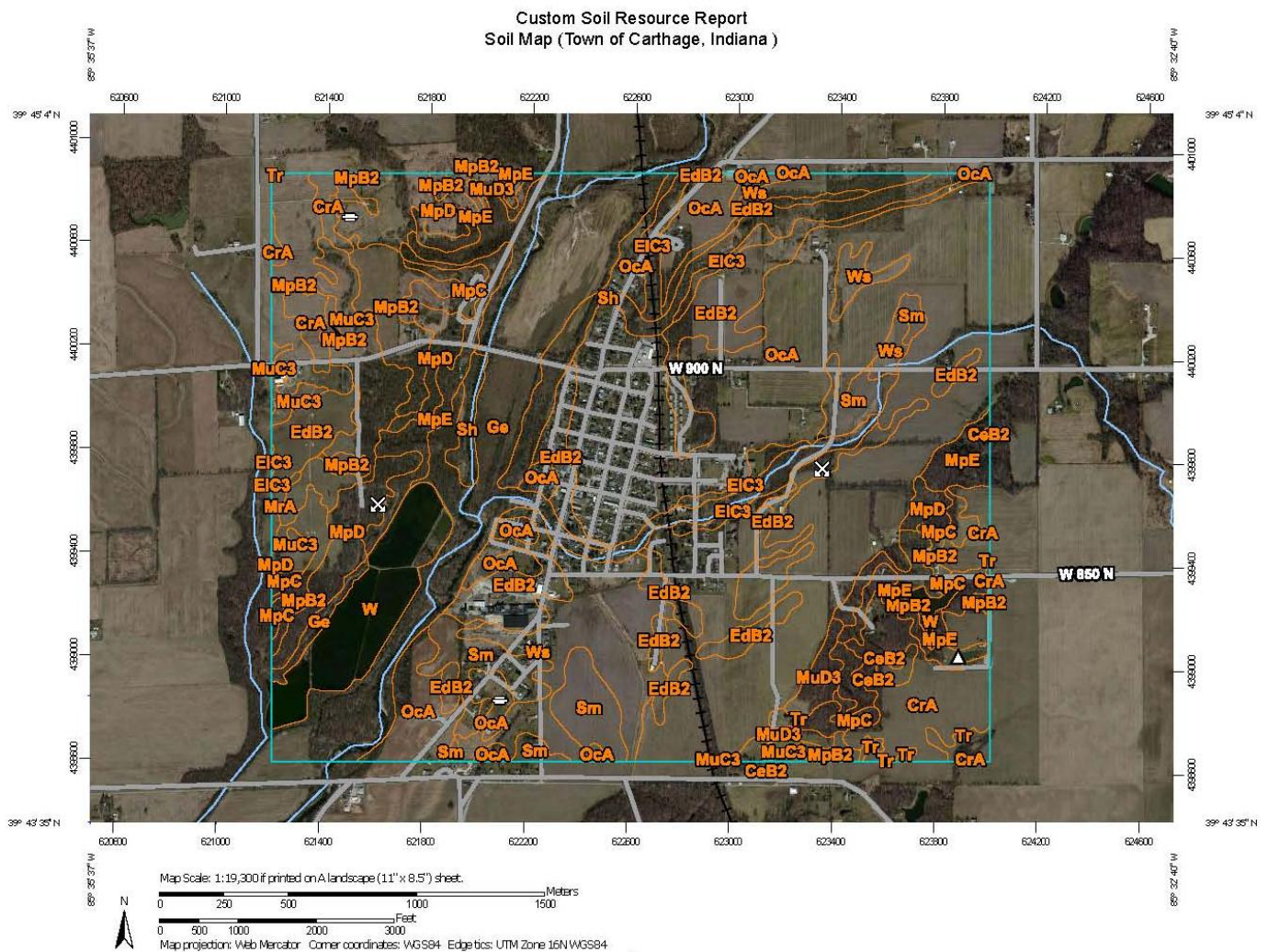
The Planning Area has a gently rolling topography falling to the southeast. The map shown below is an overview of topographical map of Carthage. USGS Map shown below.





SOILS

The Town of Carthage contains a variety of soils predominantly of Ockley Silt Loam, which is well drained. The water table may be seasonally high in this type of soil. We have included a general soil map of the Carthage area as shown on soil map below.





Soil Quality & Management

Soils limit the type of development and land uses on site. Development on inappropriate soils can result in problems such as water and wind erosion, flooding, and insufficient drainage. These problems can financially burden the Town and property owners.

Adequate research during the site selection process can minimize these problems. Soils should be tested properly to make certain land uses are suitable for specific sites. All development should have adequate sanitary sewer capacity and be required to connect to the Town's wastewater system.



SECTION 3

COMMUNITY ENVIRONMENT

IN THIS SECTION...

The community's overall quality of life is examined in this section looking at such items as the community's image, different social issues and community involvement. The facilities element identifies the current inventory of utilities such as water, sewer, and stormwater systems, schools, emergency response departments, and public buildings.

- Quality of Life
 - Community Image
 - Social services
 - Community activities
- Existing Facilities/Services
 - Water, Sewer, Stormwater
 - Library, schools, etc.
 - Emergency services



INTRODUCTION

Quality of life is an examination of influences upon the goodness and meaning in life, as well as people's happiness and well-being. From our perspective, the ultimate goal of quality of life is to enable people to live quality lives -- lives that are both meaningful and enjoyed.

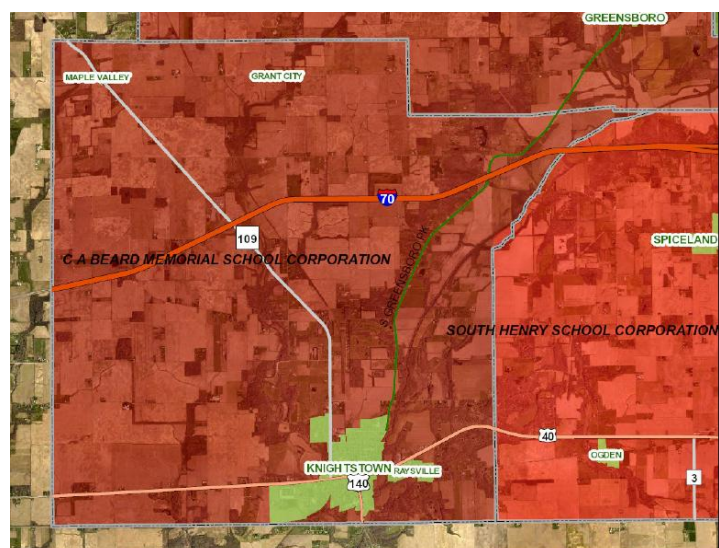
Quality of life can have a different meaning to different people. The quality of life issues we looked at included issues affecting the social as well as the physical nature of the community, i.e. seniors, youth, community image, volunteerism.

Community services are very important to help a community serve its citizens providing health and safety as well as providing for a higher quality of living. Having adequate community facilities is also important to a community for economic reasons. An overview of facilities and services can be found in this Section.

COMMUNITY FACILITIES

Schools

Carthage is served by the Charles A. Beard Community School Corporation. There is one high school (Knightstown); one intermediate school (Knightstown); and one elementary school (Knightstown). The school corporation had two other school buildings in the Towns of Kennard and Carthage (Rush County) that were recently sold due to consolidation.





School district enrollment, as shown in the table below, has been in decline for the past few years. The graduation rate (94.3%) has been above that of the state average rate (88.7%).

	2011-12	2012-13	2013-14	2014-15	2015-16
Total Enrollment	1,313	1,318	1,283	1,208	1,182

The community is close to numerous colleges and universities including major state universities and numerous smaller private colleges and universities.

Library

The Henry Henley Public Library was built in 1902 in the Neo-Classical style. The library was first formed in 1890 in an upper room of the Carthage State Bank. Initially the Carnegie Foundation had offered to support the new library building, but the Carnegie support was refused and Henry Henley and many other citizens in the community made gifts so that the library would be their own. The library is open on Tuesday, Thursday and Saturdays.





Town Hall/Police Department

The Carthage Town Hall is located in the heart of the old downtown. In addition to housing the offices of general government, it also houses the Carthage Police Department. The community also is served by the Rush County Sheriff's Office.

Emergency Response

The Carthage Volunteer Fire Department is located on 208 S Main Street. The department is led by Chief Josh Cooley and Assistant Chief Karen Lee and is supported by twenty-eight members including EMS.





COMMUNITY SERVICES

Rush County Senior Services

LifeStream Services provides a variety of programs and services such as care management, information and assistance, wellness programs, senior meals, guardianship services, transportation, and many more services designed to keep seniors, people with disabilities, and others at risk independent in their homes and communities.

Nutrition Services

Café provide a place for area seniors to enjoy a meal and visit with friends throughout the week. Meals are provided for a suggested donation of \$2.50 for those 60 years and older and their spouses. Those under the age of 60 can enjoy a meal for a small fee. This service is available at the Rush County Senior Center, 504 W. 3rd St. Rushville, IN from Tuesday – Friday at 11:30am.

Transportation Services

Ride Rush provides transportation services out of the Rush County Senior Center. Scheduling for transportation throughout Rush County can be done by calling the transportation center. Days of Service: Tuesday – Friday; Service Hours: 7am – 5pm

Fare Structure:

Base: \$2.00

Elderly: \$1.00

Youth/Child: \$1.00

Rush County Home Health Services

Rush County Home Health Services, Rushville, Indiana provides compassionate medical care for seniors at their homes in the Rush County area. The home health care services include skilled nursing services, medication management, wound care, diabetic care, physical therapy,



occupational therapy, speech therapy, rehabilitation services, Alzheimer's support, among others. Trained and certified health care professionals provide compassionate medical care for seniors and others at the comfort of their homes. They are located at the Court House, Suite 5, Rushville, IN 46173.

Medical/Health Facilities

Carthage has no emergency service facilities within the Town. Rush Memorial Hospital is located 1300 N Main Street in Rushville, Indiana, within 15 miles Southeast from Carthage. Hancock Regional Hospital is located 801 N State Street, Greenfield, Indiana, 15 miles west of Carthage.

Other major hospitals are Community East in Indianapolis (33 miles), IU/Methodist/Riley Children's Hospitals in Indianapolis (39 miles). Hancock Regional also offers a wellness center which is a certified physical fitness and education center located in Greenfield.

Rush County Boys and Girls Club

The Rush County Boys and Girls Club is located in Rushville. Since 1943, the Boys & Girls Club of Rush County has been serving the needs of children in the community.

The mission is to assist parents and schools in transforming our youth into productive, happy citizens. They offer instruction in 5 Core Program Areas:

- Character and Leadership Development
- Education and Career Development
- Health and Life Skills
- The Arts
- Sports, Fitness and Recreation

The Club is open Monday through Friday.



COMMUNITY IMAGE

Terms like rural, neighborhood, village and urban character are used to define community character, but some are unsure of what people mean by character.

A dictionary definition is "a distinctive trait, quality or attribute," something's "essential quality or nature," and "reputation." But, what attributes produce the essential quality of a place? According to Roland Warren, various criteria, "thought to characterize communities include a specific population living within a specific geographic area, amongst whom there are present shared institutions and values and significant social interaction." The emphasis is on people, their institutions and their interrelationships.

The Town of Carthage has been beset by a series of setbacks including the loss of its major employer (Smurfit Stone), several downtown stores and most recently the closing of the elementary school. These economic and service losses have the community searching for a new identity. Carthage is currently in a rebuilding mode.

Community Organizations

Not-for-Profit

Future of Carthage, Inc.

Started in 2016 as a result of the Economic Development and Downtown Revitalization Plan, the mission of the Future of Carthage is to promote and facilitate the growth of Carthage and Ripley Township through leadership and creative volunteerism.

Religious Institutions

Carthage has three churches representing several denominations to serve its public. Many of them have ongoing social programs which aid the needy in the community as well as serving as welcoming agents to people new to the community.



COMMUNITY SERVICES/IMAGE POLICY

Goal:

Maintain a vibrant community for all citizens so they will work towards much higher levels of economic productivity, educational and cultural attainment, and quality of life so as to encourage greater civic pride.

Objectives:

- *Develop Town website.*
- *Enhance communication/cooperation within the community providing communication portal for services and events.*
- *Review current Town ordinances and update if necessary and determine the need for new ordinances.*
- *Enhance leadership/volunteerism in community.*
- *Maintain and improve on current community events.*
- *Encourage Town clean up days.*
- *Enhance gateway points into the community.*
- *Develop Carthage's history as a community asset.*
- *Establish a new changeable copy sign to promote community news and events.*



COMMUNITY UTILITIES

Communities cannot grow or at best even function without quality infrastructure often known as public works. The operation of municipal public works is crucial to a community's health and safety as well as the continuing improvement in the quality of life. Such things as water systems, sanitation or waste water treatment facilities, snow removal, etc. – all are within the domain of public works and all essential to the well-being of our communities. These infrastructure assets are at their best when they are operated, monitored, maintained, and improved by public works professionals. Public works departments play an important role in the management of these assets and thereby extend their benefit to the public and prolong their useful life.

The Town of Carthage currently maintains two existing utilities – water and sanitary sewer.

Sanitary Sewer

The Carthage Wastewater Department is a municipally owned utility...

WAITING ON INFO

Wastewater Systems Map

Water

The Carthage Water Department is a municipally owned utility....

WAITING ON INFO

Water System Map



OTHER UTILITIES

Stormwater

Like many towns in Indiana, stormwater systems are often an afterthought and a combination of different methods and constructed systems. The current system in Carthage is controlled through a network of undersized pipes, catch basins and inlets; overland flow; detention ponds and wetland areas.

The primary drainage feature in this area is the Big Blue River which is located along the western boundary of the town. This waterway serves as the drainage conduit for most of the town area running southwest out of town. The Big Blue River is located to the west of the wastewater treatment facility, serving as the effluent outfall. This is the Major Watershed known as the East Fork White River Watershed.

Electric Service

Carthage is served by Duke Energy for its electric services.

Gas Service

Carthage is served by Vectren for its gas services.

Internet Service

Carthage citizens are served by several different providers and by several different mediums. There are five major providers for residential service; Xfinity (cable), CenturyLink and Frontier (DSL), DishNet and Exede (satellite), NineStar (DSL/fiber). Business service is provided by; Comcast Business (cable), CenturyLink and Frontier (DSL), NineStar (fiber). There are seven other providers through mobile or satellite.



COMMUNITY FACILITIES POLICY

Goal:

To improve and maintain the infrastructure and services in a way that enhances community pride, provides a tool for managing growth, and ensures the well being of the community.

Objectives:

- *Identify the need for future community utility upgrades and ensure the maintenance of existing facilities.*
- *Establish a fiscal planning process (CIP).*
- *Develop Policies and Procedures Handbook.*
- *Establish better code enforcement procedures.*
- *Work with fire department to enhance volunteerism.*
- *Continue to expand community policing and its presence in the community.*
- *Improve current government offices.*
- *Educate the community about senior and youth opportunities.*
- *Encourage development of child care/preschool education opportunities.*



SECTION 4

ECONOMIC ENVIRONMENT

IN THIS SECTION...

This Section includes strategies and policy recommendations that relate to job creation, development opportunities, and funding strategies as they relate to economic development.

- Economic Overview
 - Economic Trends
 - Existing Conditions
 - 2015 Economic Development Plan
- Future Economic Development
- Economic Incentives



INTRODUCTION

Economic development is necessary for a community to renew itself and grow. Many small cities, towns and rural communities are losing people, jobs, and quality of life due to economic instability. Unfortunately, small towns are not self-sustaining, and it is no easy task to maintain economic quality, good jobs, good public services, and a broad tax base.

CURRENT ECONOMIC TRENDS

In the past few years, the U.S. economy as well as the world economy has been recovering from a recession which the likes have not been seen since the Great Depression of the 1930's. Unemployment rates at the height of this recession were 12.6% in Rush County and 10.6% in Indiana. The US economy has since recovered and the unemployment rate in Rush County for 2017 was at 4.3% and the State was also 4.3%.

Carthage is a true “bedroom community”. According to the 2016 American Community Survey statistics, over 78% of the workforce goes to employment outside of Rush County, the majority working in the surrounding counties and the Indianapolis/Marion County area. Travel time from Carthage to downtown Indianapolis is about 45-50 minutes.

Carthage has a visibility problem being that it does not sit along any major US or State highway. The closest highways are SR 140 which comes south out of Knightstown and US 52 which approximately 7 miles to the south of town. I-70 is approximately 9 miles to the north via SR 140 and 109.

Carthage has no Chamber of Commerce, but some businesses do participate with the nearby Knightstown Chamber. The Town recently decided to terminate their financial relationship with the Rush County Economic & Community Development Corporation.



CARTHAGE'S ECONOMIC TRENDS

Total Workforce & Unemployment

About 58.7 % of Carthage's population 16 years and older were estimated in the labor force (354) people in 2015. Carthage has a lower rate of participation in the labor force, when compared to the state (64.0%). However, the town has a higher rate of participation in the labor force than Rush County (62.1%). Carthage falls in the middle in labor force participation.

Labor Estimates (2015)		
Community	In Labor Force	Unemployment
Indiana	64.0%	4.6%
Rush County	62.1%	6.9%
Carthage	58.7%	7.0%
Shirley	60.5%	11.4%
Waldron	60.1%	8.5%
Laurel	36.3%	18.3%

Carthage falls in the middle of the comparison communities for unemployment rate. The comparison communities of Shirley (11.4%), Waldron (8.5%) and Laurel (18.3%) all have higher unemployment rates while Rush County (6.9%) and Indiana (4.6%) all have lower unemployment rates.

Commuting & Place of Work

In 2015, about 95.5% of Carthage's population used a private vehicle (either by driving alone or carpooling) while traveling to work, the second highest percentage of all comparison communities. The percentage of people walking to work in Carthage was 2.6%; the third highest of the comparison communities.

The mean travel time to work in Carthage was 33 minutes, falling in the higher end of the comparison communities and the state of Indiana (23.3 minutes). The availability of a vehicle for transportation is not universal for all housing units in Carthage, meaning that the population living in housing units with no vehicle

Community	Median Travel Time (2015)
Indiana	23.3 minutes
Rush County	26.7 minutes
Carthage	33.0 minutes
Shirley	29.2 minutes
Waldron	23.5 minutes
Laurel	44.8 minutes



access relies on public transportation, walking/bicycling, or other forms of transportation. Approximately 2.6% of housing units in Carthage have no vehicle available.

Industries & Occupations

The largest industries in Carthage in 2015 included manufacturing at 21.3%, educational services, health care and social assistance at 11.6%, and arts, entertainment, recreation, food services at 11.6%.

The smallest industries in Carthage in 2015 included finance, insurance and real estate services as well as information services at 1.6%.

The largest occupation in Carthage in 2015 was Production and Transportation occupations consisting of 29.7% the workforce.

Occupations	Percent of Labor Force
Management, professional and related	16.3%
Service	17.5%
Sale and Office	16.9%
Construction, extraction, and maintenance	19.7%
Production, transportation	29.7%

Industry	Percent of Labor Force
Manufacturing	21.3%
Construction	13.1%
Educational Services, and health care and social assistance	11.6%
Arts, entertainment, and recreation, and accommodation and food services	11.6%
Retail Trade	11.3%
Professional, scientific, and management, and administrative and waste management services	11.3%
Transportation and warehousing, and utilities	6.6%
Public administration	5.9%
Other services, except public administration	4.4%
Information	1.6%
Finance and insurance, and real estate and rental and leasing	1.6%



Income

Carthage's median household income in 2015 was \$36,382, lower than Indiana (\$49,255) and the United States (\$53,889). When compared to the comparison communities, Carthage has a lower median household income.

However, Carthage per capita income of \$16,882 is lower than two of the comparison communities, Waldron (\$23,409) and Shirley (\$17,944), but higher than that of Laurel (\$9,971).

Per capita income is frequently used in measuring a standard of living but can be skewed because it does not reflect income distribution.

Median Household Estimates 2015

Community	Median Household Income
Indiana	\$49,255
Rush County	\$45,121
Carthage	\$36,382
Shirley	\$35,446
Waldron	\$62,321
Laurel	\$30,658

Per Capita Income Estimates 2015

Community	Per Capita Income (2015)
Indiana	\$25,346
Rush County	\$23,186
Carthage	\$16,882
Shirley	\$17,944
Waldron	\$23,409
Laurel	\$9,971



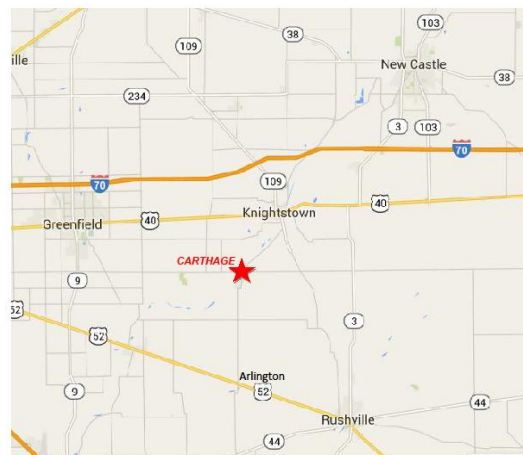
ECONOMIC TRENDS SUMMARY

- *Carthage workers have a longer commute compared to many other communities.*
- *The percentage of residents who are part of the workforce is similar to other communities and the unemployment is in the middle of the comparison communities (13.6%).*
- *The median household income is \$36,382, Carthage fall in the middle of the comparison communities. This is also lower than Indiana and Rush County.*

EXISTING CONDITIONS

The Town of Carthage, like many small towns, has been experiencing a loss of businesses as a result of a lagging local economy. In the past, the town had offered limited retail amenities such as a small grocery, liquor store, hardware store, bank and a restaurant. The old downtown business district of Carthage has very limited space and or buildings for commercial establishments. There are currently a few vacant buildings or houses available for redevelopment in the downtown study area.

A problem that the Town of Carthage has is its lack of visibility. Carthage lies approximately 4 miles southwest off of SR 140. The nearest major routes are US 40 (5 miles) and I-70 (10 miles) which lie to the north, but there are no direct routes to either highway. Carthage Pike, which is a two lane county road, is the route off of SR 140 that leads to Carthage from the north. It is considered a super two which





is a two lane road built to highway standards. The last portion of this improved roadway is currently under construction with plans for completion in 2015. The route leading south out of town is a county road which leads to the unincorporated town of Arlington and US 52 (7 miles).

There is one railroad that leads into town. It is a privately owned railroad track that travels from Carthage to the town of Shirley 11 miles to the north. This track is not a commercial use facility and closed as of 2014.

The Town of Carthage was a member of the Rush County Economic & Community Development Corporation until 2015. The RCECDP has their priorities with the larger community of Rushville and concentrate economic development efforts with their continued industrial growth. Because of this, small rural towns such as Carthage were left to figure out how to survive and grow by their own volition and for that reason the town decided to no longer be a paying member.

The Town of Carthage currently has no Merchants Organization or Chamber of Commerce.

Commercial/Business Use Overview

A community's commercial land uses provide employment, goods and services, recreation, tax revenue, and many other amenities and necessities. The features of commercial areas reflect the economic vitality of a community as well as local character. The location and characteristics of commercial areas directly affect local transportation and growth management.

Existing Conditions

The main commercial area in Carthage runs along Main St. from the northern town limits to the abandoned Smurfit industrial complex. Other commercial businesses along Main St. are a storage facility that was once a former restaurant and a welding/fabrication business across from the former Smurfit industrial complex.



The other businesses that lie outside of the downtown business district are an engine garage along E. 5th St. and the Carthage Mill. The Carthage Mill is comprised of the historic buildings from the former lumber mill. The Carthage Mill, LLC provides full service food grade grain processing to regional farmers. Its services offered include cold storage, stone milling, dry rolling, packaging, label system, marketing and distribution. It also houses a full commercial kitchen that is available to the public for rent as well as a small café which is open on the weekends.

The “downtown” area is composed of six blocks bounded by 2nd St. to the north, Market St. to the west, Walnut St. to the east and Mercer Ln. to the south.

Downtown Study area map





Currently, the businesses/services in the downtown district consist of government services (town offices, post office, police, library), personal services, and specialty stores. Most of the remaining buildings in the downtown district are historic in nature.

2015 Economic Development & Downtown Revitalization Plan

In 2014 the town embarked on a plan to revitalize the diminishing downtown area. The town had been suffering from business losses since the 1980's and the closure of its two biggest employers (Smurfit Stone and the elementary school) enhanced a further decline. Community leaders felt it was necessary to begin a plan for rebuilding the economics of their community.

The 2015 Economic Development & Downtown Revitalization Study was to identify the needs and potential development/redevelopment strategies for the business district of Carthage. The resulting plan's main use is to to spur investment and initiatives in the core downtown business district and will ultimately work to improve the quality of the downtown business district.

Industrial Use Overview

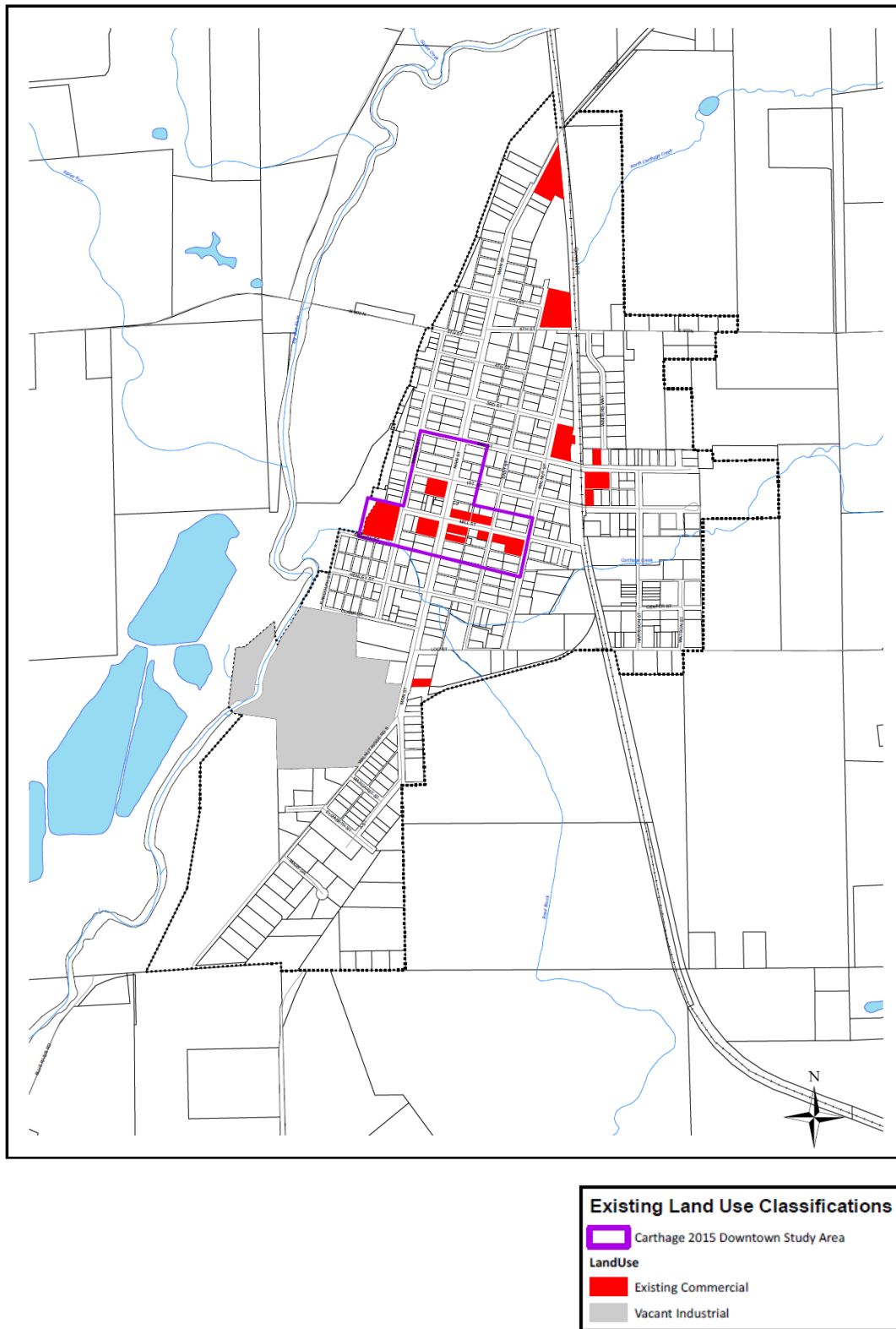
Industrial land uses in a community provide employment and contribute positively to the local tax base. These uses however do have the potential to promote transportation conflicts, pollution, and the reduction of aesthetic quality. Industrial land uses are commonly in conflict with other community uses as they can negatively affect residential and commercial quality. The traffic from adjacent commercial and/or residential uses often imposes on industrial vitality.

Existing Conditions

The Town of Carthage currently has no major industries in the area. The town does have an area within the town limits on the southwest side zoned for manufacturing which was the site of the former Smurfit Stone company. There is an area bordering the town on the northeast side, but is outside of the town limits.



Commercial/Industrial land use map





FUTURE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Communities must take advantage of local resources such as their location, physical setting, financial resources and citizens. This includes the readiness on the part of local banks, businesses, and private citizens to donate their time and money. A strong comprehensive planning effort must be implemented to guide growth and to improve the community. Local responsibility and problem solving are the foundations of long-term success.

By following the 2015 Economic Development & Downtown Revitalization Study, Carthage is poised to embrace new economic development opportunities. In 2016 the town applied to the Office of Community and Rural Affairs Main Street program to establish itself as a Main Street organization. Unfortunately, it was determined that there were not enough active businesses in Carthage to qualify as a Main Street affiliate. Undaunted, the community formed its own 501c organization called “Friends of Carthage” which would be dedicated to the future growth and economic development of the community.

General

The town council and the Friends of Carthage organization in conjunction with the Rush County EDC would be wise to develop an economic development plan which will help the community:

- Identify the stakeholders and get them to participate in the planning process;
- Determine the community's current condition providing information on community setting, trends, issues and factors affecting economic development;
- Identify and map businesses that currently make up the economy;
- Define economic development options and document the analysis conducted in determining how to manage future economic development efforts;
- Identify community concerns and goals for economic development; and
- Develop policies that translate community concerns and goals into clear statement.



Commercial Use

Since Carthage is a smaller community, it is accepted that certain larger “big box” retailers will probably not locate in the community. These commercial facilities are already located in nearby locations (Greenfield, Rushville). What the community would like to see are more general or specialty retail and dining businesses to cater to the population.

Following the goals and objectives in the 2015 Economic Development & Downtown Revitalization Study Action Plan (**see Appendix D**) will be vital in rebuilding the local economy. This Plan will encourage commercial growth in town to also occur along the Main Street corridor as well as in the downtown district. The majority of any commercial development would take place as occupying vacant buildings and/or developing infill properties.

Industrial Use

While there are currently no plans for any type of industrial development in the Town, it was agreed that in the future, it would be wise to revisit the discussion of the possibility of light industrial uses in the area.



ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT POLICY

Goal:

Provide sufficient planning and marketing that encourages growth and retention while retaining a balance between residential neighborhoods and commercial centers.

Objectives:

- *Follow the 2015 Economic Development and Downtown Revitalization Plan*
- *Support local businesses encouraging growth and retention.*
- *Develop partnerships with Rush County and Indiana economic development agencies to promote the retention, expansion and new development of business opportunities for the Town.*
- *Encourage the preservation and reuse of historic buildings.*



INCENTIVES & POLICIES

In today's economy, business and employers base their decision to locate in a community multiple factors. Business attraction and retention is extremely competitive among communities; in order to compete, Carthage needs to create a strategy and consider the tools that can be used to attract and retain businesses and employers. The following includes incentives and policies that the town can consider in this effort.

Tax Abatement

Tax abatement is a phase-in of property taxes and is intended to encourage development in areas that would not otherwise develop. Tax abatement is a tool widely used by municipal governments to attract new businesses. This tool also encourages investment in new equipment or facilities in existing businesses thus improving the company and stabilizing the community's economy. The community develops and defines the procedures for abatement application and policies on the amount and length of abatement that will be approved. They also decide on the procedures to ensure compliance with the terms of the statement of benefits.

Tax Increment Financing (TIF)

TIF reallocates future tax revenues to current public improvements without an additional tax. The revenue generated allows a community to make public infrastructure improvements, such as roads, parks, building rehabilitation, environmental cleanup, and sidewalks. The completion of a public improvement or project often results in an increase in property values and often new private investment (new or rehabilitated buildings).

TIF is not an additional tax; it earmarks expected future tax revenues to fund public improvements today.



This generates additional tax revenue. The increased tax revenues are the “tax increment” that is used to finance debt to pay for the public infrastructure. TIF is designed to focus towards public improvements where development would not otherwise occur on its own.

Tax Credits

A community can offer tax credits to business, industry and other employers to not only attract new employers but also help existing businesses succeed. The following are incentives that can be considered.

Job Creation & Workforce Training

One of the most attractive results of guiding new businesses into a region is job creation. There are many tax credits (Economic Development for a Growing Economy (EDGE), Headquarters Relocation, Hoosier Business Investment Tax Credit (HBITC), Industrial Recovery, Venture Capital Investment, Media Production Sale Tax Exemption (MPETC) that provide incentives to businesses looking to locate in Indiana communities and create new jobs. Workforce training is an equally important component in creating new jobs. Businesses that wish to grow and develop their offerings may be eligible for tax credits to offset the costs associated with training existing and new employees with additional skills. The current incentive programs include Skills Enhancement Fund (SEF), Technology Enhancement Certification for Hoosiers (TECH), Community Development Block Grant Micro Enterprise Assistance Program and Community Economic Development Fund and can partner with programs at the Federal, State, regional levels.

Business Attraction

Businesses occasionally look for new locations to conduct their operations, especially those that are large and not fixed to particular resources. Federal, State and regional programs can assist in the effort to attract business operations.



Infrastructure & Rehabilitation

Suitable sites for business location are commonly in need of additional public infrastructure and/or site rehabilitation or remodeling to support operations. This can be an expense that inhibits new businesses from locating in communities and State programs (Industrial Development Grant Fund) can potentially assist with reducing these costs.

Innovation & Entrepreneurship

Research intensive and innovative businesses can be attractive to communities as they generally locate in facilities similar to professional offices and are minimally polluting. Research businesses can be attracted by the utilization of incentives (Research and Development Tax Credit and Patent Income Exemption) and promoting aspects of the community that support the small entrepreneurial business community. Regional resources, such as the International Laboratory, should be promoted for business opportunity in addition to government contracts with regional resources.

Factors that play a role in attracting new business start-up in a community include:

- Customer base and a sense of customer opportunity
- Low cost of doing business, low taxes and business incentives
- Attractive Central Business District
- Existing small business and community banks nearby
- Physical setting of the community
- Good roads/highways to other towns
- Highly educated workforce

Indiana Site Certified

Carthage should participate in Indiana's Site Certified Program by applying for the Indiana Site Certified designation for sites that Carthage wished to develop into businesses. This will



position available land as ready for economic development with ample infrastructure to include sewer, water, road network and other critical elements. Carthage can apply for the designation through the Indiana Office of Community and Rural Affairs (OCRA). There are three tiers of recognition: Silver tier, Gold tier, and Prime tier. Each requiring a variety of documentation during the application process all centered on a few main elements: community support, site ownership and control, local zoning ordinances, maps and photos, environmental, transportation and utilities. Achieving one of these designations allows the site to gain large exposure for development by being featured on Indiana's Site Selector Database and included in the Indiana Economic Development Corporation's (IEDC) marketing materials.

PROGRAMS

In addition to incentives, it is important to create programs that foster an environment that supports business development. From an educated and trained workforce to programs that help with start-up businesses, these programs and support are critical to a local economy.

Job Training

Workforce training is vitally important to attracting and retaining employers. This can be accomplished by developing on-the-job training programs, a workforce development program, and additional services such as career counseling and skill assessment. Extending education beyond a high school degree is important by providing access to certificate programs, associate degrees and apprenticeship programs.

Business Association

Create a business association with the mission to enhance Carthage as a place to do business. This association can be formed by businesses within Carthage to help plan and implement activities that stimulate business and implement marketing activities that promote and improve the business climate.





SECTION 5

LAND USE

IN THIS SECTION...

This Section is the central focus of a comprehensive plan. This element looks at the existing land use, annexation and the housing trends in Carthage. It includes growth and land use strategies for Carthage, the rationale behind land use decisions, a future land use map and a description of each land use category.

- General Info
- Existing Land Use
 - Residential
 - Commercial
 - Light Industrial
- Future Land Use Plan



INTRODUCTION

The location, physical form and manner in which Carthage grows are key components of the Comprehensive Development Plan. Growth needs to be coordinated with many aspects of the community, such as utilities and transportation, in order to capitalize on the positive effects from new decisions makers. Looking at the existing land use in Carthage can tell us about how the community has developed and grown over time. It also gives us a look at how the Town may develop in the future. The planning area incorporates the land within the town limits.

Land use policy is determined by an analysis of present land use patterns, assessing any problems associated with these land use trends, and recommendations for future land use. A general evaluation of existing land use is discussed first and is based upon generalized existing land use maps prepared during the planning process. Future land use map for the Town of Carthage are presented along with policy recommendations to guide future land use decisions.

ZONING REGULATIONS

Unlike land use designations, zoning designations are what you can legally do with your parcel today; the land use designation, in conjunction with development guidelines, details how you may be able to use your parcel in the future.

To clarify, there is a significant difference between the two. Land use designations included in the Community Development Plan are plans for the future. Whereas zoning designations more specifically define what use is currently allowed on a specific parcel, and outline design and development guidelines for those intended uses such as setbacks, minimum lot sizes, buffering and landscaping requirements, etc.

The Comprehensive Development Plan is a guide or recommendation for the use of the zoning ordinance and, to a lesser extent, the subdivision ordinance. It suggests, in general terms, proposed uses for land within the locality, as well as the proposed location of utilities and



public facilities such as schools, fire stations and parks. The Plan also makes long-term projections of population growth. The zoning ordinance actually establishes the rules governing the use of land. The zoning ordinance divides a locality into different zoning districts and spells out allowable uses for each district such as agriculture, industry or commercial use. The zoning ordinance is not a mere recommendation as is the Comprehensive Development Plan. In the case of a conflict concerning land use between the Comprehensive Development Plan and the zoning ordinance, the zoning ordinance controls. The subdivision ordinance governs the process for dividing land from larger parcels into lots. While the subdivision ordinance is entirely separate from the zoning ordinance, the zoning ordinance establishes the minimum lot size for each zoning district.

Carthage does not have their own zoning ordinance, but instead is administered by the Rush County Area Planning office. The districts indicate how land use and development has been shaped. The zoning in Carthage closely follows the current land use. The existing Rush County Zoning ordinance defines five use districts and their primary purposes:

R-1 Residential

The residential zone is established to provide space in suitable locations for various types of dwelling accommodations needed in the town and to provide a means of regulating the density and distribution of the population.

MH Mobile Home

This district has been created to control the continued increase in mobile home residences which this county has experienced, and restrict them to certain specific areas.

C1 Commercial

This commercial zone has been created to provide an area for necessary commercial uses generally found serving local areas of the town.

M Manufacturing

The manufacturing zone is intended to set aside certain lands where manufacturing uses may efficiently locate with minimum adverse effects to other uses.









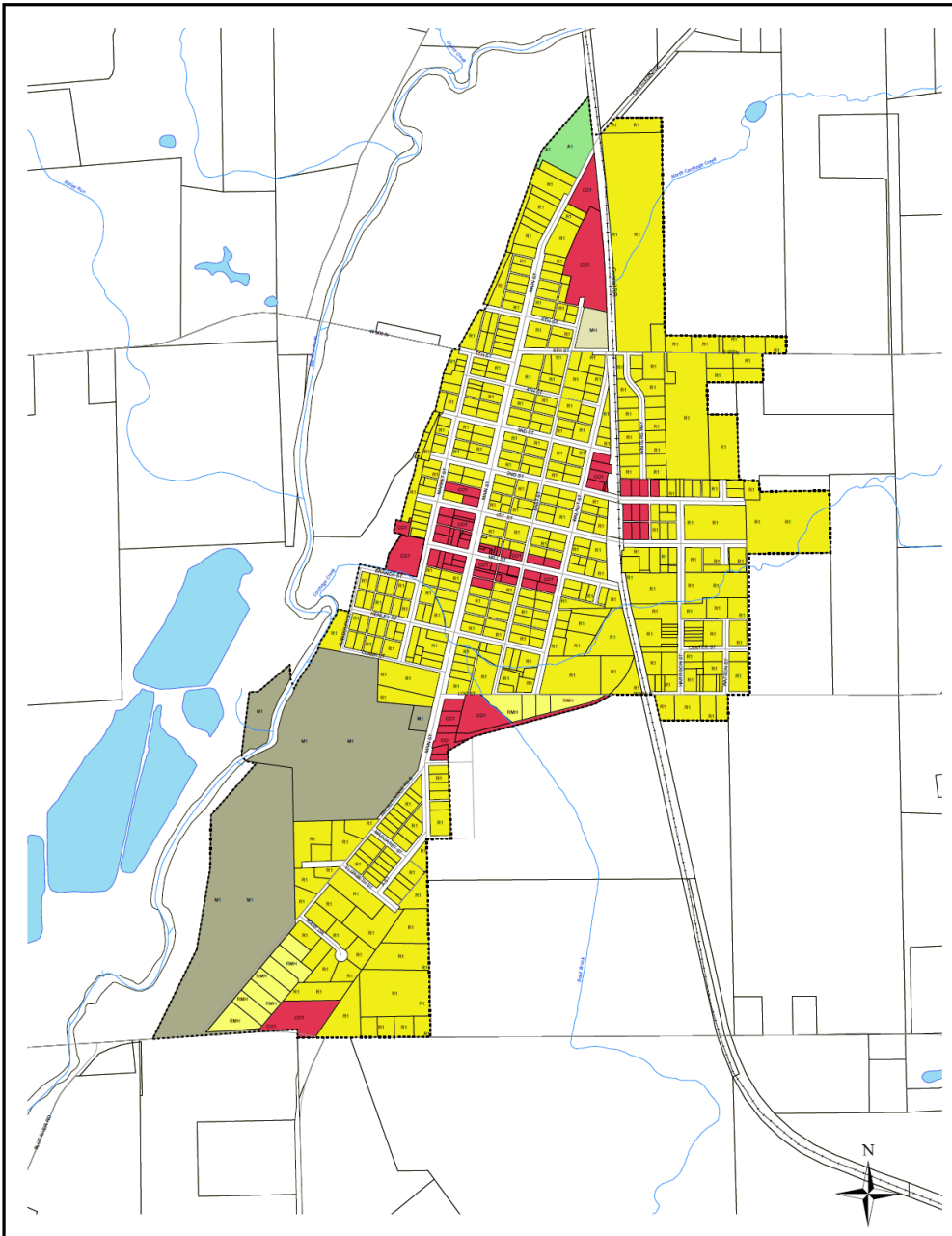
A1 Agricultural

The agricultural zone is established to preserve and protect the decreasing supply of agricultural land by limiting indiscriminate infiltration of urban development into rural areas.

Carthage Zoning Map

Zoning Districts

 R1 - Residential, Low Density	 CO1 - Commercial	 MH - Manufacturing (Historic)
 MH - Residential, Mobile Home	 M1 - Manufacturing	 A1 - Agriculture





ANNEXATION

In 2015 SB 330 Public Law 228-2015 was passed making it difficult for cities and towns to annex outlying areas. Because of this, Carthage is taking an approach to annexation that will only include voluntary annexations. It is hoped that in the future the annexation laws will once again be less stringent and allow municipalities to annex areas with ease.

EXISTING LAND USE

The Town of Carthage consists of primarily residential land use, commercial land use, institutional land use, and areas continuing as open space or vacant land. There are no heavy industrial uses in Carthage. Most of the open space land use is used for agricultural purposes or parks.

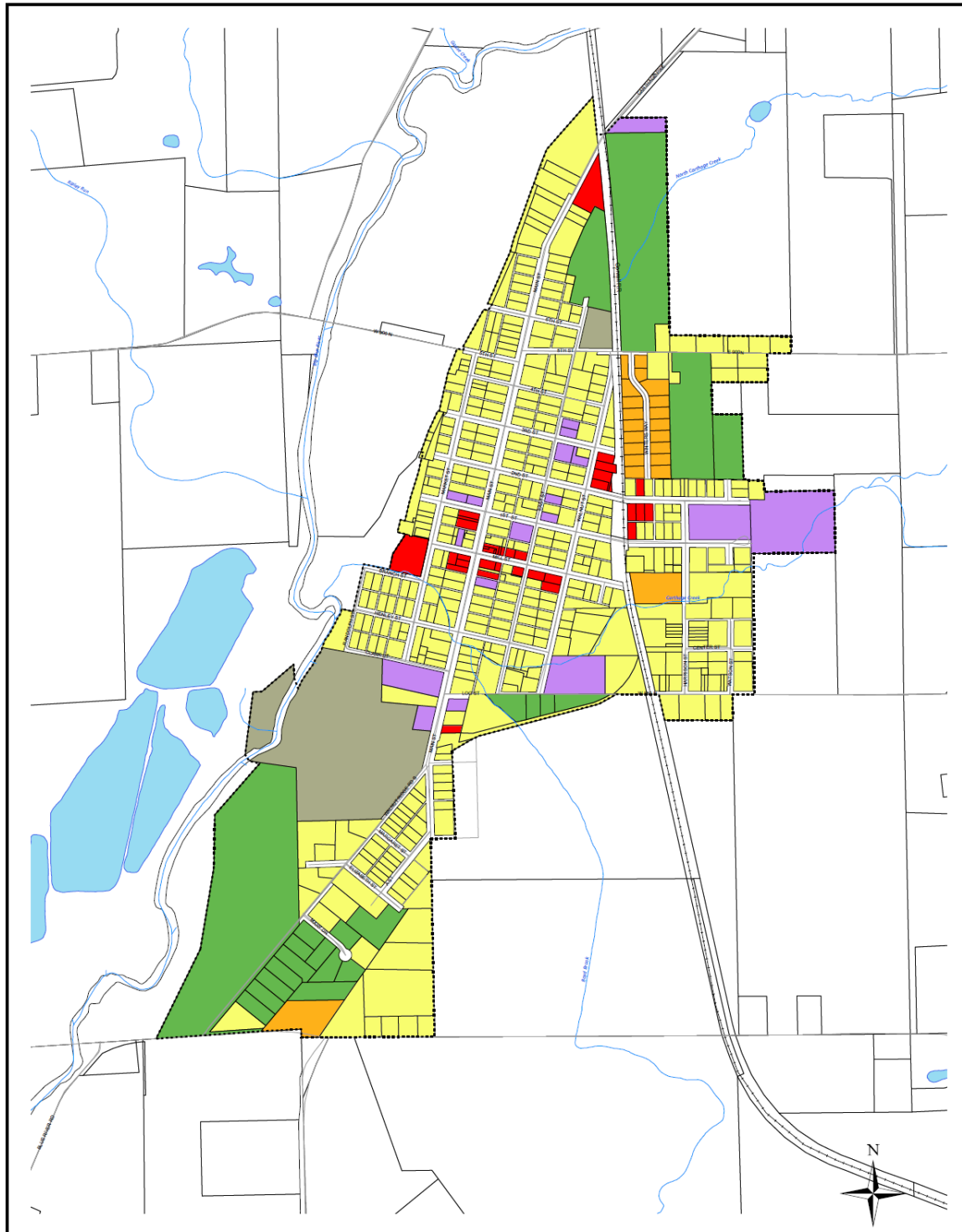
The below shows the percent of existing land use for each of the categories listed.







Existing Land Use		
Land Use Type	Acres*	Percent of Land Total
Residential	240	65.5%
Commercial	9	2.5%
Ag/Open Space	63	17%
Institutional	20	5.5%
Industrial	33	9.5%
TOTAL	365*	100.0%

**Approximate acres within town limits*



Current Land Use Map



Existing Land Use Classifications					
	General Residential		Commercial		Industrial
	Multi-Family Residential		Institutional		Agriculture



Residential Land Use Overview

Several factors including type, size, cost, character, and availability of housing significantly influences the local quality of life in communities. The location of the housing is also a significant factor in the overall quality of a community. Quality housing, of any size or type, is that which is in a well-maintained neighborhood which is accessed by local streets and conveniently located in relation to community activities and facilities, goods and services, and employment.

Housing

The existing housing stock in Carthage is similar to that which is common in small cities and towns throughout Indiana. The housing stock is dominated by single-family detached homes. Most of the single-family homes sit on less than one-fourth acre lots which make up the original platted town or “old town” area.

There are a few multi-family housing units in the town. There are not, however, any mobile home parks in the town.

Housing by Type

Carthage has approximately 371 housing units according to the 2016 U.S. Census/American Community Survey. The housing units are predominantly single family dwellings. Single-family units makeup 71.7% of the total housing units. Duplex units make up the next highest percentage at 23.5% of the total housing units. There are only 11 mobile home units in Carthage.



Housing Units by Type 2016 U.S. Census/American Community Survey				
Type	Number	Percent of Total		
	<i>Carthage</i>	<i>Carthage</i>	County	State
One Unit, Detached	258	69.5%	84.1%	72.5%
One Unit, Attached	8	2.2%	0.2%	3.4%
Two to Four Units	87	23.5%	6.9%	6.3%
Five to Nine Units	5	1.3%	2.3%	4.8%
Ten or More Units	2	0.5%	3.1%	7.5%
Mobile Home/Other	11	3.0%	3.3%	5.4%
Total	371	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%
Owner Occupied	197	61.0%	72.0%	71.5%
Renter Occupied	126	39.0%	28.0%	28.5%
Renter Vacancy Rate		18.7%	8.0%	7.6%
Median Rent		\$650	\$664	\$758
Total Occupied	323	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%
Total Vacant	48	12.9%	9.6%	11.3%
Total	371	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%

Out of the 323 occupied units, 197 or 61.0% are owner occupied. The home ownership rate is below the state average of 71.5% and the county average of 72.0%.

The total of number rental units is 126 or 39.0%. This rate is much higher than the county average of 28.0% and higher than the state average of 28.5%.

48 units or 12.9% of the housing stock were reported vacant at the time of the survey. This amount is above the county rate of 9.6% and just above the state rate of 11.3%.



Housing by Age

Carthage has a comparatively older housing stock. Over half of the current housing stock or approximately 54.5% of the homes were constructed before 1960 which makes them over 50 years old. 43.7% of these were built before the 1940's alone and this reflects the historic

nature of the majority of homes in Carthage. By comparison, only 38.4% percent of Rush County houses were built before the 1940's and 19.2% for the entire state. The 1980's showed the highest percentages of new housing units constructed. Approximately 17.5% of all the housing stock in Carthage was built during this time period.

Year Structure Built 2016 U.S. Census/American Community Survey				
Year Built	Number	Percent of Total		
	<i>Carthage</i>	<i>Carthage</i>	County	State
2010 or later	7	1.9%	0.8%	3.4%
2000 to 2009	4	1.1%	6.0%	8.4%
1990 to 1999	23	6.2%	9.6%	14.5%
1980 to 1989	65	17.5%	7.5%	10.1%
1970 to 1979	49	13.2%	11.8%	14.5%
1960 to 1969	21	5.7%	8.4%	11.7%
1950 to 1959	16	4.3%	11.3%	11.8%
1940 to 1949	24	6.5%	6.2%	6.4%
1939 or earlier	162	43.7%	38.4%	19.2%
Total	371	100%	100.0%	100.0%

Housing by Value

The 2016 U.S. Census/American Community Survey reported the median housing value in the Town of Carthage to be \$78,500, which is well below the state median value of \$123,000, and below the Rush County average of \$100,300. The table below shows Carthage's housing values



in comparison with those of Rush County and the State's. The median rent in Carthage was \$650. This is less than the state's median rent of \$758, but just lower than the county at \$664.

An increase in the median value of homes could indicate that the average size of homes is increasing which is the trend nationwide. According to the National Association of

Homebuilders, the average square feet of a newly constructed home in the U.S. in 2015 was 2,687. This is an increase from 2,057 square feet in 2000. If this trend continues, then more land may be devoted to residential land use in the future or development restraints will be needed to increase housing density.

Housing Value (owner occupied only) 2016 U.S. Census/American Community Survey				
Housing Value	Number	Percent of Total		
	<i>Carthage</i>	<i>Carthage</i>	County	State
Less than \$50,000	39	19.8%	13.0%	9.4%
\$50,000 to \$99,999	99	50.3%	36.8%	27.4%
\$100,000 to \$149,999	46	23.4%	22.6%	26.7%
\$150,000 to \$199,999	6	3.0%	13.2%	16.6%
\$200,000 to \$299,999	0	0.0%	8.3%	12.0%
\$300,000 to \$499,999	7	3.6%	4.2%	5.7%
\$500,000 to \$999,999	0	0.0%	1.1%	1.8%
\$1,000,000 or more	0	0.0%	0.7%	0.4%
Total	197	100.00%	100.0%	100.0%
Median Value		\$78,500	\$100,300	\$123,000



Building Permits

Residential Building Permits 2011-15			
2016 U.S. Census/American Community Survey			
Year	Residential Units		Commercial Units
2013	0		0
2014	1		0
2015	1		0
2016	0		0
2017	0		0
Total	2		0

CARTHAGE'S HOUSING TRENDS

Households & Families

Carthage had an estimated total 325 households in 2015 with an average household size of 2.4 people per household. Carthage's average household size is less than Rush County (2.5 people/household) and Indiana (2.5 people/household). In 2015, approximately 66.5% of all households were families and 33.5% were non-family households. Of the family households, 47.7% consisted of a husband-wife family and about 16.6% were single-mother households, and about 2.2% were single-father households.

The percent of one-person households (people living alone) in Carthage (28.6%) is higher than Rush County (24.4%), but about the same as Indiana (28.0%).



Household Characteristics (2015)

	Town of Carthage	Percent of Total Town	Rush County	Percent of Total County	Indiana	Percent of Total State
Total Households	325	100%	6,942	100.0%	2,501,937	100.0%
Family Households	216	66.5%	4,908	70.7%	1,655,043	66.2%
Married with Children	54	16.6%	3,610	52.0%	479,171	19.2%
Married without children	101	31.1%	2,312	33.3%	751,059	30.0%
Single Parents	50	15.4%	1,298	18.7%	245,304	9.8%
Non-family Households	109	33.5%	2,034	29.3%	846,894	33.8%
Living Alone	93	28.6%	1,694	24.4%	701,587	28.0%
Average Household size	2.4		2.5		2.5	

Housing Tenure

Approximately 7.1% of housing units were vacant in 2015, has decrease from 18.7% in 2010, (a 43% decrease). All comparison communities experienced decreased in vacant housing units during this time (2010 -2015) with Laurel decreasing to 0.0% vacancy by 2015. As of 2015, Carthage was slightly below Rush County (7.2%) and much below Indiana (11.3%) in averages for vacant housing units.

Housing Occupancy (2015)

Community	Occupied	Owner Occupied	Rental Occupied	Vacant	Total Units
Indiana	88.8%	68.7%	31.3%	11.2%	2,830,669
Rush County	92.8%	71.4%	28.6%	7.2%	7,479
Carthage	92.9%	58.8%	41.2%	7.1%	350
Shirley	90.0%	69.0%	31.0%	10.0%	330
Waldron	100.0%	74.7%	25.3%	0.0%	217
Laurel	80.2%	56.2%	43.8%	19.8%	222



In 2015, about 58.8% of the occupied housing units were owner-occupied and 41.2% were renter-occupied. Carthage has the lowest percent of home ownership in the comparison communities except for Laurel. Home ownership in Carthage is lower than that of Rush County (71.4%) and of Indiana (68.7%)

Housing Value

The median value of Carthage's owner-occupied housing units was \$79,800 in 2015 and the median gross rent for renter-occupied housing units was \$583 per month. Carthage again falls in the middle of the comparison communities.

Housing Median Value / Rent Comparison (2015)		
Community	Median Household Value	Median Rent
Indiana	\$124,200	\$745
Rush County	\$100,700	\$630
Carthage	\$79,800	\$583
Shirley	\$69,600	\$756
Waldron	\$100,000	\$912
Laurel	\$56,800	\$573

Carthage's owner-occupied housing unit value is significantly less than Rush County (\$100,700), Indiana (\$124,200), and the United States (\$178,600) and, Carthage's median gross rent was lower than Indiana (\$745), United States (\$928), and Rush County (\$630).



Estimated Housing Value (2015)										
	Owner-occupied units	Less than \$50,000	\$50,000 to \$99,999	\$ 100,000 to \$149,999	\$ 150,000 to \$199,999	\$ 200,000 to \$299,999	\$ 300,000 to \$499,999	\$ 500,000 to \$999,999	\$ 1,000,000 or more	Median Value
Indiana	1,726,338	10.7%	26.3%	24.5%	16.6%	13.1%	6.5%	1.9%	0.4%	\$124,200
Rush County	4,959	12.6%	37.0%	21.6%	14.9%	8.6%	4.0%	1.0%	0.3%	\$100,700
Carthage	191	15.7%	51.3%	20.9%	6.3%	0.0%	5.8%	0.0%	0.0%	\$79,800
Shirley	205	22.0%	64.4%	10.7%	2.0%	1.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	\$69,600
Waldron	162	9.3%	40.7%	31.5%	18.5%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	\$100,000
Laurel	100	29.0%	49.0%	22.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	\$56,800

Institutional Land Use Overview

Institutional land uses include those which are generally public, or semi-public such as churches, schools, and government buildings. Institutional land uses are a necessary element of a community and their locations can either contribute to, or detract from, the overall quality of the area.

Existing Conditions

Institutional uses in Carthage are comprised of the town hall, post office, library, park, water treatment plant and churches. The sewer treatment plant is located just outside the town limits.

Commercial Land Use Overview

Industrial Land Use Overview

Both of these can be found in Section 4 Economic Environment



Agricultural/Vacant Land Use Overview

Agricultural land uses are necessary globally for the production of food products. On the local level agriculture is a source of employment, community character, and economic vitality. In a broader sense, agriculture is a way of life for many families. In many areas, agricultural land is considered to be simply undeveloped vacant land. Through the public input process for this Comprehensive Development Plan, the participants indicated a need for the recognition of agriculture as a land use, the preservation of prime agricultural land, and the restriction of sprawl development that threatens local agricultural operations.

Open Space uses are often set-asides for park and recreational activities and general green space. These amenities provide a community a certain quality of life level. Parks and open spaces can provide not only recreational opportunities, but also educational, spiritual and health related functions.

Existing Conditions

The town has a few large tracts of land within the town limits that have the potential for development.



FUTURE LAND USE

The future land use is the culmination of the physical reality of land use planning which is linked to the goals and objectives. The information in this chapter provides a summary of the future land use plan for the Town of Carthage and how it is based on these goals and objectives for the community.

Since there are very limited areas for development within the town limits, the Town will need to concentrate on preservation of existing structures and infill development to enhance the community as well as utilizing the existing open areas for residential, commercial, and open space uses. The Future Land Use Map shows areas where general growth is to take place. The map in this report is intended to be general in nature; land use boundaries are not specific. This plan is intended as a flexible and general guideline; **it is not intended as a zoning map.**

Residential

Any new residential land use has been limited to infill areas within the old town area and the existing subdivisions of land on the south side of the town.

Commercial

Most original downtown commercial areas are limited in space and buildings to accommodate new commercial establishments. Carthage's downtown area has very few vacant lots as well as few vacant buildings that can be utilized for further downtown development. The 2015 Economic Development & Downtown Revitalization Plan should be followed for any land uses in the downtown area.



Industrial

There are no areas in the town limits designated for future Industrial uses.

Open Space/Recreation

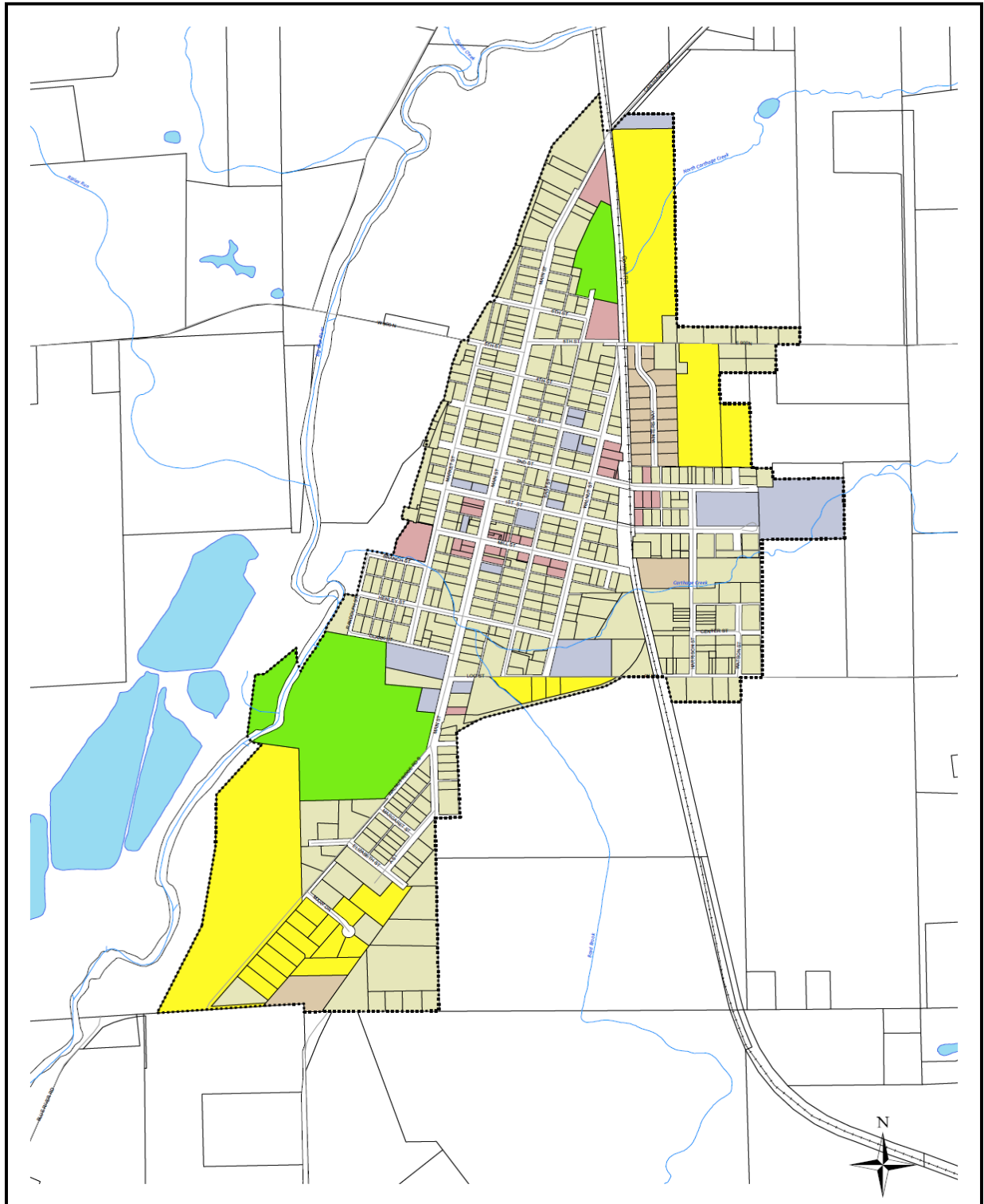
The town would like to work with the owner of the former Smurfit Stone property owner to develop the large once industrial parcel for possible new land uses. This property extends across the river and that property includes several large ponds. The current owner has expressed a willingness to work with the town to develop for possible outdoor recreational areas.

Agricultural

There are a few large parcels within the town still being used for agricultural purposes. This will likely continue until the town would require more space for residential growth or other land uses.



Future Land Use Map





LAND USE POLICY

Goal:

To encourage the orderly, responsible development of land in order to promote the community goals, and to determine and direct land use patterns in the most positive way for the community as a whole, in a manner consistent with its long term interests.

Objectives:

- *Continue communication with the Rush County Area Planning Commission on all land use issues outside the Town's planning jurisdiction.*
- *Control development in a manner compatible with the desired character of the town.*
- *Concentrate on development by infill properties and of vacant parcels.*
- *Pursue annexation that will bring sewer treatment facility into town limits.*
- *Develop plan for addressing abandoned properties.*
- *Encourage the development of affordable housing for buyers and renters.*
- *Encourage the preservation of existing historic houses.*
- *Develop improved method for building code inspections.*





SECTION 6

TRANSPORTATION

IN THIS SECTION...

This Section coordinates future state funded projects and local needs for all forms of transportation in Carthage. This includes different multi modal transportation improvements and projects.

- Existing Transportation
 - Roadways
 - Multi-Modal Transportation
- Transportation Improvements
 - Roadway Improvements
 - Sidewalk Improvements
 - Recreation Improvements



INTRODUCTION

A community's transportation network is directly responsible for maintaining a healthy and thriving community. A coordinated and deliberate plan to develop transportation throughout a community, including facilities such as streets, sidewalks, and multi-modal trails, is an essential component of a comprehensive plan.

The overall objective of the Transportation Plan is to offer a system of transportations that will allow for the safe movement of people and commodities, quickly, economically, and conveniently between all points of the town and the surrounding area to provide a reasonable choice of facilities and routes.

EXISTING TRANSPORTATION

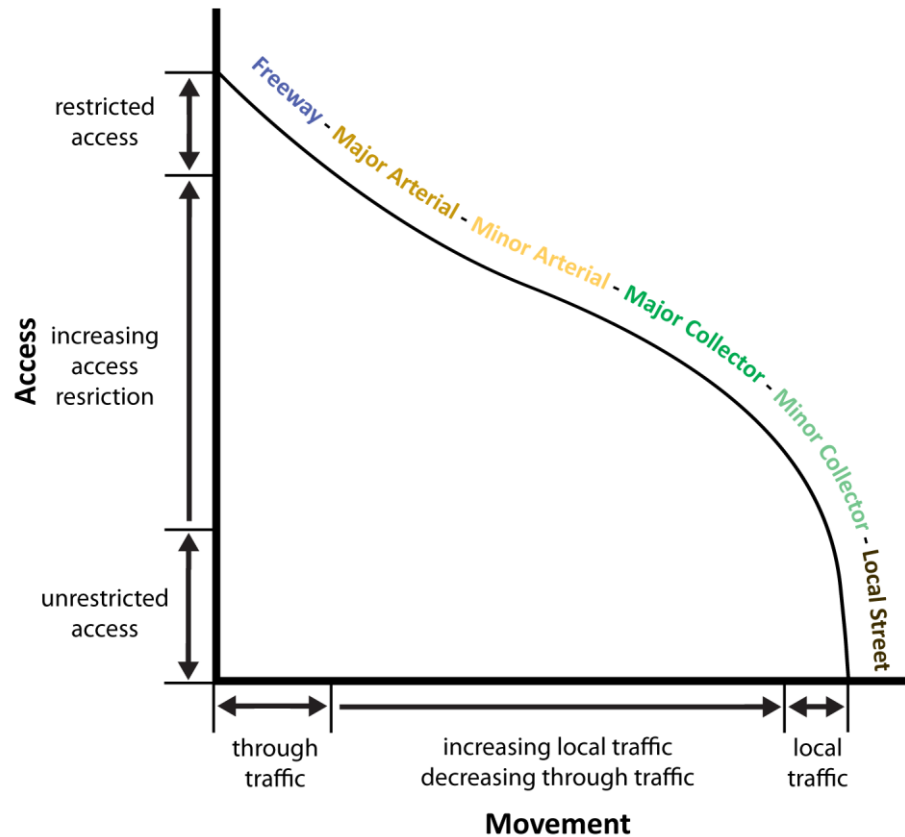
ROADWAYS

The Carthage area is not part of any of the Metropolitan Planning Organizations (MPO) in the state. MPO's are responsible for the Transportation Improvement Plan for those areas which they cover which contains all future roadway improvements for the planning area. In this case it was determined that the Thoroughfare Plan for Rush County be reviewed to determine any future projects in and or around Carthage. With that being stated, there are no major projects planned for the Carthage area through 2037.

Although the Town of Carthage is not directly impacted by any Federal or State highways, the Functional Classification Map does indicate that the community has collector and local streets. The Functional Classification Map (following page) represents the current classifications of roadways in Carthage.



Street Classification



Arterials

The Arterial system is designed to serve the major centers of activity for a community, the highest traffic volume corridors, as well as the majority of “through traffic” desiring to pass through a community with minimal obstruction. They should carry the highest proportion of the total urban area travel on minimum mileage. Sometimes access to private property is restricted in order to maintain these characteristics.

Within the Town of Carthage, there are no Principal Arterials

Collectors

The Collector system of streets and highways is designed to provide both land service access and traffic circulation within residential, commercial, and industrial areas. As the name implies,



Collector streets also serve to collect traffic from local streets and channel it into the Arterial system. Collector streets are divided into Major Collectors and Minor Collectors.

Within the Town of Carthage, Main Street and 5th Street (900N) are considered Major Collectors.

Local

The Local system consists of all other streets and roads that do not fall under one of the higher systems. It serves primarily to provide direct access to the adjacent lands and access to the high level systems. All streets within the Town of Carthage that have not been identified previously fall under the Local Streets category.

MULTI-MODAL TRANSPORTATION

In addition to vehicular traffic flow throughout a community, another vital mode of transportation is the non-vehicular transportation system, sometimes referred to as “multi-modal”. The multi-modal transportation system consists of a community’s alternate modes of transportation, such as pedestrian sidewalks as well as biking, walking and jogging trails. In some communities, this also involves rail and navigable waterways as alternate modes of transportation.

A simple inventory of sidewalk and trail locations can indicate which of a community’s features are being served by alternative modes of transportation. Interconnectivity within a community through a multi-modal transportation system promotes a healthy population, additional forms of recreation, and provides desirable characteristics within the community such as reduced vehicular congestion and pollutants.



Sidewalks/Trails

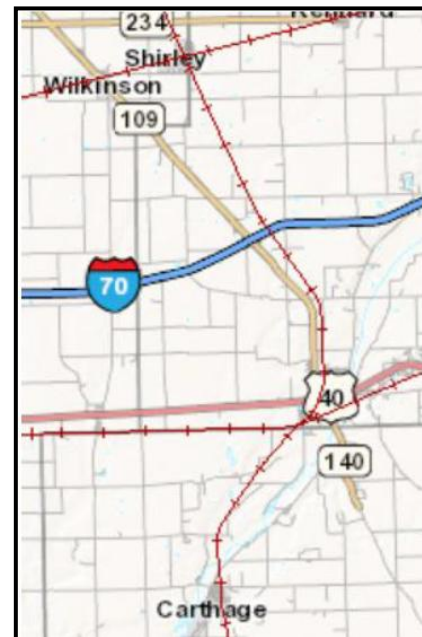
As with many smaller towns, the system of sidewalks is sporadic in Carthage. Some areas of the Town have sidewalks in excellent condition while other areas are lacking any type sidewalk system.

Public Transportation

Ride Rush is the public transportation service provided by Rush County Senior Services. It operates two 15 person vans. It is open to the general public and operates Tues – Fri, 7a – 5p.

Railroads

There is one railroad that leads into town. The Carthage, Knightstown & Shirley railroad is a privately owned railroad track that travels from Carthage through Knightstown at US 40 then on to the town of Shirley 11 miles to the north. This track is not a commercial use facility and closed as of 2014.



Airport Access

Carthage is approximately 53 miles from the Indianapolis International Airport. Residents can take SR 109 to I-70 to access the airport. There are no public airfields in Rush County. The New Castle-Henry County Municipal Airport is a public airport in Henry County. It is located 21 miles from Carthage just southeast of New Castle. In Hancock County has Pope Field in Greenfield (14 miles west) and Indianapolis Regional (28 miles west).



TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENTS

A community's comprehensive plan is a unique opportunity to evaluate the current status of the transportation systems within the community. In preparing this plan, some needed improvements have been identified to meet the current transportation needs. These improvements are included in this chapter.

In addition to satisfying current transportation needs, improvements may be driven by or a driving force behind future land use projects. As land is dependent on transportation for development and growth, and may require specific types of access, the transportation system serving that area must accommodate those needs.

Improvements have been divided into the following categories:

- Roadway Improvements
- Sidewalk Improvements
- Recreational Improvements

ROADWAY IMPROVEMENTS

The Town of Carthage is currently undergoing several Roadway Improvements Projects designed to meet many of the current transportation needs. In 2017 the Town completed a Pavement Assets Plan. This Plan outlines the performance goals and expected level of service of pavements, defines the rating system, and describes the work plan for pavement maintenance.

For many communities, an effective preventative maintenance program is the most economical way to sustain the condition and prolong the life of their street system. Pavement management is routine work performed to maintain pavement as close to its as-built condition for as long as possible. Maintenance includes crack filling, thin overlays, and repairing localized broken areas and base failures. Conversely, pavement rehabilitation strengthens or replaces existing pavement, rather than preserving it, and includes resurfacing and reconstruction.



Each town-maintained street in Carthage was evaluated by measuring pavement width and length of the pavement section, noting the type of pavement and each occurrence of pavement defects. The Town of Carthage is prepared to use this document as a guideline for yearly pavement maintenance and preservation. The Town of Carthage will follow any suggestions, or requirements put forth now, or in the future by LTAP and INDOT.

Pavement Assets Plan

The Pavement Assets Plan resulted in a five year maintenance program and a rating system for all the roadways in Carthage. This information can be found in **Appendix E**.

In 2017 Carthage was awarded a Community Crossroads Matching Grant Fund Program award for \$61,365. These monies will be used for resurfacing, pavement marking and ADA curb improvements.





SIDEWALK IMPROVEMENTS

Although the current vehicular transportation system throughout the Town of Carthage is relatively good, Multi-Modal Transportation opportunities have considerably fallen behind. An inventory of existing sidewalks indicates that corridors of the community, other areas, such as the community parks, elementary and high schools. The ADA Transition Plan outline the following improvements are recommended:

Sidewalk Management Analysis

In 2010 the Town hired Kieser Consulting Group to complete an assessment of the roadways and sidewalks in the community. The result was a complete Pavement Management Analysis that provided a comprehensive study which included analysis and recommendations for the street pavement, sidewalks and alleys with in the Town of Carthage.

Each existing sidewalk was evaluated by measuring the width and the length of the sidewalk and noting the type and occurrence for each pavement defect. For each sidewalk, the number for occurrences of each defect was recorded. In general, the sidewalks in Carthage are in good to fair condition. The sidewalks that received the lowest condition ratings should receive the highest priority for improvements. The total footage of sidewalks in Carthage is 24,675 feet (approx. 4.67 miles). A map showing the sidewalk ratings can be found in **Appendix F**.

In 2015 as part of the Economic and Downtown Revitalization Study, a sidewalk condition rating analysis was conducted for the downtown study area. Each existing sidewalk was evaluated by measuring the sidewalk width and the length of the sidewalk and noting the type and occurrence of each pavement defect. For each sidewalk, the number of occurrences of each defect was recorded. In general, the sidewalks in the study area are in poor to excellent condition. There ratings can be found in the map to the side. Any sidewalks receiving a score of 40 or more are in good condition and typically do not require any improvements. Those scoring less should be included in a sidewalk improvement plan and should be improved according to



priority ranking. The one problem that all of the sidewalks had in common was the lack of ADA compliance.

An effective preventative maintenance program is the most economical way to sustain the condition and prolong the life of the town's sidewalk system. Over the life of a sidewalk, the cost of removing and replacing a sidewalk is much greater than the cost of a preventative maintenance program. Sidewalk management is the routine work performed to keep sidewalks as close to their as-built condition for as long as possible. A ranking of the sidewalk priorities can be found in **Appendix F**.

The Sidewalk Management Analysis will be updated sometime in 2018. This Plan will help the community decide on future continued improvements to the sidewalk system.

RECREATIONAL IMPROVEMENTS

Bicycle and pedestrian paths can serve multiple purposes within a community and increase the quality of life for residents. Paths and trails can be used as a form of transportation, a recreational opportunity and a health benefit. Carthage currently has limited connectivity for those wanting to walk, run or bike. Sidewalks and trails play an important role in connecting various destinations, housing areas and other portions of the community.

This plan recommends making these connections with trails. With the Sidewalk Management Analysis plan due for an update this year (2018) it would be in the Town's interest to include an analysis of possible trail and pedestrian connections as well.



TRANSPORTATION POLICY

Goal:

Strive to make the community connected by all means of transportation modes which will enhance the growth and development of the community.

Objectives:

- *Work with the Indiana Department of Transportation and the Rush County Highway Department to improve major roads in and surrounding Carthage.*
- *Continued maintenance and improvements to local road and sidewalk system.*
- *Provide pedestrian and bicycle paths.*
- *Educate community on availability of public transportation.*



SECTION 7

NATURAL RESOURCES

IN THIS SECTION...

This section looks at the local need for all forms of outdoor recreation in Carthage. This includes parkland improvements as well as bicycle and pedestrian trails. It also looks at environmental protection policies as they pertain to the local community.

- Parks and Recreation
 - Existing conditions
 - Future opportunities
- Environmental protection
 - Federal and State regulations
 - Local needs



INTRODUCTION

Natural resources can be a community's biggest and best asset. Rivers, streams, lakes and other natural formations tend to not only determine the development patterns of communities, but also define how a community looks and feels to visitors.

In this day and age, the preservation of natural resources has become preeminent for local governments and their protection of these natural resources has become not only a source of community pride, but also of economic prosperity.

PARKS AND RECREATION

Access to parks, recreation, and open space is essential to a high quality of life, good health, and community spirit. Comprehensive parks and recreation programs can provide a variety of opportunities for a variety of income levels and age groups throughout the year.

Trails and pedestrian paths have become an integral part of communities in this day and age. People want to have to opportunity to enjoy the outdoors while gaining the many health benefits offered through using trails and pathways. These trails and pathways are also a component for communities to connect their residential areas with commercial and recreational areas. The impact to a community's quality of life is proven to be bolstered by the availability of trails and pedestrian pathways.

EXISTING CONDITIONS

Parks

The Town of Carthage does not have a Park Board which makes them limited to do programs and any type of recreational activities or park expansions. The Town takes care of any maintenance and general upkeep of the property.



Carthage has one park, officially named Jett's Place. It is located on the southeast side of town.

Profile

- 3 acres
- Hours: Sunrise – Sunset

Facilities Inventory

- Playground
- Picnic Area
- Volleyball Court



FUTURE OPPORTUNITIES

Carthage has a great deal of natural areas in and surrounding the community. There are currently several large open spaces that could be utilized for recreational functions. The Town's proximity along the Big Blue River makes it prime for several different kinds of water related recreational activities.

The abandoned Carthage, Knightstown & Shirley railroad holds the possibility for the development of a bicycle/walking trail that would connect the two communities of Carthage and Knightstown. This proposal is also in the 2017 Knightstown Comprehensive Development Plan.



ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

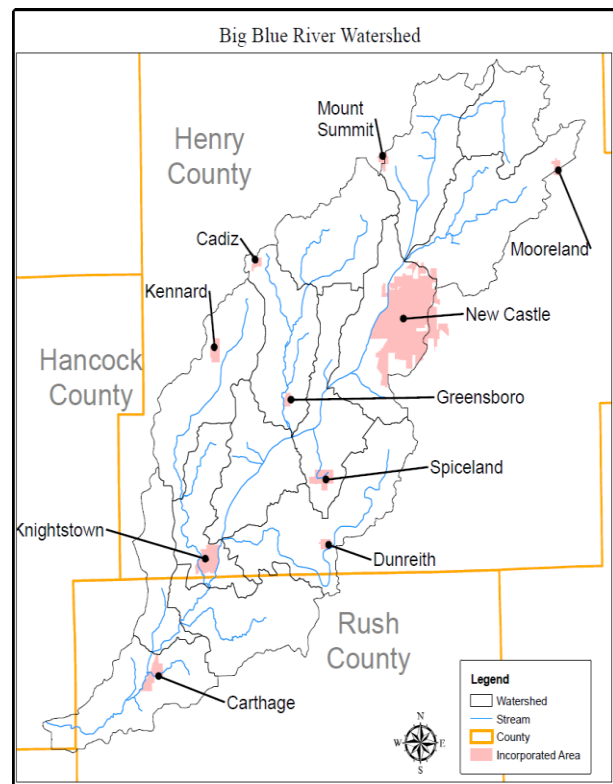
The environment is another element integral to a community's quality of life. Clean water, clean air, and an aesthetically pleasing environment are some of the reasons for maintaining and restoring natural habitats.

The following covers the methods to protect the following environmental features in Carthage:

- Big Blue River watershed.
- Floodplain management.
- Riparian corridor management.
- Groundwater quality.
- Woodlot management.
- Wetland conservation.

Watersheds

The Big Blue River Watershed is located in east central Indiana, draining approximately 53.87 square miles in Henry and Rush counties. Major streams included in the Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) report are Big Blue River, Buck Creek, Duck Creek, Little Blue River and Montgomery Creek.





Floodplain Management

Flooding causes more damage to communities across the country than all other types of natural disasters combined. Flooding is costly, not only in terms of the value of the property lost, but also lives loss. To minimize economic losses attributed to flooding, Carthage should encourage the protection of natural areas within floodplains and continue to discourage development in the floodplain. When done jointly, greenway planning and heritage corridor planning along waterways can open up previously unavailable tourism and recreational opportunities, while minimizing flooding.

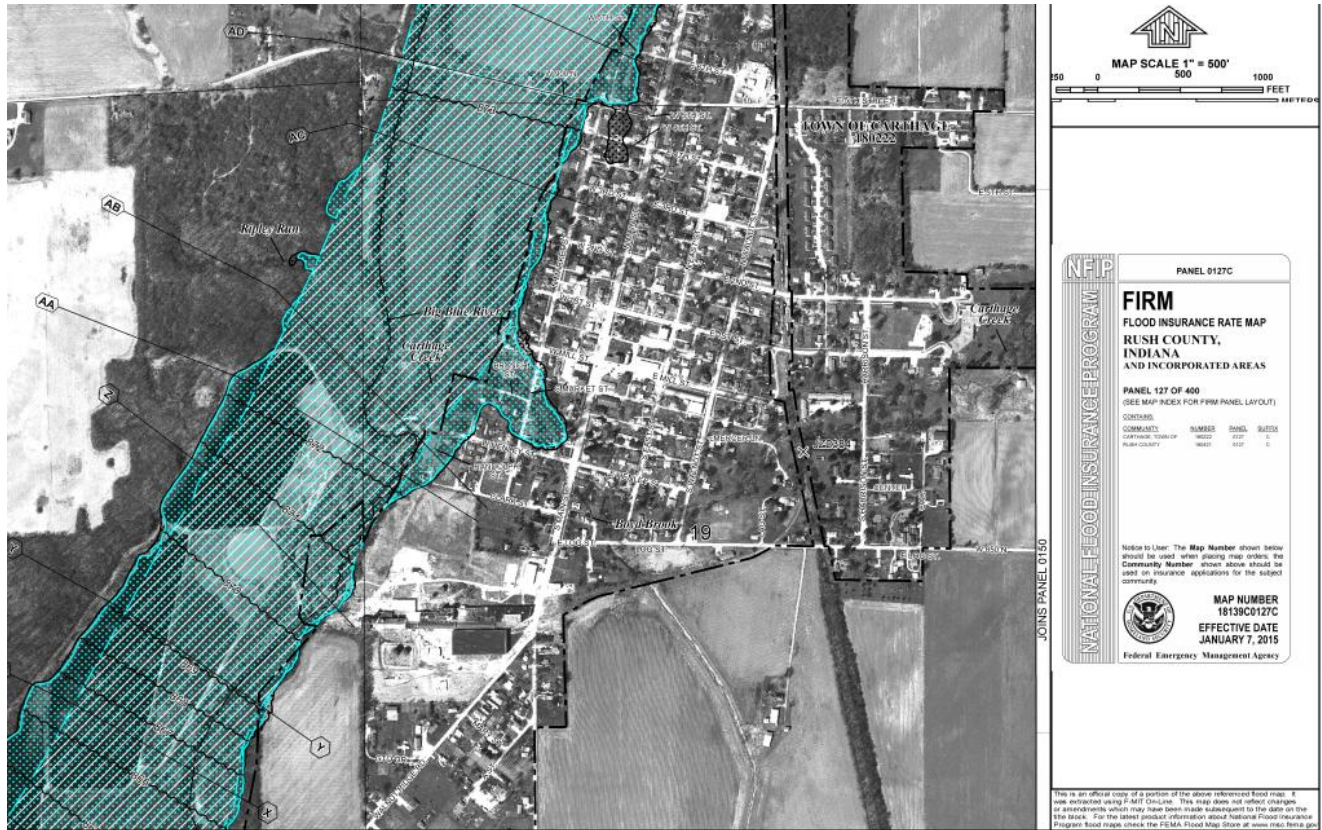
The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) completes comprehensive flood studies for the Planning Area. These Studies use standard hydrologic and hydraulic computer models to find out the potential flooding from each riverine flooding source. FEMA defines a “floodway” and a “floodway fringe” within their modeling and flood management system. A floodway is the channel of a stream and adjacent floodplain area that must be kept free of encroachment to carry the 100-year flood without substantial increase (>0.1 ft.) in flood height.

The floodway fringe is the area between the floodway and natural 100 – year floodplain boundary. The floodway fringe could be completely obstructed without increasing the water surface elevation of the 100 – year flood.

In the Planning Area, there are some floodways that are identified on the FEMA FIRM maps. We show the floodways in the Planning Area in the following map on the below.



FEMA Floodplain Map



Riparian Corridor Management

Riparian corridors are streamside forests that are located along the Big Blue River including their tributaries. These corridors have significant ecological and aesthetic values, in part because they contain a rich array of plants and animals.

Healthy riparian corridors are typically composed of large trees, woody understory of trees and shrubs, and smaller flowers, grasses and groundcovers. This vegetation stabilizes the banks of the waterways, reduces the amount of sediments and pollutants entering waterways. It also lessens flooding and drainage problems.



Waterways can be vulnerable to developmental pressures. Carthage should review the ordinances and policies, as needed, to minimize the effect of development on the stream banks and natural areas.

Groundwater Quality

Carthage should be aware and be sensitive to land uses and practices that could contaminate the water supply. Any development that poses a risk to the groundwater will be prohibited unless technologically acceptable measures are used to protect the water supply.

Woodlot Management

Carthage has a few small and medium-sized woodlots. Woodlots should be managed because of the many benefits it provides. A forest stand can:

- Reduce air temperatures in the summer by about 10 degrees Fahrenheit.
- Reduce wind velocities by 20% to 60%.
- Provide vital wildlife habitat.
- Clean pollutants from the air, absorbing an estimated 10 tons of carbon dioxide per year per acre of woodlot.
- Reduce the erosion of soil on construction sites.

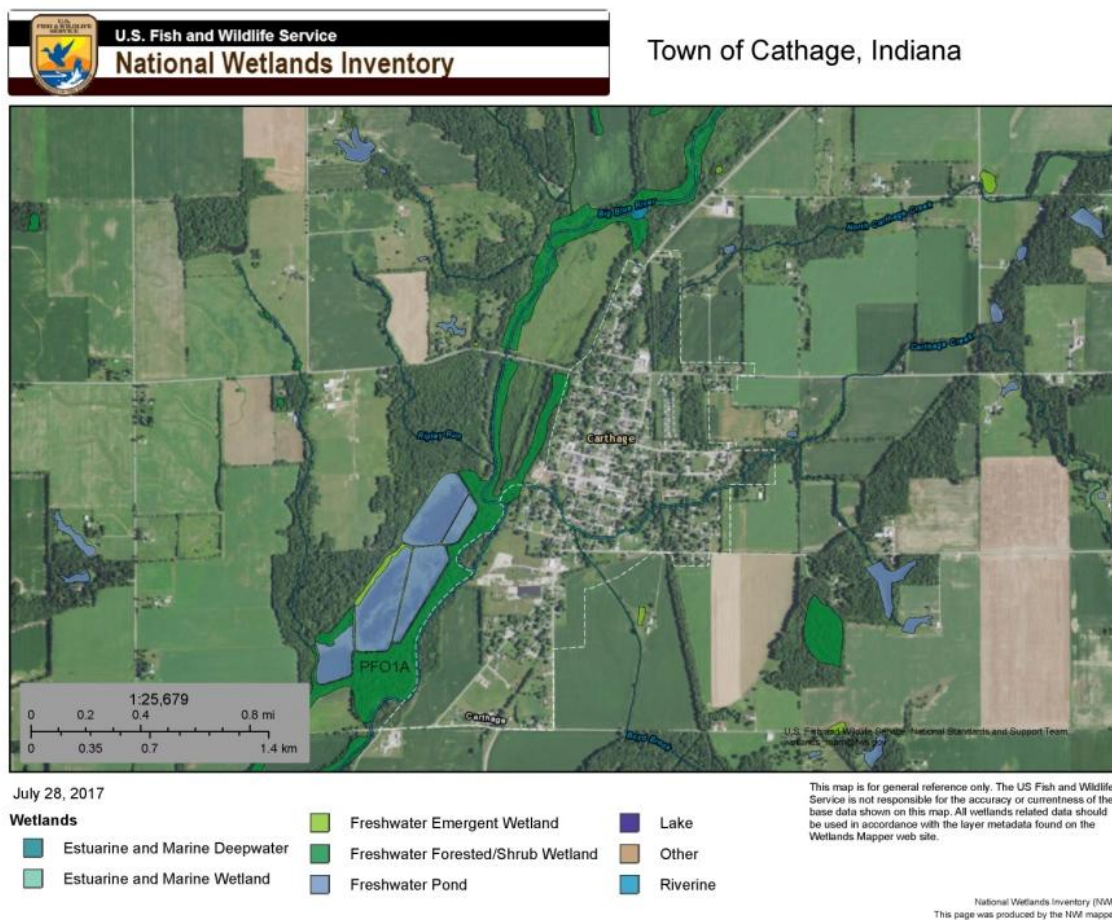
For the property owner, saving a few trees on site reduces energy bills and increases the value of the property. New development should be designed to minimize the impact on existing woodlots and tree stands.



Wetland Conservation

The Federal government defines wetlands as areas with hydric soil (soil formed in the presence of water), and water at or near the ground surface long enough in the growing season to support hydrophytic vegetation. Wetlands are considered the single most productive type of wildlife habitat in the United States.

Carthage has a few wetland areas, low flow streams/ ditches, and wet soils. Development in these areas should be avoided to the extent possible. The Town should strive to ensure that State and Federal laws for wetland mitigation are met.





Outstanding State Resources Water, Exceptional Use Streams and Natural and Scenic Rivers

There are no outstanding state resources of water, limited use streams, exceptional use streams, or natural scenic rivers in the Carthage area.

Friends of the Big Blue River

This group is dedicated to improving the health and beauty of the Big Blue River. Their activities include river clean ups, biologic and chemical water monitoring, and recreational and conservation activities. The Friends of the Big Blue River meet monthly (except November and December) at the New Castle-Henry County Public Library.



NATURAL RESOURCES POLICY

Goal:

Promote an ecologically healthy community through the protection and enrichment of Carthage's environmental amenities.

Objectives:

- *Obtain property along the Big Blue River for recreational opportunities.*
- *Expand the park system and recreational opportunities.*
- *Work with surrounding communities on recreational possibilities for abandoned RR and Big Blue River.*
- *Promote recycling program.*
- *Continuously monitor wellhead protection regulations to ensure safe drinking water supply for the community.*
- *Protect and improve the Big Blue River and other tributaries and stream banks.*
- *Protect and preserve natural drainage areas and floodplains.*
- *Conserve and restore existing natural areas, including wooded areas, open space, and water features to provide habitats for plants and animals and retain Carthage's character.*
- *Mitigating of possible brownfield properties (SmurFit Stone, old gas stations, etc.).*



SECTION 8

IMPLEMENTATION

IN THIS SECTION...

This section is used to identify and prioritize tasks necessary to accomplish the plan's overall goals and plan elements. Action steps are outlined in implementation tables which include a brief description of the action and identify responsible party(ies) & partners and appropriate timelines. Specific plan goals associated with each action step are also referenced.

- Action Plan



IMPLEMENTATION

Once the Comprehensive Development Plan is completed, the single most important aspect of the Plan is implementation. Without implementation, the Plan has no meaning. The Town of Carthage is fortunate in that the Town Council and other town officials and organizations are very committed to implementing the Comprehensive Development Plan. Implementation is the final phase of the Comprehensive Development Plan process, i.e., the realization of the goals and objectives as set forth in the Plan.

ACTION PLAN

The Goals and Objectives set forth in the previous chapters of this Plan represent the items which are of top priority to the community. To implement these goals and objectives, the Action Plan was developed which will guide the community through the steps of implementation.

CONCLUSION

Even though the Comprehensive Development Plan has been developed for short-range (one to five years) and long-range (up to twenty years) planning periods, the Plan should be reviewed annually, and revised as needed by the Town Council every five years. Changes will undoubtedly be necessary because of changing trends and economic conditions.

The government officials of any community are often pressured to disregard the goals and objectives of the Comprehensive Development Plan. However, in order to assure orderly growth and development in compliance with the Plan, the town must continue to remain committed to implementing the Plan. It is only with this adherence to the goals and objectives of the Plan that the residents of Carthage can be assured that the community will maintain and enhance the small town values, appearance and quality of life.



QUALITY OF LIFE

Goal: <i>Maintain a vibrant community for all citizens so they will work towards much higher levels of economic productivity, educational and cultural attainment, and quality of life so as to encourage greater civic pride.</i>			
Objective:	Action:	Responsible Entity:	Timeline
Develop town website.	Continue working with website developer.	Town Officials	2018
Enhance communication/cooperation between community groups for services and events.	Provide communication portal on town website and FB page.	Town Officials/Webmaster	Ongoing
Enhance gateway points into the community.	Identify design enhancements and positioning for signage.	Town Officials/Public Works	2018
Review current Town ordinances and update if necessary and determine the need for new ordinances.	Have Town Attorney review current ordinances.	Town Officials/Attorney	Ongoing
Enhance leadership/volunteerism in community.	Provide application/contact area on town and Future of Carthage websites, FB pages.	Town Officials/Future of Carthage	Ongoing
Maintain and improve on current community events.	Work with Town/Future of Carthage on local community events.	Town Officials/Future of Carthage	Ongoing
Encourage Town Clean-up days.	Contact Hoosier Youth Challenge Academy for assistance.	Town Officials	Ongoing
Develop on Carthage's history as a community asset.		Town Officials/Future of Carthage/Library	Ongoing
Establish a new changeable copy sign to promote community news and events.	Work with Township Trustee to develop new sign.	Town Officials/Township Trustee	2018



COMMUNITY SERVICES/FACILITIES

Goal: <i>To improve and maintain the infrastructure and services in a way that enhances community pride, provides a tool for managing growth, and ensures the well being of the community.</i>			
Objective:	Action:	Responsible Entity:	Timeline
Identify the need for future community utility upgrades and ensure the maintenance of existing facilities.	<i>Develop 5 Year Master Utilities Plan.</i>	Town Officials/Public Works	2020
Establish a fiscal planning process.	<i>Develop a 5 year Capital Improvements Program.</i>	Town Officials	Ongoing
Develop Policy and Procedures Handbook.	<i>Have consulting firm develop handbook.</i>	Town Officials	2018
Develop method for better code enforcement.	<i>Develop procedures to be included in Policy and Procedures Handbook.</i>	Town Officials	2018
Work with fire department to enhance volunteerism.	<i>Keep a line of communication with VFD to keep informed of needs.</i>	Town Officials/VFD	Ongoing
Continue to expand community policing and its presence in the community.	<i>Review procedures and develop new policing tactics when necessary.</i>	Town Officials/Police Dept.	Ongoing
Improve current government offices.	<i>Assess other buildings or properties for new office space.</i>	Town Officials	2019
Educate the community about opportunities for youth and senior activities.	<i>Use the town website as information portal.</i>	Town Officials	2018
Encourage development of child care/pre-school education opportunities.	<i>Use the town website as information portal.</i>	Town Officials	2018



ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Goal: <i>Provide sufficient planning encouraging growth while retaining a balance between residential neighborhoods and business/industrial centers.</i>			
Objective:	Action:	Responsible Entity:	Timeline
Follow the 2015 Economic Development and Downtown Revitalization Plan.	<i>Review Action Plan items annually.</i>	Town Officials/Future of Carthage	Ongoing
Support local businesses encouraging growth and retention in the community.	<i>Develop Economic Development/Marketing Plan.</i>	Town Officials	Ongoing
Continue partnerships with county and state economic development agencies to promote the retention, expansion and new development of business opportunities for the Town.	<i>Continue relationship and representation with Rush County & State EDC's.</i>	Town Officials	Ongoing
Encourage the preservation and reuse of historic buildings.	<i>Identify buildings and develop ordinance/resolution for conservation/preservation.</i>	Town Officials	Ongoing



LAND USE

Goal: <i>To encourage the orderly, responsible development of land in order to promote the community goals, and to determine and direct land use patterns in the most positive way for the community as a whole, in a manner consistent with its long term interests.</i>			
Objective:	Action:	Responsible Entity:	Timeline
Continue communication with the Rush County Planning Department on all land use issues outside the Town's planning jurisdiction.	<i>Have Plan Commission representative attend Rush County Plan Commission meetings.</i>	Town Officials	Ongoing
Control development in a manner compatible with the desired character of the town.	<i>Follow the Comprehensive Development Plan.</i>	Town Officials	Ongoing
Concentrate on development by infill properties and of vacant parcels.	<i>Follow the Comprehensive Development Plan.</i>	Town Officials	Ongoing
Pursue annexation that will bring sewer treatment facility into town limits.	<i>Develop annexation policy and strategic plan.</i>	Town Officials	2018
Develop plan for addressing abandoned properties.	<i>Review Town ordinance.</i>	Town Officials	2018
Encourage the development of affordable housing for buyers and renters.	<i>Develop a housing market analysis study.</i>	Town Officials	Ongoing
Encourage the preservation of existing historic homes.	<i>Develop a Historic Buildings Inventory and Study.</i>	Town Officials	Ongoing
Develop improved method for building code inspections.	<i>Include procedures for building inspections in Policy and Procedures Handbook.</i>	Town Officials	2018



TRANSPORTATION

Goal: <i>Strive to make the community connected by all means of transportation modes which will enhance the growth and development of the community.</i>			
Objective:	Action:	Responsible Entity:	Timeline
Work with the Indiana Department of Transportation and the Rush County Highway Department to improve major roads in and surrounding Carthage.	<i>Select representative to develop relationship with Indiana Department of Transportation and the Rush County Highway Department.</i>	Town Council/Public Works	Ongoing
Continued maintenance and improvements to local road and sidewalk systems.	<i>Follow the Street Analysis and develop a Sidewalk Improvements Plan.</i>	Town Officials/Public Works	Ongoing
Provide pedestrian and bicycle paths.	<i>Develop trail and pedestrian plan.</i>	Town Officials/Public Works	Ongoing
Educate community on availability of public transportation.	<i>Communicate the availability of Rush County (Ride Rush) public transportation to community.</i>	Town Officials	2018



NATURAL RESOURCES

Goal: <i>Promote an ecologically healthy community through the protection and enrichment of environmental amenities.</i>			
Objective:	Action:	Responsible Entity:	Timeline
Obtain property along the Big Blue River for recreational opportunities.	<i>Continue to seek opportunities to purchase river accessible land.</i>	Town Officials	Ongoing
Expand the park system and recreational opportunities.	<i>Develop Park Board.</i>	Town Officials	2019
Work with surrounding communities on recreational possibilities for abandoned RR and Big Blue River.	<i>Develop steering committee to work with Knightstown on developing rail line.</i>	Town Officials	2020
Promote recycling program.	<i>Consider ways to promote and improve recycling programs available through local refuse collection company.</i>	Town Council/Public Works	2019
Continuously monitor wellhead protection regulations to ensure safe drinking water supply for the community.	<i>Review wellhead protection requirements annually and adopt new regulations as needed.</i>	Town Council/Public Works	Ongoing
Protect and improve the Big Blue River and other tributaries and stream banks.	<i>Work with Federal, State and County offices on protection programs and policies.</i>	Town Officials	Ongoing
Protect and preserve natural drainage areas and floodplains.	<i>Work with Federal, State and County offices on protection programs and policies.</i>	Town Council/Public Works	Ongoing
Conserve and restore existing natural areas, including wooded areas, open space, and water features to provide habitats for plants and animals and retain Carthage's character.	<i>Participate in State and Federal programs that help to conserve, sustain, and restore natural areas.</i>	Town Officials	Ongoing
Mitigating of possible brownfield properties (SmurFit Stone, old gas stations, etc.).	<i>Work with the State on monitoring and brownfield programs.</i>	Town Officials	Ongoing



APPENDIX A

PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT

- STEERING COMMITTEE MEETINGS

- PUBLIC MEETINGS





STEERING COMMITTEE MEETING #1

Wednesday October 18 @ 6:30p

AGENDA

- 1) Introductions
- 2) Purpose of Comprehensive Planning/Overview of Project
- 3) Survey Questionnaire
- 4) Needs/Assets/Liabilities (NAL) Exercise
- 5) Date, Time for Next Meeting

STEERING COMMITTEE MEETING #1

Wednesday October 18, 2017

SIGN-IN SHEET

Name	Signature
1. John Hancock	 Hancock, John.1981@gmail.com 765-541-1889
2. Kelly Land	 INKELLYLAND@aol.com
3. Kathy Gibson	 tkgibson75@yahoo.com
4. Jim Neal	 j.jneal@yahoo.com
5. Claire Mercer	 claireannm608@gmail.com



STEERING COMMITTEE MEETING #2

Wednesday November 1 @ 6:30p

AGENDA

- 1) Survey Questionnaire finalization
- 2) Needs/Assets/Liabilities (NAL) Exercise discussion
- 3) Date, Time for Next Meeting/1st Public meeting

STEERING COMMITTEE MEETING #2

Wednesday November 1, 2017

SIGN-IN SHEET

Name	Signature
1. John Hancock	
2. Kathy Gibson	
3. Kelly Land	
4. Jim Neal	



STEERING COMMITTEE MEETING #3

Thursday December 21, 2017 @ 6:30p

AGENDA

- 1) Survey Questionnaire Summary discussion
- 2) Date, Time for Next Meeting

STEERING COMMITTEE MEETING #3

Thursday December 21, 2017

SIGN-IN SHEET

Name	Signature
1. John Hancock	
2. Kathy Gibson	
3. Kelly Land	
4. Jim Neal	
5.	



STEERING COMMITTEE MEETING #4

Wednesday January 31, 2018 @ 6:30p

AGENDA

- 1) Action Plan draft discussion
- 2) Date, Time for next Steering Committee Meeting and Public Meeting #2

STEERING COMMITTEE MEETING #4

Wednesday January 31, 2018

SIGN-IN SHEET

Name	Signature
1. John Hancock	
2. Kathy Gibson	
3. Kelly Land	
4. Jim Neal	



STEERING COMMITTEE MEETING #5

Wednesday February 28, 2018 @ 6:30p



AGENDA

- 1) Action Plan draft discussion
- 2) Future Land Use discussion
- 3) Date, Time for next Steering Committee Meeting and Public Meeting #2

STEERING COMMITTEE MEETING #5

Wednesday February 28, 2018

SIGN-IN SHEET

Name	Signature
1. John Hancock	
2. Kathy Gibson	
3. Kelly Land	
4.	
5.	



STEERING COMMITTEE MEETING #6

Wednesday April 4, 2018 @ 6:30p

AGENDA

- 1) Action Plan draft discussion
- 2) Next Steps

STEERING COMMITTEE MEETING #6

Wednesday April 4, 2018

SIGN-IN SHEET

Name	Signature
1. John Hancock	
2. Kathy Gibson	
3. Kelly Land	
4.	
5.	



PUBLIC MEETING #1

Wednesday November 15, 2017 @ 6:30p

AGENDA

- 1) Introductions
- 2) Purpose of Comprehensive Planning
- 3) Overview of Project
- 4) Needs Analysis Exercise
- 5) Next Meeting

PUBLIC MEETING #1

Wednesday November 15, 2017

SIGN-IN SHEET

Name	Signature
1.	
2.	
3.	
4.	
5.	



PUBLIC MEETING #2

Tuesday March 20 @ 6:30p

AGENDA

1) Carthage's Comprehensive Development Plan

- Plan Development
- Plan Context
- Future Land Use

2) Goals & Objectives

3) Next Steps

PUBLIC MEETING #2

Tuesday March 20, 2018

SIGN-IN SHEET

1. Trina Winters
2. Kathy Gibson
3. [Signature]
4. [Signature]
5. _____
6. _____



APPENDIX B

CITIZEN SURVEY

- Citizen Survey**
- Survey Results**





Carthage Comprehensive Development Plan Citizen Survey

This questionnaire designed to survey your opinions of Carthage and to determine the future needs of your community. This questionnaire will be used in the development of the Town of Carthage's Comprehensive Development Plan. It is part of our effort for community betterment.

Please take a few minutes to answer the questions in the survey. We ask that only one person per household complete the questionnaire, but please feel free to consult with all members of your household in forming your opinions. You can return your survey to the boxes provided at ***Pavey's Convenience Store*** or at the ***Town Hall***.

The responses on the questionnaire will be tabulated by the consulting firm hired to do the study. No member of the community will take part in this tabulation. The final results will only be presented to the public at large, the Town Council and the Carthage Comprehensive Development Plan Steering Committee. We assure you that the original questionnaires will be kept from public view and eventually destroyed. The information provided to us on individual questionnaires is anonymous and there is no way that anyone participating can be identified. We hope that you will join us in the project information to help guide your community through its next 20 years. We ask that you return the survey no later than ***Friday November 17, 2017***.

Thank you for your participation,
Carthage Town Council

If you have any questions or additional comments, please come to the Public Meetings.

The first Public Meeting will be held at the Town Hall on...
Wednesday November 15th @ 6:30pm.



Carthage Comprehensive Development Plan Citizen Survey

Community Information

Please complete this citizen survey if you are the adult (age 18 or older) in the household. Please select the response that most closely represents your opinion for each question.

Your responses are anonymous and will be reported in group form only.

1. Please rate each of the following aspects of quality of life in Carthage:

	Excellent	Good	Fair	Poor	Don't know	
Carthage as a place to live	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Your neighborhood as a place to live	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Carthage as a place to raise children	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Carthage as a place to work	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Carthage as a place to visit	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Carthage as a place to retire	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
The overall quality of life in Carthage	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>



2. Please rate each of the following characteristics as they relate to Carthage as a whole:

	Excellent	Good	Fair	Poor	Don't know
Overall feeling of safety in Carthage	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Overall ease of getting to the places you usually have to visit	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Quality of overall natural environment in Carthage	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Overall "built environment" of Carthage (including overall design, buildings, parks, etc.)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Health and wellness opportunities in Carthage	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Overall opportunities for education and enrichment	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Overall economic health of Carthage	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Sense of community	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Overall image or reputation of Carthage	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

3. Please indicate how likely or unlikely you are to do each of the following:

	Very likely	Somewhat likely	Somewhat unlikely	Very unlikely	Don't know
Recommend living in Carthage to someone who asks	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Remain in Carthage for the next five years	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>



4. Please rate how safe or unsafe you feel:

	Very safe	Somewhat safe	Neither safe nor unsafe	Somewhat unsafe	Very unsafe
In your neighborhood during the day	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
In Carthage's downtown/commercial area during the day	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
In your neighborhood at night	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
In Carthage's downtown/commercial area at night	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>



5. Please rate each of the following characteristics as they relate to Carthage as a whole:

	Excellent	Good	Fair	Poor	Don't know
Traffic flow on major streets	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Ease of public parking	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Ease of travel by car in Carthage	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Ease of travel by bicycle in Carthage	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Ease of walking in Carthage	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Availability of paths and walking trails	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Air quality	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Cleanliness of Carthage	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Overall appearance of Carthage	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Public places where people want to spend time	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Variety of housing options	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Availability of affordable quality housing	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Fitness opportunities (including exercise classes and paths or trails, etc.)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Recreational opportunities	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Availability of affordable quality food	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Availability of affordable quality health care	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Availability of preventive health services	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Availability of affordable quality mental health care	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>



6. Please rate each of the following characteristics as they relate to Carthage as a whole:

	Excellent	Good	Fair	Poor	Don't know
Availability of affordable quality child care/preschool	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
K-12 education	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Adult educational opportunities	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Opportunities to attend cultural/arts/music activities	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Opportunities to participate in religious or spiritual events and activities	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Employment opportunities	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Shopping opportunities	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Cost of living in Carthage	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Overall quality of business and service establishments in Carthage	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Vibrant downtown/commercial area	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Opportunities to participate in social events and activities	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Opportunities to volunteer	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Opportunities to participate in community matters	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Openness and acceptance of the community toward people of diverse backgrounds	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Neighborliness of residents in Carthage	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>



7. Please indicate whether or not you have done each of the following in the last 12 months.

	Yes	No			
Reported a code violation or other hazard in Carthage (weeds, abandoned buildings, etc.)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Household member was a victim of a crime in Carthage	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Reported a crime to the police in Carthage	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Contacted the Town of Carthage (in-person, phone, email or web) for help or information	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Contacted Carthage elected officials (in-person, phone, email or web) to express your opinion	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

8. In the last 12 months, about how many times, if at all, have you or other household members done each of the following in Carthage?

	2 times a week or more	2-4 times a month	Once a month or less	Not at all	
Used Carthage public libraries or their services	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Participated in religious or spiritual activities in Carthage	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Attended a Town-sponsored event	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Volunteered your time to some group/activity in Carthage	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Participated in a club in Carthage	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>



9. Thinking about local public meetings (of local elected officials like Town Council or County Commissioners, advisory boards, school board, neighborhood watch, etc.), in the last 12 months, about how many times, if at all, have you or other household members attended or spoke at a local public meeting?

	2 times a week or more	2-4 times a month	Once a month or less	Not at all
Attended a local public meeting	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Spoke at a local public meeting	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

10. Please rate the quality of each of the following services in Carthage:

	Excellent	Good	Fair	Poor	Don't know
Police services	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Sheriff services	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Fire services	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Ambulance or emergency medical services	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Crime prevention	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Fire prevention and education	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Street repair	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Street cleaning	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Street lighting	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Snow removal	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Sidewalk maintenance	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Garbage collection	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Recycling	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Yard waste pick-up	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Storm drainage	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Drinking water	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Sewer services	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Utility billing	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Town parks	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>



	Excellent	Good	Fair	Poor	Don't know
Community centers or facilities	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Land use, planning and zoning	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Code enforcement (weeds, abandoned buildings, etc.)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Animal control	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Economic development	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Health services	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Public library services	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Town-sponsored special events	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Overall customer service by Carthage employees (utility clerks, etc.)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

11. Overall, how would you rate the quality of the services provided by each of the following?

	Excellent	Good	Fair	Poor	Don't know
The Town of Carthage	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
The State of Indiana	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
The Federal Government	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>



12. Please rate the following categories of Carthage government performance:

	Excellent	Good	Fair	Poor	Don't know
The value of services for the taxes paid to Carthage	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
The overall direction that Carthage is taking	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
The job Carthage government does at welcoming citizen involvement	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Overall confidence in Carthage government	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Generally acting in the best interest of the community	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Treating all residents fairly	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

13. Please rate how important, if at all, you think it is for the Carthage community to focus on each of the following in the next five years:

	Essential	Very important	Somewhat important	Not at all important
Overall feeling of safety in Carthage	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Overall ease of getting to the places you usually have to visit	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Quality of overall "natural environment" in Carthage	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Overall "built environment" of Carthage (buildings, parks, etc.)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Health and wellness opportunities in Carthage	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Overall opportunities for education and enrichment	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Overall economic health of Carthage	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Sense of community	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>



14. Please rate the importance of each of the following for the future of the Town:

	Strongly support	Somewhat support	Somewhat oppose	Strongly oppose	Don't know
Attracting new business (commercial)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Attracting new business (industry)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Supporting and retaining existing businesses	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Increasing home ownership	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Improving the appearance of the Town	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Downtown business development	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Improving bicycle and pedestrian access	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Improving public safety	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

15. To what extent would you support or oppose prioritizing funding for each of the following identified town services/projects?

	Strongly support	Somewhat support	Somewhat oppose	Strongly Oppose	Don't know
Street Paving and Construction	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Parks, Recreation & Trails	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Downtown Redevelopment	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Town Facilities (Town Hall, library, etc.)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Emergency Response Vehicles (Fire trucks, police vehicles, etc.)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Infrastructure Improvements (sewer, water, drainage)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Cleaning initiatives (i.e. litter cleanup, mowing, etc.)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Community Marketing (efforts to impact perception of town image)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>



16. Please indicate to what extent would you support or oppose a tax increase to fund each of the following identified town services/projects?

	Strongly support	Somewhat support	Somewhat oppose	Strongly oppose	Don't know
Street Paving and Construction	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Parks, Recreation & Trails	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Downtown Redevelopment	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Town Facilities	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Emergency Response Vehicles (Fire trucks, police vehicles, etc.)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Infrastructure Improvements (sewer, water, drainage)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Cleaning initiatives (i.e. litter cleanup, mowing, etc.)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Community Marketing (efforts to impact perception of town image including business-friendly, family-friendly, town entries landscaping, signage, etc.)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

17. What have you seen in other communities that you would like to see in Carthage?

18. What kind of businesses (commercial/professional) would you like to see in Carthage?

19. What are Carthage's positives as a place to live, work, visit and do business?



20. What are Carthage's weaknesses or challenges to overcome as a place to live, work, visit and do business?

21. If you have any comments in general about Carthage, please let us know.

Our last questions are about you and your household. Again, all of your responses to this survey are completely anonym and will be reported in group form only.

22. In which category is your age?

- | | |
|-----------------------------------|---|
| <input type="radio"/> 18-24 years | <input type="radio"/> 55-64 years |
| <input type="radio"/> 25-34 years | <input type="radio"/> 65-74 years |
| <input type="radio"/> 35-44 years | <input type="radio"/> 75 years or older |
| <input type="radio"/> 45-54 years | |

23. Do any children 17 or under live in your household?

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No

24. What is your gender?

- ☐ Female
- ☐ Male

25. How many years have you lived in Carthage?

- | | |
|---|--|
| <input type="radio"/> Less than 2 years | <input type="radio"/> 11-20 years |
| <input type="radio"/> 2-5 years | <input type="radio"/> More than 20 years |
| <input type="radio"/> 6-10 years | |



26. Which best describes the building you live in?

- ☐ Single family house detached from any other houses
- ☐ Building with two or more homes (duplex, townhome, apartment or condominium)
- ☐ Mobile home
- ☐ Other

27. Is this house, apartment or mobile home...

- ☐ Owned
- ☐ Rented

28. What is your employment status?

- ☐ Working full time
- ☐ Working part time
- ☐ Unemployed, looking for paid work
- ☐ Unemployed, not looking for paid work
- ☐ Fully retired

29. Do you work inside the boundaries of Carthage?

- ☐ Yes, outside the home
- ☐ Yes, from home
- ☐ No, outside Carthage
- ☐ No, unemployed/retired

30. How much do you anticipate your household's total income before taxes will be for the current year?
(Please include in your total income money from all sources for all persons living in your household.)

- ☐ Less than \$25,000
- ☐ \$25,000 to \$49,999
- ☐ \$50,000 to \$99,999
- ☐ \$100,000 to \$149,999
- ☐ \$150,000 or more

31. What impact, if any, do you think the economy will have on your family income in the next year?

- ☐ Very positive
- ☐ Somewhat positive
- ☐ Neutral
- ☐ Somewhat negative
- ☐ Very negative



32. How often, if at all, do you do each of the following, considering all of the times you could?

	Daily	Once or more a week	Once or more a month	Rarely	Never
Recycle at home	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Purchase goods or services from a business located in Carthage	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Read or watch local news (via television, paper, computer, etc.)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Vote in local elections	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

33. Please indicate how much of a source, if at all, you consider each of the following to be for obtaining information about the Town government and its activities, events and services:

	Major source	Minor source	Not a source
Town website (Carthageindiana.org)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Carthage e-mail blast / list serve	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Television news	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Newspapers	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Radio	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Facebook	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Twitter	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

34. If you would like to become involved in your community, please let us know by giving us your contact information.

Your information *will not* be tied to your survey, but only show up under the Q33 column after the survey results are tallied by an outside source.

Thank you for completing this survey!

By doing so you have contributed to the betterment of Carthage and its future growth.



Carthage Citizen Survey Summary

A citizen survey was developed through SurveyMonkey and ran for two weeks from November 3 to November 17, 2017. The link to the survey was put on the front of the Town of Carthage's Facebook page. Public participation was garnered by newspaper advertising, social media outreach and word of mouth. Hard copies were also made available at various locations throughout the Town. In all, 52 surveys were completed. With a 2015 American Community Survey estimate of 325 occupied households (owner occupied and rentals), the survey garnered a 16% return rate.

Who responded...

The demographic information showed that out of the survey responses, female responders (62%) outnumbered the male responders (38%). By age group, the largest response rate were those between the ages of 35 to 44 (26%) followed by those groups in the 55 to 64 (24%), and 25 to 34 (22%).

Why they live here...

When asked "How many years have you lived in Carthage", the majority responded over 20 years. The largest groups were those who have lived 20+ years (54%), followed by those who have lived 6 to 10 years (14%), 2-5 years and 11 to 20 years (12%). When asked "if they expected to remain in Carthage 5 years from now", the vast majority (81%) said they were very likely to somewhat likely, only 14% of the respondents were somewhat or very unlikely to continue to live in Carthage. Only 5% said they were unsure.

Working status...

When asked the question "Do you work within the boundaries of Carthage", the highest response was those who worked outside of Carthage at 56%. Those who worked in Carthage and those who were retired or unemployed (18%) were the second largest group. Most of the respondents work full time (64%), those who work part time (14%) were the second largest group. 12% were fully retired and only 10% were unemployed.

2015 American Community Survey info...

The population of Carthage is 794. The median age of persons living in Carthage is 39.6 years as compared to Rush County at 41.3 and Indiana at 37.3.

The median household income is \$36,382, lower than both the County median of \$45,121 and the State median of \$47,697. The major occupation is that of Production and Transportation (29.7%) followed by those in the Construction, Extraction and Maintenance (19.7), Service (17.5) Office and Sales fields (16.9%) and Management and Professional services (16.3%). The current (2016) unemployment rate (Rush County) is 3.2%. The highest levels of education attained were those with a secondary education (48.8%) followed by those with some college no degree (20.8%).



Citizen Activity

Please indicate whether or not you have done each of the following in the last 12 months.

	Yes	No
Reported a code violation or other hazard in Carthage (weeds, abandoned buildings, etc.)	20%	80%
Household member was a victim of a crime in Carthage	12%	88%
Reported a crime to the police in Carthage	20%	80%
Contacted the Town of Carthage (in-person, phone, email or web) for help or information	37%	63%
Contacted Carthage elected officials (in-person, phone, email or web) to express your opinion	20%	78%

In the last 12 months, about how many times, if at all, have you or other household members done each of the following in Carthage?

	2 times a week or more	2-4 times a month	Once a month or less	Not at all
Used Carthage public libraries or their services	2%	10%	22%	67%
Participated in religious or spiritual activities in Carthage	6%	14%	10%	71%
Attended a Town-sponsored event	0%	6%	67%	27%
Volunteered your time to some group/activity in Carthage	6%	10%	22%	61%
Participated in a club in Carthage	0%	0%	10%	88%

Thinking about local public meetings (of local elected officials like Town Council or County Commissioners, advisory boards, school board, neighborhood watch, etc.), in the last 12 months, about how many times, if at all, have you or other household members attended or spoke at a local public meeting?

	2 times a week or more	2-4 times a month	Once a month or less	Not at all
Attended a local public meeting	2%	4%	18%	76%
Spoke at a local public meeting	2%	4%	8%	86%



Citizen Focus

Please rate how important, if at all, you think it is for the Carthage community to focus on each of the following in the next five years:

	Essential	Very important	Somewhat important	Not at all important
Overall feeling of safety in Carthage	90%		10%	
Overall ease of getting to the places you usually have to visit	64%		36%	
Quality of overall “natural environment” in Carthage	70%		30%	
Overall “built environment” of Carthage (buildings, parks, etc.)	88%		12%	
Health and wellness opportunities in Carthage	54%		46%	
Overall opportunities for education and enrichment	76%		24%	
Overall economic health of Carthage	86%		14%	
Sense of community	92%		8%	

Please rate the importance of each of the following for the future of the Town:

	Strongly support	Somewhat support	Somewhat oppose	Strongly oppose	Don't know
Attracting new business (commercial)	94%		0%		6%
Attracting new business (industry)	96%		0%		4%
Supporting and retaining existing businesses	96%		4%		0%
Increasing home ownership	94%		2%		4%
Improving the appearance of the Town	100%		0%		0%
Downtown business development	96%		2%		2%
Improving bicycle and pedestrian access	86%		4%		10%
Improving public safety	98%		0%		2%



Funding Support

To what extent would you support or oppose prioritizing funding for each of the following identified town services/projects?

	Strongly support	Somewhat support	Somewhat oppose	Strongly Oppose	Don't know
Street Paving and Construction	96%		4%		0%
Parks, Recreation & Trails	90%		8%		2%
Downtown Redevelopment	90%		8%		2%
Town Facilities (Town Hall, library, etc.)	80%		16%		4%
Emergency Response Vehicles (Fire trucks, police vehicles, etc.)	90%		6%		4%
Infrastructure Improvements (sewer, water, drainage)	86%		12%		2%
Cleaning initiatives (i.e. litter cleanup, mowing, etc.)	94%		4%		2%
Community Marketing (efforts to impact perception of town image)	88%		8%		4%

Please indicate to what extent would you support or oppose a tax increase to fund each of the following identified town services/projects?

	Strongly support	Somewhat support	Somewhat oppose	Strongly oppose	Don't know
Street Paving and Construction	60%		38%		2%
Parks, Recreation & Trails	54%		42%		4%
Downtown Redevelopment	66%		32%		2%
Town Facilities	44%		54%		2%
Emergency Response Vehicles (Fire trucks, police vehicles, etc.)	68%		28%		4%
Infrastructure Improvements (sewer, water, drainage)	58%		38%		4%
Cleaning initiatives (i.e. litter cleanup, mowing, etc.)	60%		36%		4%
Community Marketing	60%		36%		4%



Carthage Public Survey Comments Summary

Q17

What have you seen in other communities that you would like to see in Carthage?

- Businesses (general) – 13
- Restaurants – 8
- Better sidewalks – 7
- Paths/Trails – 6
- Fix potholes and streets - 3
- Employment opportunities - 2
- Groomed yards
- More things for teens to do.
- Better fire protection.
- I would like to see laws enforced when people fail to mow and clean up after a fire. I would like to see noise ordinances put in place and enforced. I would like to see more police presence. I would like to see vacant lots torn Down and mowed until they are torn down. I would like to see the fireworks returned.
- Maybe a farmers market type thing once a month (or even once a week). Maybe a Christmas craft show in the community center.
- More stops on Main Street to control speeding. Need a stop on Main Street at 5th St. We have 11 Grandchildren and have to keep constant watch to keep them from the front. Traffic travels at way to fast a rate along there to stop in time. Also maybe a couple children at play signs might help.
- A state highway to draw businesses to the town of Carthage
- Perhaps focus on venue for flea markets/auctions and festivals to bring people to town. Find something to do with the old paper mill.
- New police. Let's make this town great again and get the trash out
- More community events, educational programs offered at library or community building
- Park needs improved
- Cleanliness, well lighted street, better quality of community environment, community support, better quality of water for what we pay
- The town is dead. Just let it die. It's too late to do anything now.
- A lot better drainage for water runoff would be phenomenal. Apartments that are well managed and office managers that are more professional would probably bring in more people. A lot of people want the small town life but it's difficult to do when housing isn't an option or there aren't any activities to do.
- Less houses for sale. Possibly more houses for rent and a lower water bill.
- More nature/natural areas



Q18

What kind of businesses (commercial/professional) would you like to see in Carthage?

- Restaurant/Cafe- 17
- Grocery store – 11
- Businesses (general) – 8
- Dollar store- 4
- Industry - 4
- Bank - 2
- Antique stores - 2
- Doctors office, barber shop
- Music store, art gallery, pet store
- Laundromat, manufacturing
- Book store, craft store
- Try to find something to do with the old paper mill and turn it into a usable space for business or industry
- Literally anything
- More jobs!!! More decent paying jobs would help keep money in the town. Yes small business owners are important, however there are not any options for employment and people tend to have to drive further for work.
- Professional services of any type

Q19

What are Carthage's positives as a place to live, work, visit and do business?

- Small town feeling – 13
- Neighborly/Friendly people – 12
- Quiet town – 12
- Churches - 3
- Good place to live - 2
- Area availability
- Easy access in and out of town
- Low cost of living
- The river is a nice feature that would be great to have access to more easily.



Q20

What are Carthage's weaknesses or challenges to overcome as a place to live, work, visit and do business?

- Lack of businesses (general) – 10
- Utility bills high – 6
- No employment opportunity – 6
- Lack of a good grocery store - 3
- Lack of events/recreation - 3
- Tax base low - 3
- Drug activity - 3
- Need better sidewalks - 2
- Lack of restaurants - 2
- Need old mill cleaned up/reused - 2
- Poor streets - 2
- Low income residents - 2
- Need people to clean up properties - 2
- No educational opportunities - 2
- Health/education offerings to attract others to community.
- Lack of a good Police Dept.
- The remains of a House after a fire 5 years ago that still stands trashed. There is no large trash pickup, so people leave sofas around the area of our beautiful river!!!!
- Off the beaten path, typical small town that makes it hard to find viable businesses. Nothing unique to attract visitors.
- Absolutely terrible drainage. The town needs a lot of work!!
- The community is not very inviting of "outsiders". Lack of county snow/ice removal in winter ridiculous and provides for hazardous winter driving until you reach a main state highway.

Q21

If you have any comments in general about Carthage, please let us know.

- We love it here.
- Please do Halloween on the 31st rather than the Sat. before.
- Looks like a junk yard on every corner.
- There are a lot of hard working and creative people in this town, but not a lot of opportunity to display that.
- Water bill is high
- Need street repairs
- Sidewalks need fixed.
- I don't think you need to be spending money on a new town hall when there are other things more important
- I have health issues and fluoridated water isn't good for me. I wish I didn't have to filter it to



use it. That's pretty much the only thing I don't like about Carthage. That and the water bill seems high compared to other cities.

- Reconstruct the road curbs. Improve the parks for the kids.
- Great council
- I grew up in this town when it was busy with stores filling most of the town buildings, but now it looks like a ghost town. Saddens me deeply !
- Need to try to bring in small business to the town to bring in visitors, then maybe a retail shop like family dollar or dollar General. We have no real restaurant in town either.
- You are all working very hard and it is appreciated. We are facing the same issues as many other small towns. We need to attract businesses and or make our town a bedroom community for workers from other areas. If we can't attract business we are going to have to make our town attractive for residents to live here. What are our options for developing single family homes or QUALITY rental properties. Perhaps a tax incentive for people to invest in properties and fix them up for rental.
- We need more businesses
- I love Carthage.
- Carthage use to be a great family town now it is drama at the gas station. No place to eat except there and it's too expensive and the police here play favorites and does nothing but say nasty things to women and young girls
- Nice town that's overall well maintained. Things have improved to get community members involved, but still appears a ghost town.
- People need to be more open to change and be willing to support it.
- We are all working to make this town a better place, it would work better if everyone worked together!
- Need a real police force
- We need to make this town a better place
- Providing lower cost utilities would be great. Having less "unemployed" people in town living off assistance would be an improvement. The "low income" apartment complexes in such a small town lead to the overall quality of the town being low.



Carthage Citizen Survey Quality of Life

GENERAL	Excellent	Good	Don't Know	Fair	Poor	
The overall quality of life in Carthage	4	18	0	18	11	51
	8%	35%	0%	35%	22%	
	43%			57%		
	Excellent	Good	Don't Know	Fair	Poor	
Sense of community	3	23	0	17	8	51
	6%	45%	0%	33%	16%	
	51%			49%		
LIVING						
	Excellent	Good	Don't Know	Fair	Poor	
Carthage as a place to live	8	20	1	15	8	52
	15%	38%	2%	29%	15%	
	54%			44%		
	Excellent	Good	Don't Know	Fair	Poor	
Your neighborhood as a place to live	9	23	0	15	4	51
	18%	45%	0%	29%	8%	
	63%			37%		
	Excellent	Good	Don't Know	Fair	Poor	
Neighborliness of residents in Carthage	6	21	2	19	3	51
	12%	41%	4%	37%	6%	
	53%			43%		
	Excellent	Good	Don't Know	Fair	Poor	
Carthage as a place to raise children	8	13	1	20	8	50
	16%	26%	2%	40%	16%	
	42%			56%		
	Excellent	Good	Don't Know	Fair	Poor	
Carthage as a place to visit	5	8	2	15	21	51
	10%	16%	4%	29%	41%	
	25%			71%		
	Excellent	Good	Don't Know	Fair	Poor	
Carthage as a place to retire	6	12	1	21	11	51
	12%	24%	2%	41%	22%	
	35%			63%		
SOCIALIZING						
	Excellent	Good	Don't Know	Fair	Poor	
Town-sponsored special events	4	12	2	21	10	49
	8%	24%	4%	43%	20%	
	33%			63%		
	Excellent	Good	Don't Know	Fair	Poor	
Opportunities to participate in community matters	3	12	5	22	9	51
	6%	24%	10%	43%	18%	
	29%			61%		
	Excellent	Good	Don't Know	Fair	Poor	
Opportunities to volunteer	3	8	7	20	13	51
	6%	16%	14%	39%	25%	
	22%			65%		



Carthage Citizen Survey Quality of Life

	Excellent	Good	Don't Know	Fair	Poor	
Opportunities to participate in social events and activities	1	5	1	27	17	51
	2%	10%	2%	53%	33%	
	12%			86%		
	Excellent	Good	Don't Know	Fair	Poor	
Opportunities to attend cultural/arts/music activities	0	2	3	9	37	51
	0%	4%	6%	18%	73%	
	4%			90%		
	Excellent	Good	Don't Know	Fair	Poor	
Opportunities to participate in religious or spiritual events and activities	2	23	5	18	3	51
	4%	45%	10%	35%	6%	
	49%			41%		
IMAGE/APPEARANCE						
	Excellent	Good	Don't Know	Fair	Poor	
Overall image or reputation of Carthage	2	15	0	20	14	51
	4%	29%	0%	39%	27%	
	33%			67%		
	Excellent	Good	Don't Know	Fair	Poor	
Openness and acceptance of the community toward people of diverse backgrounds	1	11	9	19	11	51
	2%	22%	18%	37%	22%	
	24%			59%		
	Excellent	Good	Don't Know	Fair	Poor	
Cleanliness of Carthage	5	18	0	20	8	51
	10%	35%	0%	39%	16%	
	45%			55%		
	Excellent	Good	Don't Know	Fair	Poor	
Overall appearance of Carthage	3	15	0	25	8	51
	6%	29%	0%	49%	16%	
	35%			65%		
RESIDING						
	Very Likely	Somewhat Likely	Don't Know	Somewhat Unlikely	Very Unlikely	
Recommend living in Carthage to someone who asks	5	25	0	7	14	51
	10%	49%	0%	14%	27%	
	59%			41%		
	Very Likely	Somewhat Likely	Don't Know	Somewhat Unlikely	Very Unlikely	
Remain in Carthage for the next five years	29	12	3	5	2	51
	57%	24%	6%	10%	4%	
	80%			14%		
SAFETY						
	Very Safe	Somewhat Safe	Neither Safe Nor Unsafe	Somewhat Unsafe	Very Unsafe	
In your neighborhood during the day	38	8	1	4	0	51
	75%	16%	2%	8%	0%	
	90%			8%		



Carthage Citizen Survey Quality of Life

	Very Safe	Somewhat Safe	Neither Safe Nor Unsafe	Somewhat Unsafe	Very Unsafe	
In Carthage's downtown/commercial area during the day	36	10	1	4	0	51
	71%	20%	2%	8%	0%	
	90%			8%		
	Very Safe	Somewhat Safe	Neither Safe Nor Unsafe	Somewhat Unsafe	Very Unsafe	
In your neighborhood at night	24	15	1	6	5	51
	47%	29%	2%	12%	10%	
	76%			22%		
	Very Safe	Somewhat Safe	Neither Safe Nor Unsafe	Somewhat Unsafe	Very Unsafe	
In Carthage's downtown/commercial area at night	22	17	1	7	4	51
	43%	33%	2%	14%	8%	
	76%			22%		
	Very Safe	Somewhat Safe	Neither Safe Nor Unsafe	Somewhat Unsafe	Very Unsafe	
Overall feeling of safety in Carthage	9	26	1	13	3	52
	17%	50%	2%	25%	6%	
	67%			31%		



Carthage Citizen Survey Community Services/Facilities

COMMUNITY SERVICES						
	Excellent	Good	Don't Know	Fair	Poor	Total
Police services	3	17	2	13	15	50
	6%	34%	4%	26%	30%	
	40%			56%		
Sheriff services	6	18	3	15	8	50
	12%	36%	6%	30%	16%	
	48%			46%		
Fire services	14	16	2	13	5	50
	28%	32%	4%	26%	10%	
	60%			36%		
Ambulance or emergency medical services	9	15	6	13	7	50
	18%	30%	12%	26%	14%	
	48%			40%		
Sewer services	2	20	3	22	3	50
	4%	40%	6%	44%	6%	
	44%			50%		
Drinking water	3	17	1	20	9	50
	6%	34%	2%	40%	18%	
	40%			58%		
Storm drainage	2	15	5	16	12	50
	4%	30%	10%	32%	24%	
	34%			56%		
Animal control	0	5	7	25	13	50
	0%	10%	14%	50%	26%	
	10%			76%		
Code enforcement (weeds, abandoned buildings, etc.)	0	0	8	16	26	50
	0%	0%	16%	32%	52%	
	0%			84%		
Snow removal	7	17	4	11	11	50
	14%	34%	8%	22%	22%	
	48%			44%		
Garbage collection	18	22	0	10	0	50
	36%	44%	0%	20%	0%	
	80%			20%		
Yard waste pick-up	1	13	9	13	14	50
	2%	26%	18%	26%	28%	
	28%			54%		



Carthage Citizen Survey Community Services/Facilities

	Excellent	Good	Don't Know	Fair	Poor	
Recycling	2	6	11	10	20	49
	4%	12%	22%	20%	41%	
	16%			61%		
	Excellent	Good	Don't Know	Fair	Poor	
Public library services	4	25	4	14	3	50
	8%	50%	8%	28%	6%	
	58%			34%		
	Excellent	Good	Don't Know	Fair	Poor	
Community centers or facilities	4	15	4	19	8	50
	8%	30%	8%	38%	16%	
	38%			54%		
	Excellent	Good	Don't Know	Fair	Poor	
Street lighting	2	16	1	20	11	50
	4%	32%	2%	40%	22%	
	36%			62%		
	Excellent	Good	Don't Know	Fair	Poor	
Crime prevention	1	8	6	23	12	50
	2%	16%	12%	46%	24%	
	18%			70%		
	Excellent	Good	Don't Know	Fair	Poor	
Fire prevention and education	0	8	7	23	11	49
	0%	16%	14%	47%	22%	
	16%			69%		
	Excellent	Good	Don't Know	Fair	Poor	
Overall customer service by Carthage employees (utility clerks, etc.)	9	20	3	8	10	50
	18%	40%	6%	16%	20%	
	58%			36%		
HEALTH SERVICES						
	Excellent	Good	Don't Know	Fair	Poor	
Health services	0	0	4	4	41	49
	0%	0%	8%	8%	84%	
	0%			92%		
	Excellent	Good	Don't Know	Fair	Poor	
Availability of affordable quality health care	1	0	4	4	42	51
	2%	0%	8%	8%	82%	
	2%			90%		
	Excellent	Good	Don't Know	Fair	Poor	
Availability of preventive health services	1	1	3	2	44	51
	2%	2%	6%	4%	86%	
	4%			90%		
	Excellent	Good	Don't Know	Fair	Poor	
Availability of affordable quality mental health care	1	0	5	3	42	51
	2%	0%	10%	6%	82%	
	2%			88%		
	Excellent	Good	Don't Know	Fair	Poor	
Health services	0	0	4	4	41	49
	0%	0%	8%	8%	84%	
	0%			92%		



Carthage Citizen Survey Community Services/Facilities

	Excellent	Good	Don't Know	Fair	Poor	
Health and wellness opportunities in Carthage	1	1	0	8	41	51
	2%	2%	0%	16%	80%	
	4%			96%		
EDUCATION SERVICES						
	Excellent	Good	Don't Know	Fair	Poor	
Overall opportunities for education and enrichment	2	2	0	8	39	51
	4%	4%	0%	16%	76%	
	8%			92%		
	Excellent	Good	Don't Know	Fair	Poor	
Availability of affordable quality child care/preschool	2	3	9	9	28	51
	4%	6%	18%	18%	55%	
	10%			73%		
	Excellent	Good	Don't Know	Fair	Poor	
Availability of affordable quality K-12 school	1	5	6	10	29	51
	2%	10%	12%	20%	57%	
	12%			76%		
	Excellent	Good	Don't Know	Fair	Poor	
Availability of affordable quality Adult Ed services	1	1	6	4	39	51
	2%	2%	12%	8%	76%	
	4%			84%		
FOOD SERVICES						
	Excellent	Good	Don't Know	Fair	Poor	
Availability of affordable quality food	3	5	0	12	31	51
	6%	10%	0%	24%	61%	
	16%			84%		



Carthage Citizen Survey Economic Development

	Excellent	Good	Don't Know	Fair	Poor	
Economic development	0	1	8	12	29	50
	0%	2%	16%	24%	58%	
	2%			82%		
	Excellent	Good	Don't Know	Fair	Poor	
Overall economic health of Carthage	1	1	2	14	33	51
	2%	2%	4%	27%	65%	
	4%			92%		
	Excellent	Good	Don't Know	Fair	Poor	
Vibrant downtown/commercial area	0	1	2	10	38	51
	0%	2%	4%	20%	75%	
	2%			94%		
	Excellent	Good	Don't Know	Fair	Poor	
Overall quality of business and service establishments in	3	5	0	24	19	51
	6%	10%	0%	47%	37%	
	16%			84%		
	Excellent	Good	Don't Know	Fair	Poor	
Shopping opportunities	1	0	1	4	45	51
	2%	0%	2%	8%	88%	
	2%			96%		
	Excellent	Good	Don't Know	Fair	Poor	
Carthage as a place to work	2	1	5	2	41	51
	4%	2%	10%	4%	80%	
	6%			84%		
	Excellent	Good	Don't Know	Fair	Poor	
Employment opportunities	0	0	2	2	47	51
	0%	0%	4%	4%	92%	
	0%			96%		
	Excellent	Good	Don't Know	Fair	Poor	
Cost of living in Carthage	3	7	0	21	18	49
	6%	14%	0%	43%	37%	
	20%			80%		



Carthage Citizen Survey Land Use

	Excellent	Good	Don't Know	Fair	Poor	
Overall "built environment" of Carthage (including overall design, buildings, parks, etc.)	1	15	0	20	15	51
	2%	29%	0%	39%	29%	
	31%			69%		
	Excellent	Good	Don't Know	Fair	Poor	
Land use, planning and zoning	0	6	15	19	10	50
	0%	12%	30%	38%	20%	
	12%			58%		
	Excellent	Good	Don't Know	Fair	Poor	
Variety of housing options	1	8	4	22	16	51
	2%	16%	8%	43%	31%	
	18%			75%		
	Excellent	Good	Don't Know	Fair	Poor	
Availability of affordable quality housing	3	7	5	24	12	51
	6%	14%	10%	47%	24%	
	20%			71%		

Carthage Citizen Survey Natural Environment/Recreation

	Excellent	Good	Don't Know	Fair	Poor	Responses
Air quality	13	25	4	8	1	51
	25%	49%	8%	16%	2%	
	75%			18%		
	Excellent	Good	Don't Know	Fair	Poor	
Fitness opportunities (including exercise classes and paths or trails, etc.)	0	0	4	6	41	51
	0%	0%	8%	12%	80%	
	0%			92%		
	Excellent	Good	Don't Know	Fair	Poor	
Recreational opportunities	1	0	1	11	38	51
	2%	0%	2%	22%	75%	
	2%			96%		
	Excellent	Good	Don't Know	Fair	Poor	
Town parks	1	16	1	18	14	50
	2%	32%	2%	36%	28%	
	34%			64%		
	Excellent	Good	Don't Know	Fair	Poor	Responses
Quality of overall natural environment in Carthage	7	23	2	16	4	52
	13%	44%	4%	31%	8%	
	58%			38%		
	Excellent	Good	Don't Know	Fair	Poor	Responses
Public places where people want to spend time	1	9	1	20	20	51
	2%	18%	2%	39%	39%	
	20%			78%		



Carthage Citizen Survey Transportation

	Excellent	Good	Don't Know	Fair	Poor	Responses
Traffic flow on major streets	20	23	0	5	2	50
	40%	46%	0%	10%	4%	
	86%			14%		
Ease of public parking	16	19	0	10	6	51
	31%	37%	0%	20%	12%	
	69%			31%		
Ease of travel by car in Carthage	26	20	0	4	1	51
	51%	39%	0%	8%	2%	
	90%			10%		
Ease of travel by bicycle in Carthage	16	18	4	5	8	51
	31%	35%	8%	10%	16%	
	67%			25%		
Ease of walking in Carthage	15	16	0	7	13	51
	29%	31%	0%	14%	25%	
	61%			39%		
Availability of paths and walking trails	1	6	4	9	31	51
	2%	12%	8%	18%	61%	
	14%			78%		
Street repair	0	14	1	16	19	50
	0%	28%	2%	32%	38%	
	28%			70%		
Street cleaning	4	15	0	17	14	50
	8%	30%	0%	34%	28%	
	38%			62%		
Sidewalk maintenance	0	2	1	15	32	50
	0%	4%	2%	30%	64%	
	4%			94%		
Overall ease of getting to the places you usually have to visit	10	29	0	6	6	51
	20%	57%	0%	12%	12%	
	76%			24%		



Carthage Citizen Survey Government

PERFORMANCE	Excellent	Good	Don't Know	Fair	Poor	
The Town of Carthage	1	22	1	16	9	49
	2%	45%	2%	33%	18%	
	47%			51%		
The State of Indiana	Excellent	Good	Don't Know	Fair	Poor	
	1	19	4	17	8	49
	2%	39%	8%	35%	16%	
	41%			51%		
The Federal Government	Excellent	Good	Don't Know	Fair	Poor	
	0	16	5	14	14	49
	0%	33%	10%	29%	29%	
	33%			57%		
CARTHAGE						
The value of services for the taxes paid to Carthage	Excellent	Good	Don't Know	Fair	Poor	
	0	10	3	23	13	49
	0%	20%	6%	47%	27%	
	20%			73%		
The overall direction that Carthage is taking	Excellent	Good	Don't Know	Fair	Poor	
	2	8	1	14	23	48
	4%	17%	2%	29%	48%	
	21%			77%		
The job Carthage government does at welcoming citizen involvement	Excellent	Good	Don't Know	Fair	Poor	
	2	4	8	19	16	49
	4%	8%	16%	39%	33%	
	12%			71%		
Overall confidence in Carthage government	Excellent	Good	Don't Know	Fair	Poor	
	1	6	7	18	17	49
	2%	12%	14%	37%	35%	
	14%			71%		
Generally acting in the best interest of the community	Excellent	Good	Don't Know	Fair	Poor	
	2	9	5	18	15	49
	4%	18%	10%	37%	31%	
	22%			67%		
Treating all residents fairly	Excellent	Good	Don't Know	Fair	Poor	
	4	11	6	15	13	49
	8%	22%	12%	31%	27%	
	31%			57%		





APPENDIX C

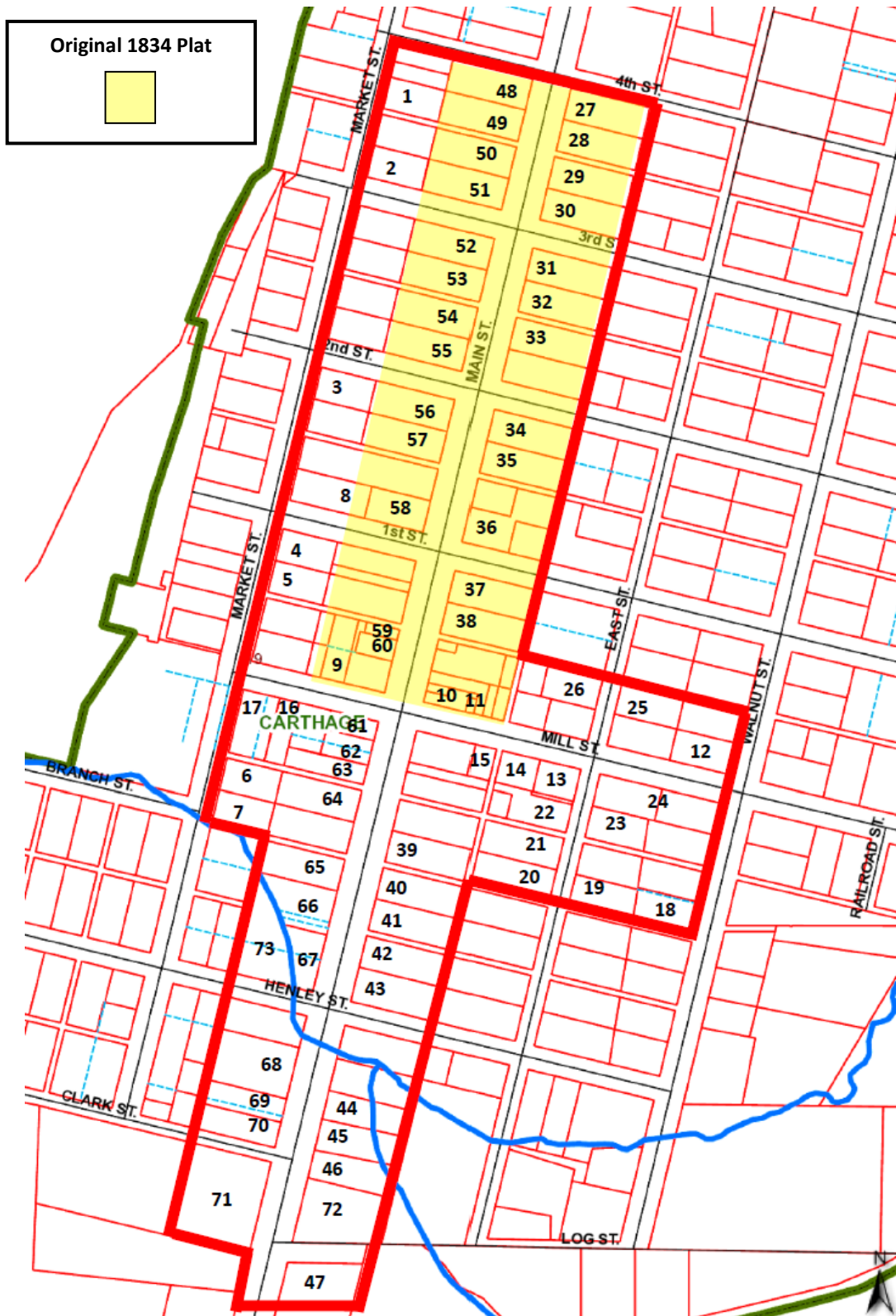
HISTORIC SITES

- 2015 Historic Designation Study**
- Rush County Interim Report**





2015 Historic Designation Study





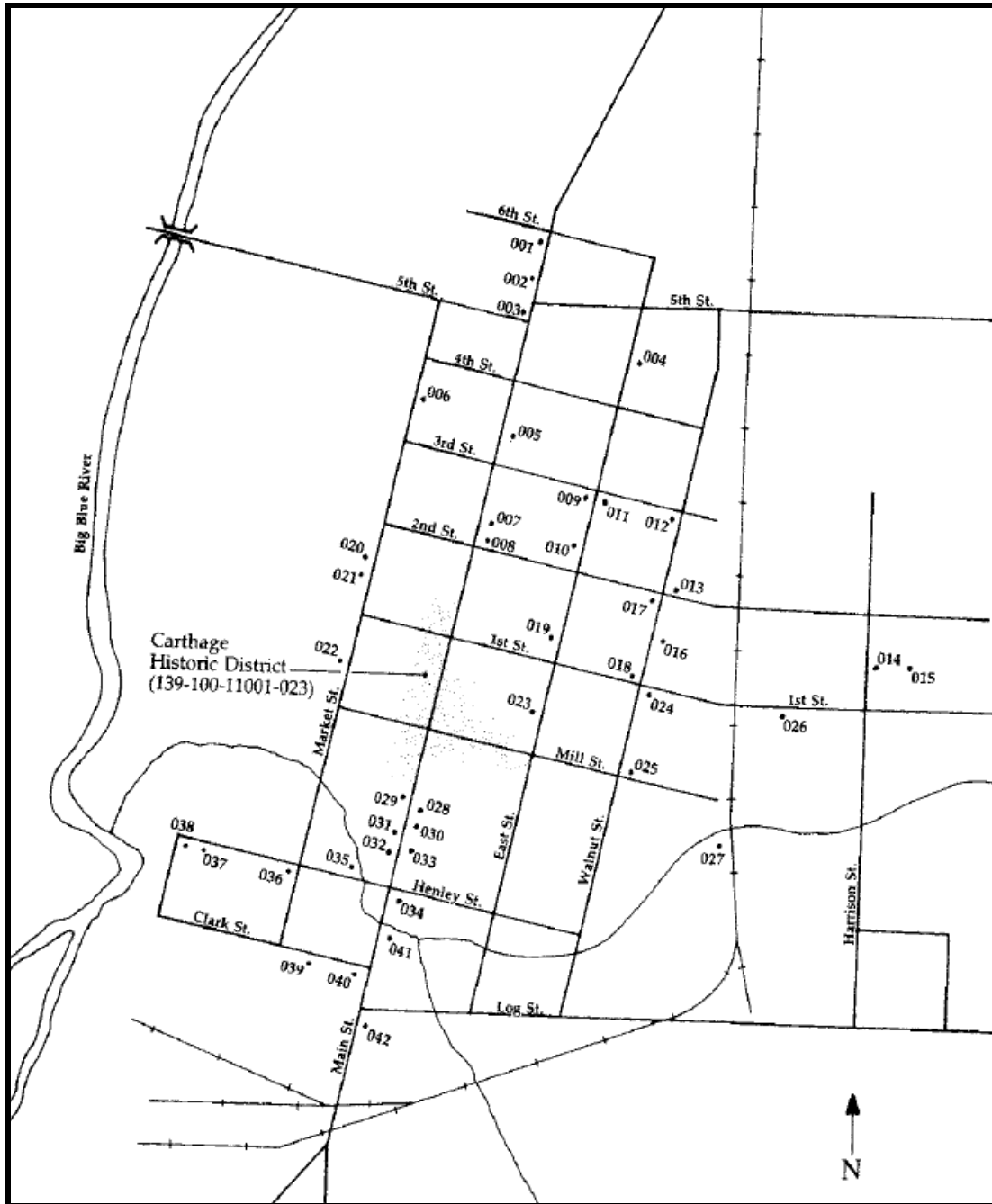
Location	No.	Date Built	Rating	Description	Architectural Style
N Market St (East side)					
305 N Market St	1	c. 1875	N	Market St Church of Christ/Residential	Gable-front
301 N Market St	2	c. 1900	C	Residential	Gable-front
107 N Market St	3	c. 1910	C	Residential	Bungalow
7 N Market St	4	c. 1893	C	Residential	Queen Anne
5 N Market St	5	c. 1885	C	Residential	Gable-front
S Market St (East side)					
5 S Market St	6	c. 1900	C	Residential	Bungalow
7 S Market St	7	c. 1900	C	Residential	Bungalow
W 1st St (North side)					
2 W 1st St	8	c. 1910	C	Commercial Building	20th Century Functional
		c. 1956		Commercial Building	20th Century Functional
W Mill St (North side)					
2 W Mill St	9	c. 1958	C	Commercial Building	20th Century Functional
E Mill St (North side)					
4 E Mill St	10	c.1910	C	Commercial Building	20th Century Functional
6 E Mill St	11	c.1895	C	Commercial Building	19th Century Functional/Italianate
106 E Mill St	12	c. 1894	C	Residential	Queen Anne
E Mill St (South side)					
11 E Mill St	13	c.1935	C	Gas Station	20th Century Functional
9 E Mill St	14	c.1935	N	I.O.O.F. Hall	20th Century Functional
5 E Mill St	15	c.1895	C	Commercial Building	19th Century Functional
W Mill St (South side)					
3 W Mill St	16	c. 1879	C	Residential	Gable-front
9 W Mill St	17	c. 1900	C	Residential	Gable-front
S Walnut St					
8 S Walnut St	18	c. 1906	C	Residential	Craftsman
S East St					
9 S East St	19	c. 1877	C	Residential	Gable-front
8 S East St	20	c. 1870	C	Residential	Italianate
6 S East St	21	c. 1950	C	Residential	Mid Century Bungalow
4 S East St	22	c. 1870	C	Residential	Gable-front
5 S East St	23	c. 1934	C	Residential	Cape Cod Revival
3 S East St	24	c. 1944	C	Commercial Building	20th Century Functional
N East St					
3 N East St	25	c. 1875	C	Residential	Gable-front
4 N East St	26	c. 1865	C	Residential	Double-pile
N Main St (East side)					
307 N Main St	27	c. 1894	C	Residential	Gable-front
305 N Main St	28	c. 1860	N	Residential	I-house
303 N Main St	29	c. 1918	C	Residential	Gable-front
301 N Main St	30	c. 1920	C	Residential	Bungalow
207 N Main St	31	c. 1869	C	Residential	Italianate
205 N Main St	32	c. 1850	C	Residential	Queen Anne
203 N Main St	33	c. 1905	C	Residential	Gabled-ell
109 N Main St	34	c. 1874	C	Residential	Italianate
105 N Main St	35	c. 1870	C	Residential	I-house
101 N Main St	36	c. 1890	C	Residential	Queen Anne
13 N Main St	37	c. 1900	C	Residential	Queen Anne
11 N Main St	38	c. 1931	C	Residential	4-Square



Location	No.	Date Built	Rating	Description	Architectural Style
S Main St (East side)					
11 S Main St	39	c. 1886	C	Residential	Queen Anne
13 S Main St	40	c. 1911	C	Residential	Craftsman
15 S Main St	41	c. 1900	C	Residential	Gable-front
17 S Main St	42	c. 1870	C	Residential	I-house
19 S Main St	43	c. 1900	C	Residential	Gable-front
105 S Main St	44	c. 1920	C	Residential	Bungalow
107 S Main St	45	c. 1900	C	Residential	Bungalow
109 S Main St	46	c. 1900	C	Residential	Gable-front
201 S Main St	47	c. 1880	O	Religion	Italianate
N Main St (West side)					
308 N Main St	48	c. 1889	C	Residential	Gable-front
306 N Main St	49	c. 1880	C	Residential	Gable-front
304 N Main St	50	c. 1890	C	Residential	Gabled-ell
302 N Main St	51	c. 1930	C	Residential	Craftsman
208 N Main St	52	c. 1925	C	Residential	Bungalow
206 N Main St	53	c. 1845	O	Residential	Federal
204 N Main St	54	c. 1895	O	Residential	Queen Anne
202 N Main St	55	c. 1933	C	Residential	Bungalow
108 N Main St	56	c. 1919	C	Residential	Bungalow
106 N Main St	57	c. 1882	C	Residential	Italianate
102 N Main St	58	c.1901	O	Library	Neo-Classical
10 N Main St	59	c.1935	C	Restaurant	20th Century Functional
8 N Main St	60	c.1895	C	House	Gable-front
S Main St (West side)					
4 S Main St	61	c.1915	C	Commercial Building	Neo-Classical
6 S Main St	62	c.1910	C	Commercial Building	20th Century Functional
12 S Main St	63	c.1924	C	Bank	Neo-Classical
14 S Main St	64	c. 1925	C	Residential	Bungalow
18 S Main St	65	c. 1880	C	Residential	Gothic Revival
20 S Main St	66	c. 1880	C	Residential	Gable-front
22 S Main St	67	c. 1900	C	Residential	Gable-front
104 S Main St	68	c. 1900	C	Residential	Neo-Classical
106 S Main St	69	c. 1901	C	Residential	Queen Anne
108 S Main St	70	c. 1900	C	Residential	Queen Anne
202 S Main St	71	c. 1881	O	Religion	Gothic Revival
E Log St					
3 E Log St	72	c. 1942	C	Residential	Bungalow
W Henley St					
4 W Henley St	73	c. 1910	C	Residential	Queen Anne



Rush County Interim Report (Scattered Sites)





No.	Location	Date Built	Rating	Description	Architectural Style
1	512 N Main St	c. 1895	C	Residential	Gable-ell/Italianate
2	506 N Main St	c. 1895	C	Residential	T-Plan
3	504 N Main St	c. 1890	C	Residential	T-Plan
4	East St	c. 1908	N	Booker T Washington School	T-Plan/Mission Revival
5	303 N Main St	c. 1920	C	Sam McCarty House	Bungalow
6	N Market St	c. 1875	O	Market St Church of Christ	Gabled front
7	205 N Main St	c. 1850/1890	O	Hill House	I-House/Queen Anne
8	203 N Main St	c. 1914	C	Residential	Gabled-ell
9	204 N Main St	c. 1865	C	Residential	I-House
10	202 N East St	c.1870	C	Residential	Hall & Parlor
11	N East St	c.1897	O	Fletcher Methodist Episcopal Church	Romanesque Revival
12	208 N Walnut St	c. 1900	C	Residential	T-Plan
13	201 E 2nd St	c.1908	C	Tweedy Lumber Co.	Gable-front
14	N Harrison St	c.1894	N	William Bundy School	Gothic Revival
15	First St	c.1927	N	Carthage School Annex	20th Century Functional
16	105 N Walnut St	c. 1895	C	Residential	T-Plan
17	110 N Walnut St	c. 1908	C	Tweedy House	T-Plan
18	102 N Walnut St	c. 1904	C	Honeycut House	Gabled-ell
19	104 N East St	c. 1900	C	Residential	Gabled-ell
20	104 N Market St	c. 1865	N	Residential	Gable-front
21	102 N Market St	c. 1870	C	Residential	I-House
22	5 N Market St	c. 1885	C	Residential	Gabled-Front
23	4 N East St	c. 1865	N	Residential	Double-pile
24	9 N Walnut St	c. 1890	C	Residential	Hall & Parlor
25	1 N Walnut St	c. 1895	N	Residential	Queen Anne
26	307 W First St	c. 1920	N	W.O. Moore House	Bungalow
27	7 S Walnut St	c. 1865	N	John D Hill House	Greek Revival
28	11 S Main St	c. 1886	O	Charles Newlin House	Queen Anne
29	14 S Main St	c. 1925	C	Residential	Bungalow
30	13 S Main St	c. 1911	O	Charles Winslow House	Craftsman
31	20 S Main St	c. 1880	C	Residential	Gable-front
32	22 S Main St	c. 1880	C	Residential	Gable-front
33	17 S Main St	c. 1870	C	Residential	I-House
34	101 S Main St	c. 1915	C	Residential	Bungalow
35	4 W Henley St	c. 1910	C	Residential	I-house
36	101 N Main St	c. 1890	C	Residential	Queen Anne
37	107 W Henley St	c. 1860	C	Residential	Gabled-front/Greek Revival



No.	Location	Date Built	Rating	Description	Architectural Style
38	111 W Henley St	c. 1865	C	Residential	Gabled-front
39	Clark St	c. 1860	N	Friends Cemetery	Religion
40	S Main St	c. 1881	O	Carthage Friends Meeting House	Gabled-front/Gothic Revival
41	105 S Main St	c. 1920	C	Residential	Bungalow
42	201 S Main St	c. 1870	O	Friends Academy	Italianate



APPENDIX D

2015 ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT & DOWNTOWN REVITALIZATION ACTION PLAN

- Action Plan





Goal #1: Organization

Provide an organizational network as a source for implementing the plan and providing key resources for funding opportunities.

Objectives:

- ✚ Establish consensus and cooperation by building partnerships among the various individuals, organizations and groups that have a stake in the downtown.
- ✚ Provide an organizational network as a source for implementing the plan and providing key resources for funding opportunities.

Actions:

- ❖ Establish Main Street Group (501c) to support downtown investment programs and initiatives.
- ❖ Develop and build partnerships (both private and public) for networking and strengthening of the community.
- ❖ Encourage the establishment of local community organizations to give voice to area business owners, residents, interest groups, and not-for-profits.
- ❖ Improve public notification process of events and projects.



Goal #2: Promotion

Develop promotion activities such as new branding for downtown and activity programming for a diverse range of events.

Objectives:

- ✚ Create a positive image that will foster community pride and improve consumer and investor confidence – includes branding, promotions, special events, and marketing campaigns that help “sell” the image.
- ✚ Develop promotional activities and activity programming for a diverse range of events that will enhance the downtown image and give function, purpose and identity to the downtown.

Actions:

- ❖ Create public spaces for live entertainment, community concerts, festivals, or other programming.
- ❖ Establish an event/space (farmer’s market, café, shop, etc.) that showcases local agriculture and crafts, and promotes agricultural and artisan tourism.
- ❖ Allow local artists the opportunity to present public art in the downtown.
- ❖ Create branding and logo specific for the downtown area.
- ❖ Heighten public awareness of the historic significance of the town.
- ❖ Create a marketing development strategy for downtown that:
 - Markets nearby Carthage residents (Knightstown, Arlington, Rushville, etc.) to draw them into town’s attractions and amenities.
 - Leverages and markets existing assets for economic development.
 - Encourages additional businesses that provide for the needs for town residents.



Goal #3: Economic Development

Promote economic development to create an identity that preserves the small town charm and unique history while fostering new growth opportunities.

Objectives:

- ✚ Retain and expand successful businesses to provide a balanced mix, sharpening the competitiveness, while encouraging other development initiatives that will draw people to downtown Carthage.
- ✚ Promote economic development to create an identity that preserves the small town charm and unique history, while fostering new growth opportunities.

Actions:

- ❖ Create a marketing brochure promoting economic development within the downtown that utilizes the downtown branding strategy and logo.
- ❖ Encourage reuse/renovation/replacement of unused and/or sub-standard buildings within the downtown area.
- ❖ Encourage infill of empty lots for commercial uses or green space/public art.
- ❖ Support economic assistance programs for business growth.
- ❖ Review financial tools and incentive structure for downtown development, including such tools as grants, and tax programs.
- ❖ Solicit private sector partnerships.
- ❖ Review permit application process in order to expedite investment in downtown.
- ❖ Create potential incubator for small, locally-owned businesses that will continue to reinforce Carthage's small town atmosphere.
- ❖ Improve downtown interconnectivity with the regional and national transportation network, including trails and roadways.



Goal #4: Downtown Design

Provide infrastructure upgrades to the downtown involving businesses, residences and public spaces that are connected, functional and attractive for all users.

Objectives:

- ✚ Create an appealing atmosphere through new and existing visual physical elements to convey a positive message about the downtown and what it has to offer for both residents and visitors.
- ✚ Provide infrastructure upgrades making the downtown more connected, functional, affordable, and attractive for all users.

Actions:

- ❖ Create downtown streetscape design to enhance and maintain community identity.
- ❖ Encourage access for all users and ages, and allow for connectivity via roads, sidewalks, trails and public parking areas within the downtown to commercial and residential areas.
- ❖ Provide adequate pedestrian amenities including benches, signage, vegetation, trash receptacles and bicycle racks.
- ❖ Provide pedestrian access and connectivity through a safe and well maintained sidewalk network.
- ❖ Orient all users, including both pedestrians and vehicles, to key destinations and parking with signage, and other visual gateways / markers.
- ❖ Create a public space that celebrates Carthage's history, natural resources, and culture.



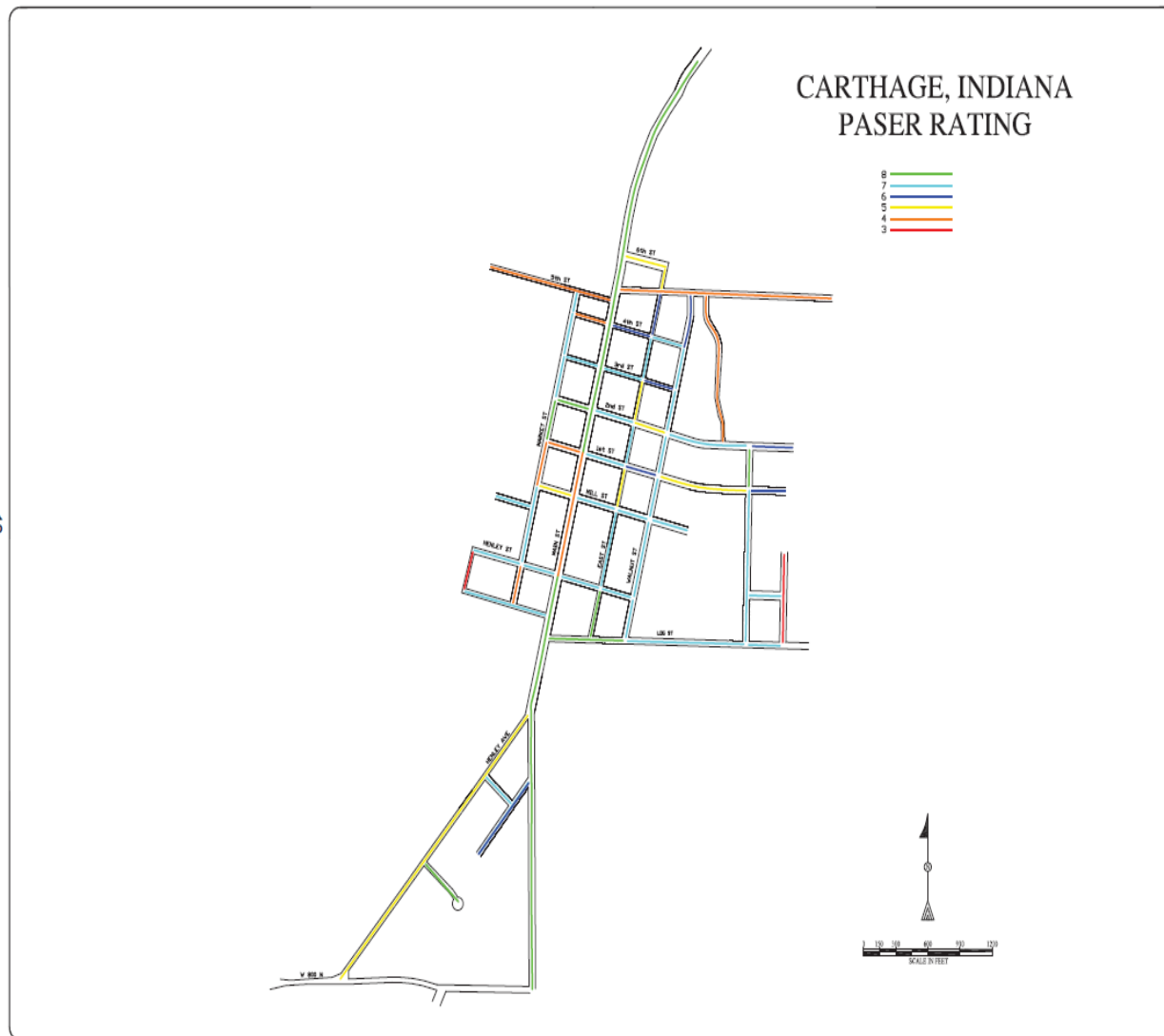
APPENDIX E

PAVEMENT ASSET PLAN

- Ratings Map

- 5-Year Maintenance Plan





KIESER CONSULTING GROUP LLC
Planning • Engineering • Survey • Map • Utility
11320 N. State Road • Indianapolis, IN 46228 • (317) 541-0000 • Fax: (317) 541-0001

**CARTHAGE PAVEMENT ASSET
MANAGEMENT PLAN**
TOWN OF CARTHAGE

FOR INFO: 5-25-2016
DATE: 5-25-2016
BY: [Signature]
PROJECT NO: 2016-037
SHEET NO: 1

Predicted PASER Ratings				
2017 Rating	2018 Rating with Treatments	Treatment Terms	2017 Rating	2018 Rating without Treatments
10	9	Preventative Maintenance	10	9
9	9		9	9
8	9		8	7
7	9	Heavy Maintenance/Light Rehab	7	6
6	8		6	5
5	9	Heavy Rehab	5	4
4	9		4	3
3	9		3	2
2	10	Reconstruction	2	1
1	10		1	1



Carthage Five-Year Maintenance Plan

Year	Roadway		From		To		Rating	Treatment Used	\$	Estimated Cost per Lane Mile	Estimated Lane Miles	\$	Estimated Cost	Phased
	Name	Suffix	Name	Suffix	Name	Suffix								
2017	5th	St	Main	St	To the west		4	Mill and Overlay	\$	\$95,000.00	0.166	\$	\$15,770.00	
2017	1st	St	Market	St	Main	St	4	Mill and Overlay	\$	\$95,000.00	0.122	\$	\$11,590.00	
2017	Market	St	1st	St	Mill	St	4	Mill and Overlay	\$	\$95,000.00	0.128	\$	\$12,160.00	
2017	Main	St	Town Limits		W 800 N		4	Mill and Overlay	\$	\$95,000.00	0.36	\$	\$34,200.00	Phase (Henley to First)
2018	5th	St	Main	St	Town Limits		4	Mill and Overlay	\$	\$95,000.00	0.83	\$	\$78,850.00	
2019	Randolph	St	Henley	St	Clark	St	3	Mill and Overlay	\$	\$95,000.00	0.064	\$	\$6,080.00	
2019	4th	St	Market	St	Main	St	4	Mill and Overlay	\$	\$95,000.00	0.059	\$	\$5,605.00	
2019	Winters	Way	5th	St	2nd	St	4	Mill and Overlay	\$	\$95,000.00	0.504	\$	\$47,880.00	
2020	1st	St	Harrison	St	Walnut	St	5	Mill and Overlay	\$	\$95,000.00	0.314	\$	\$29,830.00	
2020	2nd	St	East	St	Walnut	St	5	Mill and Overlay	\$	\$95,000.00	0.112	\$	\$10,640.00	
2021	Mill	St	Market	St	Main	St	5	Mill and Overlay	\$	\$95,000.00	0.118	\$	\$11,210.00	
2021	East	St	2nd	St	3rd	St	5	Mill and Overlay	\$	\$95,000.00	0.128	\$	\$12,160.00	
2021	East	St	1st	St	Mill	St	5	Mill and Overlay	\$	\$95,000.00	0.128	\$	\$12,160.00	



APPENDIX F

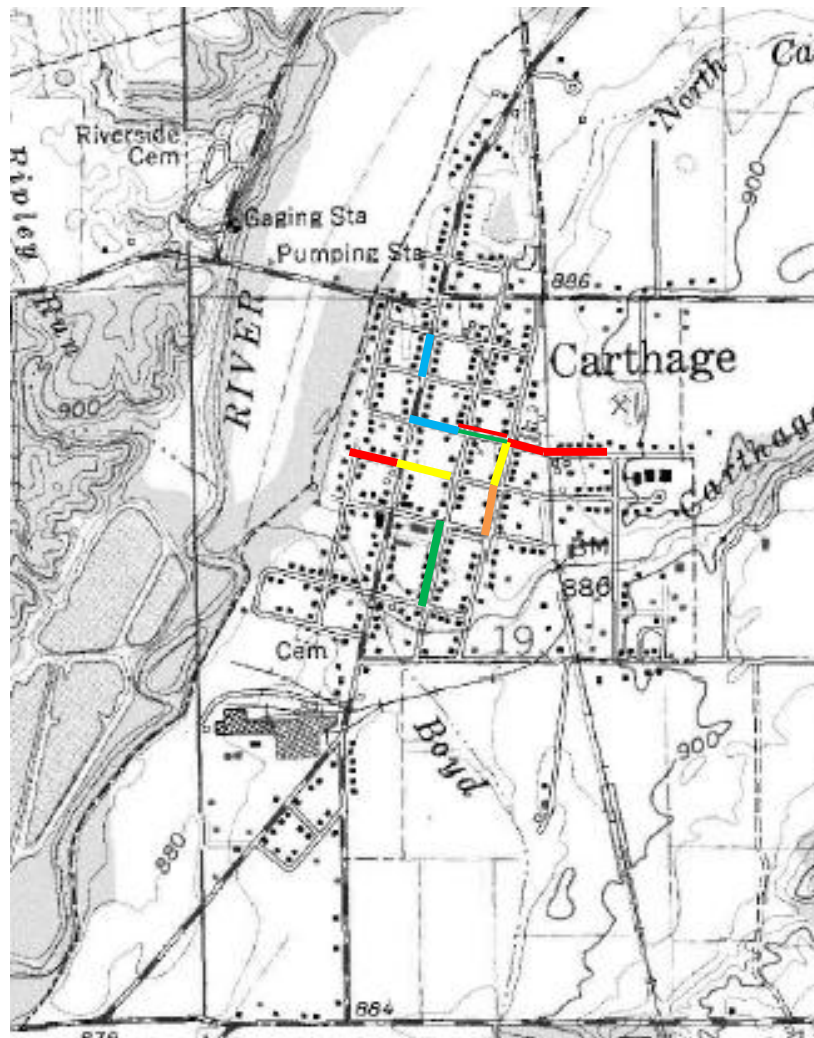
SIDEWALK MANAGEMENT PLAN





Projected 5-Year Sidewalk Rehabilitation Program projects

- Year 1 =
- Year 2 =
- Year 3 =
- Year 4 =
- Year 5 =



Summary of Sidewalk Management Analysis

Ranking	Length (Feet)	Percent
40 – 50 <i>Excellent</i>	4,143	16.79%
30 – 40 <i>Good</i>	17,800	72.14%
20 – 30 <i>Fair</i>	2,732	11.07%
0 – 20 <i>Poor</i>	0	0%
Total	24,675	100%

