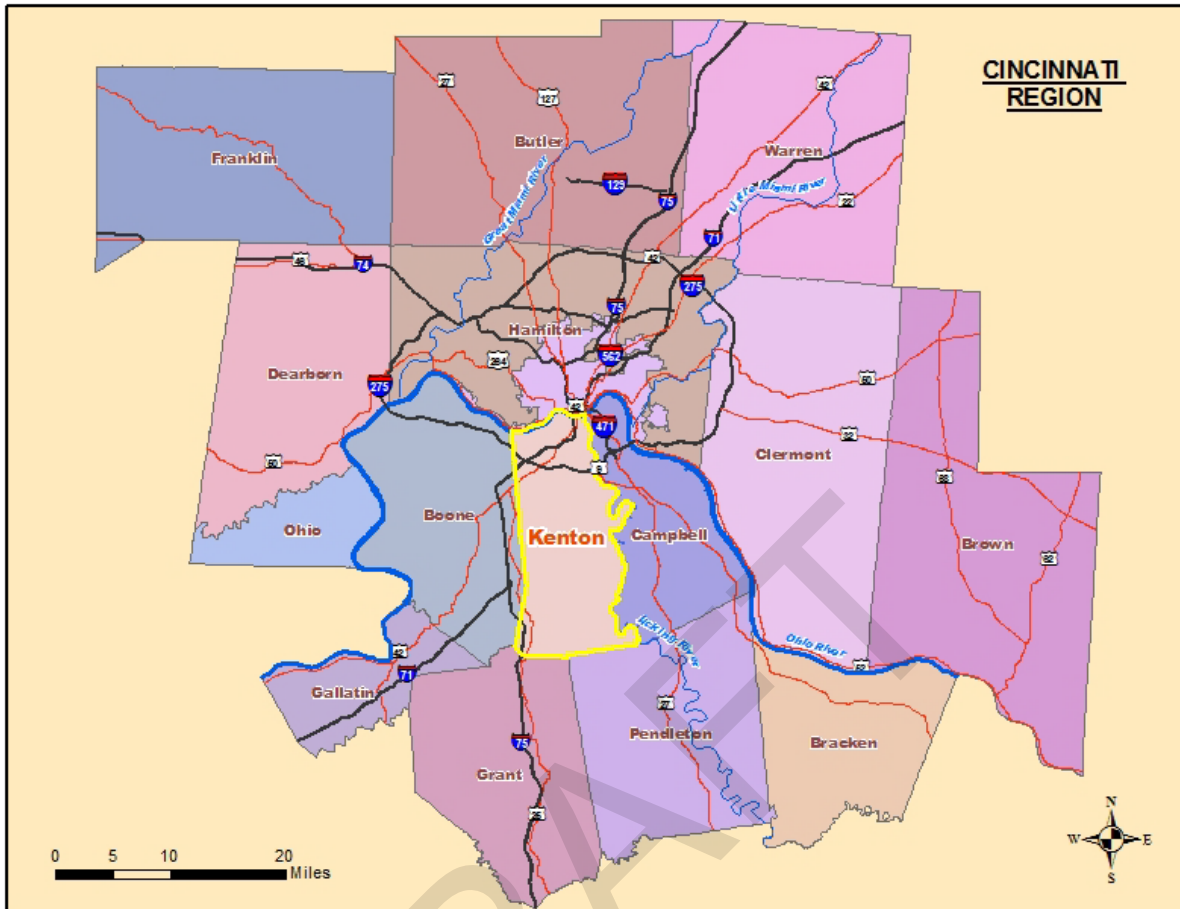


Regional

The Kenton County Comprehensive Plan is comprised of nine elements. Recommendations and associated tasks for implementation have been developed for each element to implement the Goals and Objectives that serve as the foundation for the plan. The recommendations were derived after extensive public discussions, discourse and dialogue and are based on research which includes local data as well as national trends. They explore different facets of the county's physical development as well as its economic and social well-being and provide a roadmap for implementation. Kenton County is a single part of the Greater Cincinnati Metropolitan Region. The Comprehensive Plan examines the role of Kenton County in the overall region. The Regional element identifies policies that recognize that decisions made locally have an impact on the overall metropolitan region.

Kenton County is linked in a regional context to three states, eight counties, and nearly 200 municipalities. Each one of these geopolitical jurisdictions has different goals and aspirations. While these ambitions may suit residents and cities on a micro level, the economic health of the entire region is dependent on each of the jurisdictions considering their role in a broader context. Kenton County is located in a particularly important part of this metro area, being geographically in the center and containing a part of the urban economic and employment core of the region. While the elements of this plan are mostly focused on Kenton County, it is important to realize that the health of Kenton County is intimately linked to the health of the entire region. Click on the main headings below to learn more about the recommendations for regional planning as it pertains to Kenton County.



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1. Recommendation:

Establish policies for housing, mobility, and employment which help maintain the low cost of living that makes the Greater Cincinnati Metro area a desirable place to live.

Associated Goals & Objectives:

- Goal 1
- Goal 2

Tasks:

1. Collaborate with the development community and community leaders to encourage policies that establish a variety of housing options and prices that support low cost of living.
2. Reduce the combined housing and transportation costs by accommodating different types of housing within environments close to employment centers that are well connected with multiple modes of transportation.

Basis:

One of the highlights of the study conducted by Agenda 360 and Vision 2015 was the low cost of housing in the metro area when compared to 11 other peer metropolitan regions such as Pittsburgh and Cleveland. The region has a high share of homes that are affordable for a family earning a median income. This advantage needs to be maintained to keep the Cincinnati metro area competitive with its peer regions.

2. Recommendation:

Collaborate with other counties in the region to ensure goals and action steps align with regional efforts to remain economically competitive with peer regions.

Associated Goals & Objectives:

Goal 9

Tasks:

1. Participate in regional efforts that aim to address factors in which this region needs improvement such as increasing the size of the labor pool, net migration, transportation investment, source of employment, and educational attainment.
2. Seek collaborative approaches to major infrastructure projects that cross county boundaries and significantly impact the region.
3. Integrate with regional planning efforts such as OKI's Strategic Regional Policy Plan into local planning initiatives.
4. Coordinate with neighboring jurisdictions through efforts like Tri-State Trails to promote regional bicycle and pedestrian facility continuity. Strive for continuous connections to neighboring counties whenever feasible.

Basis:

The Cincinnati Metro area is made up of 15 counties in three different states. There are several regional agencies that pursue regional planning processes that enable increased opportunities for collaboration between counties in the region. This includes the Ohio-Kentucky-Indiana Regional Council of Governments, which pursues regional land use and transportation planning, and the partnership between Vision 2015 and Agenda 360, which works on broader community goals of jobs, education and economic growth. In addition, each of the three NKY Counties has their own comprehensive planning processes. It is important to be engaged in these processes and coordinate regional and county-wide goals.

3. Recommendation:

Consider the regional context when exploring locations for major employment centers, large retail nodes and amenities.

Associated Goals & Objectives:

Goal 3 – Objective D

Tasks:



1. The economic impact of large facilities on those located in adjoining counties and within the region should be considered.
2. Promote a regional approach to job creation and attraction.
3. Assess the impact of these facilities on regional infrastructure systems such as interstates and highways.
4. Participate in regional initiatives such as the Licking River Greenway and Ohio Riverfront Commons project.

Basis:

According to the Regional Indicators Report the Cincinnati Metro area scored low in most of the job related indicators. These include percentage of knowledge jobs, creative jobs, venture capital and average annual wages. In addition, a public forum on economic competitiveness was held in May of 2012 where local experts in the field of job creation, retention and attraction were asked to participate in a panel discussion. The panelists agreed that a talented workforce was essential in competing with peer metro areas.

4. Recommendation:

Recognize the role of four distinct sub areas within Kenton County and the contribution of each to the regional economy.



Associated Goals & Objectives:

Goal 2 – Objective A
Goal 4

Tasks:

1. Establish planning boundaries for each of the four areas – urban, first ring, suburban and rural.
2. Assess the unique strengths and weaknesses of each area.
3. Undertake a sub area planning process to determine community needs.
4. Assist municipalities within each of the sub areas to coordinate (across jurisdictional boundaries) planning efforts, recognizing shared opportunities and challenges.

Basis:

The range of planning issues discussed in the urban areas of Covington, Ludlow and Bromley are generally different from those discussed with residents in rural southern Kenton County. Recognizing these distinct needs and re-aligning planning processes to address these will strengthen the community fabric.