



# Our Gahanna

TODAY. TOMORROW. **TOGETHER.**

---

# Agenda

1. Process
  - 10/20 – Public Hearing
  - 11/3 – Council Vote
2. Steering Committee
3. Engagement
4. Plan Overview

# Process

# What is a Strategic Plan?

- A Strategic Plan is a long-term framework that outlines a roadmap for the future of Gahanna.
- It often involves collaboration beyond the City elected officials and City staff
- A guide for City decision-makers and is based on input from anyone in the community who cares about the future of the City as a place to thrive, succeed, and prosper.





---

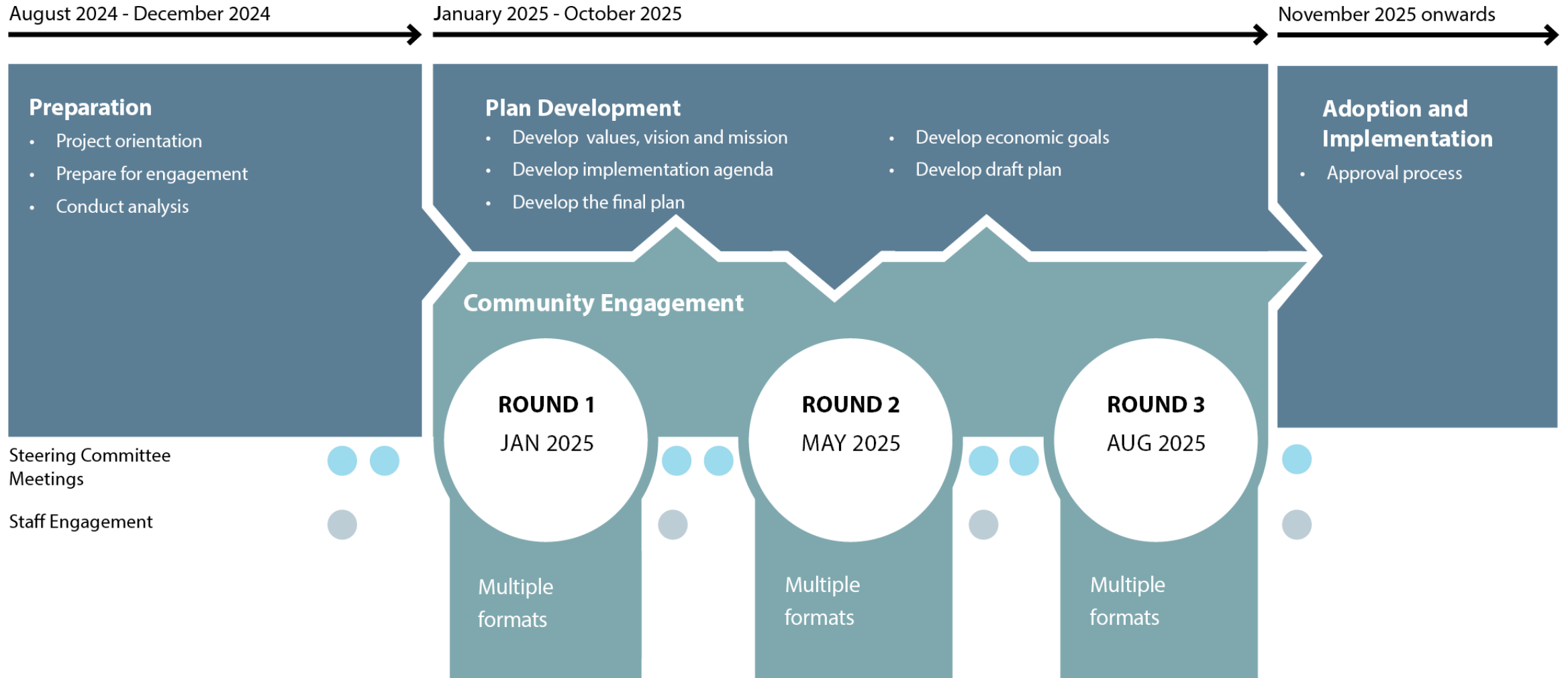
# Scope

Three components...

1. Preparation
2. Engagement
3. Plan Development



# Process Timeline



# Steering Committee

25 members

---

## Roles and Responsibilities

- Deliver people to the process through personal networks.
- Act as champions to get people excited and involved in the planning process.
- Serve as hosts at public events (virtually or in-person) during the process.
- Volunteer to facilitate public meetings.
- Use community connections and networks to contact people.
- Distribute information about the planning process through individual networks (civic groups, churches, neighborhood groups, etc.).
- Identify specific groups that have traditionally been under-represented or not heard as part of previous planning efforts and suggest the best means of outreach to these groups.
- Review and help interpret input received throughout the engagement process.
- Act as a sounding board to test ideas and topics throughout the plan development.

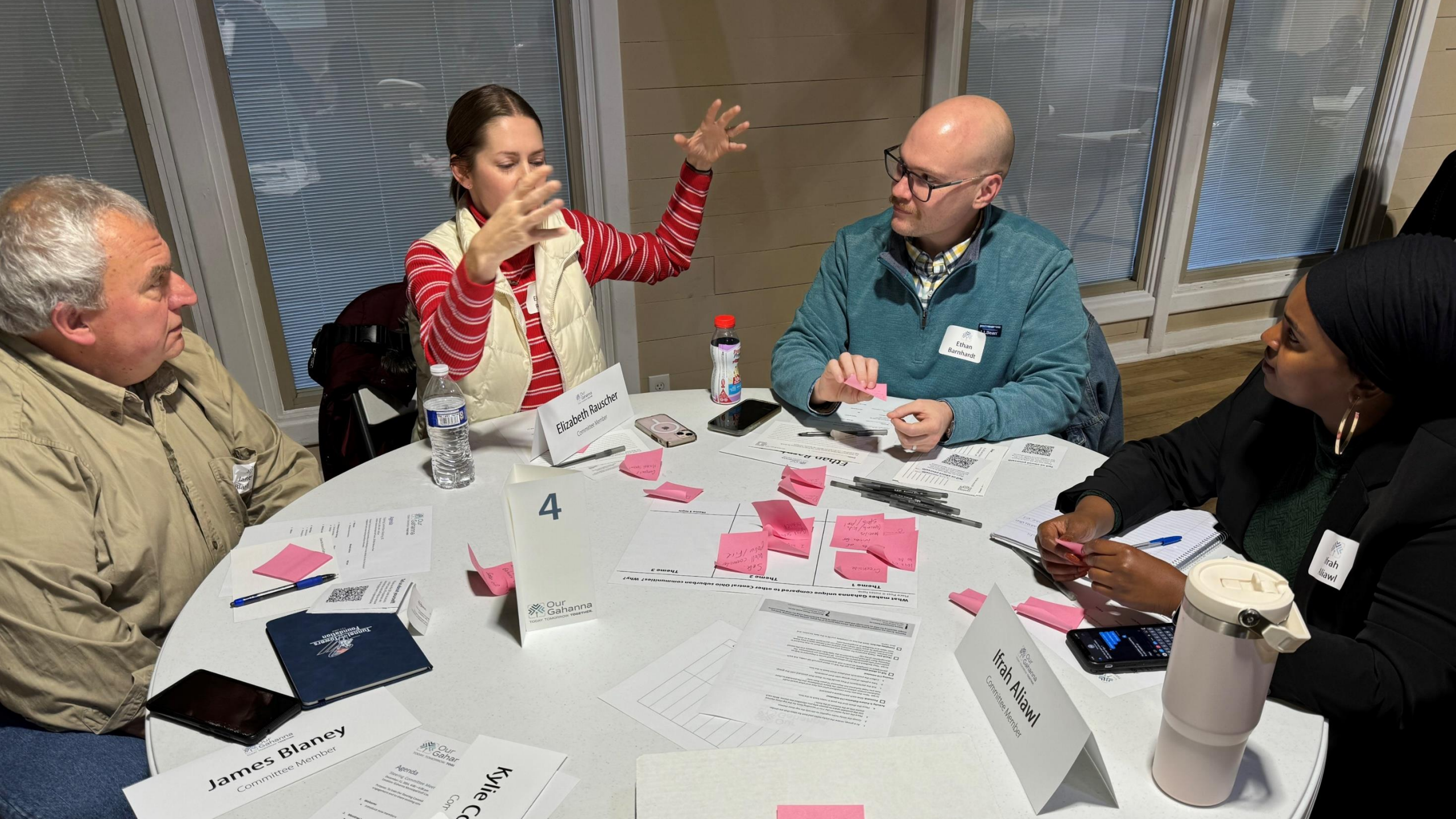


# Involvement

- 6 meetings throughout the planning process
- Committee meetings included small group work, engagement input review, draft plan input, joint meetings with City directors, and more
- Also committed time outside the meetings
  - Facilitate
  - Volunteer
  - Spread the word







Elizabeth Rauscher  
Committee Member

Ethan Barnhardt

Ifrah Aliawi  
Committee Member

James Blaney  
Committee Member

4

Our Gahanna  
TODAY TOGETHER TOGETHER

Ifrah Aliawi  
Committee Member

Our Gahanna  
TODAY TOGETHER TOGETHER

Kylie C...





# Engagement



# Engagement Completed

## 3 Rounds of Community Engagement

- **86** *Table Talks*
- **6** *in-person events*
- *Pop-ups – high school, YMCA, Senior Center, community events, and more*
- *Business Focus Groups Meetings*
- **3** *online surveys*





# Engagement Completed

## Staff Engagement

- *Department Directors*
- *Staff*

## Council Engagement

- *3 presentations to Council*
- *One-on-one interviews*

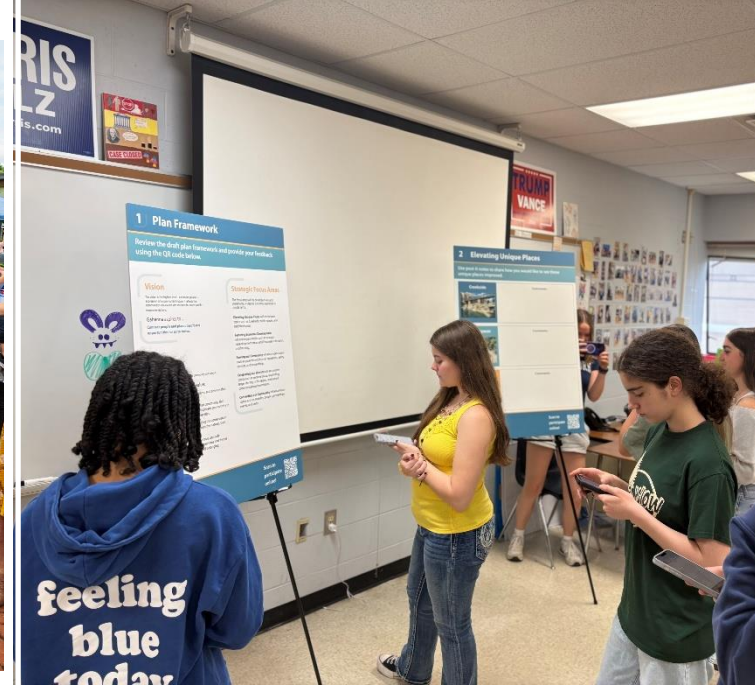
## Boards and Commission Engagement

















# Participation Numbers




- **1,800+** participants
- **9,000+** pieces of input
- Heard from community members from all demographics and areas of the City



# Outreach

- Process website: [OurGahanna.com](http://OurGahanna.com)
- **10,000** project business cards
- **29+ City** email blasts
- **77+** Social media posts
- Postcards sent to all residences for each round
- Promotion at/to businesses (flyers/posters)
- Promotion on community gateway signs (rounds 2 and 3)



	<b>TUE, MAY 6</b> 5-7 p.m. Hannah Park	<b>TACO TUESD.</b> Bring the whole family, free for all! Fun activities, a contest, and more!
	<b>WED, MAY 7</b> 7:30-9 a.m. Gahanna Library	<b>SMALL BUSINESS COFFEE NET</b> An opportunity for fellow business owners to connect and share ideas.
	<b>WED, MAY 7</b> 11:30-1 p.m. Senior Center	<b>SENIOR LUNCHEON</b> Seniors are invited to enjoy a delicious lunch and socialize.
	<b>THU, MAY 8</b> 4-6 p.m. Edison Brewing	<b>YOUNG PROFESSIONAL HAPPY HOUR</b> An evening of fun and networking for young professionals in Gahanna.



Learn more  
get involved  
**OURGAHANNA.COM**



Can't make the event?

Catch the Our Gahanna Roadshow at locations across the City throughout September. Visit the project website to see where it's headed next!



[OURGAHANNA.COM](http://OURGAHANNA.COM)



## Outreach

- Engagement tables/QR code boards at partner locations (YMCA, library, Creekside, Hunter's Ridge Pool, parks)
- Gahanna.gov events calendar and news flashes
- *Uniquely Gahanna* and *Explore Guide* ads
- Newsletters – City, Senior Center, School staff, Utility billing
- Outreach to all boards and commissions for all three rounds



**Gahanna wants to hear from you!**

The City of Gahanna is undertaking a process to update the Strategic Plan. This is a unique opportunity to help shape the future of our city. Your input is important to the process!

**Scan the QR code or visit the website and complete the survey.**



Learn more about the Gahanna Strategic Plan at [ourgahanna.com](https://ourgahanna.com)



**Our Gahanna**  
TODAY. TOMORROW. TOGETHER.



A collage of four images showing community activities: a man in a red jacket talking to a man in a blue jacket, a group of people walking on a path, a person in a blue shirt working on a kayak, and a person in a blue shirt riding a bicycle.



---

## Cross-promotion at City Events

- Mill Street Market – Sep 2024
- Transportation Plan Jeff Speck Event – Oct 2024
- Columbus Business First Breakfast – Nov 2024
- Holiday Lights Celebration – Nov 2024
- State of the City – Mar 2025
- Herb Day – May 2025
- Economic Development Annual Event (Josiah Brown) – May 2025
- Gahanna Pride – Jun 2025
- Independence Day Fireworks – Jul 2025
- Gahanna Market – Jul & Aug 2025
- Creekside Live – summer 2025
- Cinema Under the Stars – summer 2025
- Touch-a-Truck – Sep 2025

# Plan Overview



# Plan Structure

## **Part I: Strategic Plan**

- Introduction
- Process
- Plan Framework
- Goal Chapters
  1. Elevate our Unique Places
  2. Serve Our Community
  3. Connect Our Community
  4. Celebrate our Identity
- Implementation

## **Part II: Economic Development Strategy**

- Introduction
- Process (ED specific)
- Existing Conditions
- Strategies
- Implementation

---

## **Goal 1: Elevate our Unique Places: Vibrant, inclusive, and connected places that reflect community identity, support livability, and foster pride.**

### **Outcomes**

- A. Advance the Creekside District as a vibrant area.
- B. Foster inclusive, accessible, and well-maintained parks.
- C. Foster strong and engaged neighborhoods.

### **Strategy Summary**

- Improve access, walkability, and visibility in Creekside District
- Support businesses and vibrant spaces for dining and entertainment
- Align planning efforts and restructure district alliance
- Enhance park infrastructure, inclusivity, and recreation programming
- Strengthen neighborhood infrastructure, mobility, and housing diversity



---

## **Goal 2: Serve our Community. High-quality municipal services that are effective, collaborative, and responsive.**

### **Outcomes**

- A. Enhance internal operations.
- B. Maintain a high level of stewardship and safety.

### **Strategy Summary**

- Embed Strategic Plan into budgeting, project evaluation, and departmental accountability
- Improve internal communication, collaboration, and employee development
- Modernize policies, procedures, and technology to boost efficiency and transparency
- Strengthen safety, sustainability, and emergency preparedness across the city

---

## **Goal 3: Connect our Community. A welcoming and accessible community that fosters a sense of belonging, promotes active living, and celebrates shared experiences.**

### **Outcomes**

- A. Advance a comprehensive mobility network.
- B. Foster an engaged and inclusive community.

### **Strategy Summary**

- Implement mobility and trails plans to expand transportation options
- Explore inclusive rideshare solutions for older adults and underserved groups
- Promote community engagement through events, academies, and school partnerships
- Advance age-friendly initiatives to support healthy aging and inclusivity

---

## **Goal 4: Celebrate our Identity: Distinctive and vibrant places that elevate community pride and strengthen regional recognition.**

### **Outcomes**

- A. Elevate Gahanna's regional identity.
- B. Strengthen placemaking efforts.
- C. Enhance citywide communications and promotion.

### **Strategy Summary**

- Align city branding and marketing with strategic goals and regional identity
- Enhance placemaking through gateways, wayfinding, and public art plans
- Transform underutilized areas into vibrant community spaces
- Improve citywide communication through coordinated marketing and public reporting

---

**Economic Development Goals: Strengthen existing industry sectors to ensure a robust ecosystem. Use regional and local market conditions and trends to identify opportunities to nurture new and emerging economic sectors. Work with local stakeholders to deepen an employee-first workforce development model that focuses on existing and emerging economic drivers.**

### Outcomes

- A. Advance development and/or redevelopment of strategic areas.
- B. Cultivate a thriving small and local business community in priority areas.
- C. Align economic development tools to strategically attract economic base companies and other priority businesses.
- D. Strengthen collaboration and communication with businesses and community partners.
- E. Implement a sector-based approach to economic development.



---

## Strategy Summary

- Identify and plan redevelopment in strategic areas, including mixed-use and flexible workspaces
- Align with regional partners and transportation agencies to support job centers and cross-jurisdictional growth
- Support small business growth through partnerships, targeted strategies, and structured programs
- Streamline development processes and update land use, infrastructure, and incentive plans
- Promote sustainable development and enhance coordination with the Community Improvement Corporation
- Collaborate with schools and workforce partners to support employer-driven initiatives
- Strengthen business engagement through advisory groups, roundtables, and expanded communications

# THANK YOU!

