

Character & Environment



I. COMMUNITY CHARACTER

A community's character is shaped by both physical and intangible elements. It is the essence of a place and what one remembers long after leaving. The image of a community is not static – it can and will change over time. The City of Dublin's positive image is based on well-planned development, attention to parks and open space, and strong neighborhood identity. This chapter identifies ways to preserve and enhance Dublin's character and environmental quality as the community grows and matures.

A. Elements of Dublin's Character

Dublin's character is defined by a number of key physical elements such as topography, the built environment and

roadways. There are also less tangible attributes that shape perceptions of the City. Residents enjoy a high standard of living due to exceptional municipal services, parks and recreational amenities, and excellent schools and community facilities. Together, these elements and others shape the image of Dublin as a desirable community.

The following summarizes some of the more prominent elements found throughout the City that together create Dublin's image (Map 2.1). While these major elements provide an overarching description of Dublin, land use patterns and road corridor design interconnect to form the physical and visual character of an area. Land uses are further defined through architecture, form and layout to

shape the built environment. *Chapter 3 – Land Use* includes the Future Land Use Map (Map 3.3) and general descriptions for the various land uses within Dublin. In addition, special area plans within that chapter address key development issues through additional design information and expectations that augment the land use definitions. Furthermore, the design of public roadways and corridors provides distinct visual impressions and shapes the perceptions of drivers and pedestrians. For information on roadway character and corridor designations, please refer to *Chapter 4 – Transportation*.

Natural Features

Dublin's significant natural features include: the Scioto River and its tributaries, Indian Run Falls, natural ravines and rock outcroppings, native flora and fauna, hardwood forest and woodlands, wetlands and vernal pools, and stands of mature trees. Important natural features should be protected and enhanced as a vital part of the City's visual quality.

The Rural Landscape

Most of Dublin was at one time cultivated or used as pasture for livestock. Dublin's agricultural roots evoke powerful images: open fields, stone and brick farmhouses, barns and outbuildings, and hedge rows and trees that define property boundaries. While areas to the north and west of Dublin remain agricultural, continued development will require efforts to preserve clear ties to the City's historic past.

Historic Dublin

Dublin's original crossroads settlement is a focal point and center for the community. The pedestrian-scaled character of Historic Dublin is defined by the tight pattern of streets, a mix of uses, the size and scale of historic buildings, and the relationship of structures to the street. The community has placed high priority on maintaining the character and viability of Historic Dublin as the heart and community gathering place of the City.

Community Heritage

Dublin has a long and rich cultural and historic heritage. Through the Dublin Historical Society, the Dublin Arts Council and many other civic organizations, residents enjoy a wealth of information and events. The Art in Public Places program, the City's first history book: *Dublin's Journey*, community theater and events such as the Dublin Irish Festival promote Dublin as a special place.

Gateways and Entry Features

Gateways are points of identification that provide a sense of arrival. Many of Dublin's gateways are signified by creative designs that feature landscape elements, stone walls and specialized entry signs. Roundabouts and freeway interchanges are Dublin's major gateways, providing primary access for most residents, corporate citizens and visitors. Entrances to Historic Dublin, including the Bridge Street crossing of the Scioto River, also create a strong sense of arrival and boundary as the character and scale of buildings change abruptly. New developments have also created gateway "statements" throughout Dublin at the entrances to office parks, commercial developments and residential areas that provide a sense of identity. Identified locations should be emphasized in a unique manner to clearly distinguish the City.

Roadway Character and Streetscapes

Certain roads in Dublin provide particularly striking views to greenscapes, the Scioto River and other scenic features.

A year-round calendar of special events and festivals adds to Dublin's attractiveness.

RIGHT: Dublin has a rich tradition of public events and special activities including the annual Dublin Irish Festival.

OPPOSITE PAGE: Attention to landscape detail enhances Dublin's character.



Among them are Brand Road, Dublin Road, Summit View Road, and Riverside Drive. As drivers' first perceptions of the City, the aesthetic quality of Dublin's picturesque roads and viewsheds should be protected and enhanced.

Public Infrastructure

The design and maintenance of the public environment plays a major role in defining Dublin's character. Streets, public buildings, public parks and other community facilities, sidewalks, lights, signs and landscaping are very visible and distinct features. Dublin's public environment emphasizes attractive, high quality design and well-maintained features that should be continued into the future.

Quality of Life

Dublin enjoys a high level of City-provided services and responsive public agencies. There is access to an array of public playgrounds and parks, nature education programs and reserves, bikeways and trails, and public facilities such as the Dublin Library, swimming pools, and golf

courses. A year-round calendar of special events and festivals adds to Dublin's attractiveness. Dublin's schools and the City's solid income tax base provide stability and security. High quality residential and commercial development should also continue to play an important role in attracting and retaining new residents and major corporations.

Public Parks, Nature Reserves and Open Space

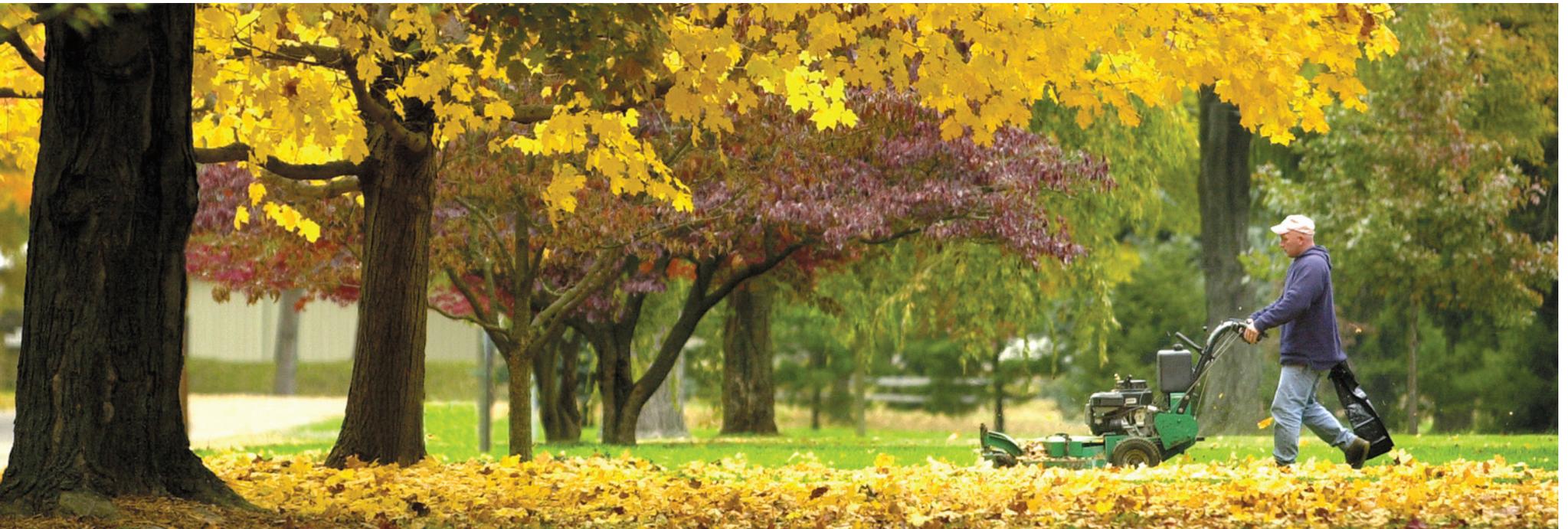
In keeping with Dublin's "green" image, parks and open space are well-placed throughout the community with a full range of recreational and educational opportunities. Playgrounds, including universally accessible playgrounds, and ball fields serve a wide variety of outdoor recreational needs. In addition, neighborhood parks serve surrounding homes, while larger community parks fulfill the active and passive recreational needs of the City. Easy access to parks and natural areas offer a significant contribution to residents' quality of life and should be emphasized.

Environmental Stewardship and Sensitivity

Dublin has long been an important leader in protecting natural resources such as trees, stream/environmental corridors and open spaces in the development process as an important aspect of quality of life. The City also places significant emphasis on historical sites, groundwater recharge areas, ponds, scenic views and other unique features by preserving them from development. Codes and regulations have been established to enforce effective management practices for surface and stormwater runoff, stream corridor protection and tree preservation. To ensure that "It's Greener in Dublin" in the future, it will be important for the City to continue as an environmental steward by adapting policies and regulations to encourage environmentally friendly development practices and public awareness.

Gathering Places, Civic Squares, and Focal Points

Public gathering places and community focal points contribute positively to Dublin's image and provide a sense



of community. These places include schools, playgrounds, parks, sites for public art, civic buildings, cemeteries, and monuments. They are important because they provide visual reference points and places for social interaction.

High Quality Residential and Commercial Development

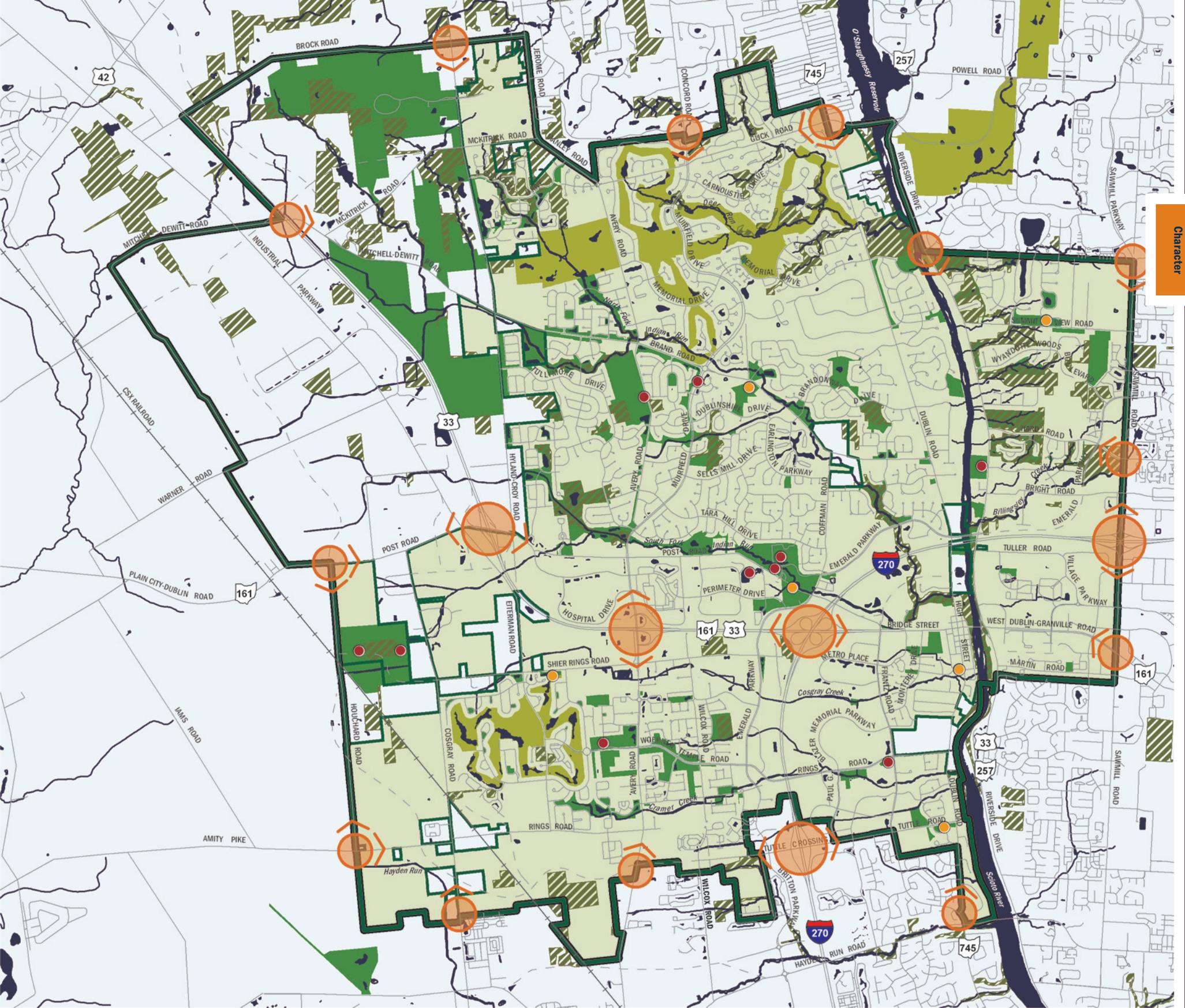
Dublin's built environment contributes positively to the community's image. This image is characterized by high quality office buildings, well-landscaped areas and streetscapes, tasteful signs and graphics, appropriate lighting standards and quality architecture. Dublin's future should include a focus on maintaining the high standards for which the City is widely known.



LEFT: The ruins at Ballantrae provide landscape character.

BOTTOM: Public space along South High Street in Historic Dublin encourages community interaction.





Character

- Planning Area
- Park/Open Space
- Gateway (Existing and Future)
- City of Dublin
- Public/Private Golf Course
- Wooded Area
- Hydrologic Feature
- Historic Barn (Public)
- Public Art



Map 2.1 Community Character Elements

B. Objectives and Strategies

Objective 1: Protect elements and character of Dublin's rural landscape.

Development along on the City's periphery is changing Dublin's character. Commercial and residential growth is affecting the natural character and visual quality of agricultural and rural areas. While recommended as policy, laws and regulations should also address development standards that will protect rural character elements and designated roadway corridors.

- A. *Implement Conservation Design...* in appropriate locations and adopt planning practices and regulations that will result in high quality, more compact and varied housing. Conservation development patterns can preserve substantial open space, creating regional greenway networks and providing significant views from designated roads.
- B. *Establish Roadway Standards...* that will address the specific character types of designated corridors and require development to incorporate key design elements

essential to maintain the existing scenic character of valued roads or to establish the future visual quality of a specified corridor.

- C. *Encourage Landscape Restoration and Preservation...* as part of the development review process to maintain areas of native plant communities and riparian corridors, where appropriate. New development should promote naturalized open spaces and plant communities that will enhance visual character.
- D. *Acquire and Preserve Key Sites...* such as National Register farmsteads, woodlands or archaeological sites that significantly affect visual character. Policy decisions should prioritize acquisitions, and surrounding development must be carefully designed to protect the visual integrity of selected sites.
- E. *Consider Scenic or Conservation Easements...* as a means to preserve important open spaces and riparian areas along streams and rivers to protect vegetation, landforms and open vistas.

Dublin strives to protect elements of its rural heritage such as historic barns.



Large setbacks and historic stone walls are valuable elements of Dublin's landscape.

- F. *Cooperate with Surrounding Jurisdictions...* to establish mutual policies and development practices that will protect the desired rural character of Dublin and the agricultural roots of surrounding townships. Planning accords and joint policy agreements should be considered to mutually benefit all jurisdictions.
- G. *Encourage Native/Naturalized Plantings...* where appropriate along rural scenic roads in open spaces, setbacks and right-of-way plantings to enhance character and reduce long-term maintenance.

Objective 2: Promote a high quality residential and commercial built environment.

Planning and architecture have been traditional cornerstones of Dublin’s success, and the desire to create a community that is well-built and timeless has been a focus of policy makers. The character and quality of Dublin begins with the Community Plan and has been largely shaped by the zoning process of Planned Districts that allow for flexibility

in design and high quality standards that are not part of the Codified Ordinances. Implementation of a Code that clearly establishes the standards that have defined Dublin will be important to ensure that future development is consistent with long-term plans. This goal will also provide an efficient and effective development process.

- A. *Adopt Clear Regulations...* that require development to meet the expectations of the planning and zoning process in a manner that addresses site design, building form, function and use, circulation and access. Additional administrative guidelines and criteria should be adopted to address qualitative aspects such as building materials and design that is flexible to provide for creative design solutions within acceptable parameters. With clear expectations, greater effort can be focused on details that will result in greater quality and aesthetic appeal.
- B. *Emphasize Area and Corridor Planning...* as part of the review process to ensure that development proposals fit within the context of future plans for the surrounding

area. Plans should be periodically reviewed and strategies should explain the goals and objectives for the planning area. Clear expectations for developers that are consistently applied by policy makers will ensure quality development that is coordinated and well-planned.

- C. *Consider Code Modifications...* that use architecture to create a more pedestrian-friendly environment. Integrate mixed uses and architecture where appropriate to create a pedestrian environment that is interconnected by functional greenspace corridors and pedestrian linkages.
- D. *Implement Higher Standards...* for residential and commercial architecture visible from major arterials, designated character roads and open vistas. Prominent architecture can have a lasting affect on the image of Dublin, and highly visible structures should incorporate four-sided architecture and quality materials. Modifications to development regulations should facilitate improved visual quality.



High quality residential and commercial development has been a hallmark of planning in Dublin.

- E. *Encourage Public and Private Art...* throughout the City to enhance the appeal of Dublin as a unique and desired community. Highly visible art should be encouraged to complement the built environment and to signify the City's focus on design and culture. Various programs should be considered to help encourage art in both the public and private realm.
- F. *Encourage Green Building...* and other innovative building technology that will create a more environmentally friendly and cutting-edge architectural environment. Incentives to encourage the use of sustainable standards such as Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED®) endorsed buildings and modification of regulations to implement alternative building techniques should be strongly considered.

Objective 3: Reinforce existing and establish new community focal points and gathering places.

Creating locations and spaces where people can gather and have a sense of

communal togetherness is extremely important to the identity and character of a city. Focal points can include public parks, recreation facilities, mixed use areas, defined open spaces, plazas, neighborhood commercial areas and community gateways. Residents have expressed that Dublin's open space and bike path systems alone do not promote interaction and civic attachment. The creation of visual focal points can highlight architecture, but it is the physical location, pedestrian access and interaction of people that builds community. Historic Dublin is one example where the architectural character and charm can facilitate a pedestrian-friendly environment, especially along roadways to minimize traffic and pedestrian conflicts.

- A. *Emphasize Historic Dublin...* as the traditional center of the community by adopting an implementation plan to maintain and enhance the mixed use pedestrian environment that makes the District unique. Encourage the integration of gathering spaces such as patios and plazas along with uses that will encourage pedestrian movement, such as civic facilities. Create a more

Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED®)

LEED® is the nationally accepted benchmark for the design, construction, and operation of 'green' buildings. LEED promotes a comprehensive approach to sustainability by recognizing performance in five key areas of human and environmental health: sustainable site development, water savings, energy efficiency, materials, and indoor environmental quality.



Art in Public Places

As an essential component of Dublin's character, the City of Dublin and the Dublin Arts Council created the Art in Public Places program in 1989. Through bed tax contributions, the program has resulted in a number of art installations throughout the City. Pieces of art within the collection have garnered extensive local and national press coverage in publications such as *Landscape Architecture* magazine and the *New York Times*.

Leatherlips (1990)

Out of Bounds (1992) – Page 200

Field of Corn [with Osage Orange Trees] (1994) – Page xi

Dublin Community Recreation Center Relief Sculptures (1996)

Watch House (1998) – Left

Jack Nicklaus Tribute Sculpture (1999) – Page 18

Going, Going... Gone! (2001) – Opposite Page

Narrow #5 (2007)

Ascension (2007)



Character

Art in Public Places provides a significant cultural element to Dublin's Landscape.

pedestrian-friendly environment through streetscape and traffic improvement measures.

- B. *Utilize the placement of civic buildings and public spaces...* throughout Dublin as a catalyst to spur the development of gathering spaces, create community identity and facilitate public activity. Use adopted area plans as a guide to ensure the creation of such locations as part of the development process.
- C. *Encourage Public Events...* within identified locations to create formal opportunities for people to interact. Emphasize space programming of locations that will encourage neighborhood gatherings and social interaction.
- D. *Co-locate Public Facilities...* such as schools, libraries, fire stations and recreation centers to create community activity centers that will

bring families and different user groups together in one location.

- E. *Emphasize Coffman Park...* as the central park location for the City by implementing the guidelines of the adopted Coffman Park Expansion Plan. Consider the park as a location for creating a future campus that may include municipal or other public uses that establish a key location for major public gatherings and civic activities.
- F. *Enhance Pedestrian Connectivity...* to gathering places to facilitate easy pedestrian use. Evaluate current public spaces and buildings and encourage the completion of key pedestrian connectors to surrounding residential and commercial users.
- G. *Focus on Design Details...* of public and semi-public spaces to create comfortable places that will facilitate congregation and conversation. In

Views of natural features and aesthetic areas are important elements of Dublin's character



Views of prominent natural features are an important element of Dublin's character and can provide a significant sense of openness to complement development.



particular, developers should be encouraged to integrate buildings and coordinate public spaces and sitting areas as an integral component of project design.

Objective 4: Preserve and Establish Critical Viewsheds and Vistas.

Views of prominent natural features and aesthetic areas are an important element of Dublin's character and can provide a significant sense of openness to complement development. Insensitive site development, particularly along roadways with visual character, can be detrimental to the overall aesthetic feeling of an area. City regulations should be modified to address the preservation or creation of views and vistas as part of the development process by encouraging projects to integrate viewsheds as part of good design.

- A. *Establish Inventories and Develop Regulations...* to chart important landscapes and views that are valued by the community as a means to establish expectations during the development process. Development standards should

integrate important viewsheds into proposed projects.

- B. *Require Site Design Standards...* for new developments along designated roads that incorporate well-designed views onto internal open spaces and architecture while appropriately screening development.
- C. *Acquire Key Properties or Obtain Easements...* as a means to preserve the most important views and vistas within the City. Properties and easements can be utilized in conjunction with sensitively placed development to preserve key viewsheds.
- D. *Enhance Access to the Scioto River...* and other significant natural features as important connections between nature and the community. Visual as well as physical access should be maximized.

Objective 5: Develop a consistent graphic identity for Dublin.

Dublin has long been known for its high community standards and attention

to details. Signs are an important component of the character and identity of a community, and requirements have resulted in tastefully designed signage that is informative to motorists and pedestrians. It is important to ensure consistent design in public signs and wayfinding to ensure that Dublin's destinations are clearly marked.

- A. *Establish City-wide Graphics...* that create a clear identity; one that is responsive to the community's character and expectations. Designs should be easy to read and incorporate a timeless style.
- B. *Consider Gateway Designs...* as an important identifier for the City. Gateways should be consistent and easily recognized as visitors and employees enter the corporate limits.
- C. *Implement Special Packages...* for directional and informational signs in unique areas such as Historic Dublin or the Central Ohio Innovation Center. Wayfinding through the provision of unique sign and graphics packages should be implemented to assist motorists and pedestrians.



Objective 6: Create a positive image for Dublin, especially at gateways.

One of Dublin's missions has been to innovate; to set itself apart from surrounding cities and maintain itself as a community others wish to emulate. Interchanges, roundabouts, bridges and points of entry into Dublin are important to establish a distinctive and positive first impression for visitors. While these features are important to the community, strong efforts should be made to implement gateway elements and identifiers that are unique, but incorporate a basic palette of consistent elements.

A. *Establish Unique Design Elements...* that clearly signify entry into the community, create identity and can be recognized as components of Dublin's character. Signs and landscape features should express a clear message that is memorable, but timeless, and elements such as stone work, public art and other details that are signatures

of Dublin's character should be integrated. Gateways should be coordinated with surrounding development and transportation improvements, and necessary rights-of-way should be obtained to ensure that features can be implemented and properly maintained.

- B. *Emphasize Landscape Design...* that highlights Dublin's commitment to landscaping and open space features. At entry points in rural areas, features may focus on green space and open views, while at developed locations design may emphasize a more formalized urban appearance, including public art features and hardscape elements.
- C. *Incorporate Signature Architecture...* at key gateways to the City to enhance formal entry features. Architecture, associated landscaping and site design should provide a clear sense of identity at Dublin's entry points.



Strong emphasis should be placed on creating tomorrow's scenic roads.



LEFT: Dublin's commitment to high quality landscape design, particularly at the City's entry points, sets it apart from surrounding communities.

OPPOSITE PAGE: Many roads in Dublin are valued for their visual quality.

- D. *Utilize Public Art...* as an additional element in gateway features to enhance the overall image, add uniqueness and draw attention to cultural aspects of the community.
- E. *Develop Guidelines and Standards...* that establish basic and common elements for gateway features that will assist in the implementation of signature designs in conjunction with development proposals at identified locations.

Objective 7: Protect the character of road corridors and streetscapes, by maintaining and reinforcing the scenic qualities of the City through road improvements and future construction.

Rapid expansion and subsequent development pressure in many areas are changing the unique character of many of Dublin's picturesque roads. Regulations should address the need to preserve the important qualities of major road corridors. While greater setbacks promote open space along scenic arterials, a balance is needed with other open spaces and adjacent development to maintain

the quality of life for residents. In the future it will be critical to coordinate the design of roadways and open spaces to ensure Dublin's high standards while limiting long-term maintenance costs. Many of Dublin's roads have different character types and unique sets of design elements that should be protected. Strong emphasis should also be placed on targeting and establishing tomorrow's "scenic" road corridors (refer to *Chapter 4 – Transportation* for more information on roadway character).

- A. *Consider Design Alternatives...* for future road construction and widening projects in areas that will better correspond to intended character types. Road designs, where appropriate, may integrate alternate elements such as curbless designs, swale systems or other options that may blend with surrounding open space corridors in a cost-effective and visually appealing manner.
- B. *Establish Design Requirements...* for private development to complement public road improvements. Where applicable, encourage building and landscape practices that will cluster development, provide ample green

space, create vegetative buffers and maintain vistas along scenic roads.

- C. *Target Future Roadway Character...* within the framework of adopted area plans that look beyond existing road segments with scenic qualities. Plans should identify areas where corridors can be improved in the future to provide consistent roadway character.
- D. *Encourage Utility Location Standards...* along designated corridors to bury above-ground utility lines when scenic roads are widened or otherwise improved. City standards currently require the burial of utilities within new development; however, existing lines usually remain along important roadways and should be addressed when possible to ensure the character of Dublin's major roads is maintained.
- E. *Promote Native and Naturalized Plantings...* where character-appropriate along roads in open spaces, setbacks and right-of-way plantings to enhance character and reduce long-term maintenance.



II. ENVIRONMENT

A. Existing Conditions

Dublin's topography varies greatly; from relatively flat, open plains in the west, to rolling terrain and exposed limestone outcroppings along the Scioto River basin. While some of Dublin's stream valleys, particularly along the River and in eastern portions of the City are characterized by steeply sloping edges and cliffs, central and southwest portions of Dublin include flat topography and soils prone to flooding and ponding. Vegetation has dramatically changed since the time of original settlement, when it was mostly forested with patches of tall grass prairie. Today, with the exception of remnant woodlands and tree stands in areas of significant topographic change or in lowlands, agriculture has physically altered the landscape. Development is facilitating future change to Dublin's landscape.

Bedrock

Different types of bedrock can be found throughout the planning area.

Major rock types include Ohio Shale, Olentangy Shale, Delaware Limestone, Columbus Limestone and Salina Dolomite. Part of what makes Dublin unique is the presence of exposed limestone bedrock throughout the City. Delaware Limestone, in particular, fosters the presence of several rare plants, including the Blue Ash and Spreading Rock Cress that would otherwise not be found in this portion of Ohio. The water-soluble limestone and dolomite also contribute to karst landforms created when surface runoff and ground water dissolves the soft rock. The distinctive topography and subsurface features are characterized by sinkholes, underground drainage joints and caves. The majority of these landforms found within the City lead directly to the Scioto River, helping to drain the larger Scioto watershed and creating habitat for river-dwelling flora and fauna.

Soils

Six major categories of soil associations, ranging from very poorly to well-draining, can be found in the Dublin area and are associated with glacial till. The Milton-Ritchey Miamian Series

comprises areas immediately surrounding the Scioto River and represents the best-drained soils due to the presence of medium-grained glacial till and limestone residuals. Glynwood-Blount-Pewamo soil types found on the northern edge, Kokomo-Crosby-Lewisburg located to the west, and Crosby-Kokomo soils in the central-southwestern region of the City are all moderate- to fine-textured glacial tills that impede drainage capabilities. Drainage rates and lime content in soils affect the native vegetative cover throughout the City and place limitations on which plants can be successfully introduced into the area without soil amendments. Development techniques and landscape applications should consider the underlying soil characteristics.

Topography

The topography of Dublin varies from being relatively flat to having significant topographic changes associated with stream valleys. Map 2.2 indicates excessive slopes that occur along tributary streams and the Scioto River. The banks of the Scioto River exceed slopes of 25 percent in several locations.

Table 2.1 Dublin's Tributaries

The most significant tributaries of the Scioto River in Dublin are (Refer to Map 2.2):

Deer Run: flowing east-southeast through rolling terrain in the northern portion of Dublin, west of the Scioto River.

North Fork Indian Run: flowing southeast in the vicinity of Brand Road, west of the Scioto River.

South Fork Indian Run: flowing east through the middle of Dublin just north of Post Road, west of the Scioto River.

Cramer Creek: a small stream meandering near Rings Road, west of the Scioto River.

Cosgray Creek: defined by a long narrow watershed that originates near Cosgray Road and drains eastward, west of the Scioto River.

Hayden Run: the most significant tributary stream running along the southern portion of the community near Hayden Run Road, west of the Scioto River (outside the City limits).

Billingsley Creek: small stream located in the vicinity of Bright Road, east of the Scioto River.



Steep slopes are susceptible to erosion and often require extensive regrading (cut-and-fill) or non-standard construction practices. Erosion and runoff caused by poor development methods can result in excessive sedimentation and ultimately contribute to declining water quality, increased flooding and landslides downstream. Preservation of steep slopes near streams is especially important to maintain unique bank vegetation and wildlife habitats. Slopes between 15 and 25 percent occur near many streams and are typically considered developable by current building regulations. Such areas, however, should be treated with greater caution during any development activities.

Watersheds and Waterways

The Scioto River is Dublin's most prominent natural feature flowing north to south from the O'Shaughnessy Dam through the eastern third of the City. The river not only serves as a psychological focus for people, but its orientation creates an extremely important wildlife migration corridor for neo-tropical birds within the region. The Scioto River and its tributaries also play other important

roles by providing a riparian habitat for a variety of flora and fauna, as well as open spaces along the streams for visual relief and recreational amenities. Stream buffers also serve as natural filters for stormwater runoff and pollutants.

The land that discharges surface and groundwater to a stream is known as the stream's watershed or drainage area. Map 9.5 in *Chapter Nine – Infrastructure* depicts the watershed areas for each local stream tributary to the Scioto River. Stream assessments performed by the Ohio Environmental Protection Agency indicate that the free-flowing main stem portion of the Scioto River within Dublin complies with all aquatic life standards applicable to warm water habitats. The river supports balanced populations of warm water fish and other organisms often found in healthy aquatic ecosystems. Other data suggest that many of the stream tributaries to the main portion of the River have been or may become impaired over time by urbanization and should be closely monitored.

Wetlands

Wetlands are defined as areas periodically inundated or saturated by surface runoff or groundwater at a frequency and duration that normally supports a prevalence of vegetation adapted for saturated soil conditions. Wetlands typically include swamps, marshes, and bogs and can be divided into three main categories as shown in Table 2.2. Due to the area's agricultural history, wetlands found in Dublin are most commonly Category 1 and 2 types (Refer to Map 2.2). The characteristics and attributes of Category 3 wetlands make identification very difficult, and there is only one known Category 3 site within Franklin County.

Wetlands play an extremely important role as nature's filters, cleaning water and providing vital habitat for plants and animals. In contrast to ponds (permanent wetlands), vernal pools provide habitat unlike any other ecosystem. With over 85 percent of Ohio's wetlands destroyed, it is

Wetlands play an extremely important role as nature's filters, cleaning water and providing vital habitat for plants and animals.

Table 2.2 Dublin's Wetlands

Wetland areas can be classified into three main types as explained below. Refer to Map 2.2 for locations of classified wetlands in the Dublin area.

Category 1

- Low Quality
- Supports minimal wildlife habitat
- Supports minimal hydrological and recreational functions
- Usually dominated by invasive species
- Some examples include roadside ditches, farm fields, etc.

Category 2

- Moderate Quality
- Most common
- Supports moderate wildlife habitat
- Supports moderate hydrological and recreational functions
- Predominately native species
- May be recovering from past disturbances

Category 3

- High Quality
- Supports exceptional wildlife habitat
- Supports exceptional hydrological and recreational functions
- Usually highly diverse and/or unique systems
- May contain threatened or endangered species
- Special wetlands include bogs, fens, old growth forested wetlands and oak openings

vital for the City to preserve these natural elements and encourage the creation of new sites to maintain amphibian populations and healthier ecosystems.

Tree Cover, Woodland and Other Vegetation

Before human settlement, Dublin was mostly forested with pockets of prairie and wetland habitat. Today, approximately eight percent of Dublin is wooded with isolated areas of deciduous trees primarily on steep slopes, along fencerows and adjacent to stream and river corridors. Tree preservation is a high priority in Dublin because reforestation efforts take several generations and rarely duplicate native woodlands.

The benefits of maintaining high quality native plant communities include erosion control, wildlife habitat, biodiversity and cleaner air. Aesthetic and economic benefits include a visually pleasing and “softer” environment, higher home values on treed lots and reduced energy bills from the natural cooling provided by shade. During the visioning phase of the Community Plan, Dublin residents expressed a desire to increase

the number and diversity of trees in Dublin, including reforesting land that has been cleared and introducing new woodlands where none currently exist.

Today, existing forested areas and exceptional tree specimens are not completely documented or well-protected. An inventory of landmark trees (greater than 24 inches in caliper) was initiated several years ago and is approximately 80 percent complete. The key to preserving Dublin’s landmark trees is to utilize the inventory in reviewing development proposals, closely monitoring construction sites and working with developers to locate parks and open spaces around these trees. Tree protection measures are required during all phases of construction and play an important role in protecting existing tree stands from construction equipment.

Area Wildlife

The visual quality and richness of flora and fauna is one reason many people choose to reside near the Scioto River basin. Area river and stream corridors provide a natural path for both migrating and resident animals and are invaluable

to maintaining wildlife diversity. Dublin lies in the path of a north-south migration route for many species of birds traveling long distances. Other notable wildlife using the waterways for water, food and shelter are the Prothonotary Warbler, Yellow Crowned Night Heron, mink and turtles.

Dublin’s conversion from an agricultural community to a quickly developing city has had varied affects on wildlife. Many animal species quickly adapt and prosper in the built environment. Raccoon populations, for example, are higher than in previous years. However, growth creates an increasing conflict between humans and nature as many animals are forced to relocate to edge habitats or areas further from development. By planning for and maintaining a series of diversified and linked habitats, wildlife can migrate throughout the community for food and shelter opportunities while minimizing conflict.

Endangered, Threatened and Potentially Threatened Species

Plant and animal species that are endangered, threatened, or potentially



threatened are monitored by State and Federal agencies. A number of species considered endangered, threatened and potentially threatened by the Ohio Department of Natural Resources (ODNR) have been sighted in or around the Dublin area (Table 2.3). Both the ODNR and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) consider the survival of these categorized species as being in immediate or potential jeopardy. Development or other changes to the environment should pay particular attention to the impacts on habitat that can affect these noted plant and animal species.

Invasive Plants

Ohio has nearly 3,000 plant species of which approximately 75 percent are native or known to have grown in the region prior to human settlement. The remaining 25 percent are considered to be exotic or alien; introduced and planted or cultivated by humans upon settlement. Most introduced plants have no measurable effect on natural areas. Some exotics, however, “escape” into natural areas and out-compete native vegetation. By taking over

OPPOSITE PAGE: Local Metropark land provides autumn color and enhances the quality of life in Dublin.

Table 2.3 Endangered, Threatened and Potentially Threatened Species

Plants	Animals
<p><i>Endangered</i></p> <p>Cypress-knee Sedge (<i>Carex decomposita</i>) Smooth Rose (<i>Rosa blanda</i>) Spreading Rock Cress (<i>Arabis patens</i>) Two-leaved Water Mildfoil (<i>Myriophyllum heterophyllum</i>) Wild Pea (<i>Lathyrus venosus</i>)</p> <p><i>Threatened</i></p> <p>False Hop Sedge (<i>Carex lupuliformis</i>) Glomerate Dodder (<i>Cuscuta glomerata</i>) Three-flowered Melic (<i>Melica nitens</i>) Yellowish Gentian (<i>Gentiana alba</i>)</p> <p><i>Potentially Threatened</i></p> <p>Angel Pod (<i>Matelea oblique</i>) Arbor vitae (<i>Thuja occidentalis</i>) Butternut (<i>Juglans squarosa</i>) Green Milkweed (<i>Asclepias viridiflora</i>) Narrow-leaved Toothwort (<i>Cardamine dissecta</i>) Prairie False Indigo (<i>Baptisia lactea</i>) Royal Catchfly (<i>Silene regia</i>) Scaly Blazing Star (<i>Liatris reticulata</i>) Shining Ladies' tresses (<i>Spiranthes lucida</i>) Spotted Coral Root (<i>Corallorhiza maculate</i>) Tall Larkspur (<i>Delphinium exaltatum</i>) Tennessee Bladder Fern (<i>Cystopteris tennesseensis</i>) Three-birds Orchid (<i>Triphora trianthopora</i>) Weak Spear Grass (<i>Poa languida</i>)</p>	<p><i>Endangered</i></p> <p>American Bittern (<i>Botaurus lentiginosus</i>) Bald Eagle (<i>Haliaeetus leucocephalus</i>) Caddisflies (<i>Chimarra socia</i>, <i>Oecetis eddlestoni</i>, <i>Brachycentrus numerosus</i>) Cattle Egret (<i>Bubulcus ibis</i>) Indiana Bat (<i>Myotis sodalists</i>) Mayflies (<i>Rhithrogena pellucida</i>, <i>Litobranca recurvata</i>) Midges (<i>Rheopelopia acra</i>) Northern Harrier (<i>Circus cyaneus</i>) Osprey (<i>Pandion haliaetus</i>) Sandhill Crane (<i>Grus canadensis</i>) Snowy Egret (<i>Egretta thula</i>) Trumpeter Swan (<i>Cygnus buccinator</i>) Yellow-bellied Sapsucker (<i>Sphyrapicus varius</i>)</p> <p><i>Threatened</i></p> <p>Barn Owl (<i>Tyto alba</i>) Dark-eyed Junco (<i>Junco hyemalis</i>) Hermit Thrush (<i>Catharus guttatus</i>) Least Bittern (<i>Ixobrychus exilis</i>) Least Flycatcher (<i>Empidonax minimus</i>) Yellow Crowned Night Heron (<i>Nyctanassa violacea</i>)</p> <p><i>Potentially Threatened</i></p> <p>Badger (<i>Taxidea taxus</i>) Black King Snake (<i>Lampropeltis getula nigra</i>) Black Vulture (<i>Coragyps atratus</i>) Bobolink (<i>Dolichonyx oryzivorus</i>) Common Moorhen (<i>Gallinules chloropus</i>) Eastern Box Turtle (<i>Terrapene carolina</i>) Flat Floater (<i>Anodonta suborbiculata</i>) Great Egret (<i>Casmerodius albus</i>) Great Lakes Crayfish (<i>Orconectes propinquus</i>) Northern Crayfish (<i>Orconectes virilis</i>) Prothonary Warbler (<i>Protonotaria citrea</i>) Sharp-shinned Hawk (<i>Accipiter striatus</i>)</p>

Source: www.dnr.state.oh.us Ohio's Protected Species (updated January 2008)



Dublin encourages development that preserves important natural features such as landmark trees.

native plant communities, invasive plant material eliminates food and habitat for native wildlife and places the invaded plant community into an imbalanced ecological state. When plants are relocated to a new region, natural controls (typically insects and diseases) are often left behind. The Ohio Department of Natural Resources maintains a list of the state's 10 most invasive species. Those currently growing in Dublin are:

- Autumn Olive (*Elaeagnus umbellata*);
- Buckthorns (*Rhamnus frangula* and *Rhamnus cathartica*);
- Bush Honeysuckles (*Lonicera maackii*, *Lonicera tatarica*, *Lonicera morrowii*);
- Common Reed Grass (*Phragmites australis*);
- Garlic Mustard (*Alliaria petiolata*);
- Japanese Honeysuckle (*Lonicera japonica*);
- Multiflora Rose (*Rosa multiflora*);
- Purple Loosestrife (*Lythrum salicaria*); and
- Reed Canary Grass (*Phalaris arundinacea*).

Invasive plant species are common in the Dublin area including several types of honeysuckle.



Invasive Animals

Invasive wildlife species in Dublin include mostly birds, rodents and insects. The most common invasive birds include the European Starling, Rock Doves (Common Pigeon), English House Sparrow and the House Finch.

European Starlings and English House Sparrows live in hollowed-out nests created by other birds such as woodpeckers. Because they are more aggressive, they out-compete native bird species. The most common native birds in Dublin are the Black-capped Chickadee, Tufted Titmouse, Eastern Bluebird, Tree Swallow, Purple Martin and Chimney Swift. Domesticated ducks and geese have also made Dublin their home. Canada Geese, in particular, have created substantial problems for area ponds and motorists. Although present, the Norway Rat and the Common House Mouse do not create an environmental concern, living primarily around farmland or places where grain or food is readily available.

Invasive insects are also becoming an increasing problem in Ohio. Of primary concern is the Emerald Ash Borer (EAB). Originating from Asia, the EAB had spread to 25 of 88 counties by 2006 and is expected to destroy ash trees throughout Ohio. A significant proportion of municipal street trees and native stands will be affected, changing Dublin's landscape. Programs have been instituted to proactively remove ash trees and to increase species diversity. Other invasive species of note include the Gypsy Moth, bagworms, Clearwing Borers and Japanese Beetles. While not currently infesting Ohio, the Asian Longhorned Beetle will also likely affect local hardwood species such as maples, chestnuts, poplars, elms and willows in the future.

Development Suitability

As described above, bedrock, soils, site topography, water courses and floodways, vegetative cover and wildlife habitats are all environmental elements that should be examined and considered as part of proper site design. While agricultural drainage systems and tiles make land appear well-drained, large extents of hydric soils (Map 2.2) can be found within southwestern areas of Dublin. Damage to these man-made systems can result in ponding and high-water conditions that can limit development potential. Although most of Dublin's land is appropriate for development or suitable with minor modifications, care should be taken to include environmental factors in the development process. Problems associated with hydric soils and other potential development constraints are summarized below.

Flood Hazards: Low areas prone to flooding near watercourses often contain hydric soils. Development must comply with applicable stormwater regulations for areas studied by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) and

within Stream Corridor Protection Zones established by the City.

Recurrent Ponding/Flooding: Low areas with poorly drained hydric soils often require engineered drainage beyond simple channels or swales. The added construction expense and potential environmental costs of such development should be considered.

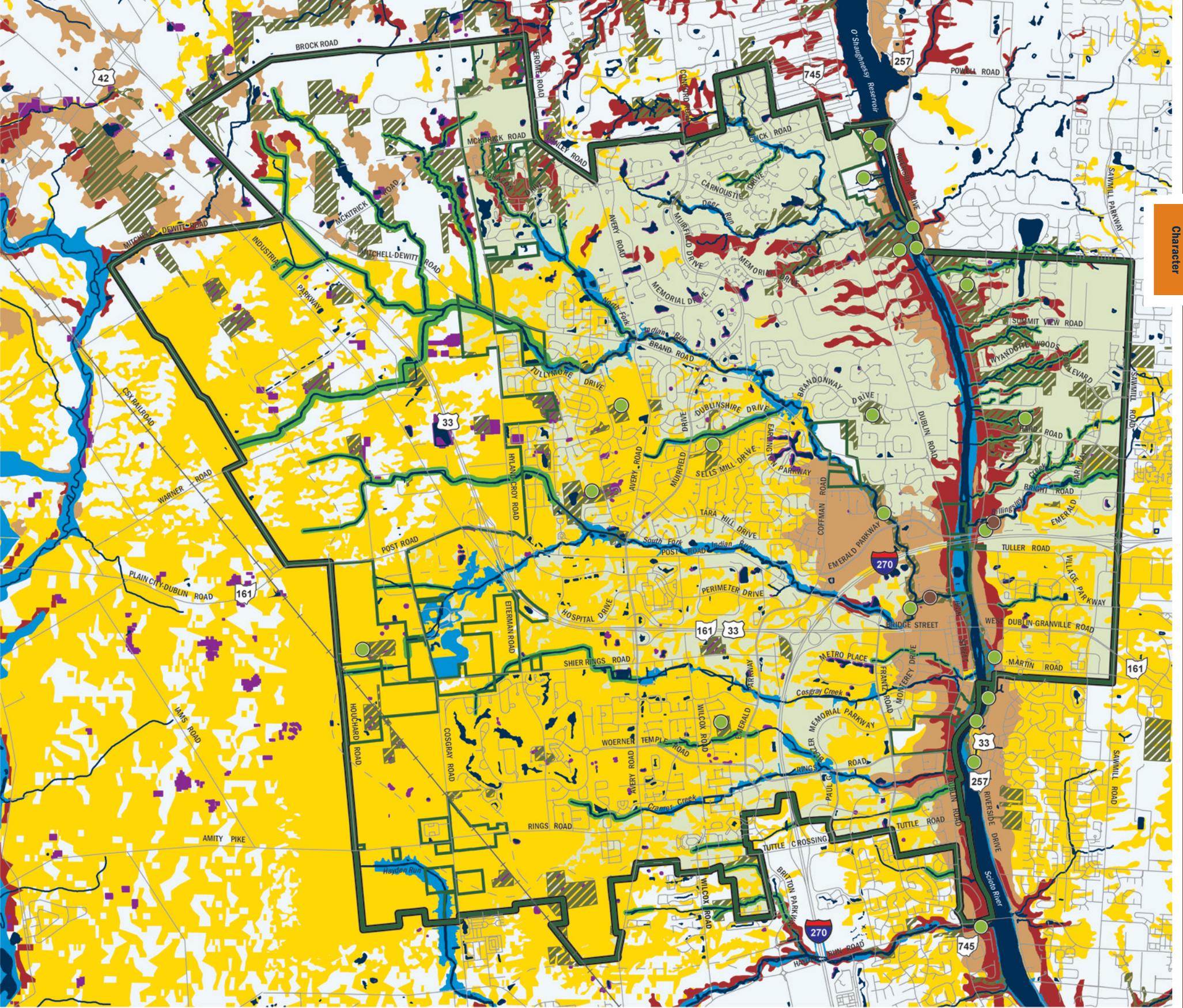
Sink Holes and Caves: Development above water-soluble bedrock can create dangerous situations due to changing subsurface conditions. Instances have been recorded where sinkholes have developed in residential neighborhoods under construction and have required expensive mitigation.

Shallow Bedrock Depth: In many areas near the Scioto River, bedrock depth can be as little as 10 to 40 inches. The potential for development in these areas is not prohibited, but added construction costs for footings and utility placement can be significant to overall project costs.

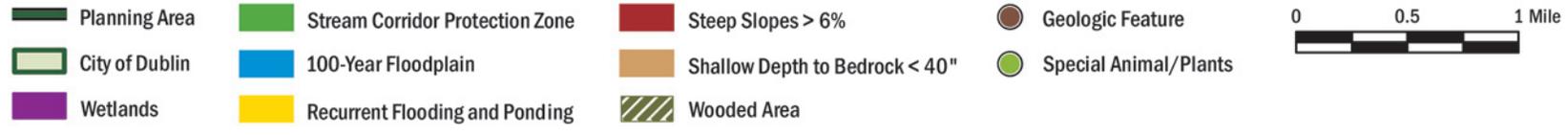
Steep Slopes: Areas with steep slopes are highly susceptible to erosion and require significant re-contouring and mitigation efforts. These areas

Land well-suited to agriculture may present numerous challenges for development in some areas of Dublin.





Character



Map 2.2 Development Suitability

are generally covered with dense vegetation and/or woodland and should be disturbed as little as possible.

Special Plants and Animals:

Biological diversity is important to maintaining the overall integrity of an ecosystem. Conservation and preservation efforts should protect rare, threatened or endangered species and associated habitats.

B. Objectives and Strategies

Objective 1: Create clear standards and policies for establishing Dublin as a “green” community that protects natural resources and is a leader in environmental stewardship.

Dublin has long considered itself to be a “green” city, recognizing the importance of the local environment as a contribution to quality of life. The City has a strong reputation as a leader in the preservation of open space and the protection of trees, streams and other natural features. Also, in an effort to reduce the amount of waste going to the landfill, the City has partnered with the Solid Waste

Authority of Central Ohio (SWACO) and Rumpke to implement a municipal recycling program. However, there is a need to broaden Dublin’s “green” image to incorporate a comprehensive approach to environmental stewardship. As fuel, energy and natural resources become more scarce and costly, it is in the City’s best interest to pursue conservation efforts and resource alternatives, and to promote these strategies to residents and corporate citizens. Likewise, as the City continues to develop, the preservation of sensitive natural features and maintenance of ecological integrity will be critical to ensuring the sustainability of Dublin’s environment for future generations.

- A. *Encourage Sustainable Building Practices...* and environmentally sensitive site development through the use of appropriate zoning and development incentives.
- B. *Support Alternative Energy Options...* that will provide a broader range of energy choices for the community and encourage the utilization of other methods such as solar and wind power through the development process.

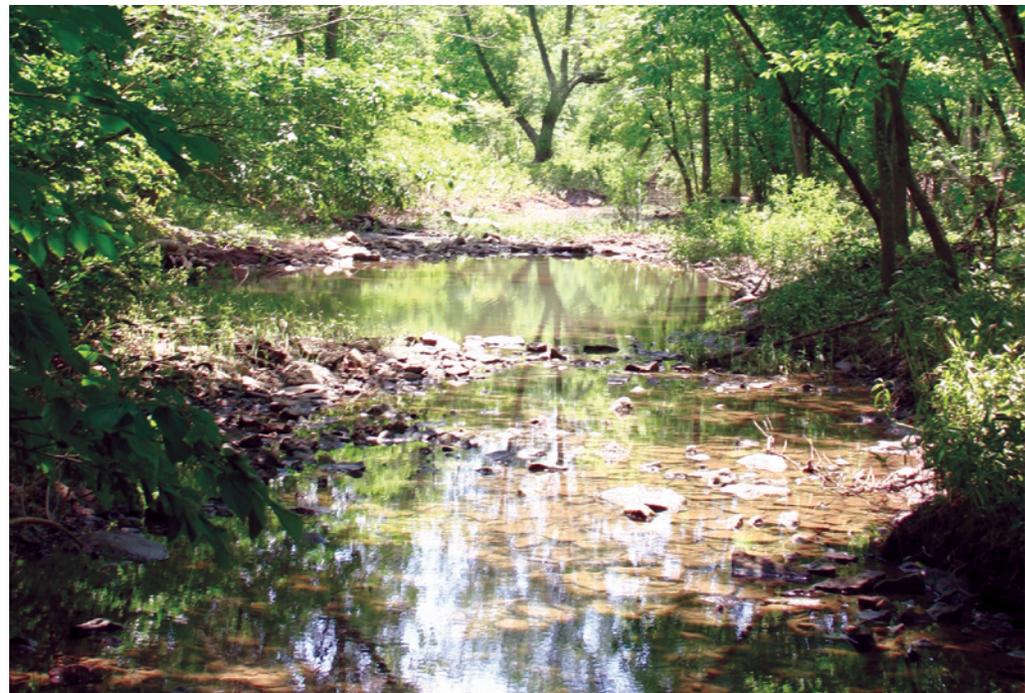
- C. *Increase Recycling Activities...* through the expansion of current programs to encourage greater public and corporate participation and broader options for material recycling.
- D. *Provide Educational Opportunities...* and activities for residents and corporate citizens to become actively engaged with the City as partners in environmentally friendly practices.
- E. *Communicate to the Community...* the different efforts, options and activities that are available to encourage environmental stewardship and participation.

Objective 2: Protect unique landforms while educating developers and the public about their geologic significance and potential impact on development.

Dolomite and limestone bedrock in the Dublin area can be very active and changing subsurface environments. These geologic hazards can compromise surrounding areas and destroy overlying rock layers. Fissures within the subsurface rock can also create open drainage

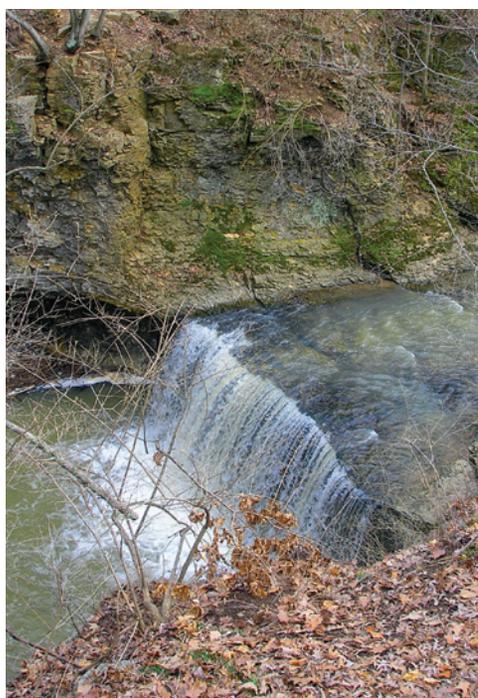
RIGHT: As habitat to many endangered or threatened species, natural ponds and creeks should be protected to reduce contamination from runoff.

OPPOSITE PAGE: Public access to Indian Run Ravine and Falls allows citizens to enjoy unique natural features while encouraging environmental awareness.



channels or underground streams, disrupting wells and allowing sewage, herbicides, pesticides and other chemicals to be rapidly transported into local waterways and groundwater resources.

- A. *Require Subsurface Studies...* as part of the development process in areas of Dublin known to have the potential for underground drainage channels and sinkholes. Potential impacts should be known prior to the development process to reduce potential safety issues and problems for future homeowners.
- B. *Educate Developers and Property Owners...* about the potential existence and warning signs of subsurface collapses and sinkholes. The existence of these formations during construction can add significant project costs and cause significant property damage. Property owners, in particular, should be aware of the drainage capabilities of area subsoils and the potential effects of lawn care and other household activities.



Objective 3: Protect topsoil resources from erosion.

The quality of Dublin's waterways is extremely important. Topsoil erosion is a significant threat to water quality and the overall health of local watersheds. The loss of topsoil also adversely affects the establishment of new vegetation, and construction activities not responsibly carried out fail to adequately stockpile topsoil for reuse.

- A. *Implement Development Regulations...* that establish minimum requirements for the protection of topsoil resources as part of the development process. Regulations should enhance any minimum state or federal standards and should complement erosion control requirements.
- B. *Maintain and Enhance Enforcement...* of existing erosion control measures as part of the site construction process. Best Management Practices (BMP) such as silt fencing and seeding reduce erosion by keeping topsoil on-site.
- C. *Establish Soil Remediation Standards...* and minimum topsoil requirements for Code required landscaping on commercial sites. Often landscape materials are planted in compacted or substandard soils that limit the ability of plant materials to thrive. Requirements to provide for minimum topsoil depth, as well as standards to improve soil composition and reduce compaction during construction can better ensure that landscaping will survive to meet the screening requirements of the Zoning Code.

Objective 4: Protect streams and their buffers and provide public access, particularly along the Scioto River.

Dublin's streams and waterways provide important riparian habitat for native plants and wildlife, and areas along the Scioto River are home to many endangered or threatened plants and animals. Providing sufficient buffers along all watercourses in addition to minimum setbacks for flood hazard mitigation will help minimize the affects of development. Without natural filtration and sedimentation buffers, pollution can move rapidly into watercourses and impact the quality of water and established habitats. Public control of lands surrounding riparian corridors will ensure protection of these environmentally sensitive areas.

The potential of the Scioto River as a major recreational and visual amenity for Dublin and the surrounding area has not been fully realized. While efforts have been made to enhance public access along the River's edge, success has varied; especially in important areas such as Historic Dublin. Topography in many sections of the River can serve as a major barrier to providing quality visual and physical links.

- C. *Protect the Scioto River Corridor...* as the City's primary hydrologic and environmental feature and ensure that visual and physical access for the public is maintained and enhanced where possible through public parks, open space and path connections.
- B. *Identify and Acquire Sensitive Areas...* of environmental and

scenic importance to protect the integrity of local stream and river corridors for future generations.

- C. *Consider Conservation Easements...* and other development tools that can protect the environmental and scenic integrity of important sites when public acquisition is not possible.
- D. *Emphasize Forested and/or Naturalized Buffers...* as a means to maintain the integrity of Dublin's waterways. Minimum distances of 150 feet from top of bank to any development should be encouraged to ensure water quality and the maintenance of habitats and sensitive environs.
- E. *Create Public Access to Riparian Corridors...* as a public amenity available to all residents and corporate citizens within Dublin. This can create a visible amenity that balances access to the environment, while maintaining quality and integrity.
- F. *Consider Recreational and Educational Opportunities...* where

possible to provide greater interaction between the public and important natural features. Considerations such as canoeing, clean-ups and nature programs are examples of opportunities that will generate individual value to Dublin residents.

Objective 5: Consider regional stream water quality standards and policies.

Watershed boundaries are natural geographies that rarely correspond with political jurisdictions. Agricultural runoff and other non-point source pollution pose significant threats to downstream water quality. For those agricultural and developing areas to the north and west, Dublin is downstream and can be negatively affected. Likewise, Dublin should be a responsible neighbor to other areas influenced by our choices.

- A. *Implement Continued Monitoring...* at key locations along Dublin's tributaries to develop data that can be used to evaluate changing conditions of watersheds within the City.
- B. *Encourage Regional Planning...* and potential accords that can

address multi-jurisdictional environmental issues that may result from future development. Cooperative preservation of environmental quality will benefit all jurisdictions in the long-term.

Objective 6: Preserve, protect and restore wetland plant communities and educate the public about their importance.

The importance of agriculture to the local economy in the past led to the draining of many wetlands in and around Dublin. Such wetlands provide a home for many endangered or threatened plant and animal species. In addition to providing habitat, wetlands help to clean the natural water supply. In areas of Dublin known for karst landforms and shallow bedrock, the ability to naturally cleanse surface runoff prior to entering underground aquifers and channels is particularly important.

- A. *Establish New Requirements...* within the planning process that will ensure developers clearly identify and preserve suitable wetland areas, providing important habitat.



- B. *Encourage Wetland Establishment...* as part of open space and greenway systems that can add to the diversity and character of the regional network. Creation of additional wetlands can improve stormwater quality and encourage additional plant and animal populations.

Objective 7: Preserve steep topography and enhance undulating landforms.

Poor development practices, such as severe cut-and-fill techniques, can contribute to damaging erosion. Resulting environmental impacts can include landslides, flooding and stream sedimentation. Improperly designed residential and commercial projects can appear to sever the landscape. Municipal regulations are currently silent as to how development should be regulated in areas with significant topographic change. The creation of slightly undulating topography in very flat areas of the City, however, can provide significant screening opportunities, shaped views and enhanced character.

- A. *Encourage Responsible Site Design...* that fits into the landscape. Cut-and-

fill practices that require excessive excavation and retention should be discouraged in favor of more appropriate design alternatives.

- B. *Implement Zoning Regulations...* that would restrict development on excessive slopes and in areas where poor soils are known to exist. Regulations should incorporate the latest state and federal recommendations and standards.
- C. *Require Topographic Site Analysis...* information from developers and implement policies/standards for remediation techniques. Site analysis should clearly indicate those areas of steep slopes to be disturbed.
- D. *Require Native Ground Cover...* preservation and enhancement on steep slopes to reduce erosion. Deep-rooted, stabilizing native vegetation should be emphasized in disturbed areas and at the top of steep slopes.

Objective 8: Preserve and reinforce the value of existing wooded areas and fencerows and implement appropriate measures to protect them.

Trees are very important character elements within the landscape and can take many years to mature. Substantial woodlands take generations to develop and may never be re-established to their original natural quality. Wooded areas and fencerows are important environmental features that serve as an asset to the community. Tree preservation ordinances have been enacted to encourage the retention of

trees during the development process. The ordinance, however, only protects trees from new development activity and does not address actions by pre-development property owners or residential landholders. Likewise, fencerows often contain many native species and serve as a distinct form of habitat, but are not adequately protected.

- A. *Update the Landmark Tree Inventory...* for trees 24 inches in diameter or greater to adequately identify key areas of concern for developable properties.
- B. *Discourage Tree Removal...* by establishing policies and practices to limit the elimination of existing trees by landowners, particularly for residential and agricultural properties where monitoring is limited. Also work to reduce removal of trees prior to filing of annexation requests and formal development proposals.
- C. *Require Fencerow Preservation...* by establishing policies and design expectations for all development proposals. Site design for development projects should integrate existing fencerows as site amenities.
- D. *Emphasize Fencerow and Woodland Establishment...* as important vertical elements within the landscape. Developers should be encouraged to establish mass tree plantings and fencerows within projects and to dedicate open space as buffers, to shape views, and as future amenities for residents.

OPPOSITE PAGE: Dublin's Tree Preservation Ordinance protects significant vegetation during development.

E. *Maintain a Comprehensive Tree Database...* that inventories various tree species growing on public property, reserves, parkland and rights-of-way as a means to track and ensure tree diversity within the City.

Objective 9: Increase tree planting for future generations in Dublin.

Significant efforts have been made over Dublin's history through landscape and tree preservation requirements to emphasize the establishment of Dublin as a nature-sensitive community. While development efforts have resulted in a quality built environment, additional tree plantings can be even more of a positive addition and long-term investment for the community. Along with development pressure, new pests and diseases are threatening many tree species and necessitate forward thinking to protect the environmental character and visual quality of Dublin.

A. *Consider Adopt-A-Tree Programs...* to enhance tree planting and maintenance within public rights-of-way, within public use areas and on vacant property.

B. *Target Reforestation Areas...* where significant tree planting could result in new wildlife habitats, visual focal points and recreational amenities.

C. *Require Native Tree Species...* and indigenous plant materials as much as practical to ensure a stable and balanced plant community.

D. *Utilize Sound Urban Forestry Practices...* that stress the importance of creating a very diverse mix of tree species that will help minimize impacts of growing pest and disease damage, while monitoring for potential problems.

Objective 10: Encourage the preservation and restoration of existing native plant associations and the formation of new communities.

Many plant species are being introduced into the area that are not adapted to tolerate local climate and conditions. Resulting excess use of water, herbicides, pesticides and fertilizers contributes to local air and water quality issues. Shifting focus away from non-native plants also facilitates the degradation

and fragmentation of local plant communities, affecting ecosystem health and biodiversity. However, native landscape treatments are often not appreciated by the general public due to their more informal appearance.

A. *Promote Native Plantings...* in buffer areas and open spaces as a means to maintain the quality of public greenways. Encourage the use of native horticultural species within formally landscaped areas.

B. *Utilize Public Education...* to convey the economic, environmental and health benefits of prairies and other native plant communities and alternative open space designs.

C. *Encourage Developers...* to integrate alternative landscape methods such as prairie development, wetland integration and reforestation efforts in proposed parks, rights-of-way and reserves. Naturalized lawns and green marketing can also be used as an environmentally friendly selling point for new developments.

RIGHT: Native plant species occupy prairie spaces at Indian Run Falls Park.

OPPOSITE PAGE: Cavities in decaying or dying trees provide habitat for nesting birds and other animals.



Objective 11: Maintain and increase wildlife diversity.

As development occurs, the fragmentation of open space and elimination of scrub, prairie and wetland habitats often forces wildlife out of traditional habitats and into populated areas. Traffic conflicts and invasions of residential areas are common outcomes. Development and the formalization of open space also affect the overall character of remaining areas and can inhibit habitat balance and biodiversity.

- A. *Maintain Wildlife Corridors...* within developments to ensure that wildlife can travel regionally within natural open space areas. Providing continually linked open spaces will allow for migratory patterns and can reduce conflicts between people and nature.
- B. *Manage Open Space...* and naturalized public lands to limit the establishment of invasive species. Lands should also be maintained to encourage as much habitat diversity as possible. Controlled burns in some natural areas should be contemplated as a way to improve the overall health of the natural environment.

- C. *Establish New Wetlands and Prairies...* to diversify the City’s open space inventory. Land development practices have destroyed many areas of scrub, prairie and wetland, which are important habitats that attract a broad range of plant and animal species. Programs to reintroduce wetland and prairie areas within new developments should be strongly encouraged.
- D. *Educate the Public...* about wildlife in the community, such as whitetail deer and raccoons, and how to minimize conflicts with people.
- E. *Continue Installing Bluebird Trails...* to encourage resurgence within public open space areas. Provide education and maintenance to facilitate an ongoing program.
- F. *Maintain Decayed or Dying Trees...* in non-hazardous locations to provide nesting habitat for many cavity nesting bird species and other wildlife.

Objective 12: Protect endangered, threatened and potentially threatened plants and animals.

Many plant and animal species in Ohio have been identified as threatened or endangered and need protection to re-establish sufficient numbers for survival. Many of these endangered, threatened or potentially threatened populations are located in habitats along the Scioto River and its tributaries, making the protection of the City’s waterways vitally important.

- A. *Monitor Species and Associated Habitats...* in the Dublin area through updates from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the Ohio Department of Natural Resources. The specific habitats and locations of identified species should be inventoried, managed and protected from development pressure and disturbances.
- B. *Establish Minimum Buffers...* around sensitive habitats to protect the integrity of environmental areas. Development in surrounding areas should utilize sensitive design practices that will minimize any potential impacts.
- C. *Identify and Acquire Sensitive Lands...* to ensure that critical habitats or environmental areas can be preserved from development. Because not all lands may be acquired, identification and prioritization of the most critical areas is necessary.
- D. *Develop Management Plans...* to clearly identify goals and objectives for maintaining the quality of public lands and open spaces around sensitive habitats and to identify potential environmental triggers that can impact species.
- E. *Provide Public Education...* about the importance of preserving and enhancing biodiversity and protecting threatened species within the City. Public identification and awareness is the key to maintaining support and prioritization for protection efforts.



Objective 13: Control the spread of invasive plant and animal species.

Invasive plants can quickly out-compete native vegetation, eliminate wildlife habitat, increase soil erosion and lead to an imbalanced ecological state. Invasive species can also force out animals native to the area and can lead to greater levels of wildlife-human conflict.

- A. *Implement Best Management Practices...* to manage public open spaces, parks and reserves to eliminate and minimize the effects of invasive plant and animal species that have been identified by the Ohio Department of Natural Resources.
- B. *Establish a Prohibited Plant List...* to eliminate the use of invasive plant material within new and existing developments.

- C. *Promote Public Education...* that will encourage developers, landscape contractors, design professionals, and homeowners to avoid using plant species with the potential to spread from a maintained landscape area into the surrounding natural environment.
- D. *Encourage Habitat Protection and Restoration...* in areas where there is an existing or potential threat of degradation of natural habitats. Efforts to protect and re-establish habitat areas can provide an opportunity to introduce native species back into the environment and can encourage a more natural balance.





Development in Dublin should protect and enhance natural features and habitats.

