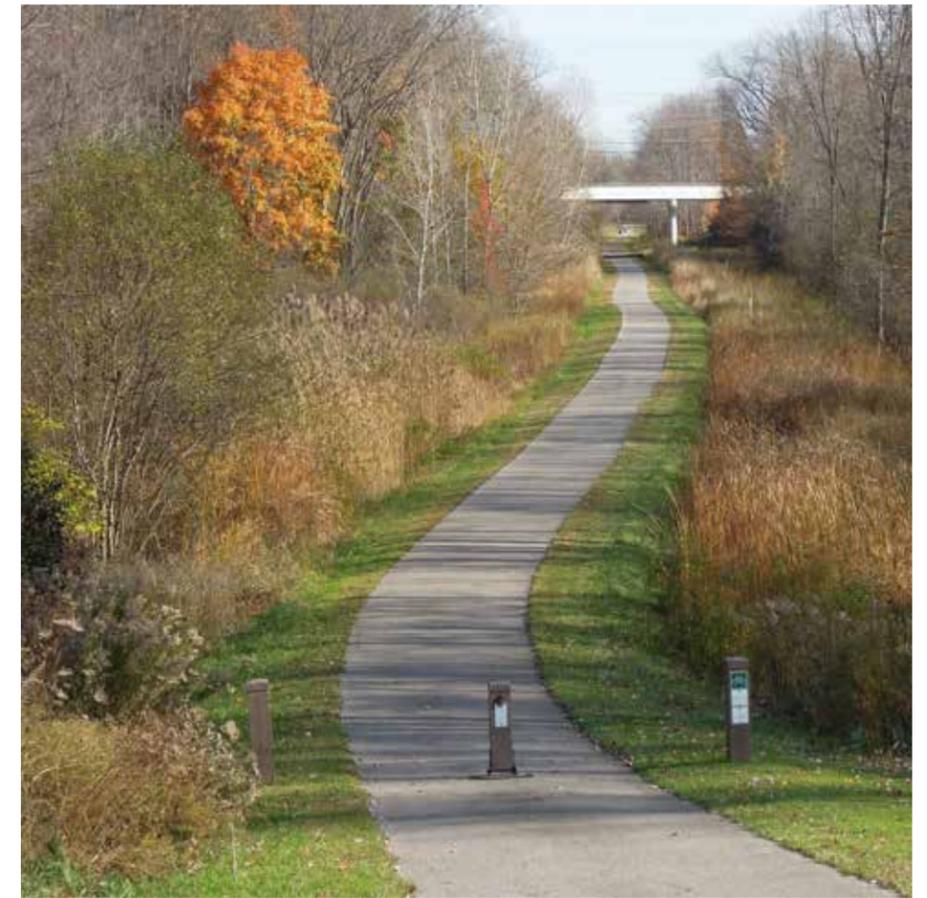




A VISION FOR HUDSON

The Vision Statement paints a picture of what Hudson will look like in the future. It is written as a retrospective in the year 2025, chronicling the accomplishments and achievements that have occurred in the City since approval of the Comprehensive Plan and Downtown Phase II Plan in 2015. The statement incorporates the most central ideas and themes discussed throughout the community outreach process.





IN 2025...

In the year of 2025, Hudson remains a special place and one of Ohio's historic jewels. Peaceful tree-lined neighborhoods, scenic expanses and natural features, world-class educational opportunities, and a vibrant Downtown continue to attract and retain residents, businesses, and visitors from across the country. New residential and commercial development has been incremental and carefully managed, and the function and appearance of all new development is in keeping with the "small town" character and charm that residents cherish so deeply.

Downtown Phase II is a huge success and has contributed greatly to Downtown's continued exciting atmosphere – the office space component is fully occupied and higher-density residential units have helped seniors and young professionals remain in the community while adding activity to the Downtown. The construction of new centralized municipal facilities has boosted civic pride and increased operational efficiency. New gateway signage welcomes visitors to Hudson and communicates a positive first impression.

Neighborhoods continue to be attractive, well-designed, and integrated with natural features. New sidewalks, trails, and pathways link subdivisions with parks, schools, and Downtown Hudson. In warmer months, kids safely bike to ball fields at Barlow Farm Park or Hudson High School, families walk to grab lunch, and seniors walk and jog on sidewalks and trails that connect to an extensive regional trail network. The Comprehensive Plan's emphasis on diversifying the housing stock has strengthened the community as well as the ease and desirability of living in Hudson. While single family detached homes remain the most common housing type, a mixture of high-quality duplexes, town homes, apartments, and condominiums have allowed seniors to age in place and young families and professionals to move into the community.

Visitors are surprised to learn that 30 years before, Hudson was both a Village and a Township, as most suggestions in terms of roads, sidewalks, and utilities have been erased through improvements. Hudson's residents appreciate the wide selection of choice in housing areas, from rural large lots to planned neighborhoods, and more dense developments closer to the center of town. All are valued and preserved through code enforcement.

Downtown Hudson is the heart of the community, thriving with a mixture of retail, civic, office, and residential uses. It offers the most quaint and high-quality shopping and dining experience in Summit County, as well as providing centrally-located office space in a walkable environment. New streetscape enhancements including trees, benches, and signage have improved the pedestrian atmosphere, increased the appeal of Main Street's older commercial stock, and better integrated Main Street with First and Main and Downtown Phase II.

The "Building 7" site, which was repurposed as a temporary public park and activated with public art, has been redeveloped into a new mixed-use structure, adding to the Downtown fabric. Monthly walking tours throughout the Downtown and town core highlight historic buildings and educate/celebrate the city's history and architecture. Anyone can find something to do Downtown, from a family of five to a senior citizen to an international student attending the Western Reserve Academy.

Downtown Hudson has been bolstered by a public-private partnership that redeveloped the area west of First and Main. New office space has increased the city's tax base and added new foot traffic to the Downtown area. The design of these offices blends in seamlessly with existing development, and an iconic focal point capitalizes on the terminating vista at the intersection of Clinton Street and Morse Road, creating a unique sense of place. Several former industrial properties north of Owen Brown Street and south of the Villas of Hudson have been redeveloped into a new high-density neighborhood. These homes are in high-demand given their walkability to Downtown, and they have attracted a blend of young professionals, young families, empty nesters, and senior citizens. In the face of new development, Downtown Hudson has maintained its quaintness and small-town charm.



Hudson's public and private schools remain one of the top draws to living in Hudson. The Hudson School District is recognized as the best public school district in the State of Ohio, and Hudson High School and Western Reserve Academy continue to produce graduates that attend some of the most prestigious universities and colleges in the world. A variety of well-regarded private elementary schools also contribute to an environment of academic excellence. The Hudson Library and Historical Society remains the intellectual anchor of the community, and has been consistently recognized as a national "five star" library by the Library Journal for more than fifteen years.

Hudson's reputation for business friendliness has improved, but the city has been mindful to balance new commercial and industrial development with preservation of local character. Marketing of the city's competitive incentive packages, excellent quality of life, high speed broadband infrastructure, and access to well-educated workers has drawn in a diversity of new businesses and well-paying jobs to the city. The Hudson Crossing and Georgetown Road office/industrial parks are at capacity, and the eco-industrial Seasons Green Park is well-known for cutting edge green research and advanced energy technology. South Main Street, Darrow Road, and West Streetsboro Street continue to support the day-to-day shopping needs of residents and non-residents alike.

Getting from one part of town to another is now easier than it once was. New intelligent traffic lights were installed at the intersection of Routes 91 and 303, allowing more flexible and efficient movement of traffic during peak periods. Grade separations at Hines Hill Road and Stow Road have eliminated traffic delays as a result of freight trains. Pedestrian activity has increased as a result of new sidewalks, trails, and pathways. Whereas the populated parts of the former township were once disconnected from the town core, pedestrian improvements along Route 303, Boston Mills Road, Middleton Road, Route 91, Aurora Street/Hudson Aurora Road, and Ravenna Street/Road have knit together the community and made Hudson's neighborhoods more connected.

More than 30 years after the 1994 Village-Township merger, visitors find it difficult to identify the old borders that used to be so apparent. As former township roads were upgraded and the Connectivity Plan became a reality, residents of the former township also had access to sidewalks and paths. Utilities were extended. With more areas receiving city water service, new fire hydrants brought a new level of safety and decreased insurance rates city-wide. A push for extending sewer service came at the right time before more environmental regulations further restricted septic systems.

Today as much as ever, parks and recreation facilities are an important recreational, aesthetic, and social component of Hudson. A network of large, medium, and small parks provides both active and passive recreation opportunities to residents; the new Community Center has been extremely well received, and its recreational features are popular evening and weekend destinations.

The City continues to work with both Summit County Metro Parks and residents to prioritize park improvements to ensure that the benefits of its parks and recreation facilities are "endless." Two trail developments are particularly exciting for Hudson residents. The completion of Veteran's Trail and a new connection between the Hike Bike Trail and Towpath Trail have made it possible to bike non-stop from Downtown Hudson to Cleveland or Akron, through the Cuyahoga Valley National Park. Several other trail segments have been completed as well, linking neighborhoods to one another.

Local governance continues to be recognized for transparency, effectiveness, and fiscal responsibility. The relocation of administrative operations to a new City Hall has increased efficiency of operations. A bond rating of AAA, the highest possible, continues to be achieved thanks to prudent budgeting and long-range planning. While the 2015 Comprehensive Plan was instrumental in shaping Hudson into the community it is today, it has finally outlived its useful life. Now, the community is developing a new Comprehensive Plan, with an eye on 2035.