

RESOLUTION NO. 09-2021  
(As Amended)

Adopting the Vision Statements and Supporting  
Principles from the Vision Worthington Initiative.

WHEREAS, in 2019, City Council decided to engage in a citizen-led comprehensive visioning process to include all stakeholders to gain a thorough understanding of a broad cross-section representing the will of the people (Resolution No. 10-2019); and,

WHEREAS, the City Council appointed 13 community members to a Visioning Committee to steer the visioning process, engage and listen to community members and develop a well-grounded articulation of the community's aspirations for the future of Worthington (Resolution No. 40-2019); and,

WHEREAS, the City Council hired a consultant, Poggemeyer Design Group (PDG), to work with the Committee in developing and implementing the visioning process, and,

WHEREAS, the Committee proceeded to engage the community throughout 2020 through interviews, workshops, focus groups, surveys, presentations to community groups, charettes, an online interactive website and mailings to households, and,

WHEREAS, the Committee's engagement activities were broadly and frequently advertised through social media, online websites, emails, newspaper articles, signs in the community, newsletters, press releases, and postcards, and,

WHEREAS, due to constraints and restrictions imposed by the COVID pandemic, the participation rate was less than the original goal but still represented a significant portion of the community, and,

WHEREAS, after thoughtfully considering all the ideas and reactions from participating community members, the Committee drafted vision statements and supporting principles, tested those with the community online and through the mail, and refined the statements and principles based on the community input, and,

WHEREAS, the Committee presented the final vision statements and supporting principles to City Council on November 9, 2020 and subsequently submitted the full report of the visioning effort the City Council on December 22, 2020, and,

WHEREAS, the Visioning Committee's report notes that a vision statement is not prescriptive but "is an aspirational statement of an idealist emotional future" and "[v]isioning does not offer site-specific solutions, specific public policy recommendations, or prescribe mandated action steps . . . it will be up to City leaders on how and when to implement [the] vision" (Vision Worthington Executive Summary, p.3), and,

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WHEREAS, the Visioning Committee acknowledged conflicting opinions in the community around development/redevelopment, park development, housing, public transportation, Worthington's vibe/energy and support/involvement for younger individuals, and they worked diligently to write vision statements and principles focused on the commonalities in viewpoints of community members (Vision Worthington Executive Summary, p. 7).

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Council of the Municipality of Worthington, County of Franklin, State of Ohio:

SECTION 1. That City Council hereby adopts and approves the vision statements and supporting principles as described in Exhibit A.

SECTION 2. That the City Council commits to using the vision statements and supporting principles as guides and expressions of values in pursuing and adopting action steps.

SECTION 3. That staff will arrange for presentation and discussion of the vision statements and supporting principles with the City's Boards and Commissions and City employees.

SECTION 4. That City Council acknowledges that progress toward achieving the described future is a long-term endeavor and the City Council will review the vision statements and supporting principles at City Council planning sessions and retreats in order to connect the visions for the community's future to City priorities and programs, to update actions plans and steps, and to track progress in moving toward the visions.

SECTION 5. That City Council desires to maintain flexibility to pursue opportunities as they arise, thus action plans may be revised as deemed appropriate by the City Council.

SECTION 6. That the Clerk of Council be and hereby is instructed to record this Resolution in the appropriate record book.

Adopted March 1, 2021

/s/ Bonnie D. Michael  
President of Council

Attest

/s/ D. Kay Thress  
Clerk of Council



## Worthington's Future: Where Tradition Meets Tomorrow

Worthington is a vibrant community surrounded by history and natural beauty. It's a place ***Where Tradition Meets Tomorrow*** as our historic village green calls us together to honor our past, celebrate our lives and engage in civil debate for the betterment of our community. Worthington is home to safe, unique neighborhoods that residents maintain with pride. It has thriving business, retail and entertainment districts that attract a diverse workforce and visitors throughout the region.

Our natural parks and pathways foster physical and emotional wellbeing and provide space for people of all ages to renew and learn. It's a community that welcomes all and strives for accessibility, equity and sustainability as we live, work and play together. Worthington is among Central Ohio's most livable, viable and memorable communities.

People from all walks of life are attracted to the city for a myriad of reasons – history, nature, arts, schools, employment, recreation, services, neighborhoods – but they spend their lives and raise their children here because they're embraced and supported by a community that cares. It's this sense of community that is cultivated and preserved above all else. Our future rests in each other.



## **Worthington is a Diverse and Equitable Community.**

Worthington welcomes people across age, race, gender, ethnicity, orientation, gender expression, abilities, income, religion and politics. We are committed to systems, processes, resources, employment and public services that are accessible and fair for all. We recognize inequities and actively work to overcome biases and injustices that create barriers to full inclusion within our community. Diversity strengthens the social fabric of Worthington as we build authentic, lasting relationships and care for one other.

### **As a community, we:**

- Create conditions that increase the diversity of our city to better reflect the racial and ethnic composition of our region.
- Proactively identify, evaluate and address policies and practices that negatively affect underrepresented populations.
- Create opportunities and remove barriers for people from a wide range of ages, abilities and income levels to live in our city.
- Implement policies and foster inclusive environments that increase diversity in public employment, business ownership and community leadership.
- Honor and celebrate our diversity with regular cultural events and multicultural education.



## **Worthington Offers a High Quality of Life.**

Our community is committed to quality housing, services and amenities for all residents. A stable and diverse housing market makes it possible for Worthington residents to put down roots and live full lives here, actively participating and contributing to the wellbeing of the community. Our strong schools, excellent city services, and unique cultural, recreational and entertainment offerings make Worthington the most livable and desirable community in Central Ohio.

### **As a community, we:**

- Ensure Worthington has an adequate tax base to make the desired investments in our city infrastructure and to maintain the quality of city services.
- Promote diversity and preserve community in our residential neighborhoods.
- Value the cultural arts that foster learning, dialogue and expression while providing attractive community spaces, memorable activities and a greater appreciation of diversity.
- Desire walkability and bikeability throughout our neighborhoods and business districts.
- Collaborate with nonprofits, schools, and libraries to continuously improve recreational parks and facilities, life-long learning opportunities and human services for use by our community.



**Worthington is Dedicated to  
the Vibrancy of its Downtown.**

The heart of Worthington is a pedestrian-friendly, historic business district and village green that attract visitors and bring our community together. Planned by our founders, downtown Worthington is where our past, present and future are linked as it serves as a place of celebration, a niche of unique and local businesses and a hub to Worthington's other business districts and community assets. Old Worthington's historic character is paramount to our identity.

**As a community, we:**

- Protect the historic character of the Old Worthington business district.
- Make long-term investments to ensure its prosperity as a place to live, work and visit.
- Partner with public/private/nonprofit groups to maintain and enhance the economic diversity of the district.
- Host new and traditional community events that attract residents and visitors, increasing foot traffic to our downtown shops and restaurants.



## **Worthington's Economy is Balanced and Resilient.**

Worthington is a community with varied, but interconnected business districts that enhance and strengthen each other. A thriving High Street thoroughfare ("Worthington Mile") of diverse business, retail, residential and entertainment options complements the vibrancy, character and walkability of our historic downtown. Robust business districts from Linworth to Wilson Bridge Road to Huntley Road add to the economic prosperity and stability of our city. Worthington residents live and work here as employers are attracted to the unique features of the city and its diverse and skilled workforce.

### **As a community, we:**

- Encourage economic development and welcome public input to bring our shared visions to life.
- Attract employers that offer residents stable, good-paying jobs, while diversifying the city's revenue base.
- Incubate innovative solutions through community and business collaboration and partnership.
- Follow a comprehensive, long-term strategy that leads to timely and consistent decisions related to development.



**Worthington's Leadership is Open, Forward-thinking and Collaborative.**

Worthington is a model for civic engagement where citizens participate, contribute and are heard on issues that affect their community. Our elected leaders carefully consider diverse points of view but also take timely and coordinated action to move our community forward. We set the pace for communities like ours, and our government is known for listening to and responding to the voices of its citizens.

**As a community, we entrust our leaders to:**

- Use multiple communication platforms to provide transparency in governance and access to digital education with accurate and objective information on issues impacting the community.
- Strive for consensus building by encouraging and modeling respectful public dialogue and demonstrating benefits to the common good.
- Actively seek to understand the perspectives of underrepresented populations during decision making and increase diverse representation on community boards and committees.
- Carefully consider actions that may impact the livability, viability, sustainability and historic preservation of our city, and then make hard decisions to further progress.



## **Worthington is a Model for Environmental Stewardship.**

Nestled along the beautiful Olen tangy River, Worthington is a dedicated steward of its land, air and waterways. The parks, paths, woods, green spaces and outdoor recreation throughout our community create a lifetime of memorable experiences. Our dedication to preserving the natural environment is rooted in our desire to live sustainable and healthy lives. We are a community that appreciates the splendor of mature trees, native vegetation and natural waterways.

### **As a community, we:**

- Maintain and preserve existing public parks and offer creative common and recreational spaces for all ages and abilities to enjoy.
- Follow a sustainable, balanced approach to new development and green space.
- Encourage the redevelopment of existing buildings to reduce waste and pollution.
- Promote access to local and sustainably-grown food, such as restaurant and school sourcing, community events, markets and gardens.
- Embrace renewable and clean energy production and strive for an overall reduction in energy consumption within the city.
- Strive to be on the leading edge of environmental stewardship.



## Worthington is Connected.

Community members appreciate walking their neighborhoods, biking around town, and the ease with which they can travel to work and other destinations around Central Ohio. Our transportation infrastructure – sidewalks, bikeways, streets and highways – connects us to each other and the region. We are also connected through innovative technology that offers personal, business and educational benefits to all residents. We recognize the importance of adopting and promoting multimodal forms of transportation and digital technology while eliminating barriers to access.

### **As a community, we:**

- Invest in making Worthington the most walkable and bike-friendly suburb in Central Ohio.
- Improve existing roadways to safely and efficiently integrate bike, public transit and pedestrian mobility.
- Embrace multimodal and high-tech forms of transportation.
- Establish partnerships to provide and support sustainable and convenient modes of transportation, including public transportation and related amenities.
- Integrate smart technologies across the city to improve infrastructure, public utilities, services and more.
- Leverage our existing direct access to highways to attract investment.