

Noble County Sustainable Communities Program

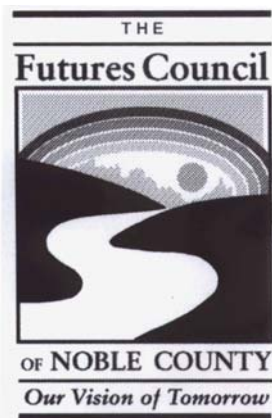
2000 – 2003

Final Report

Initiated by Noble County Commissioners

Organized and Directed by The Noble County Futures Council

Facilitated by Ohio State University Extension



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Noble County Sustainable Communities Program

Introduction

Communities have traditionally strived to enhance the quality of life of their residents. Local community development efforts though have not always been able to give equal priority to the local economy, the natural environment and the social well-being of its citizens. Sometimes these three sectors affecting our lives come in conflict. Residents, public officials and business owners then must make quick and difficult decisions about what seems best for the place they call home.

Inventive communities throughout the world are exploring a new approach. Leaders in these communities recognize that a community depends on a healthy environment, social equity and a strong economy. These communities are being very intentional about finding an acceptable sustainable balance between environmental, social and economic concerns before there is a no win issue on the doorstep. Sustainability seeks to bring long-term balance between the economic, social and environmental components of life. Sustainability is also about assuring that the decisions we make today will not jeopardize the ability of future generations to prosper. As each of us invest our energy and resources into our community we do so that our descendents may also experience the benefits and resources we were gifted to enjoy. Sustainability simply challenges us all to be more intentional about maintaining and if possible enhancing the links between the environment, the economy and the social connections we depend upon.

Sustainable Communities prosper for a number of important reasons. First, people work collectively to achieve the quality of life they want to sustain. Communities also use a participatory approach to reach a consensus about design. Finally, they create diverse partnerships to promote total community development. Noble County, together with the various villages and townships that make up this community, desires to be a sustainable community. To assist sustainable community development Ohio State University Extension, Community Development has created a pilot project to implement a community-wide process. Known as the Sustainable Communities Program a team of Extension Professionals committed to facilitate a sustainable development process in collaboration with the local community. Guided by the wisdom and knowledge of a group called the *Futures Council* a community-based effort was set in motion. This effort is a non-traditional approach since residents created the ideas for leaders rather than leaders creating ideas for residents to consider.

Futures Council Members

Organization

Noble Chamber of Commerce
Retail Merchants Association

GMN Tri-County Community Action
Agency

Noble County Farm Bureau
Southeastern Ohio Farmers Union
Journal Leader
WWKC Radio
The Noble Ministerial Association
Belle Valley Village
Sarahsville Village
Caldwell Village
Summerfield Village
Batesville Village
Noble County Commissioners
Noble County Health Department
Noble County Job & Family Services
Noble County Senior Center
MRDD
Noble County Service Club
Child Care Resource Network
Family & Children First Program
Caldwell Exempted Village Schools
Noble Local Shenandoah Schools
Noble County Emergency Management
Whiskey Run Golf Course
Ohio State University Extension
Noble Township Trustees Association
Noble County Regional Planning
Soil & Water Conservation District

Representative

Dave Evans
Deb Akscenzuk
Roger Patten

Madeline Watson
Molly Watson
Merlin Wentworth
George Slater
Dave Evans
Mike Partin
Susan Hyland
Victoria Oakes
Leslie Wise & LuAnn Michel
Gary Wells
Terry Stephen
Kim Eschbaugh
Walt McKee
Shawn Ray
Jodi Dimmerling & David Cater
Patricia Stiers & Lore Dyer
E. Wray Bryant
Norm Blaney
Laura Nestleroad
Ed Ditch
James Oughterson & James Cline
Jerry Russell
Chasity Schmelzenbach
Elaine Grissom
Mike Lloyd
Jeanie Rich & Debbie Schell
Shawn Ray
Laura Schafer

Project Facilitation

Sustainable Development Team

Ohio State University Extension

Members of the Sustainable Team who served as Coordinators for the project were:

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State Office

Myra Moss

Community Development

Mike Lloyd

District Specialist, East District Office

Community Development Agent, Noble County
Office

Katie Redmon

Community Development Agent, Noble County
Office

Description of the Process

Community Vision Sessions were held throughout Noble county. Residents were provided an opportunity to share their individual treasures (what they appreciate about the community today) and their rainbows (hopes for what the community will be for future generations). Responses were organized around seven themes: Community Education/Schools, Community Values, Economy, Environment/Natural Resources, Family, Recreation/Entertainment, and Youth. All ideas were included within the list of treasures and rainbows. There was no ranking of ideas within the sessions. Community Vision Sessions were in the following locations:

Each of Noble County's Fifteen Townships	Ohio State University Extension Advisory Committee meeting
The Villages of Batesville, Belle Valley, Caldwell, Sarahsville and Summerfield	Soil & Water Conservation meeting
Caldwell and Shenandoah High Schools within English and Government class sessions	Noble County Farm Bureau annual meeting
Caldwell Senior Center	Noble Retired Teachers Association meeting
Summit Acres Nursing Home	Noble County Chamber of Commerce
Noble Ministerial Association meeting	Noble Planning Commission meeting
	GMN Teens for Tomorrow
	Ohio State University Extension District Support Staff

A booth to gather individual responses was also set up at the following locations:

Belle Valley "Remembering the Past & Envisioning the Future" Celebration
Noble County Fair
Caldwell Fireman's Festival

The process used provided an opportunity for every resident of Noble County to share his or her ideas. Meetings were held where people normally gather in an effort to make it easier and more comfortable for each person to participate. It was also our intention to reach into every geographic area, across socio-economic lines, reach all age groups, inquire of town and township dwellers, reach the agricultural and retail business owners, listen to laborers and managers and hear every voice possible. When it was all finished 732 persons shared their individual treasures and rainbows. A special thank you to those persons who volunteered to facilitate these vision meetings: Denise Graham, Mike Thompson, Chastity Schmelzenbach, Terry Tamburini, Kim Ray, Debbie Powell, Pam Haskins, and Elaine Grissom.

Report Layout

As the reader will discover in this report, residents and community leaders together have identified the treasures of this community and set their hopes on an even more enhanced life-style. Through hours of sharing their joys and dreams this community has identified what makes this place a special home, what needs to be made secure for future generations and indicators to monitor to assure continued success. The first section (The Community Today) shares the collective vision of treasures broken into the various themes. Likewise, the next section of the report shares (A Sustainable Tomorrow) the rainbows. Included within each goal are the individual ideas presented by residents who participated. These ideas are listed as they were given without any priority ranking. Finally, the report shares indicators for each goal that community leaders will use to monitor and evaluate the success of this community in creating the sustainable community intended by residents. Each indicator is written as a multi-dimensional indicator identifying the sustainable linkage between the social, environmental and economic sectors of the community.

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NOBLE COUNTY SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITIES PROGRAM

Each community carries within it certain qualities and capacities that identify what is best and unique about it. A community is usually defined by the place we live, but the groups of people with whom we gather together also define each community. Communities are towns like Belle Valley and Summerfield, townships like Center and Olive or simply the County of Noble. Communities are also groups of people with similar interest like the Noble County Service Club or the Noble County Farm Bureau. Sometimes, a community can be both place and people like the Shenandoah and Caldwell Schools. Regardless of being a place we live or a group of people we associate with, communities make up what we once were, what we are today and what we will be tomorrow. In recognition and respect of past generations, the existing generation and those generations that are yet to come, the residents of this community have prepared a vision of what is best and unique about what they know as Noble County! This report shares the hopes of existing residents for sustaining the resources of this community not only for themselves but also for their grandchildren and great-grandchildren yet to come.

The Community Today

The Communities of Noble County Value the Treasures That Create and Sustain This Community: Treasures are the existing unique qualities and capacities of our community

Natural Resources

Noble County is a place blessed with natural beauty. Public places like Wolf Run State Park, Duck Creek, and Ohio Power land are pieces of Noble County's natural environment, which need to be cared for and preserved. Similarly, the hills, trees, streams and rich soil owned and cared for by private citizens also are respected for their contribution to the areas unique natural environment. Each of these areas contributes to the beauty of a healthy eco-system that sustains each resident of this community. Each location contributes to the clean-air, water resources and aesthetic spirit that enriches resident's lifestyles.



Wolf Run State Park, Belle Valley Area

The list of specific environmental treasures suggested by participants include:

Open space, national forest, roadside parks and wildlife areas

- Open space
- Resident's sense of open space
- Parks
- Hills to hike
- Camps
- Open space for woods and farms

Farmland

- An agricultural community
- Land that accommodates farms
- Future farms of America
- Freedom to choose farming techniques

Wolf Run and access to recreational activities

- Wolf Run
- Wolf Run beach and picnic areas
- Boating and fishing at Wolf Run

Lakes and creeks

- Duck Creek
- Seneca Lake
- Caldwell Lake

Hunting and fishing

- Hunting
- Good area for fishing and hiking
- Easy access to camping and fishing
- Deer

Reclamation of utility land

- Ohio Power land
- Coal company reclamation

Stewardship of wildlife and land

- Conservation
- We are working at keeping things up

No pollution

- Pollution free
- No environmental threats
- The cleanliness
- Fresh, Clean Air
- Low Noise Level
- Low Number of Factories so Less Pollution
- Sewage Treatment Plant

Miscellaneous

- The Wilds
- Adequate Water Supply, Good Clean Water and Tri-County Water
- Existing Flood Plain Regulations
- Trees
- Private Land
- No Zoning Telling You What or What Not To Do
- Enforced Weight Limits on Roads for log Trucks
- Mining Industry Still Strong
- Streetlights
- Sparse Population
- Can go to grandmas house

Historical Significance

The events and lifestyle that effected past generations are visible today in historic structures and areas like covered bridges, the wreck of the Shenandoah and Johnny Appleseed Memorial. Similarly, buildings such as the of Caldwell, including and Jail, connect past, generations to a shared places and historic discovered need to be and future generations richness of this time



Parish Bridge, Sharon Township

adaptive reuse of Town Square area the Courthouse present and future lifestyle. These places waiting to be cared for so this will experience the and days gone by.

The list of specific historical treasures suggested by participants include:

Historic bridges

- Care for the covered bridges
- Old bridges
- Historical bridges, barns and structures

Our natural landmarks

- The natural beauty of the terrain
- Rural County
- Noble County is still here
- Our world is beautiful and wonderful
- The Johnny Appleseed Memorial
- Country
- Secrest Memorial
- The Wreck of the Shenandoah
- Noble County has History Based Recreational Attractions
- Ferry boat at Fly (Monroe County)
- The historical Noble County Jail
- Monument to the Shenandoah
- Preserving the First Oil Well

Business Climate

Noble County's business climate has been based on the talents, courage and dedication of entrepreneurs. Individuals have found success in placing their energies into small business

ventures that provide a livelihood for themselves and their employees. Family farms dot the countryside, retail and service businesses enrich each small town and small manufacturing facilities create quality products. Regardless of the business sector it is the small size of the firm that has created employment opportunities in the County community while maintaining a rural standard of living. Recently, into this mix a state prison facility has added employment opportunity and brought new residents into the area while respecting the small business climate of our community.



Hayes Hardware, Caldwell

The list of specific economic treasures suggested by participants include:

Noble County's small businesses

- A general store in Summerfield
- Summerfield economy stays the same so my kids can experience it
- A new post office in Sarahsville
- There is a community store/restaurant in Sarahsville
- There is a central grocery store in Sarahsville
- Lori's restaurant
- The Sandwich Shoppe is here
- The dollar store is here
- There are small family businesses
- There are lots of small stores
- There is ease in doing business, without lines and with service
- The Food Center, Rohrbaugh Trucking, Family Dollar, Subway, Best Western, Dairy Queen, Game Room, Starfire Express, Sandwich Shoppe, Plaza, Gateway, Pilot Gas Station, Pine Tree Towing, American Legion, Domino Pizza, Plus One Pizza, Saling's, Singer Car Sales, Henthorn's Grocery, L& H Tractor, Gillespies & Davis Drugs, McDonalds, Arby's and Prison are part of the economy

The farming community

- Farmland is productive
- There are small farms
- The economy has an agricultural base
- Farmland is preserved
- There is a thriving farmers market
- The farming based community is preserved

Noble County has an affordable standard of living

- Taxes are low
- There is a reasonable cost of living
- The economy is manageable for low-income people
- There is an affordable living standard
- Prices are fair
- The current lifestyle is still here

Noble County's housing cost is reasonable

- There is low cost housing
- There are reasonable property and rental rates

Noble County has a good economy

- Small towns have a good economy
- The economy is strong enough to keep kids here
- The economy is getting better
- The economy is able to grow with changing times
- An economy where people help each other
- Noble County Residents support businesses by buying locally
- Noble County's Economy Attracts Younger People to the Community
- Cottage Industries Exist in the Community
- Business is done on a handshake

Noble County has access to state highways

- There is easy access to the state route
- The interstate highway helps develop the economy
- There is access to the interstate highway in Belle Valley and Caldwell
- Township Roads
- Traffic Flows Well

Noble County has a stable job base

- The community keeps the jobs that are here now
- There are a greater number of jobs in Noble County
- Good jobs
- Jobs are stable
- Jobs are provided by the prison system

Miscellaneous

- The Noble County Fair
- Townships Have More Money
- Guernsey, Monroe and Noble Community Action Agency supported by referrals
- Downtown Areas are Revitalized
- Gas and oil wells are part of economy
- Railroad, rural electric and telephone systems

Education

Shenandoah High School

The two school systems found in this community have been a source of quality education serving generations of local residents. The dedication of teachers, the commitment of school administrators and the financial/personal support of residents have given the youth of this community access to safe, comfortable and caring K-12 educational

opportunities. Extracurricular activities have given students an opportunity to learn outside the classroom and for residents to find a sense of pride. The small student/pupil ratio, the well maintained facilities and financial commitment to education all define the quality of educational opportunities for area youth.



The list of specific education treasures suggested by participants include:

Noble County enjoys small schools with individual attention

- Small schools
- Volunteer hours given to help schools
- Private school atmosphere
- Low student-to-teacher ratio
- Hands on schools – make sure youth are learning
- Guidance counselors do more than expected
- Children treated as individuals
- Friendly, helpful
- Everybody knows each other and all the people are nice
- Small community; know people; schools tail is not wagging dog yet
- Not so much sports and a little more book learning taking time with the children so they can read and learn
- Good personal school system

Noble County schools are safe

- Safe schools
- Security

The community supports Noble County schools

- Business community supports schools
- Community support for schools
- School spirit

Teachers are of high quality and committed

- High quality, caring teachers
- Good educational system – teachers, computers
- Have great teachers and schools are in nice shape
- Good high school, good teachers, on track
- Teachers still have control over their students
- Long term teachers

Sports and extra-curricular activities benefit students

- High school football and practice fields are very good
- School rivalries are strong
- Baseball field is good
- Beneficial extra-curricular activities

Two separate districts continue to enhance education in Noble County

- Two good school systems
- Local school systems
- Two districts
- Separate schools

Noble County appreciates its schools and school sports programs

- Noble County treasures its strong sports programs
- School activities are to be treasured in Noble County
- Youth enjoy and participate in socials and alumni functions
- There is good guidance for kids in Noble County
- Youth in Noble County treasure the wrestling school

- Youth in Noble County are well educated
- Youth in Noble County are respected by their teachers
- School spirit is treasured in Noble County

Miscellaneous

- Homecomings
- Shenandoah Schools
- Post secondary schools
- Good schools and transportation
- Comfort level; much better access to schools
- Caldwell Public Library; resource availability; computer training and genealogy
- Quality schools
- Bookmobile
- Kids can compete with any kids in state
- Kids; some about average
- Elementary school
- God in schools/religious good will
- Grants enable better collaboration

Outdoor Recreation

Residents of the many communities of Noble County have enjoyed easy access to outdoor recreation. Town parks, Wolf Run State Park, the Noble County Fairgrounds/recreation area and many other private woodlands are locations for outdoor recreational experiences. The natural areas covered with woods, streams, lakes, and fields give opportunities for hunters, anglers, swimmers, boaters and those who simply want an evening stroll. Generation after generation share this appreciation for outdoor recreation and Noble's unique access to land-based recreation.

The list of specific recreation treasures suggested by participants include:

Noble County has bountiful hunting and fishing opportunities

- Fishing areas in the county
- Coon, deer, and turkey hunting
- Private hunting and hiking areas

Noble County has excellent community parks and facilities

- Noble County's parks
- The Noble County Senior Center
- The county's gathering places for men (taverns)
- The pool room
- The swimming pool at the fairgrounds
- Community parks
- The extension center in Beaver Township??
- The Brookfield Township hall
- Demolition derbies at the fair
- Summerfield park
- The trail at Summerfield park

- The Sarahsville community park and pavilion
- Heritage park at the fairgrounds
- Pine Lake Camp

Noble County has good youth based programs

- Youth activities and recreation space and programs at fairground
- Youth sports programs
- Noble County keeps its existing youth recreation and playground facilities
- Noble County treasures its soccer field

Noble County has several local and regional recreational sites and facilities

- Wolf Run State Park
- AEP lands
- Seneca Lake
- The beach and campground at Wolf Run and Seneca
- The Wilds
- Noble County's forests
- Salt Fork State Park (Guernsey County)
- Noble County has sports based recreational activities and facilities
- Soccer field and soccer programs
- Area golf courses
- Summer basketball camp and leagues
- The practice field by the Family Dollar in Caldwell
- The soccer field

The Noble County Fairground offers several recreational opportunities

- Noble County is a premium recreation area
- The region's access to camping
- Strong natural resource based recreation opportunities

Recreation and entertainment opportunities are in a safe environment in Noble County

- The safe environment and safe entertainment opportunities

Small, Caring Community

Noble County is a sparsely populated community. It is made up of small towns, active townships and open areas. The size of this community encourages neighbors to know each other, to work together and to care for each other's well being. The closeness is demonstrated historically as residents' aid each other during disasters like the area flood of 1998. Each community enhances the feeling of a safe, courteous and friendly community.



View from Everly-Sanford Farm

The list of specific community value treasures suggested by participants include:

Historic sites and structures are valued

- Keep historic sites (Ball House, monuments)
- Keep community landmark buildings and traditions
- History of county
- Nativity scene at Caldwell
- Hope to see the old school (where?)
- New jail, Water tank on CR13, Post office, Library, Banks, Samaritan House, VFW, Moose, Granges/Farm Bureau/Advisory group, Sandwich Shop, Armory, Cheese Factory, Johnnie Appleseed Center
- Courthouse Square
- Community Centers/buildings vibrant
- Streetscape; historical values, courthouse, jail
- Fairgrounds

Safety, security and friendliness of the small town atmosphere

- Population numbers are small
- Not crowded
- Peaceful
- Safe place to live
- Small town atmosphere
- Smallness and closeness
- Hardly ever lock door
- Friendly
- Neighborly
- Open welcoming people in community
- Seclusion
- People we deal with we know personally
- Family closeness
- Slower pace of life
- We have pride in the area and make people welcome
- Keep community like it is for kids

Noble County residents support and nurture each other

- Respect for other people
- Respect for other people's property
- Respect for the dead; take good care of cemeteries
- Community spirit
- Community support
- Unity and mutual purpose
- Businesses and residents pitch in together to help those in need (benefits, items collected following disasters)
- We have pride in the area and make people welcome
- County pulls together and works as one
- Care about welfare of neighbors
- Close knit
- Most people are fair, friendly and generous
- Traditional
- High morals
- Good leadership in adult volunteers
- Honesty

Noble County organizations and businesses are involved in the community

- Preserve youth organizations: 4-H, FFA, etc
- Schools
- Strong alumni groups
- Good senior services
- Local fire department
- 4H clubs
- Sharon Township still has a store; other small villages do too
- Retail merchants
- Journal covers community
- Lifestyle, rational sheriff and knowledge to people
- Volunteer groups

Family farms and rural lifestyle

- Family Farms
- Rural lifestyle

Noble County residents are hardworking with a strong work ethic

- Work ethic
- Hardworking people
- Students motivated to learn

Miscellaneous

- Rich musical culture
- Festivals: fireman's, Soakum, arts/crafts

Faith-Based Community

Noble County is a faith-based community. Throughout its history residents have enjoyed the opportunity to join in communities of interest to worship and learn as they chose. The experiences found within these faith-based communities of interest carries into the daily lives of residents as they commit themselves to quality schools, a caring community, family focused activities and stewardship of the natural environment.



St. Mary's Catholic Church, Fulda

The list of specific community value treasures suggested by participants include:

Noble County is a Faith Based Community

- Small churches
- Religious
- Christian values
- Faith based community
- Diversity of churches
- Ministerial Association cooperation between

Festivals and Celebrations

Every community needs a time to play together and celebrate their lives together. The Noble County Fair, Fireman's Festival, Soakum Festival, Noble County Superbowl and many more celebrations give residents a chance to have fun and celebrate their lives together. Within these festive experiences people tell their stories of daily life, form stronger bonds and dream of tomorrow's successes. Generations cross each other's paths at these events, learning from each other in groups and one to one experiences.

The list of specific recreation treasures suggested by participants include:

Noble County has excellent fairs and festivals

- Art on the Square
- Fireman's festivals
- Soakum
- The Fairgrounds
- The Noble County Fair
- The Fourth of July celebration in Caldwell
- Church homecomings
- Noble County Flea Markets
- Small communities general stores, churches and other things that are a part of the close knit character of the county
- Caldwell's basketball courts

Youth and Seniors

This is a community where all generations have access to opportunities. Of special interest are the groups focused on experiences for youth and elderly residents. The community appreciates the dedication of agency and volunteer groups that serve the youth providing them a chance to join together for fun, learning and developing good citizenship values. The elderly are not forgotten in this community because of the services provided at the Senior Center and the openness of all residents to recognizing the continued contribution of the elderly.

The list of specific youth treasures suggested by participants include:

Noble County is a community where most children can grow up safe and carefree

- Youth in Noble County lead a relatively carefree life
- Gangs are not a problem in Noble County
- There is little violence among youth in Noble County
- Noble County is a place where kids can just hang around with their friends
- Noble County youth are more innocent and well behaved than city children
- Noble County is a place where kids can ride their bikes around town safely
- Noble County is a safe place for youth
- The tradition of Trick or Treating

Noble County cherishes it's youth groups and wants to maintain them

- Noble County treasures Teens for Tomorrow and FFA
- 4-H in Noble County is a treasure for youth

- Churches in Noble County incorporate youth well
- Grange continues to play a role in supporting youth
- Girl/Boy scouts are treasured in Noble County
- YEC/Church Youth Groups are treasured in Noble County

Noble County wants to keep the many positive aspects of it's youth

- Youth in Noble County appreciate their families
- In Noble County, youth appreciate the simple pleasures
- Youth in Noble County are respectful to each other and to adults
- More young people are staying in the community and working after graduation
- Kids in Noble County are clean cut
- Youth in Noble County are honest
- Youth in Noble County are open-minded
- Youth care in Noble County and volunteer to assist in community festivals
- Noble County youth have a good work ethic
- Parents are an excellent role model for their children
- The beauty of youth is treasured in Noble County
- Youth in Noble County are wholesome and helpful
- Youth in Noble County are outgoing

Youth in Noble County appreciate opportunities to showcase themselves as responsible individuals

- Youth in Noble County appreciate being able to get driver's licenses at an earlier age

A Sustainable Tomorrow

The Communities of Noble County Value Their Dream of What They Believe Their Community Will Become for Their Grandchildren and Great-Grandchildren: Rainbows are the future hopes and desires, the legacy we want to leave for our community and its residents. The goals for Noble County's Sustainable Tomorrow have been written from an asset-based approach. Characteristics of an asset based approach include:

1. Looking at possibilities rather than limitations,
2. Recognizing the unique assets of the community and its residents,

Therefore, the following goals are written as if they have already occurred. The reader should not assume that any of these goals *are* the existing condition in Noble County. Likewise, they should not assume that any of these goals *are not* the existing condition in the County. To help the reader and the community assess if these goals have been reached, multidimensional indicators have been provided for each goal. These indicators will encourage and allow community residents and public officials to assess how far they have come and have yet to go in reaching the stated goals.

Natural Resources

Noble County is home to many natural areas, parks and wildlife environments where people can enjoy wildlife, fishing and hunting. Every person who calls Noble County home is a good steward of the land, keeping their properties clean, using proper waste management methods, maintaining wetlands and supporting enforcement of

environmental laws. Land management and wise land use, beautification, and planning efforts reflect the pride that Noble residents feel toward their natural surroundings. Our wisdom regarding the balance between growth and ecology, jobs and the environment is reflected in proper location of businesses, housing and agricultural activities. All county residents have access to safe and clean water delivered to their homes and sewer services are available through municipal or county systems. Within the community agriculture and farming is respected as a lifestyle and a contributor to the area's economy. Productive farmland is protected through the establishment of regulations that encourage and expand



the use of available acreage. Residents and businesses are safer because effective flood control systems are in place that virtually eliminates flooding in the county. Roadways in Noble County, including township roads, are of high quality, with adequate culverts and paving. Our community is blessed with many trees, which is reflected by the planting of trees for future generations to enjoy.

Pure Water Company Tower, Route 50

The list of specific natural resource rainbows suggested by participants include:

► **Goal: All Noble County residents have access to water and sewer**

- County water/sewer system
- Water is available to areas outside Caldwell
- Water is distributed better
- Everyone has access to city water
- There is a high level of water quality
- Water extension along route 147 east of Mt. Ephraim
- A central place to purchase water
- Safe and clean water is available
- There are sewer lines in all communities
- There is water for ridge top residents

► **Indicators**

Individual Households

Social: Percent of individual households served by public water/sewer
 Environmental: Percentage of individual household systems tested annually; percentage meeting current clean water standards
 Economic: Average residential rates for public water and sewer do not exceed 110% of the state averages for comparable systems

Community Systems

Social: Number of inter- and intra-county connections between water systems
 Environmental: The quality of local streams measured by e-coli, BOD, ammonia and other emerging identified measures
 Economic: Average residential rates for public water and sewer do not exceed 110% of the state averages for comparable systems

► **Goal: Noble County is committed to preservation of the environment and stewardship of the land**

- Land management tools are used
- There is good stewardship of the land
- Environmental laws are enforced
- There is no pollution
- There is no strip mining and coal lands are used for recreation
- There is individual stewardship of land
- There are more restrictions on logging
- There is no logging
- Programs are available that touch on the value of our natural resources
- Non-residents have a respect for the beauty of the area
- There is a strong preservation effort
- Programs are available for families to learn from naturalists
- A respect and sense of pride for the environment
- Wetlands are preserved
- A convenient recycling system

► Indicators

Individual Households
Social: Number of youth and adults participating in stewardship education programs presented by environmental agencies Environmental: Number of landowners participating in wetland, habitat and other conservation programs; number of acreage involved Economic: Percent of local environmental program levies passed

Community Systems
Social: Number of persons obtaining services from USDA and SWCD local offices Environmental: Amount of acreage reclaimed from previous strip mining and logging practices Economic: Amount of national environmental grant funds applied within the community

► **Goal: Noble County waterways and properties are clean and free from pollution**

- There is countywide trash pickup and/or county drop off sites
- Junk yards are clean
- Seneca Lake is clean and dredged
- Scrubbers are on power plants
- Abandoned coal mines are cleaned up
- Duck Creek is clean
- The air is clean
- Streams are clean for fishing
- People keep their property clean

► Indicators

Individual households
Social: Percent of Noble County residents who recycle Environmental: Number of landowners who participate in bank stabilization programs: number of miles stabilized Economic: Amount of grant dollars obtained for individual landowners who make improvements to Noble County's environment

Community Systems
Social: Number of land-use related incidents between neighbors Environmental: Number of roadside and illegal dumps Economic: Percent of Noble County residents using public or private waste haulers

► **Goal: Noble County values and protects farms and farmland**

- More and better agricultural technology
- There is a full-time agricultural agent
- Reduced government regulations for fertilizer in streams
- There is an availability of food
- Pine trees are not planted on useable farmland
- Farms are protected
- Ohio power land is used for grazing
- There is a growth in farm size
- Pig Farm is a concern; need an expert opinion
- Fairground has better roads and equipment

► Indicators

Individual Households
Social: Number of people attending conservation events Environmental: Percentage increase in soil fertility based on use type Economic: Number of acres used for agronomic purposes

Community Systems
Social: Amount of policy formulated to protect and expand existing farmland Environmental: Amount of non-point source pollution in Noble County Economic: Amount of sales generated at local farm markets

► **Goal: Noble County land management policies promote wise land use and appropriate growth**

- There is controlled growth
- Smart growth land use is practiced
- There is logging within proper land use management standards
- There is reduced congestion
- Businesses are located in a designated business area
- There are more set aside areas

► Indicators

Individual Households
Social: Number of land use incidents between neighbors Environmental: Number of acres in habitat management programs Economic: Increase in sale price of residential and business properties

Community Systems
Social: Number and percent of political subdivisions that have established land management policies Environmental: Number of projects completed by the Emergency Management Office Economic: Public acceptance of area for industrial development

► **Goal: Flood control methods and policies prevent flood damage**

- Wolf Run dams are repaired
- There are more large lakes for flood control, recreation and water supply
- There is a dam for flood control
- There is a strong flood control system

► **Indicators**

Individual Households

Social: Number of people participating in Emergency Management Education programs
Environmental: Percent of potential flood area land completing flood plain analysis
Economic: Percent of decrease in flood insurance premiums

Community Systems

Social: Number of days absent from school due to flood incident
Environmental: Number of acres damaged by flood lost
Economic: Decrease in amount of public dollars needed for flood mitigation costs

► **Goal: Roads in Noble County are in good shape**

- Roads are repaired and well maintained
- Township roads are of high quality
- Culverts are installed in the township and city
- Roads are paved

► **Indicator**

Community Systems

Social: Number of complaints registered with governmental offices
Environmental:
Economic: Percent of business owners satisfied with local roads and highways

► **Goal: Trees are plentiful in Noble County**

- There are more trees
- Villages have more trees
- Large trees

► **Indicator**

Community Systems

Social: Number of street trees added each year
Environmental: Amount of bird species seen each year
Economic: Amount of trees harvested yearly

► **Goal: Miscellaneous**

- Small communities have fire hydrants and low fire insurance rates
- There is a decrease in cancer rates
- Multi-flora rose is gone
- Jefferson Township has a landfill
- Coal & power companies have sold back land to residents

- A rural community
- An appreciation for our homes and country
- There are opportunities for local residents to acquire land
- There is a balance between jobs and environment
- Control of the environment is by local control
- Covered bridges are restored
- Coal ground is used for recreation

Business and Employment

Agriculture in Noble County creates many jobs and business opportunities for county residents through successful family farms. New markets provide expanded opportunities for sale of traditional crops as well as for specialty and alternative agricultural products. A value-added support system of community kitchens, farmer's markets and marketing cooperatives helps to develop a variety of outlets for farm products as well as insuring high quality and fair pricing of these products. Individuals and families find Noble County's employers offering livable wages that can support a family and provide jobs for a wide range of skills and education, from technical school through college. Unemployment is a thing of the past.

The business base is diverse, from high tech employers to small factories to thriving cottage industries to government facilities. Many companies are locally owned. Noble County offers many retail shopping and service amenities and alternatives with a variety of places for residents to meet, eat, play and shop. Downtown business districts are identifiable and parking is easy to find.

Quality, full-service day care is easy to obtain. All residents and businesses have access to adequate water, sewer and electric power in the county. Appropriate land usage is identified through countywide planning that is supported by locally controlled zoning. Noble County encourages small business success and start-ups by providing financing, incentives, incubators and help in identifying markets. Many tourists choose Noble County as a destination because of its natural beauty, recreational opportunities and quality tourism amenities such as hotels and other accommodations. Noble County is a common destination for retirees providing health care and housing appropriate to a retirement community. Natural resources play a major part in the vitality of the tourism



Lorin Sanford Farm, Caldwell

industry through recreational trails, fishing, hunting, protection of native vegetation species and environmental theme areas. Transportation services in the county include an excellent network of roadways, public transportation, and air travel. Telecommunications is state of the art including cellular phone service, cable and Internet accessibility. Townships are well funded and the county's strong business sector has led to an expanded tax base.

The list of specific business and employment rainbows suggested by participants include:

► **Goal: Noble County’s agriculture sector is healthy and diverse**

- Markets have been developed for local farm products and crafts
- Farmers Market has expanded
- Noble County has no large-scale farms
- Noble County has a large scale slaughter house
- Sell coal mine lands for farms
- New innovative forms of agriculture
- Restore woodlands back – grow herbs, etc.
- Noble County has livestock auction sites
- Increase of farmers commodities pricing and marketing
- Federal Government is not in farms
- Noble County has strong family farms and they are retained
- Farms are self sufficient and raise all their products
- Extension develops better marketing of farm products
- Farm products are consistently priced
- Grassland farms are profitable
- Noble County has farm cooperatives to help create price supports for commodities
- Noble County has a community commercial use kitchen
- Noble County is raising free-range chickens
- The Noble County Community Kitchen helps to market small farm products

► Indicators

Individual Households
Social: Memberships level in agricultural organizations Environmental: Number of persons certified in pesticide utilization safety Economic: Percent of income generated from agricultural sales

Community Services
Social: Acres in open space Environmental: Level of soil fertility Economic: Level of agricultural sales

► **Goal: Agriculture and family farms are appreciated in Noble County**

- The County Fair and 4H camp helps kids to know about animals
- Zoning supports continuation of family farms
- The Farm Bureau Advisory Council has remained active
- Programs exist to help family farmers enhance their operations
- No large scale, mega farms exist in Noble County

► Indicator

Community Services
Social: Number of residents participating in 4-H programs Environmental: Number of persons participating in environmental quality programs Economic: Relationship between cash receipts for livestock, crop sales and crafted items

► **Goal: Good paying jobs are available for Noble County residents in a variety of industries**

- Noble County has high tech jobs
- Noble County has more local jobs
- High paying jobs that keep families together
- Local jobs pay high wages
- Noble County has a thriving cottage industry sector
- Noble County is successful in securing government assistance for high tech jobs
- Business pays a fair wage and benefits
- Develop local industry
- Attract college educated youth to county jobs
- Caldwell has an auto factory
- Noble County youth have better jobs that can help pay off education debt and offer a challenge
- Jobs pay a living wage that competes with urban pay
- Quality jobs exist for college graduates
- Unemployment is a thing of the past in NC
- There are well paying jobs to keep families together
- Families are able to live on one income

► Indicators

Individual Households

Social: Placement rate for graduates of local vocational school Environmental: Number of firms meeting environmental standards Economic: Changes in median family income
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Community Services

Social: Number of skill training courses available Environmental: Wage rate growth generated by existing businesses Economic: Covered employee wage rate changes by economic sector

► **Goal: Noble County is home to many industries**

- Noble County has more industrial sites
- Noble County has more industry
- Industrial growth
- Noble County has more small factories
- Noble County has a military base

► Indicator

Community Services

Social: Number of public grant dollars used to support industrial development Environmental: Sites that are promoted are serviced by public utilities in a dense development pattern Economic: Number of acres available for business growth
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► **Goal: Noble County has thriving retail and service sectors with a variety of consumer opportunities**

- Beaver Township has places for residents to meet – coffee house, restaurant
- Wayne Township has a gas station

- Noble County has more shopping opportunities
- Noble County has a mall
- Noble County has: Taco Bell, Motorcycle/ATV Dealer, Burger King, Wal-Mart, Kool aid Factory, toy store, Garfield's restaurant, movie theater, bowling alley, strip shopping center, music store with CDs, tattoo parlor, Rax, Wendys, Amusement park, Starbucks, Planet Hollywood, small café, arcade, family restaurant (Olive Garden), Long John Silvers, sports bar, street vendors, clothing stores, shoe store
- Noble County has a theatre/drive in
- Noble County has a larger car dealership
- Noble County has street vendors
- More gas stations in different parts of county
- Movie rental store
- Noble County has a gun dealer
- Noble County has expanded day care
- Large restaurant for use especially on Sunday
- Noble County has a flea market

► Indicator

Community Services
Social: Amount of market share captured
Environmental: Geographical location of area businesses
Economic: Types of businesses targeted for attraction by economic development office

► **Goal: All residences and businesses have access to adequate water, sewer, and power in Noble County**

- More water lines
- Expand public water
- Better electric service
- Noble County has a nuclear power plant
- Noble County's sewer system supports industrial growth

► Indicator

Community Systems
Social: Number of inter- and intra-county connections between water, wastewater and power systems
Environmental: The quality of local streams measured by e-coli, BOD, ammonia and other emerging identified measures
Economic: Average residential and business rates for public water, sewer and electric do not exceed 110% of the state averages for comparable systems

► **Goal: Noble County carefully plans for land use and development**

- Large landowners sell acreage in affordable lots
- Downtown parking is ample
- Parking is ample
- Long range community planning in place
- Business districts are designated
- Noble County has zoning with local control
- Caldwell is the center of development with the rest of the county remaining rural
- Noble county has county-wide planning

► Indicator

Community Services
Social: Number of municipalities with established zoning codes Environmental: Number of reviews of soil type for business and residential applications Economic: Number of business districts classified by zoning

► **Goal: Noble County is supportive of small business and promotes small business start-ups**

- Noble County has a small business incubator
- Noble County provides incentives to business
- Direct marketing locally of local products “Made in Noble County” label
- Increase of specialized products and marketing
- Noble County has a variety of jobs through a business incubator

► Indicator

Community Services
Social: Number of members in local chamber and retail merchants organizations Environmental: Number of businesses participating in environmental training programs Economic: Amount of dollars available to loan or grant to small business development projects

► **Goal: Noble County’s telecommunications infrastructure is state-of-the-art**

- Noble County has state-of-the-art internet access
- More cell phone towers
- Better phone lines with DSL/ISDN/T3
- New cable system

► Indicators

Community Services
Social: Number of residents connected to Internet services Environmental: Percent of underground telecommunications line Economic: Number of businesses who have availability of DSL lines

► **Goal: Noble County has a good highway network and a variety of transportation alternatives**

- Left hand turn signal at SR 78/SR 821 westbound light
- Appalachian Highway is complete
- Rebuild roads appropriately - not quick fix
- Pave secondary roads
- Noble County has a subway for a train
- Noble County has taxi service
- Airport
- Noble County has railroads

► Indicators

Community Services
Social: Number of residents using public and alternative forms of transportation Environmental: Air pollution from cars Economic: Dollars spent annually per household on transportation

► **Goal: Noble County is a place that attracts tourists**

- Noble County has a healthy tourism industry, including fishing
- Seneca Lake has a lodge on the Noble County side
- Noble County has a hotel
- Noble County has a bed tax which supports local tourism
- Wolf Run helps the local economy through upgraded recreational areas

► Indicator

Community Services

Social: Participation level in state Ohio Department of Development essay contest
Environmental: Number of businesses with wastewater connections
Economic: Amount of dollars generated locally from tourism

► **Goal: Township governments are adequately funded**

- Township funding is restructured and increased
- More funding for townships

► Indicator

Community Services

Social: Participation of trustees in local government education programs
Environmental: Number of residents supporting environmental initiatives
Economic: Change in general fund revenues

► **Goal: Noble County's population growth generates additional property taxes**

- Attract more people to build tax base

► Indicator

Community Services

Social: Increase of tax revenues for school systems generated from inside mills
Environmental: Increase in funds available for environmental programs
Economic: Ratio of business classification share of property tax remains constant compared to agricultural/residential classification

► **Goal: Noble County is a place people choose for retirement**

- Noble County is a retirement community
- Noble County is attractive to retirees

► Indicator

Community Services

Social: Number of persons with membership at Senior Citizen Center
Environmental: Number of persons living in assisted living facilities
Economic: Level of senior financial assistance programs use

► **Goal: Miscellaneous**

- Health care/prescription costs are lower
- There is no more strip mining in the county
- The economy is improved without negative effects
- Remove old railroads
- Reduce taxes
- Good local work ethics help to market Noble County

Community and Family Values

Noble County Courthouse, Caldwell



Noble County residents find modern, quality services within an environment of traditional small town values and qualities. Wide ranges of health care services are available, including elderly care, fitness centers, a hospital with 24-hour emergency care and numerous private practitioners. Emergency services, including 911, fire and police, are well equipped and trained. Public pools and community centers are available for township residents. Residents and small communities are given the same

opportunities and access to resources as the larger, more populated areas of the county. Community values, such as the importance of strong families, programs for youth, and family farms, continue to be upheld. Communities within Noble County remain small and safe, with a low crime rate and a small town feel in which neighbors take care of one another, especially in times of need. Programs are supported for all ages, from day care to elder care, and people of all ages feel valued and nurtured by the community. Families stay together and play a strong role in raising and providing a moral compass for children, teaching responsibility, a strong work ethic, and honesty. Noble County is strongly faith based and religious institutions are a strong influence throughout the community. Noble County is progressive and values all people and respects diverse opinions. Racial prejudice does not exist in Noble County and diversity is respected. This is a community that respects its history and tells the story through historic sites, monuments, landmarks, and a historical society. The local decision making process is open to all residents and public officials know the importance of being accessible, listening to their resident's concerns, and hold town meetings and other opportunities for resident input. There is a strong culture of volunteerism as is evidenced by participation in civic organizations in the community. Many community residents spend time as leaders. Various types of housing are available throughout the county, including in rural areas. A variety of transportation modes allow residents to find access to services, work and entertainment.

The list of specific community and family rainbows suggested by participants include:

► **Goal: Noble County residents have convenient access to medical and health care**

- Noble County has a hospital and medical care
- Noble County has a quick care center
- Beaver Township has a health center and a fitness center
- Beaver Township has a nursing home

► Indicator

Community Services
Social: Size of space available for indoor recreational activities Environmental: Distance to nearest hospital Economic: Number of medical providers operating in the community

► **Goal: There are adequate healthcare facilities including hospital, emergency medical services, nursing homes, mental health care, dental care and assisted living**

- There are quality nursing homes
- There is an abundance of assisted living centers
- There is accessible dental and health care
- There is a hospital
- There is in home health care
- There is improved health care
- There are mental health programs and facilities
- There is enhanced emergency service capacity
- Employment that focuses on assisting elderly and isolated
- There is availability of health care equipment for all citizens
- Doctors manage care rather than insurance companies
- There is a 911 System
- A building including daycare

► Indicators

Community Services
Social: Number of Doctors and health care alternatives in Noble County. Environmental: Distance people have to drive to receive health services Economic: Cost of health care services for local residents

► **Goal: Public services in Noble County are excellent and up to date**

- Caldwell has a paid Fire Department
- Noble County has 911 service
- The police force is well trained and equipped
- Noble County has a Severe Weather Warning system
- GMN Tri-County programs continue to provide services
- Beaver Township has a public pool
- Jefferson Township has a Community Center

► Indicator

Community Services
Social: Number of communities with recreational facilities Environmental: Distance people must drive to receive public services Economic: Availability of emergency warning systems

► Goal: Noble County’s historical and cultural assets are maintained and supported

- We have a good sense of community and a good appreciation of local history
- More historic sites have been developed
- Noble county children learn about this town, our history and our values
- The Courthouse remains pretty
- Cemeteries are well maintained
- Monuments and landmarks have been preserved, restored and improved
- The courthouse has a decorative water fountain
- Noble County has an active historical society
- Residents have a sense of history

► Indicators

Individual Households
Social: Number of children’s history educational programs Environmental: Number of historical locations designated Economic: Number of businesses located in historic facilities

Community Services
Social: Number of persons participating in historical associations Environmental: Economic: Financial contribution both in kind and financial for maintaining and restoring covered bridges

► Goal: Noble County is a safe community with a small town atmosphere where families can thrive

- Noble County is a safe place to live
- Communities have a “home town” feel
- Noble County has a low crime rate
- Noble County residents care about their neighbors and are willing to help out
- Our community is safe for our children
- Community members work together
- Security of the area
- A safe and good community for youth and elderly
- Crime is low
- Families grow without fear

► Indicators

Individual Households
Social: Persons participating in volunteer assignments Environmental: Amount of recycled waste Economic: Number of court cases going to trial in local courts

Community Services
Social: Number of volunteer hours donated to public agencies Environment: Number of beautification projects done by service organizations Economic: Number of police responses per year

- ▶ **Goal: Noble County is a faith based community highly visible to developing families**
 - Our children learn to respect others who go to church and participate in church activities
 - Summerfield has a Methodist Church
 - Churches receive property tax breaks
 - Noble county has strong community churches
 - There are more churches
 - Old churches are restored
 - Christ will be first

▶ Indicator

Community Services
Social: Attendance at religious services Environmental: Number of environmental projects accomplished by faith-based organizations Economic: Economic value of volunteer hours by faith-based organization

- ▶ **Goal: Residents have opportunities to participate in local decision making and public officials listen**
 - Government officials are accessible
 - County Commissioners attend community meetings
 - Civic organizations recruit many members
 - We handle problems locally
 - Town meetings occur
 - The power base is more diverse and politically involved
 - Leadership is practiced
 - Agencies and residents communicate well with each other

▶ Indicator

Community Services
Social: Economic diversity level of persons on public boards Environmental: Number of public boards with membership from environmental based groups Economic: Percent of public improvement dollars spent in low-income areas

- ▶ **Goal: Decent housing is available throughout the county with an adequate housing strategy adopted**
 - More residential opportunities exist
 - Housing is available in rural sections of the county
 - There is more housing
 - Planned communities
 - There are plenty of apartments
 - There is low-income housing

► Indicator

Community Services
Social: Amount of affordable housing program dollars attracted to the community Environmental: Number of multi-family housing units in the community Economic: Average price level of existing and newly constructed housing

► Goal: Caldwell and Noble County remain a small community

- Caldwell has grown to the size of Cambridge
- Caldwell is small
- Noble County is rural

► Indicator

Community Services
Social: Population changes by age level Environmental: Number of persons per acre Economic: Percent of locally owned businesses to corporate and absentee business ownership

► Goal: Transportation resources in Noble County are excellent

- Public transit is provided to Marietta and Cambridge
- The county airport has been expanded
- County roads are paved
- Noble County has good programs for those learning to drive a car
- All community members are well educated regarding vehicular laws
- Road signs are all easy to understand, even for diverse groups
- County and Township roads are numbered
- Noble county has no traffic problems
- Roads are well signed

► Indicator

Community Services
Social: Number of intersections that have signs indicating name/number of road Environmental: Percent of residents using alternative transportation methods to Marietta & Cambridge Economic: Percent of county roads that are paved

► Goal: Noble County residents have access to services

- Noble County has a veterinarian
- There are many sites that are ADA accessible; business, government, restrooms are accessible to all
- Public internet access is available
- Services and resources are available locally to residents so they don't have to go elsewhere
- Audio communication resources are good
- Jefferson Township residents have convenient access to a grocery and basic needs

► Indicator

Community Services
Social: Number of public buildings that meet American Disabilities Association standards Environmental: Percent of homes having internet access for shopping

Economic: Number of business start-ups that provide services currently unavailable in Noble County

► **Goal: Noble County is a progressive, diverse community**

- We are forward looking
- We are more accepting of diverse audiences
- Noble County is more racially diverse than it was 50 years ago

► Indicator

Community Services

Social: Number of homes sold to low income residents
Environmental: Number of minority land owners using state conservation programs
Economic: Number of minority persons who are members of Chamber of Commerce

► **Goal: Programs and services are designed to meet the needs of the elderly**

- Families value their elders
- There is a home visitation program for older people

► Indicator

Individual Households

Social: Number of persons volunteering time with elderly assistance programs
Environmental: Number of public and private buildings accessible to elderly
Economic: Yearly increase in cost to elderly for services

► **Goal: Family's place a high priority on staying together so the family remains strong in Noble County**

- Family's values keep them together
- Families spend time together
- Christian values in marriage and family
- Family members all live here
- Generations stand together
- There are family reunions
- More family time
- Accessibility to healthcare
- More families
- Kids stay home
- We are proud of our families and our community
- The community is family oriented
- Family reunions are going strong
- 4H and schools are family oriented

► Indicator

Individual Households

Social: Number of families participating in family enrichment programs
Environmental: Distance a family travels to recreational and entertainment activities
Economic: Change in fees per family unit for family educational and recreational activities

► **Goal: Family farms are supported by the community**

- Family farms are encouraged
- There is an abundance of farmer assistance crop insurance
- Families can own family farms

► **Indicator**

Community Services

Social: Enactment of legislation to preserve agricultural land
Environmental: Number of public agency programs offering land management assistance to small farmers
Economic: Amount of dollars targeted to make loans for small farming activities

► **Goal: There are activities & services targeted towards family needs**

- More community services are offered to families
- There are plenty of activities within prosperous communities
- Numerous places for families to go

► **Indicator**

Community Services

Social: Number of programs providing assistance to individuals
Environmental: Distance a family travels to recreational and entertainment activities
Economic: Number of businesses providing family entertainment

► **Goal: There is a lifestyle that values knowing your neighbors**

- There is a slow lifestyle where people visit neighbors
- People take care and watch out for each other

► **Indicators**

Individual Households

Social: Number of suspicious situations reported to police by neighbors
Environmental: Number of volunteers participating in non-profit home repair and maintenance programs
Economic: Number of dollars contributed each year to non-profit and faith based social assistance programs

► **Goal: Miscellaneous**

- The newspaper is improved and longer
- Public restrooms are clean
- There is ample parking at the Fair
- There is a volunteer action program for visiting elderly
- Parents have help in dealing with difficult children
- Every person is valued
- Smaller communities and rural areas get equal consideration
- Jefferson Township Buildings have uses
- Communities are clean and fixed up
- We respect our environment by recycling and conserving
- People respect other people's privacy

- Alternative energy options are available
- Homemakers groups are active
- Community is consistent and behaves in accordance with values
- Meetings and events are well publicized
- Noble County is successful in obtaining funds for industrial growth
- Child Development Center MRDD/Noble Learning Center Plan has served community for fifty years
- There are public transportation options including on weekends
- Buildings are handicap accessible
- There is a Volunteer Action Program
- There is Internet service to all homes
- There is a small version of Extension Center in Beaver Township
- There is a soup kitchen for the homeless
- There are very few bars and carry-outs
- There are streetlights in all communities
- Corporal punishment in school systems to control kids

Recreation, Play and Culture

Residents of Noble County find a wide variety of recreational and cultural opportunities for both county residents and visitors. Youth and adults find local public schools open to county residents in the evening and on weekends, providing a wide array of sport-related facilities. Youth are valued as contributors to our community. An emphasis is placed on facilities that help young people develop and express their talents. Parks, playgrounds, swimming pools and fitness trails are located in small towns throughout the county. A recreation/activity center offers programs and facilities available for residents of all ages to use. The Noble County Fairgrounds offers additional events and activities for fairgoers. Natural resource based recreation, such as hunting, fishing and hiking is enjoyed on lands devoted to those activities. Hunting has been expanded and the enforcement of laws helps to make it a safer experience. Native species of animals have been reintroduced and are thriving. Youth find many outlets to play in healthy ways because of the many and varied recreational opportunities, sports activities and facilities targeted to their particular interests. Arts and music, often based on the cultural history of Noble County, provide cultural experiences for all ages. A network of local artists, musicians and performers has grown with the support of local residents who support the contribution that these artists make to the quality of life of the community. Local actors, singers and musicians have a variety of public and private outlets throughout the county for their performances. Noble County is known throughout the region and country as a place that offers fun-filled activities for the entire family. The county has one anchor event/amenity that draws many tourists. Local tourism capitalizes on existing nationally known facilities such as The Wilds.

The list of specific recreation rainbows suggested by participants include:

- ▶ **Goal: Noble County is home to many natural areas, parks, and wildlife**
 - Hunting is preserved for area residents
 - Wildlife

- Improved parks
- Days off from school for deer season
- There are clean and adequate restrooms at the park
- There is a small zoo
- There is an environmental theme park
- Wildlife management protects from introduction of non-native species
- There are tourist attractions around environmental themes
- There are clean swim areas without entrance fees
- Wolf Run is expanded
- Abundant lakes, wildlife and parks
- Buckeye trail is promoted and maintained
- Wolf Run will have sewer and electricity at the campground
- More campsites are found in Noble County

► Indicator

Community Services
Social: Number of hours of volunteer service to recreational maintenance Environmental: Amount of reclaimed mining acres converted to public access areas Economic: Dollar amount of donations for recreational equipment

► **Goal: Noble County becomes the home of regional and national attractions and parks**

- State parks are expanded into the county
- Noble County has its own Jamboree in the Hills on coal company lands
- Noble County has a zoo
- Noble County has a Six-Flags type theme park
- Noble County has a ski resort
- The Wilds becomes more important to Noble County's economy.
- A NASCAR track is built in Noble County
- Sea World has located a facility in Noble County
- Noble County has a casino

► Indicator

Community services
Social: Number of vacation hours spent in county by Noble residents Environmental: Amount of new wastewater treatment facility capacity Economic: Dollar investment in construction by private sector

► **Goal: Community parks and recreation facilities are expanded and improved**

- There will be a fitness trail at Caldwell Park
- Townships in the county will have parks and shelters
- Batesville will have a new swimming pool
- There will be a recreation area/meeting place in Brookfield Township
- Caldwell has more tennis courts
- There is an amphitheater in Ava
- Summerfield and Sarahsville have better community parks
- Belle Valley will have a nice playground for the children
- Noble County will have additional organized recreational programs for youth and adults
- Softball will be revitalized in Noble County

► Indicator

Community Services

Social: Number of play areas in the incorporated villages
Environmental: Development of passive recreational opportunities such as bird watching, herb gathering and flora walks
Economic: Financial investment in maintenance and expansion projects by state and federal agencies

► **Goal: Improvements are made to the Noble County Fairground**

- The Noble County Fair will still be going strong
- The Noble County Fair will still feature a demolition derby
- The Noble County Fair will have more events
- The Noble County Fairgrounds are improved
- The Noble County Fair has more rides

► Indicator

Community Services

Social: Number of organizations participating in the fair each year
Environmental: Amount of waste hauled from fair activities
Economic: Amount of public and private dollars donated to new equipment and facilities

► **Goal: Hunting, fishing, and wildlife are important recreational activities**

- Hunting and fishing will be popular recreation activities but landowner rights will be respected
- Native animals have been re-introduced to Noble County
- Deer and turkey season is extended
- The bag limit for deer and turkey is increased
- Noble County will have pheasant hunting resorts
- The State of Ohio better enforces hunting laws in Noble County

► Indicator

Community services

Social: Decrease in accidents per hunting day
Environmental: Number of deer, turkey, pheasants and other game animals in the county
Economic: Increase in tourism based business sales during hunting seasons

► **Goal: Arts and music are important forms of recreation for all ages**

- There will be a place to dance, sing and socialize in the county
- Noble County will have an outdoor drama
- Noble County has an active music scene with country and pop music
- Movies that we are watching are less violent and cleaner
- Noble County has a building that promotes the arts, similar to the Morgan County Opera House
- Noble County has a facility to promote the performing arts
- Caldwell has a gazebo on the square for band concerts, etc.
- Communities in the county have community bands
- Storytellers are active and have an honored place in the community
- Noble County sponsors a Bluegrass festival
- Caldwell has street performers
- Noble County has more square dances
- Noble County has more drawings and raffles

► Indicator

Community Services
Social: Number of art shows for local artists to present their creations Environmental: Number of square feet of existing buildings reused for artist businesses Economic: Amount of tourism dollars generated from artist events

► **Goal: Noble County will offer a wide variety of active, youth oriented recreational opportunities**

- Noble County will have a roller skating rink
- Noble County will have a paint ball facility
- Noble County will have places for youths to go for recreation
- Noble County will have a game room
- Noble County will have a water slide
- Noble County has a 4-wheel, ATV track
- Noble County has a sand volleyball court
- Noble County has a go-cart track
- Noble County has a dirt bike track
- Noble County has a place to do stunts on bikes and roller blades
- Noble County has batting cages
- Noble County has a motor cross dome
- Noble County has a facility for laser tag

► Indicator

Community Services
Social: Number of additional recreational equipment facilities at existing businesses and parks Environmental: Level of consolidation of various new recreational activities in existing facilities Economic: Increase in wholesale purchase of recreational equipment from area merchants

► **Goal: Recreation facilities are improved and utilization increased at Noble County Schools**

- Noble County will have more sports facilities & fields
- The football field at the fairground will be used more often for recreational events
- Schools in Noble County have expanded extra-curricular activities
- Schools in Noble County are opened on evenings and weekends for recreational use
- Caldwell has a facility for high school track

► Indicator

Community Services
Social: Number of hours school facilities are used for non-school related activities Environmental: Amount of existing school acreage/buildings used to locate new recreational facilities Economic: Passage of school funding request by Noble/Caldwell citizens

► **Goal: Tourism and historical sites are developed and expanded in Noble County**

- More tourists are attracted to the county
- Historical attractions are maintained and improved in the county
- A series of postcards of Caldwell City Hall, the Courthouse and other important sites has been created
- Towns in Noble Co. have distinctive souvenirs that are sold with the profits used to fund village projects

- Tourism is expanded and important in Noble County
- The Shenandoah memorial is expanded

► Indicator

Community Services

Social: Renovation completed on two existing covered bridges Environmental: Number of existing facilities renovated for reuse/new use activities Economic: Number of tourists annually
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► **Goal: Noble County has additional opportunities for walking as a recreation**

- Noble County will have more places for outdoor recreation
- Noble County will have walking paths
- Noble County will have bike paths possibly on the old railroad bed near Caldwell
- People are walking more for recreation

► Indicator

Community Services

Social: Number of persons participating in publicly supported walking groups Environmental: Number of existing paths or right of ways developed for recreational use Economic: Dollar amount contributed by service clubs for trail development and maintenance

► **Goal: Improvements will be made to existing water based recreation areas and new ones will be built**

- Noble County will have another dam for flood control and recreation
- Noble County will have a boat and canoe rental business
- Wolf Run Park will be upgraded
- There will be a marina and lodge on the south end of Seneca Lake in Noble County
- There will be additional small lakes scattered throughout the county
- There will be a large recreational lake and dam in the Ava area
- Pine Lake is restored and improved
- Noble County has more beaches at the local lakes

► Indicator

Community Services

Social: Number of programs for youth using water recreational facilities Environmental: Number of volunteer hours for clean-up of public water recreational areas Economic: Number of dollars gained by food services

► **Goal: One or more recreation center/lodges will be built in the county**

- Noble County will have an indoor walking and recreation facility
- Noble County will have a recreation center for adults
- Noble County will have a facility for wedding receptions
- There will be a lodge at Belle Valley
- Noble County will have a youth center
- The county will have a community center with ping pong, pool tables, card tables, and craft tables

► Indicator

Community Services

Social: Square footage of recreational and community space available to the community
Environmental: Number of new facilities by township and village
Economic: Revenues received by recreational facilities

► **Goal: Golfing opportunities in the county are expanded**

- There is a new golf course near Caldwell
- Noble County has a driving range
- Noble County has a putt-putt course
- Noble County has a shooting range
- Noble County has a country club

► Indicator

Community Services

Social: Number of family activities at golfing facilities
Environmental: Amount of pesticides used by golfing facilities
Economic: Number of customers at golfing facilities

► **Goal: Noble County has a variety of commercial recreation opportunities**

- Noble County will have a movie theater
- Noble County will have a ice cream parlor/soda fountain
- Noble County will have a permanent flea market location
- Noble County will have a bowling alley
- Noble County will have a mall
- Noble County will have an old fashion drive in restaurant
- Noble County will have horseback riding

► Indicator

Community Services

Social: Amount of dollars currently spent by Noble residents for these types of entertainment in neighboring communities
Environmental: Cost of gasoline for travel to neighboring communities for these services
Economic: Property tax base increase generated by new recreational facilities

► **Goal: The elderly are not forgotten when recreation opportunities are developed**

- Noble County will have a program of in-home visits for the elderly and lonely
- Noble County will have van transportation for shopping

► Indicator

Community Services

Social: Number of programs designed for elderly participation
Environmental: Number of volunteer hours from faith based programs
Economic: Amount of revenues from federal public programs for elderly care

- ▶ Goal: Noble County has a variety of festivals that serve residents and tourists
 - Noble County will have more festivals

▶ Indicator

Community Services
Social: Number of residents who attend festivals in Noble County Environmental: Number of festivals with a natural resource theme Economic: Revenues brought into Noble County by festival attendance

Youth

It is often said, “the future belongs to the youth of today.” In Noble County this statement certainly rings true. Residents, public officials and service providers join together to create nurturing, caring and stimulating experiences for the area’s young people. Services are provided from cradle to adulthood for the youth of Noble County. Included are daycare, recreation, extra-curricular activities, entertainment facilities, and public assistance programs. Adults in the community respect the educational desires of their youth by participating in financial and volunteer support of learning experiences. Young people have opportunities to share their talents and abilities through volunteer activities that serve the community. Youth find open arenas where they can express their thoughts, ideas and creativity within their community. The family structure is strong and involved in young persons lives with family support services that assist family members provide a moral and social compass in raising their children. Noble County takes initiative to provide opportunities for young people to not only gain work experience but to also have the types of jobs available that will fully employ graduates in work they find meaningful. Noble County is a community that has the technological resources necessary for youth to connect to and experience the world with all its wonders.

The list of specific youth rainbows suggested by participants include:

- ▶ Goal: Noble County has new or improved recreational and community use buildings
 - Noble County needs a activity/recreation center for the youth
 - Noble County needs a county office building with a daycare center
 - Noble County needs a recreation building with facilities for karate, roller skating and dance (perhaps in the basement of a church)
 - Noble County has a YMCA/YWCA
 - Jobs are available in the county that allow students to return to the county after college

▶ Indicator:

Community Services
Social: Number of organizations supporting plan for creation of recreational facilities Environmental: Amount of energy saving equipment designed into the facility Economic: Level of financial support from individuals and organizations

► **Goal: Recreational opportunities for Noble County’s youth are improved**

- Noble County needs more recreational activities for youth
- Noble County needs recreational activities in all communities and townships
- Noble County needs a petting zoo
- Noble County needs more winter activities for youth
- Youth in Noble County need a place to sing and dance
- Noble County remains a place with plenty of youth activities and a prosperous community
- More dances are sponsored for the kids in the county
- Events for youth are scheduled in townships
- Noble County has an indoor swimming pool
- Competitive sports activities are expanded for Noble County’s youth
- There is an arcade in Noble County for the youth
- Noble County sponsors the Gus Macker Basketball tournament
- There will be more entertainment for teens in the county
- Youth in the county will have good clean places to go and places to learn respect for others

► **Indicator:**

Community Services

Social: Number of youth participating in organized recreational programs Environmental: Number of receptacles available for removing waste Economic: Level of fees charged for individual participant

► **Goal: Parents are involved in their children’s lives**

- Parents teach their children respect
- Parents are highly involved in schools
- Families are the main influence for children

► **Indicator:**

Community Services

Social: Number of family activities presented by faith based organizations Environmental: Number of environmental education projects done by parent and child Economic: Number of volunteer hours parents give to youth programs
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► **Goal: Families and the community continue to play a strong role in raising and providing a moral compass for children**

- X-rated adult businesses need to be kept out
- Noble County will have as good as group of kids as they do now
- Noble County will be more diverse
- Youth in Noble County are safe and caring
- Families in Noble County stick to their values and stay together
- Noble County has strong marriages with Christian values
- Generations in Noble County stick together
- Noble County has mentoring programs for its youth
- Youth in Noble County maintain and improve where necessary work ethics and discipline
- Churches are more active in youth activities
- Youth in Noble County are loved by their families
- Youth in Noble County are family oriented and wholesome
- Adults in Noble County appreciate the new ideas that youth have

- Youth in Noble County do not face peer pressure from their friends
- There is less racial prejudice in Noble County
- There is less peer pressure on youth to smoke or drink
- The community protects and nurtures its youth.
- Youth in Noble County are not viewed as a commodity
- Youth feel valued in Noble County
- Youth initiated vandalism is no longer a problem in Noble County
- Society has a better control of illegal drugs
- Liquor and tobacco laws are rigidly enforced in Noble County
- Youth in Noble County have more opportunities for art and culture

► Indicator:

Community Services
Social: Number of youth that participate in faith based youth organizations Environmental: Number of buildings damaged from youth vandalism Economic: Amount of dollars local courts spend on youth rehabilitation programs

► **Goal: Noble County youth have modern telecommunications services**

- Phone lines in Noble County need improved for better e-mail and Internet access
- Noble County has a website for youth

► Indicator:

Community Services
Social: Number of households connected to the Internet Environmental: Level of re-vegetation accomplished from installing lines Economic: Number of miles of fiber optic cable in the county

► **Goal: Public programs exist to help Noble County youth as needed**

- Noble County needs more programs for youth (church, civic, schools) that provide lasting rewards
- Government programs provide help for all kids, not just those who meet guidelines
- Children in Noble County are emphasized in 4-H, not parents
- Citizens of Noble County put money into economic development and 4-H for the youth
- More and better day care is available for youth in Noble County
- The economic base of the county is improved which allows parents to raise children, not governmental programs like Head Start
- Youth have the opportunity for more training in life skills
- Noble County has a comprehensive children services program with physical, emotional and mental services

► Indicator:

Community Services
Social: Level of participation in caregiver accreditation Environmental: Availability of health water/sewer systems to youth Economic: Contribution level of individuals to youth programs

► **Goal: Youth in Noble County have opportunities to serve their communities**

- Noble County's youth need encouraged to take more leadership roles
- Noble County needs to put more money into preserving the parks and covered bridges we have
- Youth in Noble County need opportunities to work year round for pay
- Conditions in Noble County permit all youth to live here that wish to
- Youth in Noble County are prepared for adult life
- Noble County has additional and diversified jobs to allow youth to stay here after graduation
- Teens in Noble County volunteer their free time to help the elderly, disabled and the handicapped
- Kids in Noble County are allowed to wear clothes the way they were meant to be worn
- Youth in Noble County are taller

► **Indicator:**

Community Services

Social: Number of youth summer work opportunities in the county

Environmental: Number youth projects that are focused on environmental educational programs

Economic: Wage level for youth employment opportunities

Education

Providing opportunities for Noble County residents of all ages and interests to build and further their education is a community priority. Curriculum tracks meet the needs of both college and workforce bound students. Citizenship and knowledge of the local community are taught through the schools and parents participate actively in their children's education. For youth, the educational and extracurricular opportunities available through the local schools provide both quality and the ability to serve a wide variety of athletic and educational interests.



Caldwell High School, Caldwell

Residents provide adequate financial support for education. Additional resources are found through the efforts of a professional fundraiser, successful in securing grants and contributions for special programs and scholarships enhance residents' support. Teachers are well trained and supported so they may be sensitive in meeting the special learning needs and styles of children. School facilities are modern with adequate space and equipment for each student. Students learn leadership skills that enable their participation in our community's future. Alternatives to public school are available, such as private religious schools and a well supported home school network. Noble County is home to an institution of higher education. Community residents find lifelong adult education and computer classes offered through various educational sources.

The list of specific education rainbows suggested by participants include:

► **Goal: County has life-long learning opportunities**

- Schools offer adult education including computer classes to the general public
- Lifelong education experiences are provided
- Noble County has a Community/Junior College
- Noble County has a College
- Noble County has a regional campus of a university
- Supporting “Continuing Education” Branches of Universities and Colleges - OU, OSU
- Schools focus on preparing youth for lifelong learning activities
- There is a technology training center for all citizens

► Indicator:

Community services
Social: Noble county residents will have opportunity for on site instruction from one or more of the regional technical/community colleges Environmental: Distance that Noble County residents must travel to access educational opportunities Economic: Develop and expand opportunities for high school graduates to continue their education from home via distance learning

► **Goal: Noble County has one high school**

- Schools are bigger
- Schools are not overcrowded
- Noble County has One School System

► Indicator:

Community Services
Social: Amount of square footage of Noble County high school Environmental: Number of classrooms and other educational facilities Economic: Use of state building funds as they become available to modernize or construct new as determined by local boards of education

► **Goal: Current school buildings and system continues for years ahead**

- School systems in the future are the same as they are today
- Existing schools still standing
- School buildings have basements

► Indicator:

Community Services
Social: Number of schools that continue to exist Environmental: Number of energy saving measures that have been installed in schools Economic: Levy dollars raised to support existing school systems

- ▶ **Goal: Local schools have a curriculum track that focuses on entry into workforce upon graduation**
 - There is a local school curriculum that places emphasis on preparing high school graduates for immediately entering the regional workforce
 - Local schools provide a strong Jobs for Ohio Grads Program
 - Schools provide a curriculum that provides hands-on training

▶ Indicator:

Community Services
Social: Number of high school graduates entering the regional work force Environmental: Number of miles high school graduates commute for work Economic: Wage rates of recent high school graduates

- ▶ **Goal: There is a strong college prep curriculum**

▶ Indicator:

Community Services
Social: Number of Noble County high school graduates who complete college Environmental: Number of computers available for student use in the schools Economic: Number of scholarships received

- ▶ **Goal: Schools have more authority to discipline students**

- Schools are allowed to discipline kids
- Schools administer corporal punishment

▶ Indicator:

Community Services
Social: Reduction in student disciplinary reports Environmental: Number of safe places created through on site after school programs Economic: Number of children involved with juvenile court system

- ▶ **Goal: Schools and school programs are improved in Noble County**

- All the schools in Noble County are improved
- Discipline will be enforced in schools and at home
- Youth understand and appreciate the value of the education that they receive locally
- More grants and scholarships are available for youth
- Youth in Noble County have better guidance programs available
- Schools are opened on evenings and weekends for recreation
- Parents and teachers in Noble County are more interdependent
- Youth in Noble County are actively involved in extra curricular activities

▶ Indicator:

Community Services
Social: Number of programs offered through technical schools and number of class offerings in local public schools Environmental: Number of computer labs existing in the local public schools Economic: Amount of dollars brought into local schools through grants and contracts

► **Goal: School Funding is adequate to assure all school systems can provide quality curriculum**

- Schools offer curriculum as well as wealthy systems can offer
- School funding across the state is equalized

► Indicator:

Community Services

Social: Local school's rating on state's performance report card system
Environmental: Number of years since school buildings were constructed or modernized
Economic: Amount spent per pupil in comparison with other school districts

► **Goal: Teachers focus on teaching and helping students, not on administrative duties**

- Administrative duties are solely the responsibility of administrators

► Indicator:

Community Services

Social: Number of hours teachers spend in student counseling
Environmental: Student/teacher ratios in the classroom
Economic: Pay incentives based on direct involvement with students

► **Goal: Basics are instructed with a special emphasis on kindergarten and first Grade**

- The basics are taught; the "three Rs"

► Indicator:

Community Services

Social: Proficiency test scores
Environmental: Number of miles school buses travel
Economic: Cost to school for running the programs

► **Goal: Teachers are prepared to meet learning styles of students**

- Teachers are sensitive to educational needs of "laid back" students
- A strong mentoring and training program is provided for teachers
- Schools do a thorough job of checking applicant teacher's backgrounds
- Gifted students are identified and assisted in reaching their potential
- Special needs kids receive individual attention

► Indicator:

Community Services

Social: Number of training and mentoring hours that teacher's receive
Environmental: Number of facilities for special needs children
Economic: Cost to school for providing teacher training

► **Goal: Evaluation systems are in place to evaluate performance**

- Schools have higher expectations that are reflected in the testing system
- There is an effective teacher tenure evaluation system

► Indicator:

Community Services
Social: Number of teachers who receive excellent evaluations Environmental: Criteria in teacher performance reviews include environmental awareness and programs offered Economic: Dollars spent on student evaluation and testing

► Goal: Students are instructed in citizenship values

- Students are taught about community issues
- Students are encouraged/taught to befriend
- School atmosphere that enhances parent to teacher communication
- Schools are controlled by local school boards

► Indicator:

Community Services
Social: Programs in existence to help maintain strong families Environmental: Number of students who volunteer in the community on environmental issues Economic: Number of children involved in the juvenile court system

► Goal: Alternative schools are available in the county

- Parents are brought into the classroom to improve communications
- Local Schools support and assist in accrediting home schooling opportunities
- Churches are involved in schools
- Noble County has a collaborative Christian School

► Indicator:

Community Services
Social: Amount of support services for parents who home school Environmental: Number of different environments for education Economic: Amount of funding for alternative forms of education

► Goal: Additional sources of funding are available

- Educational grants and scholarships are provided to area youth
- Each school system has a professional fundraiser
- Students have a written history of Noble County schools and it is sold as a fundraiser

► Indicator:

Community Services
Social: Number of students who go on to higher education Environmental: Percentage of funds raised that are used to support environmental components in accomplished projects Economic: Number of scholarships and amount of grants for local students and schools

► Goal: Caldwell Schools offer expanded extracurricular athletic program

- Caldwell provides extracurricular golf program
- Caldwell provides extracurricular boxing program

- Caldwell provides extracurricular swimming program
- Caldwell provides extracurricular soccer program
- Caldwell provides extracurricular rugby program
- Caldwell provides extracurricular bowling program
- Caldwell provides extracurricular women's football program
- Caldwell provides extracurricular racing team
- Caldwell provides extracurricular chess club

▶ Indicator:

Community Services
Social: Number of students who participate in team sports and extracurricular activities Environmental: Youth are healthier because of athletic involvement Economic: Dollars to support extracurricular activities through donations and tax dollars

▶ **Goal: Football stadium for Caldwell Schools**

- More seating at the football stadium

▶ Indicator:

Community Services
Social: Increased seating at football stadium, allowing more families to attend games Environmental: Construction of the stadium using recycled materials Economic: Levy support for the school system increases

▶ **Goal: Shenandoah Schools offer expanded extracurricular athletic program**

- Shenandoah provides an extracurricular golf program
- Shenandoah provides an extracurricular rugby program
- Shenandoah provides an extracurricular soccer program
- Shenandoah provides an extracurricular swimming program
- Shenandoah provides an extracurricular tennis program
- Shenandoah provides an extracurricular gymnastics program
- Shenandoah provides co-ed sports

▶ Indicator:

Community Services
Social: Number of students who participate in team sports and extracurricular activities Environmental: Youth are healthier because of athletic involvement Economic: Dollars to support extracurricular activities through donations and tax dollars

▶ **Goal: Shenandoah has a domed football stadium**

- Shenandoah's school football field is made of AstroTurf

▶ **Goal: Miscellaneous**

- Time students spend on busses is minimized
- More computers are available in the schools
- Schools are an environment where each student helps other students learn

- Schools have modern and efficient heating and cooling systems
- Courtesy training is provided to bus drivers
- Academics, not athletics, are emphasized
- There are facilities for early childhood education programs
- There is a foreign exchange program in the schools
- Logic is a topic taught in local schools
- Schools start later in the day
- Local school teachers are paid a livable salary
- Noble County schools are a place where there is no racial prejudice
- The Fair provides more opportunities for kids to learn about animals through 4H
- Schools dismiss for a week during deer hunting season
- Students do not have to wear uniforms
- Extension office has full time agents in all four program areas
- There is a curriculum on protecting natural resources
- Memory courses are part of the curriculum
- Shenandoah offers a variety of foreign languages and drivers education
- Shenandoah has an indoor swimming pool
- There are no proficiency tests

12/01/03