

Ohio Balanced Growth Program

Fact Sheet: Watershed Balanced Growth Plans

Planning criteria

- Watershed Balanced Growth Plans will be developed by Watershed Planning Partnerships.
- Watershed Balanced Growth Plans are meant to augment and harmonize with local comprehensive plans - not replace them.
- Priority areas should be identified based on measurable criteria that affect Ohio's watersheds.
- It is hoped that local land use plans will be adapted to conform to the watershed plans.

Content of plans

- A specific statement of how the Watershed Balanced Growth Plan will help achieve the goals and objectives of the Ohio Balanced Growth Strategy, while promoting economic development and quality of life in the watershed.
- The identification of Priority Conservation Areas within the watershed to protect critically important ecological, recreational, agricultural, heritage, public access, and other critically important areas.
- The identification of Priority Development Areas within the watershed, which will be locally designated areas where growth and/or redevelopment should especially be promoted.
- Documentation that justifies the designation of Priority Development Area and Priority Conservation Areas.

Factors to be considered

- Population and population distribution in the watershed.
- Natural resources, inventories and assessments which may include air, water, open spaces, public access, scenic corridors, and viewsheds, forests, soils, rivers, and other waters, shorelines, fisheries, wildlife, and minerals.
- The amount, type, intensity or density, and general location within the watershed of various types of land uses and projections of land uses for the watershed.
- The economy of the watershed, which may include amount, type, general location and distribution of commerce and industry within the watershed, the location of employment centers, and which should include analyses of trends of projections of economic activity.
- Amount, type, quality, affordability, and geographic distribution of housing among local government units in the watershed.
- General location and extent of existing or currently planned major transportation facilities of all modes, and utility, educational, recreational, cultural, and other facilities of significance. This includes storm water, drinking water, and sewer system infrastructure.
- Geology, ecology, and other physical factors of the watershed, including land areas in the watershed subject to natural hazards.
- The identification of features of significant statewide or watershed architectural, scenic, cultural, historical, or archaeological interest.
- Amount, type, location, and quality of agricultural lands.