

2005 CITY OF KENT BICENTENNIAL PLAN PROGRESS REPORT

March 2006

Natural Environment: Provide Quality Recreational Opportunities and Facilities

Implementation Plan	Indicators of Progress	2005 Progress Report
The Parks and Recreation Board should elicit feedback on the community's vision for improving the existing parks and recreation facilities and updating its Master Plan. The Parks and Recreation Board should expand its programming for the community's youths and teens.	Survey completed	On Hold. No plans at this time for survey but possibly will be done in 2007.
	Master Plan update Completed	In Progress. Several sections updated in 2005. More sections to be updated in 2006.
	Net increase in program offerings for youths and teens	In Progress. Six (6) new programs started in 2005 – 1) Lacrosse League, 2) Cheer & Dance Club, 3) Theatre Program, 4) Steinert Glass & Metal camps, 5) Expanded volleyball leagues, 6) Before & Afterschool program started and expanded to three locations
	Net increase in program attendance for youth and teen programs	In Progress. No specific numbers available but a definite increase over 2004 with the new programs listed above.
Expand offerings of recreation and leisure services via the community network of neighborhood parks in conjunction with the Parks and Recreation Board's Master Plan.	Number of neighborhood-park based programs	In Progress. Before & Afterschool programs expanded to three (3) locations. Future Admore park expansion planned for the next five years will also add more neighborhood-based programs.
	Attendance over time	In Progress. No specific numbers available but a definite increase over 2004.
Expand the use of pervious pavement materials in all city parks and city facilities where parking lots are to be constructed or expanded by 2023.	Number of parking lots in city parks and facilities reconstructed or replaced with pervious materials	In Progress. Three parking lots completed utilizing pervious pavement – Al Lease Park, Fred Fuller Park and Fishcreek Park. Plans for one more at the new Admore facility.
Use the Cuyahoga River as a recreation facility for canoeing and/or kayaking, operated either by the Parks and Recreation Board or a private entity.	Construction and/or lease of rental facility completed	On Hold. The Parks & Recreation Department is very interested in contracting with a private entity for a livery on the Cuyahoga River but there have been no interested parties at this point.

Interconnect all community parks with The Portage by 2015	Number of parks connected each year	In Progress. One trail connecting Al Lease Park completed in 2005. Plan to connect to Tannery Park in 2007.
	Number of lane miles added (by routing or construction)	In Progress. One-half mile added at Al Lease Park in 2005. Plans to add 2 miles along the Cuyahoga from Tannery Park to the Middlebury Bridge in 2007 funded by a \$736,000 grant. Applied for a \$330,000 grant to add trails from Crain to Breakneck Creek in 2008.

Natural Environment: Preserve Natural Resources

Implementation Plan	Indicators of Progress	2005 Progress Report
Expand the use of pervious pavement materials in all city parks and city facilities where parking lots are to be constructed or expanded by 2023	Number of parking lots in city parks and facilities reconstructed or replaced with pervious materials	See Above: Provide Quality Recreational Opportunities and Facilities.
The City of Kent to enact riparian- corridor-protection ordinances that applies to creeks and tributaries of the Cuyahoga River by 2005.	Ordinance passed	Completed. Riparian Corridor language was included in Ordinance No. 2004-28 passed on March 3, 2004.
Public Service Department to develop a water-conservation program by 2007.	Program adopted and funded by City Council	On Hold. No plans at this time to develop a water conservation program.

Keep Kent Beautiful to sponsor semi-annual river and creek cleans-ups, beginning in 2005.	Program adopted and funded by City Council	In Progress. This project is mandated by the Stormwater Management Plan which was adopted by Kent City Council in 2004. This program is currently run the Public Service Department with assistance from the Engineering Division and a consultant, Jerry Gubanich.
	Number of events held per year	In Progress. In 2005, there were three events held as follows: 1) River Day in the spring which included a river cleanup with elementary school children, 2) On River Day, the Unitarian Church completed a river cleanup, 3) In the fall, a Freshman Give Back Day was sponsored by the City and Kent State University which included a river cleanup. Plans for 2006 include a potential River Day Sports Event and stream cleanups in conjunction with the Boy Scouts.
Inventory wetlands and sensitive environmental areas, creating base maps and updating this information every three to five years, beginning in 2007	Inventory completed	In Progress. Parks & Recreation Department completed the following projects in 2005: 1) Inventory along Admore, 2) Study completed on Fishcreek, 3) Study completed on 20-acre parcel adjacent to Jessie Smith Preserve. In addition, the Engineering Division of the Public Service Department maintains a map of wetlands produced by the Ohio Department of Natural Resources. Currently, there is no funding to complete a full inventory.
	Frequency of Inventory update	In Progress. As wetlands are delineated, the Engineering Division adds them to the inventory.
Preserve and expand existing wetlands and create conservation areas and easements with private property owners and not-for-profit groups	Number of acres expanded or added	In Progress. Community Development Department completed the following project in 2005: One wetland created to replace a wetland filled near Admore Drive.
	Number of conservation easements created	In Progress. In 2005, one conservation easement was completed along Fishcreek by the Community Development Department.
Encourage the use of rain gardens and other similar water-quality facilities in new construction projects (residential, commercial and industrial) and redevelopment projects.	Number of projects completed with alternative water-quality facilities.	In Progress. Ordinance No. 2004-28 passed on March 3, 2004 included rain gardens and other similar facilities as acceptable water management systems and is also included under the low impact development section. An article on constructing and maintaining a rain garden was printed in the Spring 2004 edition of the <i>Tree City Bulletin</i>

Implement the Davey Arboretum Plan.	Plan implemented	On Hold. Parks & Recreation Department has been working with Davey Tree to possibly implement a program in 2006 or 2007.
	Number of trees planted	On Hold.
	Number of walking paths constructed	On Hold.
Expand the Keep Kent Beautiful Adopt-A-Spot program to include the entrances to the city of Kent, park entrances and neighborhoods, beginning in 2007.	Net increase in number of spots	In Progress. Six (6) new sites were added in 2005 and an additional 4,000 flowers were planted. Future expansions planned as funding permits.
	Net increase in number of volunteers	In Progress. Thirty (30) additional volunteers were added in 2005.
Create a five-to-10-year Master Plan for the improvement of storm-water facilities in the city	Number of projects completed	In Progress. The Public Service Department currently has a list of projects (based on complaints) planned for the next five years. Issue 2 funds in the amount of \$185,000 were leveraged.
	Net decrease in number of complaints	On Hold. These numbers are not available.
Investigate and implement Green Building codes where appropriate.	Number of projects completed with Green Building procedures	In Progress. The Community Development Department has researched this item and has found that there are no existing "green building codes" per se; there are allowances in the building code to use green technologies, provided they meet the criteria addressed in the building code. Additionally, the Unified Development Ordinance will be introducing LEEDS (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design) concept programming.

Natural Environment: Maintain the Park System as an Asset to the Community

Implementation Plan	Indicators of Progress	2005 Progress Report
Expand the Keep Kent Beautiful Adopt-A-Spot program to include the entrances to the city of Kent, park entrances and neighborhoods, beginning in 2007.	Net increase in number of spots	See Above: Preserve Natural Resources
	Net increase in number of volunteers	See Above: Preserve Natural Resources
Implement the Davey Arboretum Plan	Plan implemented Number of trees planted Number of walking paths constructed	See Above: Preserve Natural Resources
Interconnect all community parks with The Portage by 2015	Number of parks connected each year Number of lane miles added (by routing or construction)	See Above: Provide Quality Recreational Opportunities and Facilities

Built Environment: Promote Traffic Management

Implementation Plan	Indicators of Progress	2005 Progress Report
PARTA develops a plan to increase ridership by Kent residents and Kent State University students, including car-pooling programs, by 2006.	Net increase in ridership	In Progress. PARTA realized an increase in ridership from 2004 (950,000 riders) to 2005 (1.2 million riders)
	Net increase in carpooling program	On Hold. PARTA does not operate a carpooling program. This program will have to be championed by another agency or individual.

Kent City Schools should encourage more high school students to ride the bus, decrease student parking areas and decreasing the amount of paved parking surfaces at Roosevelt High School.	Net increase in student ridership	On Hold. No information available
	Net decrease in parking spaces	On Hold. No specific information available. However, the number of students driving to school stays approximately the same each year.
Develop a plan for traffic calming in existing and new neighborhoods	Plan approved by City Council	In Progress. The Community Development Department has written a traffic calming program with Administrative Guidelines. The guidelines are used in working with neighborhood groups as requested.
Add signs to major routes, directing Kent State University traffic along major thoroughfares and state routes.	Project completed	In Progress. Kent State University, in cooperation with the City of Kent, created a “wayfinding” signage program directing traffic to the KSU Campus via major streets and state routes. This signage will need to be revised at the conclusion of the Crain Avenue/Fairchild Avenue Bridge project.
Interconnect all community parks with The Portage by 2015	Number of parks connected each year	See Above: Provide Quality Recreational Opportunities and Facilities
	Number of lane miles added (by routing or construction)	See Above: Provide Quality Recreational Opportunities and Facilities
Create new intersection crosswalk specifications, including the use of alternate paving, surface materials, and coloring systems, by 2007.	Specifications completed	On Hold. This project was not started in 2005.

Install traffic signals at Fairchild Avenue and Silver Meadows Boulevard; Stonewater Drive and Majors Lane; North Mantua Street and River Bend Boulevard; West Main Street and Admore Drive (soon to be Stonewater Drive); and Campus Center Drive and State Route 261, as funding allows.	Study completed	In Progress. The study is complete for the North Mantua/River Bend Boulevard intersection. Studies for Fairchild Avenue/Silver Meadows/Stonewater Drive/Majors Lane or West Main Street/Admore Drive have not been completed.
	Funded and installed	Completed. The State Route 261/Campus Center Drive traffic light was installed in 2004. In Progress. The North Mantua/River Bend Boulevard light will be installed when the amount of traffic warrants a traffic light – this intersection is not at that point yet. The West Main Street/Admore Drive traffic light will probably be included in the project to extend Admore Drive through to West Main Street. There is potential funding available for this intersection.
Improve street maintenance by adopting a pavement-management system, and dedicate additional funding toward street maintenance as the economy improves	Adoption and funding of plan	In Progress. City Council adopted the Street Program for 2005 with a budget of \$700,000 – an increase of \$200,000 over the 2004 Street Program. Future street program funds in 2007 & 2008 will be dedicated to the Crain Avenue Bridge project.

Built Environment: Improve Pedestrian Orientation

Implementation Plan	Indicators of Progress	2005 Progress Report
Interconnect all community parks with The Portage by 2015	Number of parks connected each year	See Above: Provide Quality Recreational Opportunities and Facilities
	Number of lane miles added (by routing or construction)	See Above: Provide Quality Recreational Opportunities and Facilities

<p>Construct street boulevards on Haymaker Parkway and at entrances to Kent on North Mantua and South Water streets as part of road widening and redevelopment projects and as funding allows.</p>	<p>Construction completed</p>	<p>Completed. The southern entrance to the City on State Route 43 (South Water Street) was widened in 2005 and a boulevard was included in that project.</p> <p>In Progress. The northern entrance to the City on State Route 43 (North Mantua Street) has been studied and there is a plan to place a boulevard in this area and a traffic light at River Bend. The project will be completed as warranted and as funding becomes available.</p> <p>On Hold. The construction of boulevards on Haymaker Parkway was included in the Special Planning Area drawings for the Campus Link. The Campus Link project is currently being studied by a citizen's group.</p>
<p>Create new intersection-crosswalk specifications, including the use of alternate paving, surface materials and coloring systems by 2007.</p>	<p>Specifications completed</p>	<p>See Above: Promote Traffic Management</p>
<p>Install traffic signals at Fairchild Road and Silver Meadows Boulevard; Stonewater Drive and Majors Lane; North Mantua and River Bend Boulevard; West Main Street and Admore Drive (soon to be Stonewater Drive); and Campus Center Drive and State Route 261, as funding allows.</p>	<p>Study completed</p>	<p>See Above: Promote Traffic Management</p>
	<p>Funded and installed</p>	<p>See Above: Promote Traffic Management</p>

Identify locations for installation of sidewalks; develop a five-to-10-year plan for installation and repair of sidewalks throughout Kent, including a first-come, first-served equal-cost-sharing sidewalk-repair program.	Locations defined	In Progress. The Public Service Department currently has a list of sidewalks in need of repair. The funding for the sidewalk project has been the same for four years - \$100,000 per year. The Public Service Department has found that replacing an entire sidewalk is more effective than doing piecemeal sites around the City is more cost-effective. They also try to repair a sidewalk the year before a street is due for repair or reconstruction.
	Plan completed	On Hold. There are no plans by the Public Service Department to identify any new locations for sidewalk repair at this time.
	Plan funded	In Progress. \$100,000 is appropriated each year for sidewalk repair.
	Number of feet of sidewalk replaced or installed	Completed. In 2005, the Engineering Division of the Public Service Department completed a sidewalk program that included the repair and/or installation of 12,059 square feet of sidewalk. In addition, 19 ramps were upgraded to ADA compliance.

Built Environment: Use Existing Buildings for Redevelopment

Implementation Plan	Indicators of Progress	2005 Progress Report
Create historic residential and commercial districts as identified in the district plans by 2010.	Number of districts created	In Progress. Preliminary research was completed in 2005. Program presentation to Council and possible implementation are scheduled for 2006.
Encourage the renovation of historic homes, including a recognition program and available tax programs.	Number of homes renovated	In Progress. Program implementation planned for 2006.
	Recognition program established	In Progress. Program implementation planned for 2006.

Identify and register historic buildings with the Historic Society and the National Register of Historic Places, beginning in 2005.	Number of historic buildings identified and registered per year	In Progress. A survey of all historic buildings (older than 100 years) is planned for 2006.
	Percentage of qualified buildings registered	In Progress. Program implementation planned for 2006.
Tighten regulations, and increase enforcement for the licensing and occupancy of rooming houses, beginning in 2005.	Adoption of ordinance	Completed. The City Council has adopted a Nuisance Ordinance, which has addressed many of the concerns expressed in the neighborhood meetings. The increased communication that has resulted between the Police Department, Community Development Department, Health Board, Law Department and increased communication with residents has made a very positive impact.
	Number of enforcement actions per year	In Progress. In 2005, thirty-seven (37) unlicensed rooming and boarding houses have been cited and their operations have been terminated. In addition, eight (8) unlicensed rooming and boarding houses are awaiting final verification of abatement inspection and seven (7) suspected rooming and boarding houses are under investigation.
Increased enforcement of property maintenance code.	Number of enforcement actions per year	In Progress. In 2005, Seventy-eight (78) properties were cited for being in violation of one or more Exterior Maintenance violations have come into compliance. Fifty-five (55) properties were also cited and have agreed to deadlines to abate their property maintenance violations. Nuisance materials were removed from eighty-two (82) properties.
Continue housing-rehabilitation programs, and encourage new construction on vacant residential lots.	Number of houses rehabilitated	In Progress. Twelve (12) owner-occupied homes and four (4) rental units were rehabilitated with federal Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funds and Community Housing Improvement Program (CHIP) funds.
	Number of houses constructed	In Progress. There was no new construction on vacant lots in 2005. Plans for 2006 include the potential purchase of 4-6 vacant lots on the south end of the city with Federal CHIP funding and to begin construction of residential homes through a partnership with the Thomas Anderson Development Corporation and the Home Builders Association of Portage and Summit Counties.
	Dollars spent	In Progress. Total dollars spent on housing rehabilitation totaled \$268,360.

Create architectural standards for downtown buildings and other commercial zones in Kent by 2007.	Ordinance passed	On Hold. No action has been taken on this project.
The City of Kent proposes a grant program, a revolving- loan program and a tax- abatement program for facade improvements for retail centers throughout the City of Kent, including downtown. Report to City Council by July 2005.	Program drafted and presented to City Council	<p>Completed. The City has created the new Kent Downtown Facades Program designed to facilitate code and facades improvements in the Central Business District through a grant and Loan Program.</p> <p>In Progress. Regarding tax abatements, for non-industrial properties, tax abatements are restricted to Community Reinvestment Areas (CRA) only. Staff researched the ability of targeting CRA Abatements based on job creation and wage criteria. The Ohio Revised Code permits this type of selection criteria in Post-1994 CRA's only. As a result, the Community Development Department created a new CRA that complies with those provisions, and is in the process of transferring a major portion of the City's Pre-1994 zone into the Post-1994 to accomodate that purpose. City Council approved three pieces of legislation regarding the CRA program in 2005.</p>
	Number of facades improved each year.	In Progress. One façade (Glory Days Main Street Tavern) was improved in 2005.

Social: Protect Neighborhoods

Implementation Plan	Indicators of Progress	2005 Progress Report
Identify and register historic buildings with the Historic Society and the National Register of Historic Places, beginning in 2005.	Number of historic buildings identified and registered per year	See Above: Use Existing Buildings
	Percentage of qualified buildings registered	See Above: Use Existing Buildings

Promote the conversion of rental housing units by promoting homeownership loan programs. Investigate a possible one-to-two- year property tax abatement program, and report to City Council by 2005.	Number of loans per year	In Progress. Through the use of Federal CHIP grant funding, five (5) homeownership loans and/or short-term lease purchase contracts were completed.
	Number of conversions per year	In Progress. Through the use of Federal CHIP grant funding, five (5) rental properties were purchased, renovated and two (2) were sold to families and the other three (3) were placed in a short-term lease purchase contracts as single-family homes.
	Tax abatement program proposed to City Council	On Hold. Due to concerns from the City of Kent schools, this program idea has been dropped.
Investigate and implement Green Building codes where appropriate.	Number of projects completed with Green Building procedures	See Above: Preserve Natural Resources
Tighten regulations, and increase enforcement for the licensing and occupancy of rooming houses, beginning in 2005.	Adoption of ordinance	See Above: Use Existing Buildings
	Number of enforcement actions per year	See Above: Use Existing Buildings
Increase enforcement of property maintenance code	Number of enforcement actions per year	See Above: Use Existing Buildings
Increase the amount of student housing on the Kent State University campus.	Number of housing units constructed per year	In Progress. In 2004, Kent State University added four (4) dormitories through new construction. In addition, plans for the year 2006 include two (2) new dormitories and the creation of a Fraternity/Sorority row on campus property with possibly fraternity/sorority houses planned over the next couple of years.
Continue housing rehabilitation programs, and encourage new construction on vacant residential lots.	Number of houses rehabilitated	See Above: Use Existing Buildings
	Number of houses constructed	See Above: Use Existing Buildings

Social: Retain a Strong Public Educational System

Implementation Plan	Indicators of Progress	2005 Progress Report
Continue community support of the Kent City Schools	Levy support	On Hold. The most recent levy in 2002 was passed.
	Increases in test scores	In Progress. The Kent City Schools increased their State of Ohio testing scores from the 2003-2004 school year to the 2004-2005 school year. The performance index score for 2003-2004 was 91.7 and the increased score for the 2004-2005 school year was 94.8.
	State of Ohio rating increases	In Progress. The Kent City Schools increased their State of Ohio rating from the 2003-2004 school year to the 2004-2005 school year by 2%. In 2003-2004, the schools met 72% of the indicators. In 2004-2005, the schools met 74% of the indicators. The Kent Schools continue to be considered “Effective” according to the state requirements.
Kent State University should encourage and invite the community to participate in activities on campus.	Number of activities per year Number of participants	In Progress. No specific action has been taken on this item.
	Number of participants	In Progress. No specific action has been taken on this item.
	Number of sponsoring groups	In Progress. No specific action has been taken on this item.

Social: Preserve Kent's Small Town Atmosphere

Implementation Plan	Indicators of Progress	2005 Progress Report
Interconnect all community parks with The Portage by 2015	Number of parks connected each year	See Above: Provide Quality Recreational Opportunities and Facilities
	Number of lane miles added (by routing or construction)	See Above: Provide Quality Recreational Opportunities and Facilities .
The Parks and Recreation Board elicits feedback on the community's vision for improving existing parks and recreation facilities, updates its Master Plan and expands its programming for the community's youths and teens.	Survey completed	See Above: Provide Quality Recreational Opportunities and Facilities .
	Master Plan update completed	See Above: Provide Quality Recreational Opportunities and Facilities
	Net increase in program offerings for youths and teens	See Above: Provide Quality Recreational Opportunities and Facilities
	Net increase in program attendance for youths and teens	See Above: Provide Quality Recreational Opportunities and Facilities
Create historic residential and commercial districts as identified in the district plans by 2010.	Number of districts created	See Above: Use Existing Buildings
Develop a plan for traffic calming in existing and new neighborhoods	Plan approved by City Council	See Above: Promote Traffic Management

Encourage more downtown community activities to supplement the Heritage Festival, the Festival of Lights and the Home Savings Concert Series, beginning in 2005.	Number of downtown activities per year	In Progress. The Community Development Department continues to support Downtown Innovation Community Events (D.I.C.E.) and the Kent Stage as these groups strive to attract more events into the City's Central Business District. As in the past, the City also sponsored the 2005 Kent State Folk Festival which has modified its format to provide live music at a number of downtown locations during the festival week. The D.I.C.E. group sponsored five (5) events in 2005 as follows: 1) Ice Cream Social, 2) Cider Fest, 3) Ice Carving and two sidewalk cinemas.
Encourage Kent State University to have at least one activity per year in the downtown area	Number of activities per year sponsored by Kent State University in downtown Kent	In Progress. The Kent Area Chamber of Commerce coordinated a Welcome Day for Kent State Students during freshman orientation week in downtown with live music and free hot dogs for the students. In addition, Kent State students participated as volunteers for River Day in the spring.
Encourage Kent State University organizations to adopt neighborhoods, sponsor neighborhood clean-ups and Adopt-A-Spot locations throughout the community, beginning in 2006.	Number of neighborhoods adopted	On Hold. No action has been taken on this item.
	Number of neighborhood clean-ups	On Hold. No action has been taken on this item.
	Number of Adopt-A-Spots	On Hold. No action has been taken on this item.
	Number of volunteers	On Hold. No action has been taken on this item.
Kent State University should encourage and invite the community to participate in activities on campus	Number of activities per year	See Above: Retain a Strong Public Education System.
	Number of participants	See Above: Retain a Strong Public Education System.
	Number of sponsoring groups	See Above: Retain a Strong Public Education System.

Expand the Keep Kent Beautiful Adopt-A-Spot program to include the entrances to the city of Kent, park entrances and neighborhoods, beginning in 2007.	Net increase in number of spots	See Above: Preserve Natural Resources
	Net increase in volunteers	See Above: Preserve Natural Resources
Encourage Kent residents to shop in Kent.	Number of Kent residents shopping in Kent as determined by merchants' customer surveys	On Hold. No action has been taken on this item.
	Increase in yearly sales	On Hold. No action has been taken on this item.
Resurrect and reformat the Town-Gown Committee	Decrease in neighborhood problems	On Hold. No action has been taken on this item.
Continue to financially assist needed health and social service programs that meet established criteria.	Number of Kent residents served	In Progress. The total number of residents served was 3,615.
	Annual amount of CDBG and Social Service General Fund dollars expended.	In Progress. The total amount of CDBG money spent was \$347,271 and the total amount of Social Service General Fund monies spent was \$120,000.

Economy: Encourage and Promote Locally-Owned Small Businesses

Implementation Plan	Indicators of Progress	2005 Progress Report
Encourage Kent residents to shop in Kent.	Number of Kent residents shopping in Kent as determined by merchants' customer surveys	See Above: Preserve Kent's Small Town Atmosphere.
	Increase in yearly sales	See Above: Preserve Kent's Small Town Atmosphere.
The Kent Area Chamber of Commerce adopts a "Buy Kent" program by 2005	Program adopted	In Progress. The Downtown Innovative Community Events (D.I.C.E.) group started a "Marvin Money" program in December 2005. This program includes discounts at participating downtown Kent merchants and is intended to encourage residents to shop in Kent.
	Annual program-review completed	On Hold. The Marvin Money project just started in December 2005.
The City of Kent adopt a "Buy Kent" program for municipal supplies and services by 2005	Number of Kent businesses serving the City of Kent as goods and service providers	In Progress. The City of Kent currently has a policy to give preference to local businesses when bids or proposals are fairly close in cost to non-Kent businesses.
The Kent Area Chamber of Commerce sponsors an annual community business fair with a goal of encouraging local businesses to buy from and supply each other with goods and services beginning in 2005.	Event established	Completed. The Kent Area Chamber of Commerce sponsored a program called "Rockin through the West River" to highlight West River businesses. In Progress. The Kent Area Chamber of Commerce is planning a community business fair for 2007.
	Number of participants per year	In Progress. Over 1000 people attended the Rockin' through the West River" event.

Downtown merchants organize to continue efforts to improve the commercial activity in downtown, including sidewalk-sale events throughout the year starting in 2004.	Creation of downtown organization	Completed. The Downtown Innovative Community Events (D.I.C.E.) formed in 2004 and sponsors downtown community events throughout the year.
	Number of events per year	In Progress. The D.I.C.E. group sponsored five (5) events in 2005 as follows: 1) Ice Cream Social, 2) Cider Fest, 3) Ice Carving and two sidewalk cinemas.
Strip-center merchants organize to continue efforts to improve the commercial activity in their respective centers, including sidewalk-sale events throughout the year, starting in 2004.	Creation of strip-center organization	On Hold. No action has been taken on this item.
	Number of events per year	On Hold. No action has been taken on this item.
Arts groups raise their profile by increasing cultural arts opportunities and venues in downtown, including an annual program downtown, starting in 2005	Number of arts-based programs in downtown per year	In Progress. In 2005, there were approximately 200 arts-based programs held in the downtown including gallery exhibits, workshops, music events and theatre events.
	Number of attendees	In Progress. In 2005, approximately 10,000 people attended the downtown arts-based programs in downtown.
Continue to promote Kent through the Kent Area Chamber of Commerce and the Central Portage County Visitors and Convention Bureau.	Number of inquiries and information requests received	In Progress. The Kent Area Chamber of Commerce received 2575 requests for information in the year 2005.
	Number of Web site hits	In Progress. The Kent Area Chamber of Commerce received 87,802 web site hits in 2005 which is an increase over the 2004 numbers – 86,631 web site hits.
	Dollar amount of hotel taxes received per year	In Progress. The total number of hotel taxes received in 2005 was \$5803.71.

<p>The city of Kent proposes a grant program, a revolving-loan program and a tax-abatement program for facade improvements for retail centers throughout the city, including downtown. Report to City Council by July 2005</p>	<p>Program proposed</p>	<p>See Above: Use Existing Buildings for Redevelopment.</p>
	<p>Program adopted and funded by City Council</p>	<p>See Above: Use Existing Buildings for Redevelopment.</p>
	<p>Number of facades improved each year</p>	<p>See Above: Use Existing Buildings for Redevelopment.</p>
<p>The Cuyahoga River is used as a recreational facility for canoeing and/or kayaking and is operated either by the Parks and Recreation Board or a private entity.</p>	<p>Construction and/or lease of facility completed</p>	<p>See Above: Provide Quality Recreational Opportunities and Facilities.</p>
<p>Develop and create business programs for new entrepreneurs using volunteers to provide business planning assistance, understanding local regulations, financing programs and managing your business.</p>	<p>Number of annual inquiries</p>	<p>On Hold. No action has been taken on this item.</p>
	<p>Number of start-up businesses</p>	<p>On Hold. No action has been taken on this item.</p>
	<p>Number of volunteer counselors</p>	<p>On Hold. No action has been taken on this item.</p>

Economy: Promote a Diverse Economy with A Social and Environmental Consciousness

Implementation Plan	Indicators of Progress	2005 Progress Report
Encourage the use of rain gardens and other similar water-quality facilities in new construction projects (residential, commercial and industrial) and redevelopment projects	Number of projects completed with alternative water-quality facilities	See Above: Preserve Natural Resources.
When and where appropriate, place utility wires underground in development and redevelopment project areas.	Number of miles of road where utility wires have been buried	In Progress. This project would be utilized for new development and redevelopment on a limited basis. A section addressing this issue will be included in the Unified Development Ordinance under redevelopment.
Create historical residential and commercial districts as identified in the district plans by 2010.	Number of districts created	See Above: Use Existing Buildings for Redevelopment.
Investigate and implement Green Building codes where appropriate.	Number of projects completed with Green Building procedures	See Above: Preserve Natural Resources

Kent residents encouraged to shop in Kent.	Number of Kent residents shopping in Kent as determined by merchants' customer surveys	See Above: Preserve Kent's Small Town Atmosphere.
	Increase in yearly sales	See Above: Preserve Kent's Small Town Atmosphere.
The Kent Area Chamber of Commerce sponsors an annual community business fair with a goal of encouraging local businesses to buy from and supply each other with goods and services, beginning in 2005.	Event established	See Above: Encourage and Promote Locally-Owned Small Businesses.
	Number of participants per year	See Above: Encourage and Promote Locally-Owned Small Businesses.

Create architectural standards for downtown buildings and other commercial zones in Kent by 2007.	Ordinance adopted	See Above: Use Existing Buildings for Redevelopment
Encourage greater communication between Kent State University and the City of Kent regarding emerging technologies and opportunities for employment growth in the City of Kent.	Number of new jobs created from "spin-off" businesses	The Community Development Department has forged new and strong relationships with representatives of the University associated with their technology transfer efforts. Quarterly meetings between the City and University are held, and representatives from the University are also invited to participate in the City's Ambassador Visitation Program.

Base tax incentives on jobs that pay living wages and increase incentives for those businesses that pay living wages	Number of new jobs paying a living wage	On Hold. No action has been taken on this item.
Continue to promote Kent through the Kent Area Chamber of Commerce and the Central Portage County Visitors and Convention Bureau.	Number of inquiries and information requests received	See Above: Encourage and Promote Locally-Owned Small Businesses.
	Number of Web site hits	See Above: Encourage and Promote Locally-Owned Small Businesses.
	Dollar amount of hotel taxes received per year	See Above: Encourage and Promote Locally-Owned Small Businesses.
Survey Kent State University students regarding shopping patterns and preferences.	Survey of students	In Progress. The KSU Geography Department is conducting a survey regarding this issue.
Pursue chain stores that will be attractive to Kent State University students.	Number of inquiries and contacts	In Progress. The Community Development Department is currently assisting a developer in the preliminary work to construct a downtown village on the block of downtown that is bordered by Haymaker Parkway, South Water Street, Erie Street and South Depeyster Street.
	Number of chair stores located in Kent	In Progress. As stated above, a downtown village is planned for Kent that is expected to include stores that will attract Kent State University Students.
Continue Ambassador Program.	Number of industrial visits	In Progress. Seven (7) ambassador visits were conducted in 2005 as follows: 1) Emerald Environmental, 2) Land O'Lakes, 3) Ametek, 4) Ron Al Mold & Machine, 5) AkroPlastics, 6) Star of the West Milling, 7) Industrial Mold.

Seek the clean-up and development of the Wheeling and Lake Erie Rail yard.	Phase One Environmental reviews	In Progress. The City of Kent has applied for two grants from the USEPA Brownfields Hazardous Substances Assessment Grant Program in the amount of \$200,000 for each grant.
	Development of parcels	In Progress. If the above-mentioned grant funds are received, assessments will be completed and then development of these parcels will be the next step.

Economy: Develop Kent's Downtown as an Economic Focal Point

Implementation Plan	Indicators of Progress	2005 Progress Report
Interconnect all community parks with The Portage by 2015	Number of parks connected each year	See Above: Provide Quality Recreational Opportunities and Facilities.
	Number of lane miles added (by routing or construction)	See Above: Provide Quality Recreational Opportunities and Facilities.
Identify locations for installation of sidewalks; develop a five-to-10-year plan for installation and repair of sidewalks throughout Kent, including a first-come, first-served equal-cost- sharing sidewalk-repair program.	Locations defined	See Above: Improve Pedestrian Orientation.
	Plan completed	See Above: Improve Pedestrian Orientation.
	Plan funded	See Above: Improve Pedestrian Orientation.
	Number of feet of sidewalk replaced or installed	See Above: Improve Pedestrian Orientation.

Encourage more downtown community activities to supplement the Heritage Festival, Festival of Lights and Home Savings Concert Series beginning in 2005.	Number of downtown activities per year	See Above: Preserve Kent's Small Town Atmosphere
Encourage Kent State University to have at least one activity per year in the downtown area	Number of activities per year sponsored by Kent State University in downtown Kent	See Above: Preserve Kent's Small Town Atmosphere
Increase the number of Kent residents shopping in Kent and the retail shopping opportunities available in the city.	Number of Kent residents shopping in Kent as determined by merchants' customer surveys	See Above: Preserve Kent's Small Town Atmosphere
	Number of new retail stores downtown	See Above: Preserve Kent's Small Town Atmosphere
	Increase in yearly sales	See Above: Preserve Kent's Small Town Atmosphere
The Kent Area Chamber of Commerce adopts a "Buy Kent" program by 2005.	Program adopted	See Above: Encourage and Promote Locally-Owned Small Businesses.
	Annual program-preview completed	See Above: Encourage and Promote Locally-Owned Small Businesses.

Downtown merchants need to organize to continue efforts to improve the commercial activity in downtown including sidewalk sale events through the year starting in 2004.	Creation of downtown organization	See Above: Encourage and Promote Locally-Owned Small Businesses.
	Number of events per year	See Above: Encourage and Promote Locally-Owned Small Businesses.
Conduct a market study of all downtown businesses to determine downtown Kent's overall market area.	Completion of market study with 100-percent participation of downtown businesses	In Progress. The Kent Area Chamber of Commerce plans to complete a market study in 2006.
The City of Kent proposes a grant program, revolving-loan program and tax-abatement program for facade improvements for retail centers throughout the city, including downtown. Report to City Council by July 2005.	Program proposed	See Above: Use Existing Buildings for Redevelopment
	Program adopted and funded by City Council	See Above: Use Existing Buildings for Redevelopment
	Number of facades improved each year	See Above: Use Existing Buildings for Redevelopment
Create architectural standards for downtown buildings and other commercial zones in Kent by 2007.	Ordinance passed	See Above: Use Existing Buildings for Redevelopment

Expand the Keep Kent Beautiful Adopt-A-Spot program to include the entrances to the City of Kent, park entrances and neighborhoods, beginning in 2007.	Net increase in number of spots	See Above: Preserve Natural Resources.
	Net increase in number of volunteers	See Above: Preserve Natural Resources.
Arts groups raise their profile by increasing cultural arts opportunities and venues in downtown Kent, including an annual program downtown, starting in 2005.	Number of arts-based programs in downtown per year	See Above: Encourage and Promote Locally-Owned Small Businesses.
	Number of attendees	See Above: Encourage and Promote Locally-Owned Small Businesses.
Continue to promote Kent through the Kent Area Chamber of Commerce and the Central Portage County Visitors and Convention Bureau	Number of inquiries and information requests received	See Above: Encourage and Promote Locally-Owned Small Businesses.
	Number of Web site hits	See Above: Encourage and Promote Locally-Owned Small Businesses.
	Dollar amount of hotel taxes received per year	See Above: Encourage and Promote Locally-Owned Small Businesses.
Create a comprehensive parking strategy, including redesigned and properly signed parking lots.	Number of identifiable customer and employee parking locations.	In Progress. The Parking Action Committee proposed the creation of fifty (50) additional parking spaces in the Central Business District. In 2005, the City of Kent added approximately 40 of those spaces.
	Parking Action Plan implemented	In Progress. See Above.

