



# Trimble County

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## Comprehensive Plan

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# Introduction

The Trimble County Comprehensive Plan is a planning document prepared and adopted by the citizens and officials of Trimble County and its cities. This plan is intended to provide a long range guide for the public and private sectors of the county and its two incorporated cities.

A Comprehensive Plan is the single most complete and inclusive statement of a community's vision of itself and its goals in the coming years. Its intended result is a community with a clear image of both what it is and what it wants to be, with stated objectives that reflect the highest public good and a means to achieve them.

The Plan consists of the following basic elements as required by the Kentucky Revised Statutes:

1. A statement of Goals and Objectives;
2. A Land Use Plan;
3. A Transportation Plan; and
4. A Community Facilities Plan.

Research requirements of a Comprehensive Plan include the following:

1. Population Analysis;
2. Economic Survey and Analysis;
3. Analyses of Land and Building Use, Transportation, and Community Facilities; and
4. Other Analyses and Elements that the Planning Commission deems appropriate to be included in the Comprehensive Plan.

Developed through the work of the Trimble County Planning Commission with contributions from residents, businesspersons and government officials, the Comprehensive Plan is intended for use by public officials and legislative bodies as a source of valuable information about the Trimble County community, its people and its economy, as well as a guide for decision-making regarding development of all kinds in the years to come.

The Comprehensive Plan also offers insight into Trimble County's labor force, its facilities and infrastructure, and its unique qualities and characteristics, to help those in the business community make informed decisions about the establishment and growth of commercial enterprises within the incorporated cities in the county and for Trimble County as a whole.

The Trimble County Planning Commission is charged with the responsibility of developing, reviewing and updating the Comprehensive Plan.

Reviews must be conducted at least every five years to insure the Trimble County Comprehensive Plan is kept current with the community's needs and desires.

The Comprehensive Plan provides only guidance for the development of Trimble County through the year 2022.



# Acknowledgements

## Trimble County Comprehensive Plan

The project team would like to recognize and express appreciation to the numerous individuals who contributed information, attended meetings and public forums, or otherwise participated in the development of the Trimble County Comprehensive Plan. Special thanks to all the members of the Steering Committee, City and County staff for their time and on-going commitment to making Trimble County a better place to live and visit.

### Fiscal Court

Jerry Powell, Judge Executive  
Kenny Green  
Nolan Hamilton  
Don McCarty  
David Scott  
Cindy Liter  
Rita Davis

### Planning Commission

Michael Pyles, Chairman  
Charles McCoy, Vice Chairman  
Floyd Taylor  
Jim Mitchell  
Joe Robinson  
Matt Gossom (Administrator)

### Steering Committee

Diana Arnold  
Lee Congleton  
Vickie Cull  
Leslie Cutshaw  
Diana Pierce  
Jane Proctor  
Billy Spegal  
Randy Stevens  
Jackie Tingle  
Sandy Ward  
Terry Willis  
Russell Young

### Bedford City Council

Todd Pollock, Mayor  
Harold Greene  
Gary Johnson  
Johnnie Pollock  
Tammy Scott

### Milton City Council

Denny Jackson, Mayor  
Troy Alexander  
Lyn Corneaux  
Jerry Harmon  
Seth Willis

### Planning Consultant Team

**KIPDA Public Administration Division**  
Jarrett Haley, PAS Director  
Justin Carter, Regional Planner  
Danielle Story, Community Development Specialist  
Randall Embry, Transportation Planner II  
Aaron Jones, GIS Specialist  
Zach Herzog, GIS Specialist



# Community Involvement

A good comprehensive plan should be done with the people, not for the people of a community. In order to obtain an accurate and holistic view of the needs of a community, public participation is not only necessary, it is essential. The Trimble County Comprehensive Plan is a plan for the entire community. It is inclusive in its nature and aims to involve as many residents as possible in order to achieve the goals and objectives set forth within its elements. From its inception in September of 2016, the Trimble County Planning Commission has sought to engage and interact with a diverse group of members within the community to garner ideas and views that accurately reflect the comprehensive plan's goals and objectives. The Trimble County Comprehensive Plan Steering Committee was officially formed on December 12th, 2016. The Steering Committee's role was to help assess the community's values, build off of the strengths of the county to envision a better future, and to help determine the goals, objectives and implementation strategies of the plan. On April 11th, 2017 the Trimble County Planning Commission along with the help of the KIPDA Planning Consultant Team, held a public meeting in the Trimble County Middle School gymnasium to discuss the comprehensive planning process and to get public comments and feedback. Fifty six Trimble County residents attended the public meeting, participated in workshops and heard presentations from the KIPDA Planning Consultant Team and Trimble County Judge Executive, Jerry Powell. This meeting served as an integral public participation mechanism for the planning process and the Planning Commission and Steering Committee would like to recongize and thank all of the below community members who attended the public meeting and gave their feedback.

## Trimble County residents who attended the April 11, 2017 Public Meeting

Jerry Powell  
Ann Powell  
Don McCarty  
Neil Abney  
Charles Liston  
Betsy Liston  
Kevin Mulliken  
Miranda Monroe  
Jonathan Monroe  
Jerry Hines  
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Jerry Willis  
Kenny Green  
Tammy Scott  
Russell Young  
Charles McCoy  
Roy Armstrong  
Harold Greene  
Tom Taylor  
Marion Taylor  
Don Bowling  
Kathie McGuire  
Michael Pyles  
Cynthia Liter  
Tara Isley  
James Breeden  
Libby Powell  
William Begel  
James Pyles  
Doris Powell  
Leslie Cutshaw  
Mindy Shelton  
Bob Yowler

Mark Mullins  
Donna Mullins  
Crystal Caudillo  
Matt Gossom  
Jonathon Young

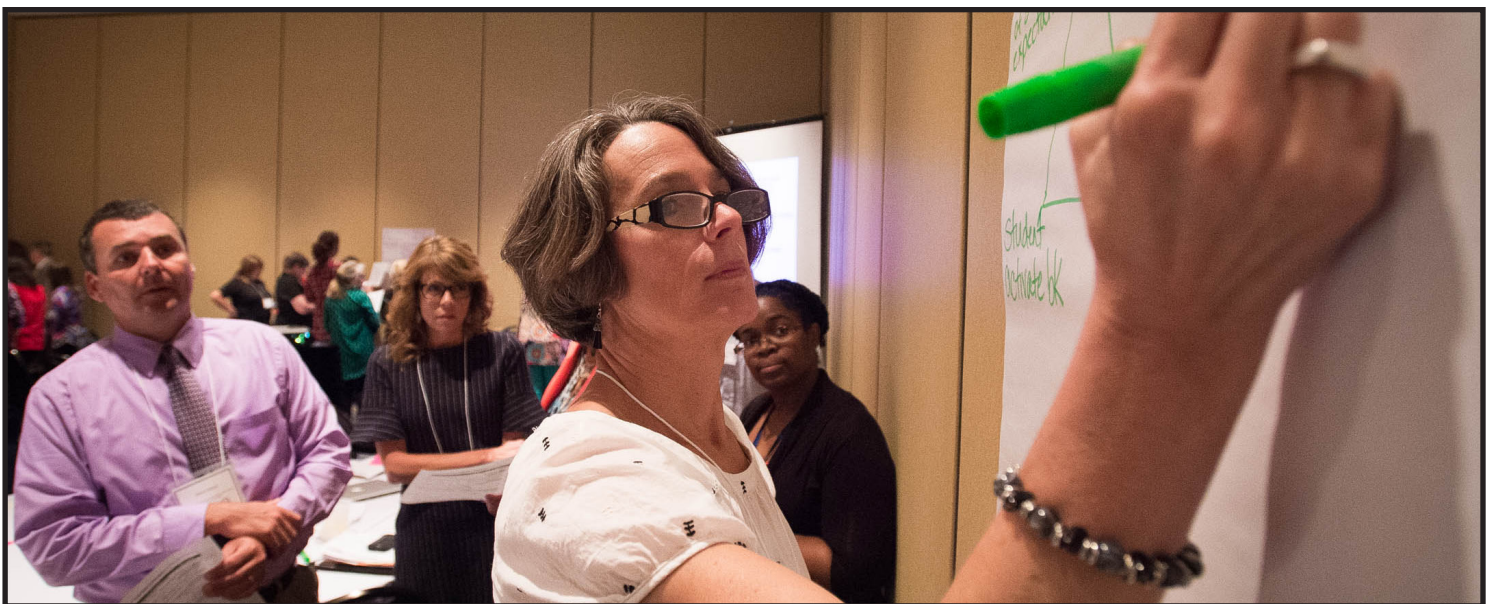
Lee Congleton  
Jane Proctor  
James Tuttle  
Sarah Tuttle





# Vision Statement

“The intent of this plan is to improve the quality of life for all citizens, protect the natural environment and rural heritage of the county, promote agribusiness and economic growth, and provide superior public services to current and future residents. This will be accomplished through targeted implementation strategies and policies that will be developed from the goals and objectives created by the community.”



# History and Background

Trimble County lies along the Ohio River, some 40 miles upstream from Louisville and some 75 miles downstream from Cincinnati, Ohio. It is on the south bank, opposite Madison, Indiana. Trimble County's estimated population in 2016 was 8,620 people. The County seat and principal urban area of Trimble County is the city of Bedford. Bedford has an estimated 2010 population of 599 people and is located near the geographic center of Trimble County.

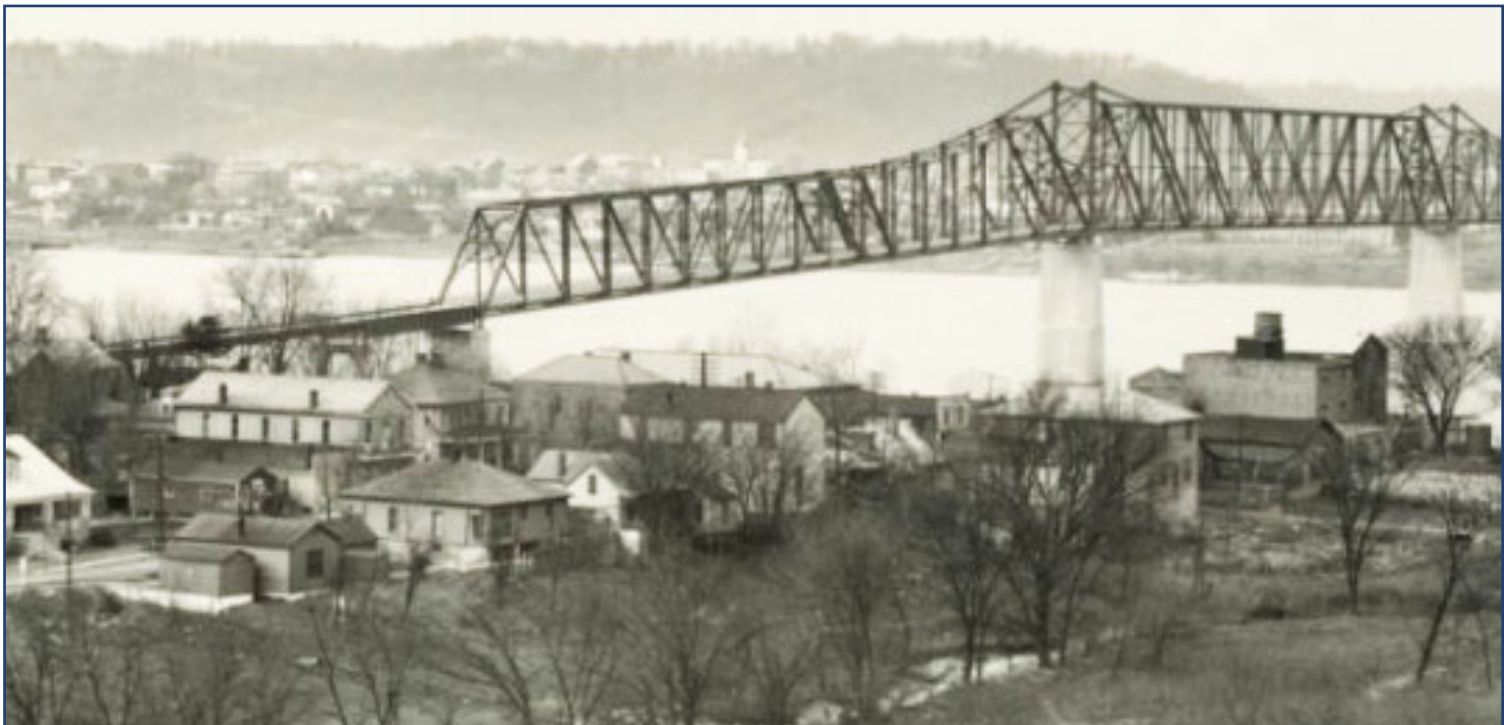
Trimble County is a county rich in agriculture and history. The county was formed in 1836 from the counties of Gallatin, Henry and Oldham. It was named for Judge Robert Trimble, a native of Virginia who came to Kentucky at the age of three. He studied law and served in the legislature before becoming a member of the United States Supreme Court.

Trimble County was established by an act of the Kentucky General Assembly in December 1836. The county's government was formally organized on March 27 1837. Legal functioning of the county government did not begin until the first day of April in that same year.

Except for a lively river trade, Trimble County was virtually isolated until 1927, when construction of state highways opened the community up to automobile travel and freight line services.

According to Collins History of Kentucky, Trimble County was the 86th county formed in Kentucky. He says the valleys on the Ohio where Trimble County was established are unsurpassed in fertility and the uplands though hilly and broken are quite productive. Exports in the county are tobacco, corn, wheat, and cattle.

Written by Darren Pike: Trimble Banner Editor





# Section 1: Existing Conditions

## Introduction

The analysis of population trends serves as a fundamental basis for many planning decisions. The size of a population, its composition, and its spatial distribution will impact future social, economic and physical land use needs. An examination of the current population size and trends over recent years provides an estimate of current land use and spatial needs and how those may change and evolve in the years to come. The use of future population projections allows the prediction of future land use and space needs as well as assisting in determining the division of space needs for schools, recreation areas, and other community facilities for each population characteristic category. The current and projected future populations determine where the various land uses, transportation routes and community facilities should be located in Bedford, Milton, and all of Trimble County.

## Population and Demographic Estimates

### Population and Demographic Trends

The University of Louisville’s Kentucky State Data Center provides data on population estimates and projections that are made available through the Census Bureau in conjunction with the Federal-State Cooperative Program for Population Estimates. Table 1.1 below illustrates the total population of Trimble County in the 2000, 2010 and 2015 censuses and population projections out to 2040.

Population analysis is very important to the planning process in that knowledge of past and present population characteristics is essential to meaningful projections of future population levels and characteristics. Future population levels are most important since they determine both the amount of land to be developed in the future and, to a large extent, what type of development, residential or commercial, will most likely occur. This provides a base for the understanding of making adequate and well-thought out plans for the future of the county. An understanding of the present population characteristics also helps the incorporated cities and the entire Trimble County community, to determine the adequacy of existing and future land use patterns, economic arrangements, and potential community facilities. These population projections provide insight into how land use patterns may change and how Trimble County must plan appropriately. Keeping a close eye on these population projection trends will illustrate if more farms are being created or more residential subdivisions are being built and will allow citizens and elected officials to dictate how they want these development patterns to continue through zoning ordinances.

### Population Projections

The population of Trimble County experienced an 8.4% increase from 2000 to 2010 as it rose from 8,125 to 8,809 residents. However, the county is projected to undergo an overall population decrease of 11.5% between 2010 and 2040. Owen County is the only county with a higher projected population decrease between 2010 and 2040, with a decline of 16.4%. Besides Carroll and Henry counties, which also exhibit diminishing population trends, Trimble and Owen counties are the most rural and least populated counties within the region. This trend of negative population growth within the four most rural and agricultural counties in the region may indicate a shift of migration toward cities and less of a desire to farm or to live in more remote areas that may not provide as much access to amenities, resources and technology.

Shelby and Oldham counties, the counties with the highest median incomes in the region, are contiguous to Jefferson County, which is by far the most populated county in the region and offers the most employment opportunities. Since such burgeoning population increases and the trend of suburbanization and out-migration from Louisville to suburban counties appears likely to continue, this must be evaluated when considering future residential development

**Table 1.1: Population Projections**

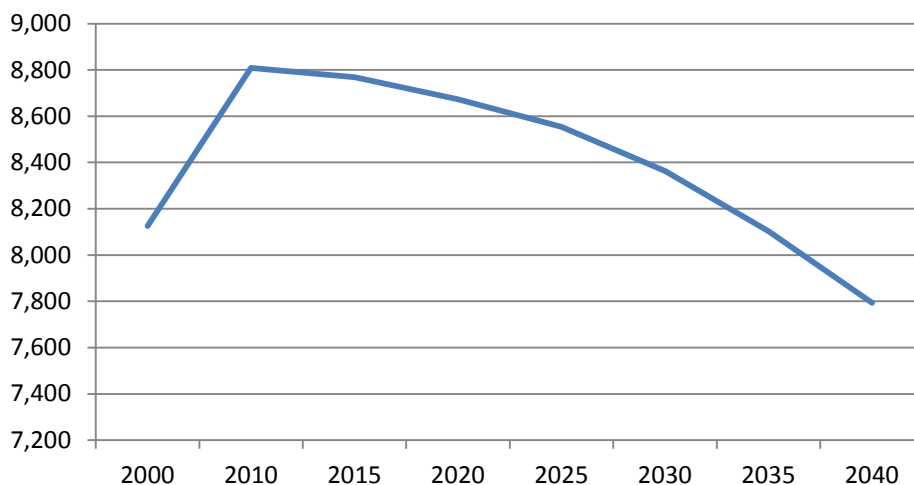
	2000	2010	2015	2020	2030	2040	% Change from 2010- 2040
<b>Trimble</b>	8,125	8,809	8,769	8,673	8,363	7,794	-11.5%
<b>Carroll</b>	10,155	10,811	10,699	10,766	10,675	10,539	-2.5%
<b>Franklin</b>	47,687	49,285	50,375	50,836	51,201	50,704	2.9%
<b>Henry</b>	15,060	15,416	15,620	15,617	15,360	14,743	-4.4%
<b>Jefferson</b>	693,604	741,096	763,623	790,010	837,477	875,459	18.1%
<b>Oldham</b>	46,178	60,316	64,875	69,419	81,831	99,124	64.3%
<b>Owen</b>	10,547	10,841	10,730	10,464	9,837	9,060	-16.4%
<b>Shelby</b>	33,307	42,074	45,632	49,988	59,415	69,239	64.6%

patterns into Trimble County from Oldham County as land becomes less scarce for suburbanization. Table 1.1 shows the population changes in Trimble County and the surrounding counties from 2000 to 2040, while illustrating the percentage change expected from 2010 to 2040.

Trimble County has two incorporated cities, Bedford and Milton, with Bedford serving as the County Seat. These are established areas, which are able to provide a wider variety of services such as water, sewer, schools, police and fire protection. Each city has the population base to begin to support economic activities, such as places of employment with a variety of competition in goods and prices. Once these services are in place and supported, the cities are equipped to handle growth more readily and population concentrations are expected to locate within or immediately adjacent to these denser and more urban areas. Table 1.2 (below) displays the number of Trimble County residents living in the Incorporated Areas and the percentage of total population in Incorporated Areas out of the total Trimble County population. Both cities have shown very little change in population between 2010 and 2016. Within those six years, there was a slight population decrease of 1.2% of people living in Trimble County's Incorporated Areas. This is compared to an increase of 2.1% of people living outside of the incorporated cities.

Migration is an important variable affecting the population growth of a county because it is innately tied to the economic health and vitality of the area. New employment opportunities in a county or region will usually reflect in a corresponding in-migration to the area. Migration is often directly related to the employment opportunities that a city, county, or region offers. This and a strong local education system are key factors. Since Trimble County's

population is projected to decline from 2015 to 2040 by 11.1% it will be important for the county to find ways to entice new employers in order to mitigate further population loss. With more of an economic base to work with, Trimble County leaders may focus on ways to bring residents into the county to not just reside but also to contribute to the local economy and compete against companies in other counties throughout the region. Current projections demonstrate that both population and farmland will decline in the decades to come.

**Figure 1.1: Trimble County Population Projections**



Economic development strategies should be developed to bring more employment opportunities to Trimble County. 86.6% of Trimble County’s population live outside of Incorporated Areas. This Comprehensive Plan must account for the rich agricultural and rural character of Trimble County and how current residents want this history and tradition to remain intact and protected. However, the Incorporated Areas in Trimble County are vital places for the community’s seniors and disabled populations and house the schools for the county’s youth. Therefore, they need to continue to offer efficient amenities, services and resources to the residents who depend on them for their day-to-day needs.

**Table 1.2 Percentage of Trimble County Population in Incorporated Areas**

	<b>Total Population in Incorporated Areas</b>	<b>Trimble County Population</b>	<b>% of Total Population in Incorporated Areas</b>
1990	1324	6090	21.4%
2000	1202	8125	14.8%
2010	1173	8809	13.3%
2016	1159	8620	13.4%



## Trimble County Population Pyramid 2015

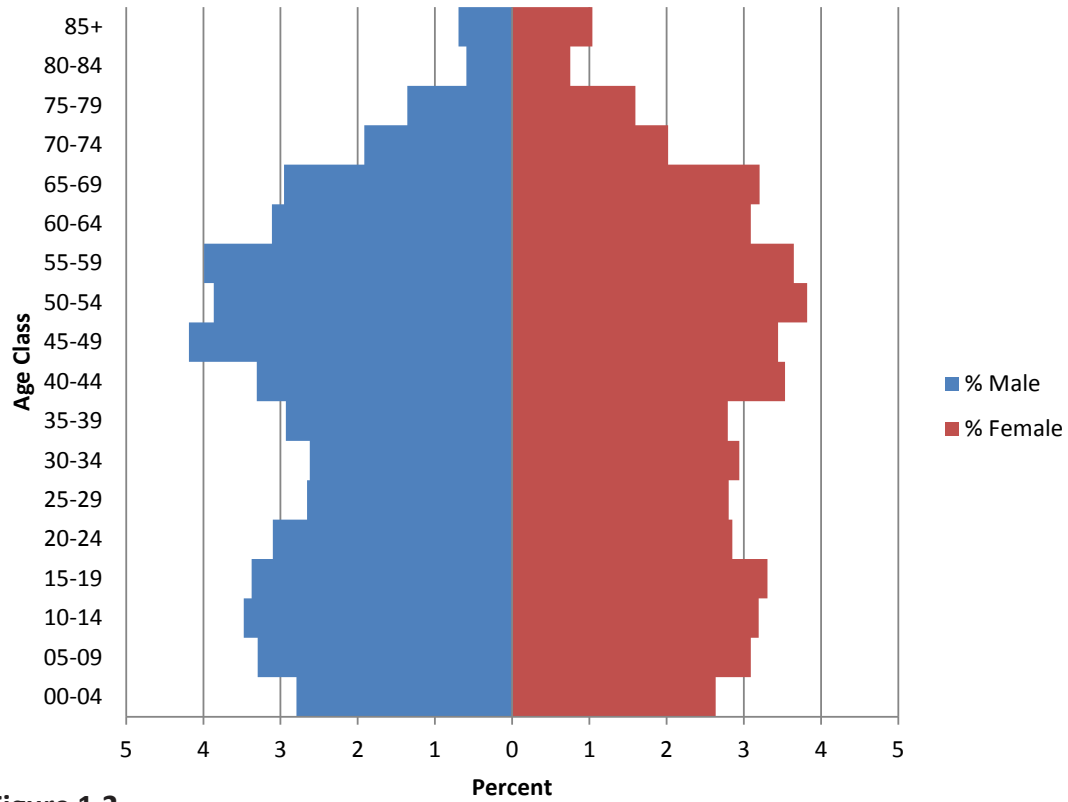


Figure 1.2

## Trimble County Population Pyramid 2040

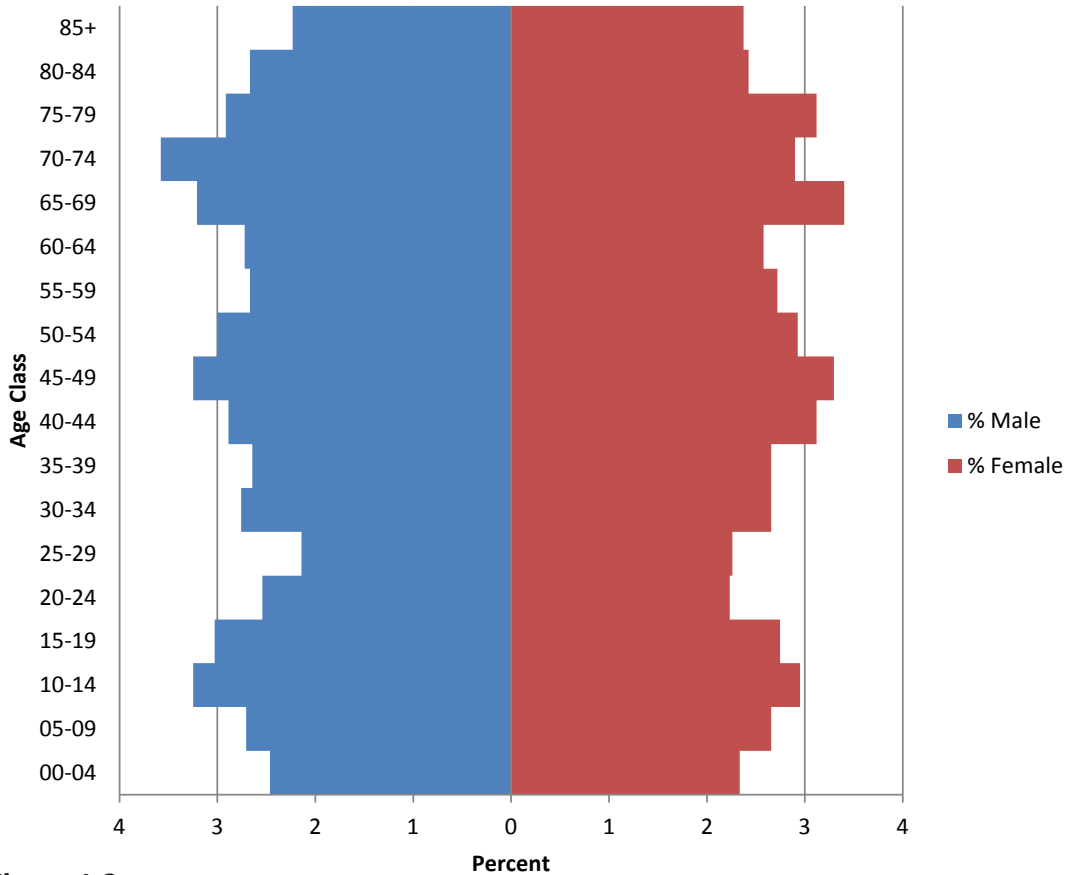


Figure 1.3



# Gender, Race, Age Demographics

Trimble County demographic data provided by the American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates shows that there is a total of 8,783 residents in the county and that of those 50.3% are female and 49.7% are male. 96.4% of Trimble County is white, 3.3% is Hispanic and .5% is of another race. The median age for the county is 41.1 years, with that of Bedford being more than a decade younger, at 27.3 years of age. Milton’s median age is slightly younger from the county’s, with theirs being at 40.5 years. These data trends are not much different from what many rural counties in the state demonstrate in their demographic makeup. However, the younger median age of 27.3 in Bedford might suggest that a younger workforce with different career interests and professional needs may be evolving. This data trend could at least demonstrate that younger families choose to be closer to the schools and social services in Trimble County and that these are more readily available closer to the County Seat and the City of Milton. Therefore, this demographic data suggests younger people, either single or married with children, live in Bedford, and that they may rely on the resources and services that the town provides, more so than their older counterparts that live on farms or in more rural, remote areas of the county.

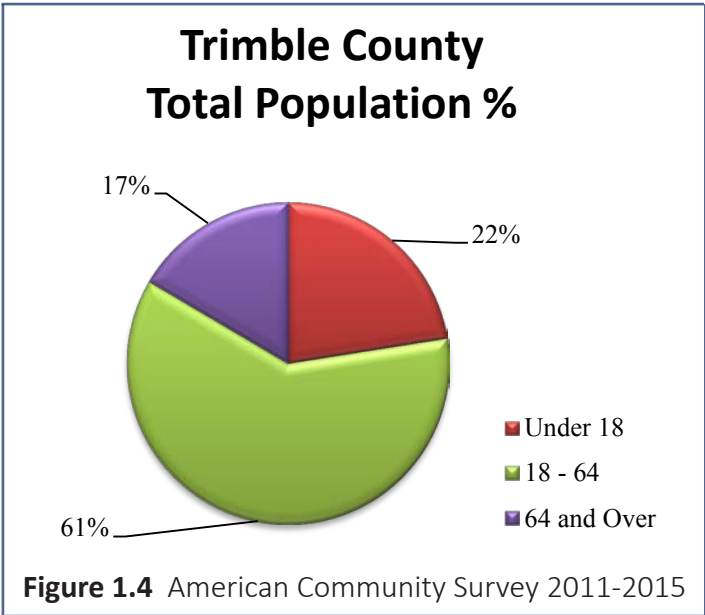


Table 1.3	Total Population	Median Age	Gender		Race				
			Male	Female	White	Black	Asian	Other	Hispanic
Kentucky	4,397,353	38.5	49.7	50.3	85.6%	7.8%	1.3%	2.0%	3.3%
Trimble County	8,783	41.1	49.7	50.3	96.4%	0.0%	0.0%	0.5%	3.0%
Bedford	747	27.3	50.1	49.9	98.8%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	1.2%
Milton	728	40.5	47.8	52.2	96.8%	0.0%	0.1%	1.5%	1.5%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2011-2015 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates

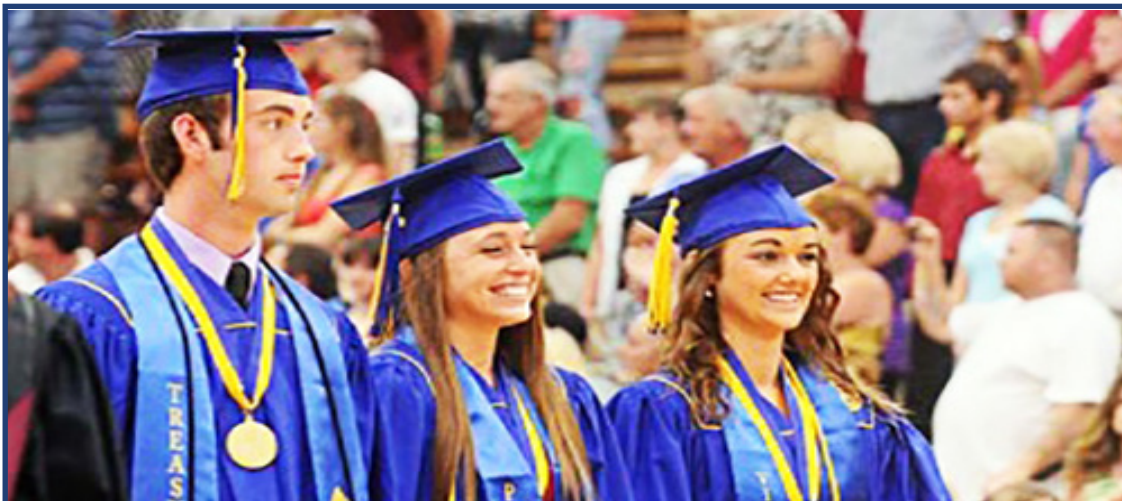


## Educational Attainment

Table 1.4 below illustrates the educational attainment levels of Trimble County residents. Out of the 6,021 residents in Trimble County that are 25 years or older, 47.2% graduated from high school, which is better than the state average of 33.6%. Out of the 47.2% with a high school degree, 53.6% of those are male with 41.1% being female. However, after that category, females' percentage rates lead the rest of the attainment categories from "some college, no degree" all the way to "graduate or professional degree."

Trimble County's percentage is lower than the state of Kentucky's in both Bachelor's degrees and Graduate or professional degrees, but holds a slight edge, 0.9% more than the state's percentage, for holding an Associate's degree. One data trend that is important to note is that "Some college, but no degree" is the second highest category of educational attainment for both Trimble County and the state of Kentucky. Trimble County has 18.2% of its population that has attended college but did not graduate, compared to Kentucky's 20.8%. The fact that this category is the second highest for both Trimble County and for the state of Kentucky demonstrates that efforts could be made to mitigate this trend and make it easier for residents to go back and earn their college degree. If just a quarter of those who dropped out of college had stayed and earned their degree, Trimble County's higher levels of educational attainment categories could surpass the percentage that does not have a high school diploma, which is currently a higher percentage than any of the degree holding categories at 12.5%.

Table 1.4: Educational Attainment	Trimble County			Kentucky		
	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female
Population 25 years and over	6,021	2,958	3,063	2,955,216	1,424,289	1,530,927
Less than 9th grade	3.4%	3.9%	2.9%	6.7%	7.3%	6.1%
9th to 12th grade, no diploma	12.5%	11.3%	13.7%	9.2%	9.9%	8.5%
High school graduate (includes equivalency)	47.2%	53.6%	41.1%	33.6%	35.4%	32.0%
Some college, no degree	18.2%	16.6%	19.7%	20.8%	20.0%	21.5%
Associate's degree	8.4%	5.1%	11.6%	7.5%	5.8%	9.0%
Bachelor's degree	6.6%	6.5%	6.8%	13.1%	13.2%	13.0%
Graduate or professional degree	3.7%	3.0%	4.2%	9.2%	8.5%	9.9%
Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2011-2015 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates						





# Households

The percentage of family households more than doubles the number of nonfamily households in Trimble County. Of those 67% family households, 58% consist of married couples, 10% are female led, with no husband present and 3% are male led, with no female present. The majority of family households are only 2-person households (33%). Three-person households account for 15% and four-person households account for 23% of the remaining family households in the county.

Out of the 29% nonfamily households, the majority of those are single persons living alone, with only 4% of the nonfamily households being listed as not living alone. Out of the nonfamily households, the largest age group was the range 35-64 with 17.5%, followed by age range 65 years and over with 8% and then lastly age range 18-34 with only 3.5%. This data trend may indicate that for single, younger people it may be harder to financially live alone or move out of their parents’ homes until either getting married and having a combined income or starting a career after completing college with a higher paying salary.

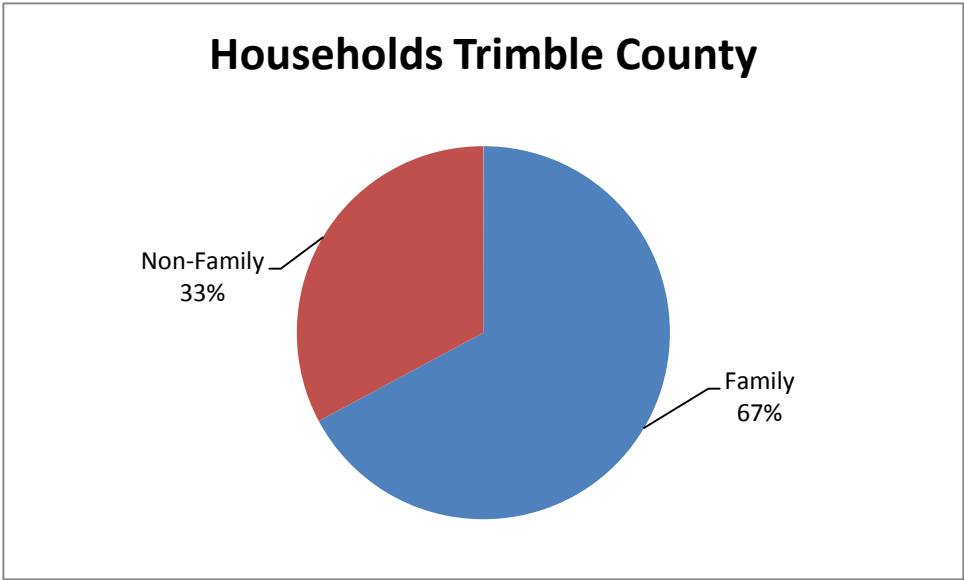


Figure 1.5 American Community Survey 2011-2015 Five Year Estimates

Table 1.5	Occupied Housing Units		Owner Occupied		Renter Occupied	
	Family	Non-Family	Family	Non-Family	Family	Non-Family
Kentucky	66.5%	33.5%	73.3%	26.7%	52.7%	47.3%
Trimble	68.5%	31.5%	73.2%	26.8%	54.2%	45.8%
Bedford	61.5%	38.5%	83.3%	16.7%	46.1%	53.9%
Milton	51.1%	48.9%	58.7%	41.3%	42.9%	57.1%
Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2011-2015 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates						

Table 1.6 Average Household Size				
	Kentucky	Trimble	Bedford	Milton
Total	2.50	2.46	2.87	2.27
Owner Occupied	2.56	2.46	3.26	2.65
Renter Occupied	2.38	2.46	2.60	2.18
Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2011-2015 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates				

## Economic Data

Trimble County has a multifaceted workforce with a strong history in agriculture that helps fuel its local economy. However, the decline of the tobacco industry has hit the county hard and the crop that once was the backbone of the economy for the farming community has slowed to almost a complete halt. Farmers have tried to replace tobacco primarily with other cash crops such as soy beans, corn and wheat while many are turning to cattle to generate income. County leaders have acknowledged that a more diversified workforce with greater employment opportunities is needed to help attract a stronger tax base. Trimble County is working with the Kentuckiana Regional Planning and Development Agency (KIPDA) to get the county certified as a Kentucky Work Ready Community. The Work Ready Communities program has the most rigorous certification program in the nation to allow communities to demonstrate their workforce quality. The criteria for work ready communities include high school graduation rates, community commitment, educational attainment, soft skills development, National Career Readiness Certificate Holders and access to highspeed Internet. Trimble County has already taken the steps to become a Work Ready Community in Progress and is currently working to meet the needed thresholds to gain certification. The county does not have any postsecondary educational institutions but does have several to choose from that are within an hour drive. Many Trimble County residents attend these universities and colleges to earn degrees that will help them to earn a better income for themselves and their families. In order to maintain the quality of life that Trimble County residents enjoy, the local government must be committed to developing a strong workforce development strategy that will offer opportunities to a range of citizens and a plan on how to entice the kinds of businesses and companies they would like to see operate out of their county.

## Employment Levels

Data shows that there was a slight decline of 3.1% in employment in the first quarter of 2017 (based on a four-quarter moving average). The largest employment industry is Agriculture, Forestry, Fishing and Hunting at 14% with Educational Services following in second with 10%. Health Care and Social Assistance, Construction and Utilities all share a three way tie with 9%. The manufacturing sector, which has seen a large increase of 23% the past five years in the KIPDA region, only makes up 3% of the total workers in Trimble County. The average annual wage for a worker in Agriculture, Forestry, Fishing and Hunting was only \$7, 818 even though this was the largest employment industry. Utilities had the highest average annual wage at \$96,651. Health Care and Social Assistance and Construction are the only two employment sectors that are projected to increase. Higher paying Agriculture jobs and more jobs in industries that are excelling regionally such as manufacturing, food services and warehousing, would help diversify the local economy and bring more residents in.

**Table 1.7: Trimble County Labor Force Data, Annual Averages**

Year	Labor Force	Employed	Unemployed	Unemployment Rate (%)
2007	4,353	4,085	268	6.2
2008	4,339	4,024	315	7.3
2009	4,355	3,845	510	11.7
2010	4,088	3,561	527	12.9
2011	4,016	3,559	457	11.4
2012	3,988	3,628	360	9.0
2013	3,970	3,638	332	8.4
2014	3,878	3,597	281	7.2
2015	3,789	3,574	215	5.7
2016	3,878	3,671	207	5.3

Bureau of Labor Statistics

## Per Capita Income & Median Household Income

Trimble County's median household income of \$47,409 is slightly higher than the state of Kentucky's median household income of \$43,740. However, as Table 1.8 (below) illustrates, the median household income is considerably less in Trimble County's incorporated cities. Bedford's is only \$20,833 while Milton's is somewhat higher at \$30,903. With nearly half of the City of Bedford's population living under the poverty line (48.5%), this data illustrates a trend in income disparity between Bedford and the rest of Trimble County. Greater economic opportunities in the incorporated cities could help mitigate this growing trend and supply lower income residents who don't commute out of the area with better paying jobs. Trimble County's per capita income of \$23,465 more than doubles that of Bedford's at \$11,131, further reiterating the income gap between rural and urban residents. With the county's population projected to decline in the future, it will be important for Trimble County to continue to construct affordable housing units and maintain the infrastructure and amenities it has in Bedford and Milton in order to retain its current population until other economic or employment opportunities arise that will entice new residents and businesses.

**Table 1.8: Selected Economic Characteristics, 2015**

	Trimble	Bedford	Milton	Kentucky
Median Household Income	\$47,409	\$20,833	\$30,903	\$43,740
Per Capita Income	\$23,465	\$11,131	\$19,471	\$24,063
Percent Population Under Poverty Line	17.4%	48.5%	23.7%	18.9%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2011-2015 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates

# Unemployment & Poverty Levels

Trimble County’s unemployment rate has declined slightly over the past couple of years and as of May, 2017 it has leveled off at 5.0%, which is higher than the national unemployment rate of 4.4%. Much of the lower income population in Trimble County is concentrated in the incorporated cities of Bedford and Milton. With few local job opportunities and longer commute times to places of employment, lower income residents struggle with housing and food costs. Increased economic and workforce development efforts are needed to improve job accessibility and increase the skill level of the labor force and help to improve the economic security of Trimble County’s residents.



## Cost of Living and Housing Affordability

Table 1.9: Cost of Living Information			
	Annual Average Salary	Cost of Living Index (Base US)	US Purchasing Power
Trimble County, Kentucky	\$39,170	84.1	\$46,554
Kentucky	\$43,794	86.9	\$50,413
USA	\$53,246	100.0	\$53,246

Trimble County’s annual average salary is \$39,170, which is lower than the state of Kentucky’s at \$43,794, and considerably lower than the national annual average salary of \$53,246. This salary gives them a cost of living index of 84.1 and a purchasing power of \$46,554.

HUD defines cost-burdened families as those who pay more than 30% of their income on housing. Approximately 28% of Trimble County homeowners and renters are considered to be cost-burdened. This often leaves families with difficulty paying for other necessities such as food, transportation, healthcare, and clothing. Looking to the future the local government needs to perform an assessment on the support services offered and whether it meets the needs of the population. Additionally, increased affordable housing development should be pursued whether it’s public housing, senior living facilities, or public-private partnerships.

## Section 2: Goals and Objectives

### Agriculture

**Goal:** The rural and agricultural characteristics of Trimble County shall be maintained

**Objective A:** Preserve the agricultural and rural heritage of Trimble County.

**Objective B:** Enhance and maintain viable farms as working resources; agricultural land should be preserved to protect Trimble County's agricultural industry.

**Objective C:** Promote a stable agricultural base for the county while accomplishing orderly development and maximum land utilization should be maintained.

**Objective D:** Encourage land development practices so not to negatively impact adjacent agricultural lands.

**Objective E:** Recognize that farms are investments, and the owners shall be allowed to maximize their use and valued potential.





## Land Use

**Goal:** All land use shall be developed in a manner that promotes health, safety, and the general welfare of residents of Trimble County and protect the valued qualities of life.

**Objective A:** Balance development needs with the preservation and protection of the community's existing character and resources.

**Objective B:** Negative aspects of commercial development should be mitigated.

**Objective C:** Encourage the majority of future growth to occur within the boundaries of existing cities, where adequate public services can be provided.

**Objective D:** Encourage quality design and construction in residential, commercial, and industrial development by means of zoning, subdivision and building regulations.



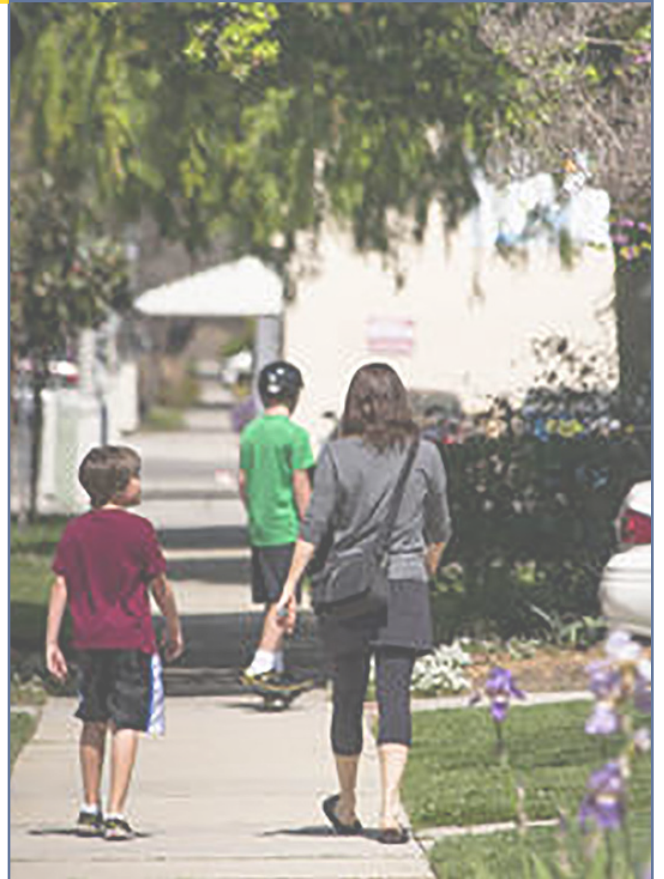
## Land Use

**Goal:** The creation and preservation of stable and attractive residential neighborhoods shall be promoted.

**Objective A:** Require quality development and land use through zoning and subdivision regulations.

**Objective B:** Non-residential uses shall not impede against the enjoyment of agricultural/residential land uses.

**Objective C:** New residential land uses shall be located in areas suitable for residential development.





# Land Use

**Goal:** Promote attractive and well-designed commercial and/or industrial areas that do not have an adverse impact upon adjacent land use.

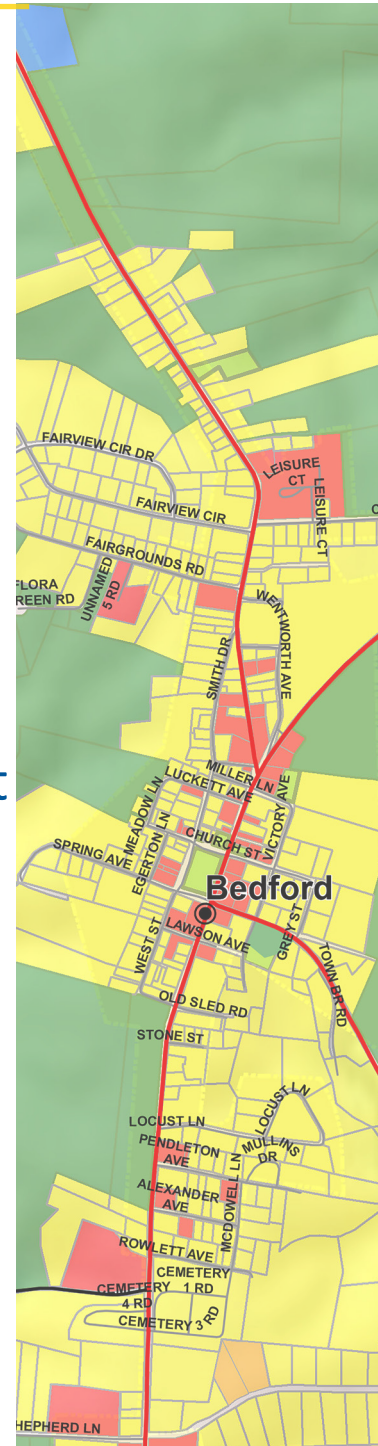
**Objective A:** Business districts in Bedford and Milton should be strengthened as the major and most easily accessible shopping, business, professional, civic and entertainment centers in the county.

**Objective B:** The development of off-street parking, both public and private, within Bedford, Milton, and other commercial developments should be encouraged

**Objective C:** Make efficient use of existing utility systems by promoting restoration, redevelopment and infill development.

**Objective D:** The concentration of industrial activity should be promoted in limited areas most suitable for industrial use and discouraged at isolated sites.

**Objective E:** Limit adverse impact of industrial development on agricultural/residential areas through zoning, landscaping, and adequate roads.





## Natural Resources

**Goal:** Encourage and promote the conservation and protection of Trimble County's natural resources and areas including archaeological, geological, and/or biological sites.

**Objective A:** Protect farmland, scenic views and view sheds throughout the county.

**Objective B:** Preserve the overall integrity of the community's natural ecological system.

**Objective C:** Protect the Ohio River banks from erosion and pollution. Utilize the undeveloped riverfront in an environmentally sensitive manner.

**Objective D:** Preserve environmentally sensitive areas by directing development away from karst (sinkholes), floodplains, steep slope areas and wetlands.

**Objective E:** Preserve open space and green areas by requiring adequate landscape buffers and dedicated park space.

**Objective F:** New industrial development proposals should ensure that pollution controls are adequate and meet the Environmental Protection Agency's current standards.

**Objective G:** Developments engaged in the handling or disposal of wastes, especially those hazardous to the health, safety and welfare of Trimble County residents, should be regulated and controlled.



# Community Facilities

**Goal:** Provide efficient and environmentally sound public services and community facilities for all residents.

**Objective A:** Support the development of a Farmer's Market and/or pavilion that supports the agricultural businesses.

**Objective B:** Continue to improve parks and green space.

**Objective C:** Work with public school district to assure adequate facilities and programs are available to all residents.

**Objective D:** Encourage the expansion of sewer facilities.

**Objective E:** Work with local utility providers to promote continued improvements to their respective systems.

**Objective F:** Provide adequate police and fire protection.

**Objective G:** Ensure that improvements to the county's recreation complex continue and that programs are being created to accommodate the county's growth.

**Objective H:** Encourage the expansion of the solid waste collection and recycling throughout the county.

**Objective I:** Creation and maintenance of dual and multi-purpose facilities and services is encouraged, including private or semipublic facilities which can be used to accommodate a public need.



# Housing

**Goal:** All housing units shall be constructed in a manner that protects the health, safety, and welfare of the residents and is an asset to the community.

**Objective A:** A variety of housing opportunities should be available for all residents.

**Objective B:** Reinvest in deteriorating housing to promote community integrity.

**Objective C:** Adopt standard building codes that ensure the structural quality of all dwelling units, including manufactured homes.

**Objective D:** Encourage mixed-use infill development and adaptive reuse.

**Objective E:** Encourage the maintenance of the community's existing housing stock and neighborhoods by discouraging the encroachment of incompatible land uses within established residential areas and enforcing existing regulations related to property maintenance.

**Objective F:** Encourage well-planned and designed residential neighborhoods in areas equipped to provide essential public services.





# Economic Development

**Goal: Encourage a strong economic base that fosters employment opportunities for Trimble County residents.**

**Objective A:** Foster and encourage structured, long-term growth of residential, commercial and industrial uses within defined areas.

**Objective B:** The development of commercial and industrial uses should be compatible with surrounding land uses.

**Objective C:** The expansion of existing businesses and clean industries should be promoted.

**Objective D:** In order to accommodate new industry, the county and cities must acquire physical, social and community resources for development.

**Objective E:** Encourage the revitalization of buildings and facilities to enhance new commercial, retail and professional businesses in and around Bedford and Milton.

**Objective F:** Develop necessary infrastructure, both traditional and technological, such as high speed internet service, to encourage the retention and expansion of businesses.

**Objective G:** Support programs that invest in the human capital through education, mental health and training opportunities.

**Objective H:** Tourism shall be explored as an economic resource while minimizing potential negative impacts.





# Transportation

**Goal:** A transportation system to ensure the most efficient and safe movement of people and goods.

**Objective A:** Support the development of new walking and biking trails to create an alternative transportation and recreation network.

**Objective B:** Existing substandard right-of-ways and roadways should be upgraded when new development occurs.

**Objective C:** The construction and repairing of sidewalks should provide for the safe movement of pedestrians through new residential subdivisions and in Bedford and Milton.

**Objective D:** Maintain the existing roadways to ensure good condition and safety. Improve street systems by upgrading existing roads in accordance with county criteria.

**Objective E:** Identify high priority transportation improvements and advocate for their inclusion in the state of Kentucky's Six-Year Road Plan.

**Objective F:** Continue to promote the improvements along US 421.



# Section 3: Agriculture

## Introduction

Trimble County has a rich history based in agriculture; a tradition that remains strong and continues to be an invaluable economic and cultural pillar in the community. As the practice of agriculture has evolved over time, the need to preserve agricultural farmland has become increasingly prevalent. With the expected future growth and development in Trimble County, utilizing smart land use practices will be essential in preventing further encroachment on open space and viable farmland. This plan addresses the need to put actions in place that will increase the competitiveness of Trimble County's agricultural enterprises, by encouraging sustainable development and agriculture principles that will protect the farmland base and secure a prosperous local economy.

**Goal:** *The rural and agricultural characteristics of Trimble County shall be maintained.*

**Objective A:** Preserve the agricultural and rural heritage of Trimble County.

**Objective B:** Enhance and maintain viable farms as working resources; agricultural land should be preserved to protect Trimble County's agricultural industry.

**Objective C:** Promote a stable agricultural base for the county while accomplishing orderly development and maximum land utilization should be maintained.

**Objective D:** Encourage land development practices so not to negatively impact adjacent agricultural lands.

**Objective E:** Recognize that farms are investments, and the owners shall be allowed to maximize their use and valued potential.



# Agricultural Statistics

## Farmland

According to the 2012 Census of Agriculture, Trimble County had 439 farm operations on 55,632 acres, which represented 57.3% of the total county land. The average farm size was 127 acres. In comparison, the average farm size in Kentucky was 169 acres. Since 2007 there has been a decrease in the number of farms (-10%), land in farms (-15%), and the average size of farms (-5%) in Trimble County. Total cropland was 19,025 acres (-26%), pasture land of all types was 21,047 acres (-23%), and all hay land totaled 8,582 acres (-31%). Table 3.1 shows the percent change, number of and size of farms from 2007 to 2012.

### 2007 Land in Farms, by Land Use

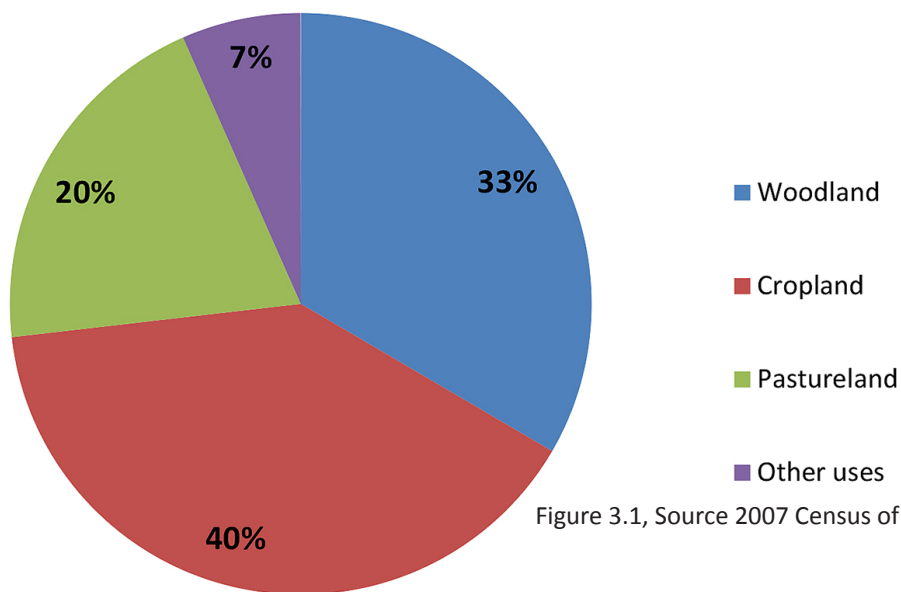


Figure 3.1, Source 2007 Census of Agriculture

### 2012 Land in Farms, by Land Use

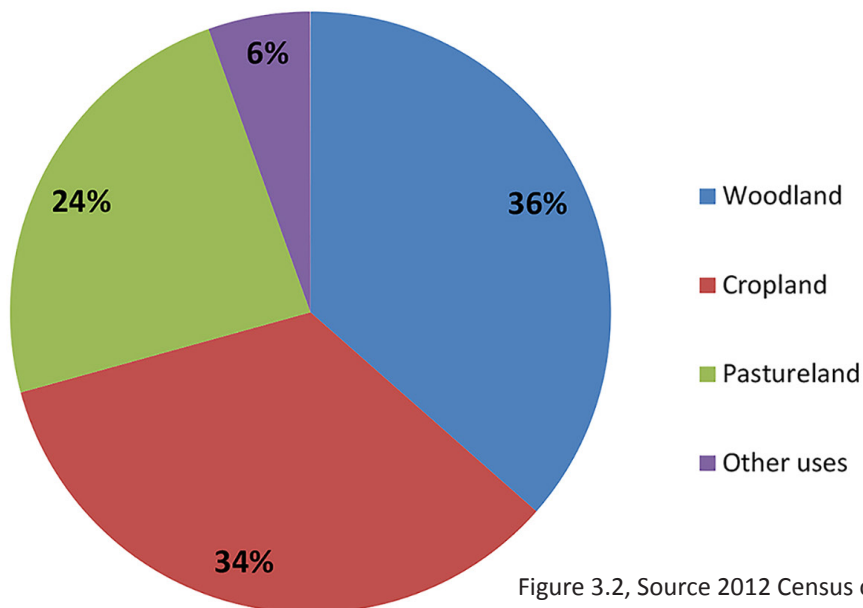


Figure 3.2, Source 2012 Census of Agriculture



**Table 3.1 Size of Trimble County Farms, 2007-2012**

Acres	2012	2007	% Change
1 to 9	31	68	-54%
10 to 49	132	301	-56%
50 to 179	193	326	-41%
180 to 499	64	179	-64%
500 to 999	15	40	-63%
1,000 or more	4	16	-75%

## Income

The decrease in farmland did not have a negative impact on the market value of products sold. In 2007 the total market value for products sold was \$7,613,000. In 2012 there was a 20% increase totaling \$9,104,000; crop sales contributing \$6,700,000 (74%) and livestock sales \$2,404,000 (26%). There was an increase of 5.6% in net cash farm income totaling \$2,393,000, with 168 farms (38%) reporting net gains and 271 farms (62%) reporting net losses. The average gain per farm was \$21,103 which was a 26% increase from 2007. The most significant change that occurred was the amount of government payments made to Trimble County farms, with an increase of 136% from \$220,000 to \$519,000, with the per farm average being \$15,569. Table 3.2 illustrates the percent change in farm land, market value of products sold, and government payments from 2007 to 2012.

**Table 3.2 General Farm Statistics, 2007-2012**

	2012	2007	% Change
<b>Number of Farms</b>	439	489	-10%
<b>Land in Farms</b>	55,632	65,098	-15%
<b>Average Size of Farm</b>	127 acres	133 acres	-5%
<b>Market Value of Products Sold</b>	\$9,104,000	\$7,613,000	+20%
<b>Government Payments</b>	\$519,000	\$220,000	+136%





Table 3.3 displays the value of sales by commodity group from 2007 to 2012. The commodities with the greatest increases were in sheep, goats, and their products (+209%), followed by nursery, greenhouse, floriculture, and sod (+193%), grains, oilseeds, dry beans, and dry peas (+145%), and fruit, tree nuts, and berries (+129%). There were decreases in vegetables, melons, potatoes, and sweet potatoes (-28%), horses, ponies, mules, burros, and donkeys (-24%), and cattle and calves (-14%).

<b>Table 3.3 Value of Sales by Commodity Group</b>			
<b>Commodity</b>	<b>2012</b>	<b>2007</b>	<b>% Change</b>
<b>Grains, oilseeds, dry beans, and dry peas</b>	2,796,000	1,140,000	145%
<b>Tobacco</b>	2,794,000	2,381,000	17%
<b>Cotton and cottonseed</b>	0	0	0
<b>Vegetables, melons, potatoes, and sweet potatoes</b>	128,000	177,000	-28%
<b>Fruit, tree nuts, and berries</b>	231,000	101,000	129%
<b>Nursery, greenhouse, floriculture, and sod</b>	123,000	42,000	193%
<b>Cut Christmas trees, and short rotation wood crops</b>	0	0	0
<b>Other crops and hay</b>	628,000	566,000	11%
<b>Poultry and eggs</b>	D	8,000	N/A
<b>Cattle and calves</b>	2,137,000	2,491,000	-14%
<b>Milk and other dairy products from cows</b>	D	508,000	N/A
<b>Hogs and pigs</b>	1,000	0	N/A
<b>Sheep, goats, and their products</b>	34,000	11,000	209%
<b>Horses, ponies, mules, burros, and donkeys</b>	143,000	188,000	-24%
<b>Aquaculture</b>	0	0	0
<b>Other animals and other animal products</b>	5,000	Z	N/A

(D) Withheld to avoid disclosing data for individual operation

Source: 2007, 2012 Census of Agriculture

(Z) Less than half of the unit shown

## Crop and Livestock Sales by Types

Figure 3.3 illustrates 2012 crop sales by type. Tobacco was the main cash crop making up 42% of total crop sales, followed by soybeans (31%), other, including hay (11%), corn (10%), fruits and veggies (5%), and wheat (1%). Recent data from the USDA National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS) suggests a new trend in the production of Trimble County's crops. The number of acres of tobacco harvested has decreased by 54%, from 840 acres in 2012 to 380 acres in 2015. The decrease in tobacco production is consistent with the state trend and has steadily declined since the Tobacco Transition Payment Program (tobacco buy-out). The recent available data of crops harvested suggest hay and soybeans to be the predominately grown crops in Trimble County, which implies that soybeans are the current cash crop.

A breakdown of agricultural production in 2012 shows hay with the highest acreage (8,582), followed by soybeans (4,748), corn (1,277), tobacco (711), and orchards (106), and vegetables (37). There was a decrease in all crop production with the exception of soybeans and corn. Table 3.4 displays the percent change of harvested acres for each crop from 2007 to 2012.

## 2012 Crop Sales by Type

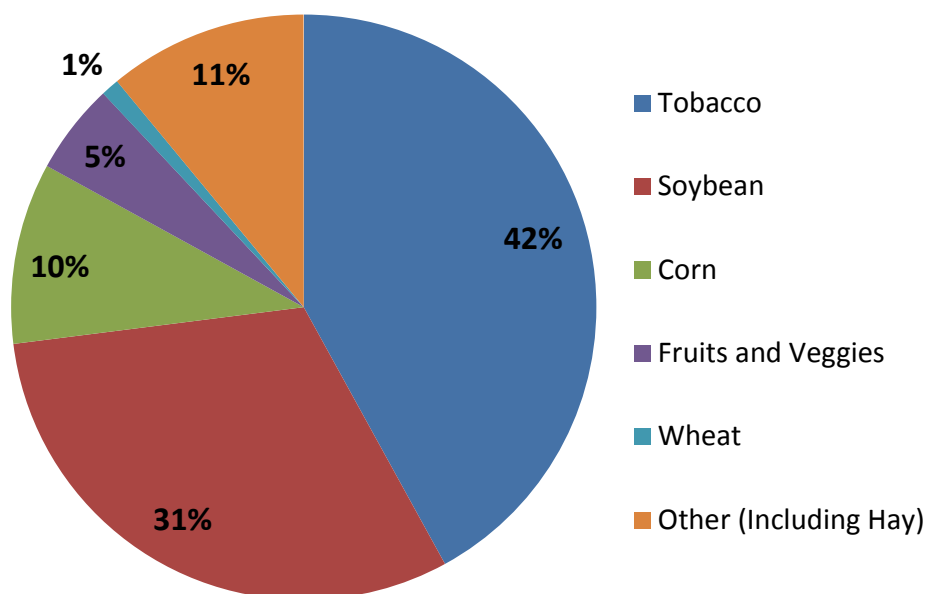


Figure 3.3, Source: 2012 Census of Agriculture, NASS

**Table 3.4 Harvested Acres Per Crop, 2007-2012**

Crop	2012 Acres	2007 Acres	% Change
Hay	8,582	12,384	-31%
Soybeans	4,748	2,929	62%
Corn	1,277	1,220	5%
Tobacco	711	798	-11%
Wheat	177	250	-32%
Orchards	106	130	-19%
Vegetables	37	124	-70%

Source: 2007, 2012 Census of Agriculture

Figure 3.4 Illustrates animal sales by type. Cattle was the top livestock in sales making up 89% of all animal sales, followed by horses and other equine (6%), all other, including breed and stud fees (6%), and sheep and goats (1%). Table 3.5 displays the top livestock in 2007 and 2012. In 2012 quail was no longer in the top five, broilers and meat-type chickens made their debut, and layers moved to the second highest livestock. Cattle had the largest number at 7,653, followed by layers (1,102), horses and ponies (630), broilers and other meat-type chickens (414), and goats (383). Recent data from the USDA National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS) shows a slight decrease of about 3% in cattle for 2017, approximately 7400 head, which suggests cattle to still be the main livestock in Trimble County. It is important to note that the livestock data from NASS only includes information on cattle.

## 2012 Animal Sales by Type

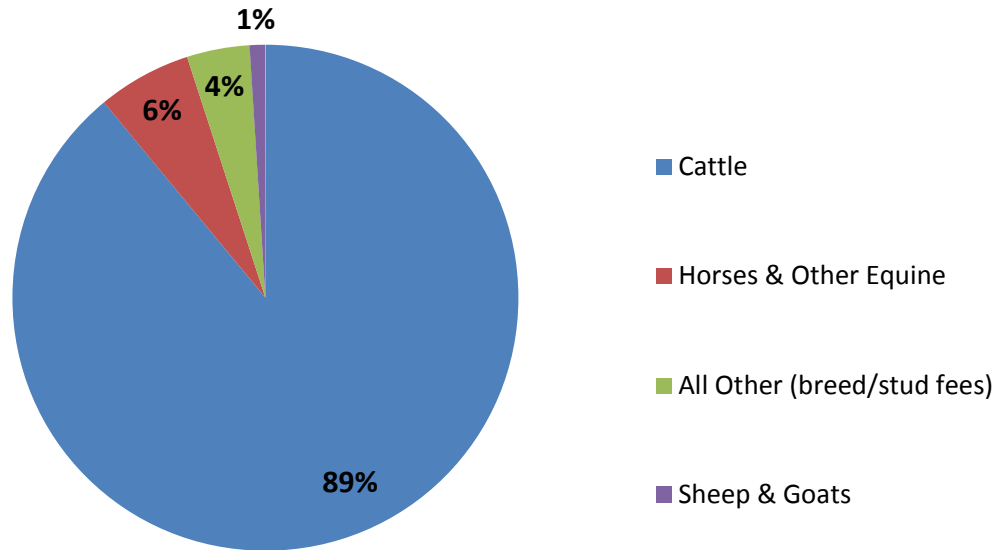


Figure 3.4, Source: 2012 Census of Agriculture, NASS

**Table 3.5 Top Livestock, 2007-2012**

	Number	Top Livestock, 2007	Number
<b>Cattle and Calves</b>	7,653	<b>Cattle and Calves</b>	8,462
<b>Layers</b>	1,102	<b>Quail</b>	900
<b>Horses and Ponies</b>	563	<b>Layers</b>	812
<b>Broilers and other meat-type chickens</b>	414	<b>Horses and Ponies</b>	630
<b>Goats, all</b>	383	<b>Goats, all</b>	233

Source: 2012 Census of Agriculture

## Expenses

While there was an overall increase in market value of products sold in Trimble County, there was also a 20% increase in production expenses, from \$7,619,000 in 2007 to \$9,561,000 in 2012. The average production expenses per farm increased by 40% totaling \$21,779. The most significant percent change was in cash rent for land, buildings, and grazing fees, from \$98,000 to \$514,000 representing an increase of 424%. Followed by feed (+170%), rent and lease expenses for machinery (+130%), custom work and hauling (+120%), and contract labor (83%). Table 3.6 displays the percent change in all farm production expense categories from 2007 to 2012.

**Table 3.6 Farm Production Expenses, 2007-2012**

<b>Item</b>	<b>2012</b>	<b>2007</b>	<b>% Change</b>
<b>Total Farm Production</b>	9,561,000	7,619,000	25%
<b>Average Per Farm</b>	21,779	15,581	40%
<b>Fertilizer, lime, and soil conditioners</b>	1,001,000	681,000	47%
<b>Chemicals</b>	249,000	231,000	8%
<b>Seeds, plants, vines, and trees</b>	421,000	288,000	46%
<b>Livestock and poultry</b>	487,000	590,000	-17%
<b>Breeding livestock</b>	339,000	495,000	-32%
<b>Other livestock and poultry</b>	148,000	95,000	56%
<b>Feed</b>	1,586,000	587,000	170%
<b>Gasoline, fuels, and oils</b>	752,000	766,000	-2%
<b>Utilities</b>	349,000	267,000	31%
<b>Repairs, supplies, and maintenance costs</b>	974,000	1,220,000	-20%
<b>Hired farm labor</b>	614,000	504,000	22%
<b>Contract labor</b>	245,000	134,000	83%
<b>Custom work and custom hauling</b>	110,000	50,000	120%
<b>Cash rent for land, buildings, and grazing fees</b>	514,000	98,000	424%
<b>Rent and lease expenses for machinery, equipment, and farm share of vehicles</b>	23,000	10,000	130%
<b>Interest expense</b>	1,144,000	1,148,000	0%
<b>Secured by real estate</b>	920,000	1,007,000	-9%
<b>Not secured by real estate</b>	224,000	141,000	59%
<b>Property taxes paid</b>	550,000	545,000	1%
<b>All other production expenses</b>	542,000	498,000	9%

Source: 2012 Census of Agriculture

## Farm Operators

Roughly 60% (263) of the county farm operators were employed part-time or more in occupations off the farm in 2012. This is likely to supplement farm income due to the rising costs of farm operations. Farm operators that were full owners totaled 332 (76%), part owners, 85 (19%), and tenants, 22 (5%). Owner and part owners both show a decrease from 2007 to 2012 but there was a 29% increase in tenants. According to the 2012 Census of Agriculture, the average age of the principle farm operator in Trimble County is 57.6 which is a slight increase from 57.0 in 2007. Of those operators, 401 were male and 46 female. From 2007 to 2012 male operators decreased by 9.4% and female operators increased by 21%.



# Food Insecurity

Even though Trimble County is a strong agricultural community, there's a significant portion of the population suffering from food insecurity. According to Feeding America, a non-profit organization fighting hunger nationwide, food insecurity refers to the USDA's measure of lack of regular access, at times, to enough food for an active and healthy life for all household members and limited or uncertain availability of nutritionally adequate foods. Families whom are food insecure often have to make trade-offs between important basic needs such as housing, transportation, and utilities and purchasing nutritious food. The food insecurity rate in Trimble County is 13.1% of the total population, and the child food insecurity rate is 18.7%. That equates to 1,150 individuals and 390 children under the age of 18 years old that do not have had adequate access to healthy food. Trimble County's food insecurity rate is lower than Kentucky's food insecurity rate of 16.8% and ranks third highest in the region. Jefferson (17.2%), Henry (14.4%), Trimble (13.9%), Shelby (12.4%), Bullitt (11.7%), Spencer (10.3), and Oldham (9.0%)

Table 3.7: Overall Food Insecurity 2015						
				Likely Income Eligibility for Federal Nutrition Assistance		
	Population	Food Insecurity Rate	Estimated number of Food Insecure Individuals (Rounded)	% Below 130% Poverty (SNAP, WIC, Free School Meals, CSFP, TEFAP)	% Between 130% and 185% Poverty (WIC, Reduced Price School Meals)	% Above 185% Poverty (Charitable Response)
Trimble	8,783	13.1%	1,150	57%	16%	28%
Kentucky	4,425,092	15.8%	699,590	58%	15%	27%
feedingamerica.org						

## Preserving Agricultural Land

Trimble County's dedication to preserving agricultural land goes beyond conservation and land use. By preserving agricultural land, natural landscapes, and environmental resources the community preserves its culture and heritage, supports a sustainable local and regional economy, increases healthy food options for citizens, and gives ownership of the county's resources to residents. Zoning all land as it is currently being used and including a land use designation specifically for agriculture allows the Planning Commission to review future development on a case by case basis. Doing so will ensure the protection of the local farm economy by encouraging orderly development that maximizes land use and does not negatively impact adjacent agricultural lands. This zoning classification would result in more sustainable development occurring in or near the city limits or industrial park. Additionally, proper investments need to be made to improve current farming enterprises and create new opportunities for Trimble County farmers. Part of preservation requires an assessment of the local agricultural economy that identifies strengths, weaknesses, and areas of opportunity for new innovative agricultural practices, programs, and future investments.

The Governor's Office of Agricultural Policy (GOAP) provides grants, incentives and low-interest loans to help farmers and agribusinesses innovate and grow. The Kentucky Agricultural Development Fund (KADF) is administered through the Kentucky Agricultural Development Board that was established in the year 2000. The board's guiding principles state:

"The Board will invest these funds in innovative proposals that increase net farm income and effect tobacco farmers, tobacco-impacted communities and agriculture across the state by stimulating markets for Kentucky agricultural products, finding new ways to add value to Kentucky agricultural products and exploring new opportunities for Kentucky farms."

The County Agricultural Investment Program (CAIP) is part of KADF and applications for funds have to be directed through the local County Agricultural Development Council(s). Trimble County Agricultural Development Council performed a 2015 update to the Comprehensive Plan. The update provided an evaluation of the needs of the local agricultural economy and identified programs and projects best suited for agricultural development fund investments in the county. The following is a SWOT analysis, mission statement, and goals determined by the Council.

## Strengths

- Available land with skilled farmers
- Rural farming heritage
- Knowledge base to grow a wide diversity of crops
- Ability to supply local food markets
- Tools and technology that are transferable to alternative crop production
- Close proximity to I-71, Louisville, Indianapolis, and Cincinnati markets
- Good climate with adequate rainfall
- Farm Improvements already made because of C.A.I.P.

## Weaknesses

- Descendants of traditional farm families are two to three generations removed from the farm
- Majority of our youth are rural non-farm
- Loss of Vo-Ag program at local high school
- Loss of forage/pasture ground to grain crops
- Lack of marketing infrastructure and processing that match our ability to produce
- Loss of forage/pasture land also hinders our ability to increase cattle numbers

## Opportunities

- Better utilize and manage existing livestock and forage base
- Increase opportunities for locally (farm to table) produced meat sales through Track Side Butcher Shop
- Interest in industrial hemp production will increase as marketing and processing infrastructure are developed

## Challenges

- Farm succession
- Loss of cultural heritage
- Decline of scenic rural landscape
- Increasing land values make it difficult for interested potential farmers
- Volatile and ever changing markets
- High costs of farm inputs (fertilizer, labor, utilities, feed, chemicals, cash rent, etc.)



# County Council Objectives

- **Mission Statement**

- ◆ To be good stewards of the funds entrusted to our care
- ◆ To be fair and equitable in the selection of recipients and distribution of funds
- ◆ To make sure awarded funds are used for their stated purpose
- ◆ To equip producers to become better managers, more financially stable and good stewards of the land

- **Short-term Goals**

- ◆ Continue C.A.I.P. program to assist farmers in making on-farm improvements
- ◆ Encourage genetic improvements in local beef herds
- ◆ Develop evaluation form to assess success of C.A.I.P. projects
- ◆ Petition the Trimble County School Board to continue the Vo-Ag/FFA program to encourage agriculture career development and preserve our agricultural heritage
- ◆ Explore feasibility of a local Farmer's Market/local foods market
- ◆ Explore the feasibility of a county animal compost facility

- **Long-term Goals**

- ◆ Continue C.A.I.P. program to assist farmers in making on-farm improvements
- ◆ Develop a brand name for locally produced meats by Track Side Butcher Shop
- ◆ Governor's Office of Agricultural Policy (G.O.A.P) to allow county C.A.I.P. funds to be used in a Poison Hemlock/noxious weed eradication program
- ◆ G.O.A.P. to allow county C.A.I.P. funds to be used for seed stock producers to purchase bulls

- **Tactics for leveraging funds**

- ◆ Regional Partnerships
  - \* Begin networking with other agricultural development councils
- ◆ State Agricultural Development Board resources
  - \* The Trimble County Agricultural Development Council will be willing to support and facilitate worthy entrepreneurial projects for funding
- ◆ Other local/state/federal resources
  - \* USDA Program funds, Kentucky Agriculture Finance Corporation, Farmers Bank of Milton, Bedford Loan and Deposit Bank, Kentucky Sheep and Goat Development Office, Trimble County Fiscal Court, Trimble County Soil Conservation District



# Including Agriculture in Economic Development

Including agriculture in economic development in Trimble County is essential in strengthening the local economy. Initiatives that support agriculture related businesses are important for business growth, economic diversification, job creation, and greater opportunities for residents in the community. Local government and community stakeholders can come together to create goals and implement strategies that promote development in agricultural industries, expand the local farm economy, and provide assistance and better access to economic development resources to farmers.

## Local Agricultural Production

Steps to strengthening the local agricultural economy could include more direct to consumer (DTC) sales (e.g., farmers markets, CSA) and intermediate marketing channels (e.g., sales to institutions or regional distributors) that would require diversifying products sold and tapping into new markets. The national trend shows that producer participation in local food systems is growing and the value of local food sales appear to be increasing. According to the 2015 USDA report, Trends in U.S. Local and Regional Food Systems - A Report to Congress, in 2012, there were 168, 675 farms (7.8 percent of U.S. farms) that were marketing foods locally, defined as DTC or intermediated sales, using one or a combination of both. A breakdown of farm marketing in Trimble County in 2012 shows that 2.5% of farm operations marketed directly to retail outlets, 0.7% marketed products through Community Supported Agriculture, 6.8% produced and sold value-added commodities, and 2.5% operate on-farm packing facilities. Diversification of products and expansion into new markets is worth reviewing as a strategy to strengthen the local food economy and increase on-farm incomes. Potential products and secondary markets include:

- **Products**
  - \* Increased production of fruits and vegetables
  - \* Hemp and hemp based products
  - \* Local meats
  - \* Value-added commodities
  - \* Organically grown produce and grass fed livestock
  - \* Bio-mass, bio-energy crops and bio based products
  - \* Specialty or niche products
  - \* Aquaculture
  - \* Honey and Sorghum
  - \* Specialty Dairy
  
- **Secondary Markets (local and/or regional)**
  - \* Farm to Table
  - \* Community Supported Agriculture (CSA)
  - \* Farm to School
  - \* Dare to Care Food Bank
  - \* Distilleries



Potential agricultural related industries to be promoted or incentivized include:

- Processing plants
- Manufacturing for value added commodities
- Farm machinery or heavy equipment manufacturers
- Retail (agricultural supply store, farm equipment sales)

## Marketing and Technology

Having access to information, resources, and advancements in technology is becoming increasingly more crucial to the success of today's farmers and agricultural businesses. Improving access to high speed internet was noted as an area of priority from Trimble County residents. According to the 2012 Census of Agriculture, 65.8% of Trimble County farms had access to internet. Improving internet access for all farms in the county is essential to growing, expanding, and marketing products locally and throughout the region. Access to technical assistance and market information for producers is needed for diversification of the local food economy and expansion into new markets. Additionally, as new and sustainable agricultural practices are promoted throughout the state Trimble County farmers need access to services that improve their awareness, increase their knowledge and skills, and provide technical support.





## Agritourism

Promoting Trimble County as a destination for agricultural tourism and food-themed cultural activities can widen the customer base for local foods throughout the region. One community event that offers local food and craft vendors the opportunity to market and sell their products is the annual Trimble County Apple Festival. Developing more of these events that highlight the agricultural businesses can greatly increase direct to consumer sales and be a great marketing tool that reaches out into the region. Potential partnerships could be created with the already established agricultural enterprises in the community such as Brays Orchard and Roadside Market, The Little Kentucky River Winery, and Callis Orchard. According to the 2012 Census of Agriculture, there were 33,000 farms in the U.S. that offered agritourism and recreational services such as farm or winery tours, hayrides, hunting, fishing, and other such activities.



The creation of a Farmers' Market and/or a pavilion is another way to support the local agricultural businesses and include in the agritourism framework. The development of this community facility is greatly supported by residents and the local government in Trimble County. In order to ensure its success there has to be the full support of the local farmers. The development of a Local Food Council or Farmers' Market Advisory Council would be able bring all the stakeholders together to address the needs of the local food economy, generate plans, create policies and procedures, and organize farmers and vendors.





# Agriculture Implementation Strategies

- 1) **The Planning Commission and Agricultural Development Council should coordinate and review development proposals in the community to ensure the prevention and mitigation of negative impacts on adjacent agricultural lands.**
  - a. A designated representative from the council is recommended.
- 2) **Management decisions and operations necessary for agricultural production (plant and animal) will not be impeded or hindered by adjacent non-agricultural entities.**
  - a. Continue to adhere to the Right to Farm Ordinance.
- 3) **Local government will not prohibit farmers from utilizing their land to its full agricultural potential.**
- 4) **Promote and encourage the efforts of the Phase I Agricultural Development Council and the Comprehensive Agricultural Development Plan of Trimble County to assist farmers in diversifying their operations, upgrading their facilities and improving management decisions that will lead to increased profitability.**
- 5) **Increase support services for farmers and agribusinesses that provide assistance and training for marketing, financial advisement, and new technology.**
  - a. Local Extension Office, Agricultural Development Council, Soil Conservation, Local Farm Service Agency, Kentucky Cattlemen's Association to coordinate these efforts.
- 6) **Continue to support Trimble County Farm Bureau, Trimble County Soil Conservation, Trimble County Cooperative Extension Service, Vocational Agricultural, and local businesses' efforts to educate youth about the importance of agriculture to the community and increase awareness of career opportunities in agriculture.**





# Section 4: Land Use

## Introduction

The purpose of this chapter is to determine the future land use needs of Trimble County and to discuss areas that are most appropriate for the needed growth and development. Currently, there are no land use controls in place in Trimble County. Implementing strategic land use planning allows for smart, controlled and sustainable growth to occur by encouraging compatible adjacent land uses, promoting infrastructure supported development, mitigation of possible negative externalities, and providing protection for environmental resources and agricultural land. Proper utilization of a land use plan can benefit the citizens of Trimble County by shaping future development to meet their desired needs, reduce costs, and protect cultural economic, historic, and natural resources.

**Goal:** *All land use shall be developed in a manner that promotes the health, safety and general welfare of Trimble County and protects the valued qualities of life.*

**Objective A:** Balance development needs with the preservation and protection of the community's existing character and resources.

**Objective B:** Negative aspects of commercial development should be mitigated.

**Objective C:** Encourage the majority of future growth to occur within the boundaries of existing cities where adequate public services can be provided.

**Objective D:** Encourage quality design and construction in residential, commercial, and industrial development by means of zoning, subdivision and building regulations.



**Goal:** *The creation and preservation of stable and attractive residential neighborhoods shall be promoted.*

**Objective A:** Require quality development and land use through zoning and subdivision regulations.

**Objective B:** Non-residential uses shall not impede against the enjoyment of agricultural/residential land uses.

**Objective C:** New residential land uses shall be located in areas suitable for residential development.



**Goal:** *Promote attractive and well-designed commercial and/or industrial areas that do not have an adverse impact on adjacent land use.*

**Objective A:** Business districts in Bedford and Milton should be strengthened as the major and most easily accessible shopping, business, professional, and civic and entertainment centers in the county.

**Objective B:** The development of off-street parking, both public and private, within Bedford, Milton, and other commercial developments shall be encouraged.

**Objective C:** Make efficient use of existing utility systems by promoting restoration, redevelopment and infill development.

**Objective D:** The concentration of industrial activity should be promoted in limited areas most suitable for industrial use and discouraged as isolated sites.

**Objective E:** Limit adverse impact of industrial development on agriculture/residential areas through zoning, landscaping and adequate roads.

# Existing Land Use

Tables 4.1 through 4.5 shows the historical land value assessment for residential, average home value, farm, and commercial land use in Trimble County. Land values have increased in every category including average home value. The highest increase as been in the average value per residential parcel with an increase of 39%, followed by average assessment per commercial parcel (+27%), average home value (+6.6), and average fair cash value per acre for farm land (+1.5%). Additionally, current land use patterns have been mapped for Trimble County, Milton, and Bedford in Figure 4.1. The majority of land use in Trimble County is classified as agricultural and attributes to 87% of total land used and equals 81,584 acres. Residential land use makes up 9% at 8,428 acres, industrial 3% at 3,006 acres, and commercial less than 1% at 662 acres.

Table 4.1: Percent Change in Land Values					
Residential			Farm		
Average Value per Parcel, 2001	Average Value per Parcel, 2017	% Change	Average Fair Cash Value per Acre, 2009	Average Fair Cash Value per Acre, 2017	% Change
\$31,804	\$52,108	+39%	\$2,021	\$2,051	+6.6%
Home Value			Commercial		
Average Home Value 2009	Average Home Value 2017	% Change	Average Assessment per Parcel, 2001	Average Assessment per Parcel, 2017	% Change
\$62, 325	\$66,756	+6.6%	\$100, 299	\$137, 067	+27%
Source: Trimble County, PVA					

Table 4.2: Historical Land Value Assessment for Residential			
Tax Year	Certified Assessment	Number of Parcels	Average Value Per Parcel
2001	\$119,838,000	3,768	\$31,804
2002	\$132,856,600	3,821	\$34,770
2003	\$146,597,800	3,900	\$37,589
2004	\$156,887,000	3,997	\$39,251
2005	\$165,670,200	4,043	\$40,977
2006	\$175,624,400	3,864	\$45,451
2007	\$184,009,000	4,079	\$45,111
2008	\$188,665,800	4,093	\$46,094
2009	\$189,912,500	4,106	\$46,252
2010	\$190,733,500	3,936	\$48,458
2011	\$191,624,300	3,914	\$48,958
2012	\$192,201,400	3,921	\$49,018
2013	\$191,492,200	3,937	\$48,639
2014	\$192,325,200	3,908	\$49,213
2015	\$193,411,600	3,916	\$49,390
2016	\$202,817,600	3,890	\$52,138
2017	\$204,318,600	3,921	\$52,108
Source: Trimble County, PVA			



**Table 4.3: Historical Home Value Assessment, Trimble County, 2009-2017**

<b>Tax Year</b>	<b>Certified Assessment</b>	<b>Number of Homes</b>	<b>Average Home Value</b>
2009	\$154,816,530	2,484	\$62,325
2010	\$157,325,300	2,585	\$60,860
2011	\$158,486,000	2,552	\$62,102
2012	\$159,326,400	2,562	\$62,188
2013	\$159,560,800	2,565	\$62,206
2014	\$160,502,300	2,552	\$62,892
2015	\$162,177,200	2,553	\$63,524
2016	\$169,787,900	2,559	\$66,349
2017	\$171,763,700	2,573	\$66,756

Source: Trimble County, PVA

**Table 4.4: Historical Land Value Assessment for Farm Land, Trimble County, 2009-2017**

<b>Tax Year</b>	<b>Average Fair Cash Value Assessment</b>	<b>Total Acres</b>	<b>Average Fair Cash Value Per Acre</b>
2009	\$2,857,797	1,414	\$2,021
2010	\$3,258,750	1,498	\$2,175
2011	\$3,367,147	1,521	\$2,213
2012	\$3,409,950	1,527	\$2,233
2013	\$3,799,741	1,539	\$2,468
2014	\$3,878,834	1,557	\$2,491
2015	\$3,970,044	1,582	\$2,509
2016	\$4,363,113	1,601	\$2,725
2017	\$3,296,795	1,607	\$2,051

Source: Trimble County, PVA





**Table 4.5: Historical Land Value Assessment for Commercial**

Tax Year	Certified Assessment	Number of Parcels	Average Assessment Per Parcel
2001	\$11,333,880	113	\$100,299
2002	\$12,331,100	118	\$104,500
2003	\$12,437,100	120	\$103,642
2004	\$12,873,000	123	\$104,658
2005	\$13,458,800	124	\$108,538
2006	\$14,778,300	131	\$112,811
2007	\$15,669,700	134	\$116,938
2008	\$16,041,400	135	\$118,825
2009	\$16,578,400	138	\$120,133
2010	\$16,929,900	141	\$120,070
2011	\$19,487,100	145	\$134,393
2012	\$19,779,100	144	\$137,354
2013	\$19,955,300	151	\$132,154
2014	\$20,275,400	154	\$131,658
2015	\$20,569,800	154	\$133,570
2016	\$21,657,500	156	\$138,830
2017	\$22,205,000	162	\$137,067

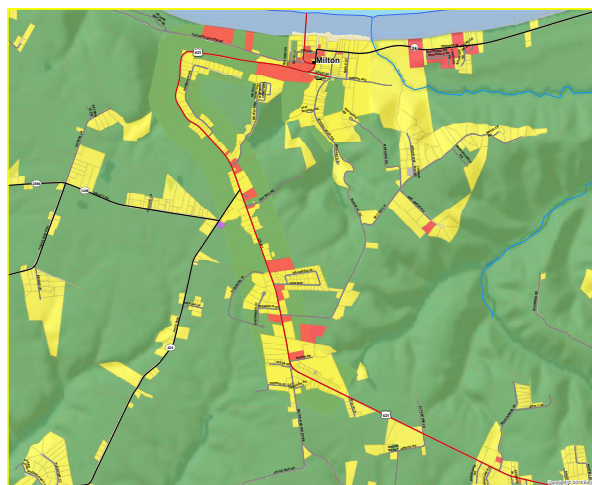
Source: Trimble County, PVA



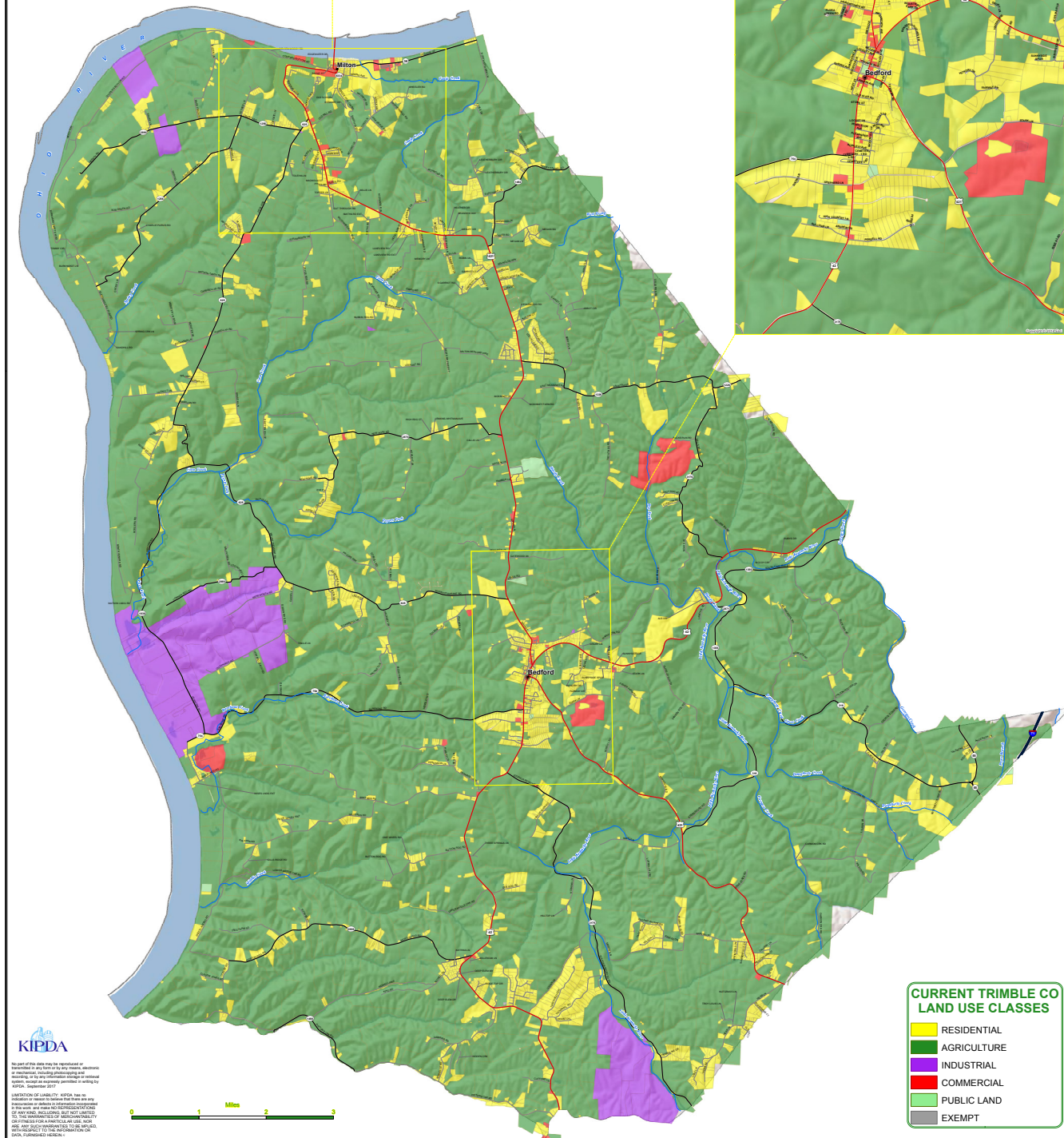
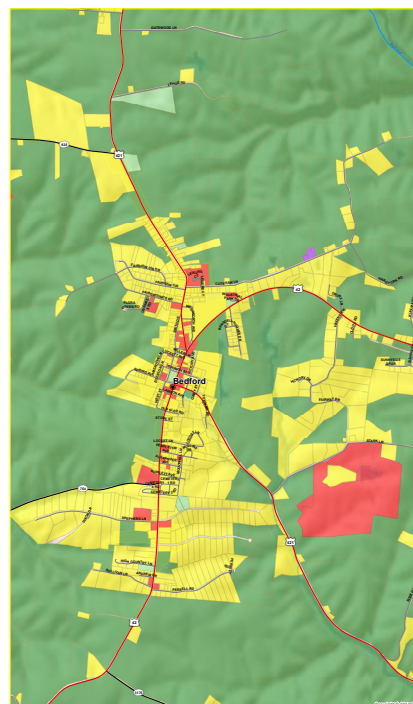




**Map 4.1:**  
**Trimble County Land Use**



Class	Acres	Percentage of Land
Residential	8,428	9%
Farm	81,594	87%
Industrial	3,006	3%
Commercial	663	>1%
Franchise	310	>1%
Public Land	146	>1%
Exempt	4	>1%
<b>Total Land Use</b>	<b>94,151</b>	



# Future Land Use

## Residential Land Use

Looking at the residential development patterns that have occurred in rural counties throughout the region, Trimble County can be better prepared and guide residential land use so not to encroach on open space or exacerbate infrastructure costs. Promoting residential development to occur in appropriate areas that connect to the existing transportation and utility network is essential to sustainable development, ideally in or near the incorporated areas of the county. Additionally, enforcing building and subdivision regulations through zoning allows for the preservation and creation of high quality and attractive neighborhoods. To ensure the quality of life and health of residents, mitigation of possible negative aspects of commercial and industrial development should be pursued. It is important when designating zoning districts for residential development that there is a distinction between urban and rural. Rural residential would be larger tracts of undeveloped land while urban residential would be smaller tracts, often less than an acre. Mobile home parks should have their own designated zoning.

It is also recommended as part of a long term environmental and growth consideration that the county considers implementing a mandatory sewer connection ordinance. The ordinance would require every property owner in Trimble County whose property abuts upon any line of sanitary sewer to connect to the sewer system. Additionally, with many grants like Community Development Block Grants; if the county applies for an extension of sewer service to homes they will require there be a mandatory connection ordinance before considering approval of funding. Extending sewer service was identified as a goal of the community and is included in this plan. In the event that the county decides to apply for future funding, an ordinance needs to be drafted so to be better prepared for the application process and to ensure completion of the project.

## Commercial Development

Strengthening the business districts in the cities of Bedford and Milton should be a main priority for land use and economic development purposes. Encouraging commercial development to occur in underutilized areas within the city limits will have a positive economic impact. It will increase the availability of services and amenities in the city centers and enhance the sense of place and character in the downtown corridors. Redevelopment, use of vacant properties, restoration, and infill development should be encouraged for new commercial development to maximize land use and increase density. As new commercial development occurs there should be adequate parking available for the anticipated volume of customers and/or visitors.





## Industrial Development

The county should identify targeted and adequate development areas for light and heavy industrial development and zone current industrial uses accordingly. To avoid creating negative social and environmental impacts from industrial or commercial development, it is advised that the Planning Commission take into consideration the proximity of such developments to residential and agricultural land uses. Other issues to consider include the size and nature of the operation; particularly would the business activity produce air, noise, water, ground, light, or traffic pollution. Mitigation efforts include zoning that isolates commercial and industrial development to targeted areas, required setbacks and/or required buffers and to form natural or artificial barriers to block or reduce negative spillover effects.



## Environmentally Sensitive Areas

Trimble County needs to protect its environmentally sensitive areas and prevent construction from occurring on land that is not suitable for development, such as wetlands, floodplains, karst landscapes and areas with steep slopes that are more likely to experience landslides. There is an abundant supply of groundwater through the Ohio River alluvium and surface water also abounds in the county. The Ohio River borders Trimble County on the north and the west and the Little Kentucky River enters on the east near the middle of the county, extending south until it exits near the southernmost part of the county near Sulphur in Henry County. A large number of creeks branch off from the two rivers which create many areas that are more sensitive to flooding. Corn Creek, which begins at the Ohio River near the LG&E Generating Station, is the creek with the worst floodplain in heavy rain events. The

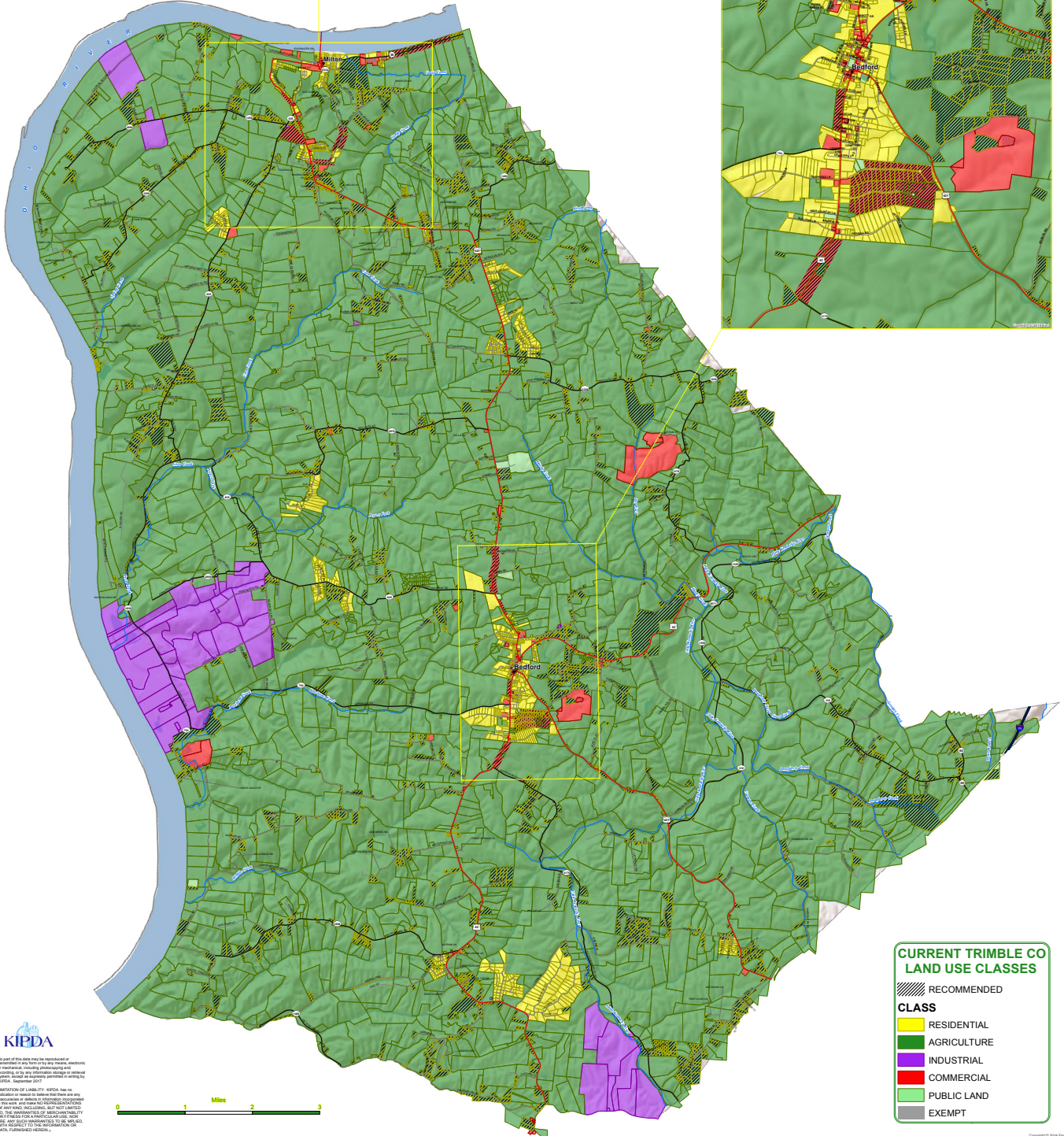
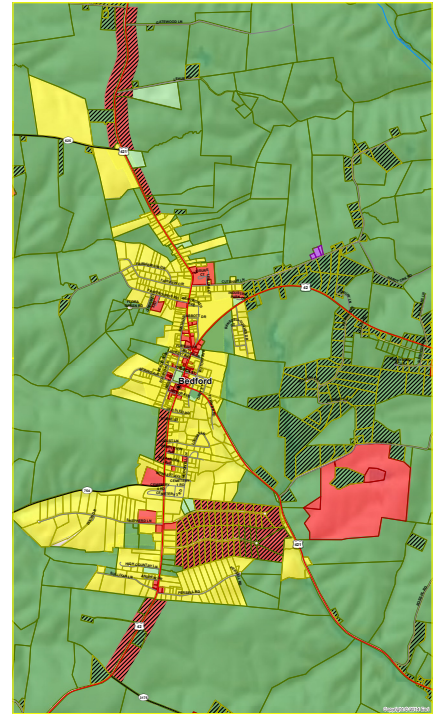
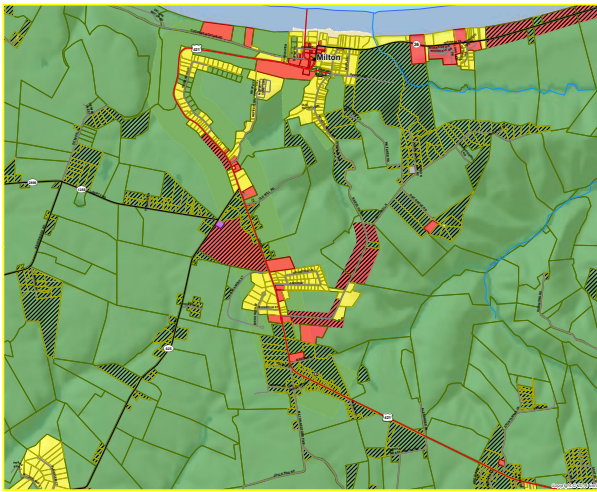


Trimble County Floodplain Map, which was published in the 2016 KIPDA Regional Hazard Mitigation Plan, illustrates floodplain zones and areas more susceptible to flash flooding from the known 100 year base flood elevation. The historic section of the City of Milton that lies along the banks of the Ohio River is within the 100 year base flood elevation and is likely to experience flooding during extreme rainfall events. Due to the amount of ground water in the county, there are several areas with karst landscapes that would also be deemed unsuitable for development. These areas have been identified in the Trimble County Karst/Sinkhole Risk Assessment in the 2016 KIPDA Regional Hazard Mitigation Plan.





**Map 4.2:**  
**Trimble County Future Land Use**



KIPDA

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**CURRENT TRIMBLE CO LAND USE CLASSES**

RECOMMENDED

**CLASS**

- RESIDENTIAL
- AGRICULTURE
- INDUSTRIAL
- COMMERCIAL
- PUBLIC LAND
- EXEMPT

## Future Land Use Map

The recommended future land use map, shown in Map 4.2, projects a proposed arrangement of future development based on current needs and trends and was a collaborative effort between the Trimble County Planning Commission and the Comprehensive Plan Steering Committee. The tracts of land with the hatched design illustrate where the recommended changes are in comparison to what already stands in the current land use map. The boundaries of each designated area are not intended to be exact or represent survey boundaries, but rather reflect general guidance appropriate to the particular area and its unique circumstances. Boundaries are depicted on the Recommended Future Land Use Map are not intended to follow property lines, but may do so in some instances. The Comprehensive Plan is required to be updated every five years, including reevaluating the future land use map to ensure planning efforts stay in alignment with the goals of the community. The recommended Trimble County future land use map is considered an optimal plan but it is not legally binding. The legally binding instrument, defining where land uses can and cannot be located within the county, is the zoning map. It is the zoning map that an individual must first consult when deciding how to develop a property. A zoning map will be created once a zoning order is implemented. If the intended use is not permitted in the designated zone of the map, the individual may apply for a map amendment. The land use map will be used during the evaluation of a zoning map amendment request. An application to the planning office begins the map amendment process. Once received, the proposal must go through two review stages including the planning commission and the appropriate legislative body.

## Agriculture

The majority of land outside the city limits is recommended to be zoned as agriculture in order to maintain the rural nature of Trimble County. There are exceptions to this however, such as clearly defined subdivisions, existing industrial and commercial development and land that may want to be set aside for conservation efforts. Tracts of land outside the city limits are typically larger in size and are mostly undeveloped. They generally feature agriculturally used land and are usually tracts with very limited infrastructure. Individual parcels of property tend to be significantly larger than parcels in an urban setting. These typical plots of rural property often extend over multiple acres. These tracts could also include single family residential development, but would still fall under an agricultural designation.

## Commercial & Industrial

The Trimble County Future Land Use Map (Map 4.2) illustrates only a few commercial land use changes and those are mostly within or surrounding the cities of Bedford and Milton. There are currently no industrial land use recommendations for the county; however, the planning commission would like current industrial land to be officially zoned as industrial to make this distinction and to begin to limit the acreage that these land uses may continue to expand upon. In the future land use map some of the existing residential land uses have been changed to commercial. The planning commission recognized this as a way to encourage in-fill and mixed-use development in the more urban areas of Bedford and Milton in Trimble County. The recommendations were based on areas the planning commission thought would connect land uses more and would hopefully spur more economic development and walkability throughout the two cities. The major focus areas for Bedford would be the addition of two commercial corridors entering the city from the north and south. The community would like more of a commercial presence along Highway 421 north of Bedford, and along Highway 42 to the south. These are two of the most highly trafficked roadways in Trimble County and they converge in Bedford. The planning commission recognizes the opportunity to bolster commercial activity along these corridors and how this development would lead to increased density near Bedford. For Milton, the recommended commercial land use changes would be along the 421 corridor and on KY-36 to the east of downtown Milton along the Ohio River. These recommendations will support the existing commercial development that exists along the 421 corridor leading into Milton and will build upon the commercial presence in downtown Milton and its historical significance as a river town.



# Potential Land Use Categories

Each recommended potential future land use category has a variety of possible land uses to give the land owners different options should they choose to develop a piece of property. This variety offers flexibility and allows potential development to change as development patterns and demands change. As the Planning Commission proceeds with the zoning ordinance other classifications may arise to be more suitable for the community's interests.

- 1. Agriculture:** Large tracts which are currently undeveloped/agriculturally used land, and/or tracts with very limited infrastructure which limits development.
- 2. Rural Residential:** Large tracts which are currently undeveloped/agriculturally used land, and/or tracts with very limited infrastructure. Individual parcels of property tend to be significantly larger than parcels in an urban setting. These typical plots of rural property extend over multiple acres.
- 3. Urban Residential:** Small tracts of land usually less than one acre served by or capable of accessing sanitary sewers. Those who choose to locate outside areas currently not served by sewers should be prepared to accept a greater economic cost of land development.
- 4. Mobile Home Parks:** Areas for mobile homes. To be further defined in subdivision regulations.
- 5. Commercial:** Areas that include shopping, personal service, institutional facilities (government entities, religious institutions), food service and miscellaneous general business establishments.
- 6. Light Industry:** Any operation which does not create a noticeable amount of noise, dust, odor, smoke, glare or vibration.
- 7. Heavy Industry:** Any operation which by its nature might be considered a nuisance because of noise, dust, odor, smoke, glare or vibration outside the building and which might require outside storage of raw material or finished products.
- 8. Resource Protected/Recreational Area:** Floodplains and flood prone areas; greenways, water dependent uses, and open space.



# Land Use Implementation Strategies

- 1) **Implement Zoning**
  - a. Zoning classifications may include agricultural, rural residential, urban residential, light industrial, heavy industrial, commercial, and protected/recreational.
  - b. If a proposed development for a site is a different use than the current zoning classification then the applicant has to apply for a zoning change that will have to be reviewed and approved by the Planning Commission.
- 2) **As new commercial and industrial development is proposed, the Planning Commission will consider but would not be limited to the following criteria to deem the site location as appropriate.**
  - a. Proximity to adjacent land use, effect on water quality, soil erosion, karst sensitive areas, flood plains, impact on farmland, all pollution including noise, vibration, odor, light, air, water, soil, traffic, etc.
- 3) **If a proposed commercial or industrial development operation is determined to produce negative spillover effects such as those listed in 2.A, then location of site will be reviewed along with consideration of a required buffer to be put in place.**
  - a. Buffers can be natural and consist of trees, soil berms, landscape (shrubs, etc.); or artificial (sound wall, fence); or be a setback requirement from adjacent land uses and/or streets. Type of buffer required would be dependent on the nuisance or pollution that needs to be mitigated.
- 4) **The Planning Commission should encourage and/or designate suitable development site locations for residential development that considers proximity to incorporated areas, public infrastructure, and existing utility network and adheres to subdivision regulations.**
- 5) **Cities should incentivize new development to occur within city boundaries and promote infill development and revitalization of vacant and abandoned properties.**
  - a. Local government should research tax incentives and marketing strategies to encourage businesses to locate in the central business districts.
- 6) **Review and update current subdivision regulations.**
  - a. Will be reviewing sidewalk and connectivity concerns and updating regulations.
- 7) **Adhere to and enforce current state building regulations along with current nuisance ordinances already in place.**
  - a. Building inspector position needs to be created, fulfilled by an existing position, or contracted from another county to enforce the state building regulations. Since the need for this is minimal and funding for this service is a concern, implementing a fee for inspections is a possible solution.



# Section 5: Natural Resources

## Introduction

The physical geography of an area affects the amount, type, and direction of development. Natural factors such as climate, topography, geology, hydrology, and soils are important because they influence the costs of development and determine the suitability of an area for a given use. The purpose of this section of the comprehensive plan is the identification of environmental resources and the assessment of developmental impacts on these resources. Rapid growth and development can have dramatic and long-term adverse effects on the physical and social environment. As Trimble County continues to grow, many environmental issues will continue to arise. Issues such as water quality, air quality, noise and light pollution, increased storm water runoff and decreased open space can combine to affect the overall quality of life for residents. The depletion of natural features such as wooded hillsides, scenic valleys, rivers, creeks, and open fields will become increasingly important as residents realize that these elements contribute to the unique character of the area and are unrecoverable once a parcel of land is developed. In addition, these types of amenities also provide less visible qualities, such as cleaner air, recreational areas and wildlife habitat that are equally important to the community.

**Goal:** *Encourage and promote the conservation and protection of Trimble County's natural resources and areas including archaeological, geological, and/or biological sites.*

**Objective A:** Protect farmland, scenic views and view sheds throughout the county.

**Objective B:** Preserve the overall integrity of the community's natural ecological system.

**Objective C:** Protect the Ohio River banks from erosion and pollution. Utilize the undeveloped riverfront in an environmentally sensitive manner.

**Objective D:** Preserve environmentally sensitive areas by directing development away from karst (sinkholes), floodplains, steep slope areas and wetlands.

**Objective E:** Preserve open space and green areas by requiring adequate landscape buffers and dedicated park space.

**Objective F:** New industrial development proposals should ensure that pollution controls are adequate and meet the Environmental Protection Agency's current standards.

**Objective G:** Developments engaged in the handling or disposal of wastes, especially those hazardous to the health, safety and welfare of Trimble County residents, should be regulated and controlled.

## Location

Trimble County is located in the north-central part of the state and borders the Ohio River. According to the U.S. Census Bureau, the county has a total area of 156 square miles (400 km<sup>2</sup>), of which 152 square miles (390 km<sup>2</sup>) is land and 4.6 square miles (12 km<sup>2</sup>) (2.9%) is water. It is the fifth-smallest county in Kentucky by land area and fourth-smallest by total area. The county's western border with Indiana is formed by the Ohio River.

Trimble County is in the Outer Bluegrass region of Kentucky. The elevation in the county ranges from 420 to 970 feet above sea level. It was formed in 1837 from Gallatin, Henry, and Oldham counties. The county seat is Bedford. Trimble County was a source of Carroll (1838) County.

The Bluegrass Region is a geographic region in the U.S. state of Kentucky. It makes up the northern part of the state where a majority of the state's population has lived and developed its largest cities. Trimble County resides in the Bluegrass Region.

Before European-American settlement, various cultures of indigenous peoples adapted to the region, which had mostly a savannah of wide grasslands with interspersed enormous oak trees. They hunted its large herds of bison and other game, especially near salt licks. The name "Kentucky" means "meadow lands" in several different Indian languages and was specifically applied to this region. Europeans adopted the name to apply to the state. Europeans named the Bluegrass Region for the blue flowered *Poa-Annua* grass that grew there.

Americans settled in number in the region in the decades after the Revolutionary War, migrating mostly from Virginia. By 1800 these planters noticed that horses grazed in the Bluegrass Region were hardier than those from other regions; this is due to the high content of calcium in the soil. Within decades of increased settlement, the remaining herds of bison had moved west. Breeding of Thoroughbred horses was developed here, as well as of other quality livestock. Kentucky livestock was driven to Tennessee and other areas of the Ohio Valley for sale.

The Bluegrass Region is characterized by underlying fossiliferous limestone, dolostone, and shale of the Ordovician geological age. Hills are generally rolling, and the soil is highly fertile for growing pasture. Since the antebellum years, the Bluegrass Region has been a center for breeding quality livestock, especially Thoroughbred race horses.

The Kentucky Bluegrass is bounded on the east by the Cumberland Plateau, with the Pottsville Escarpment forming the boundary. On the south and west, it borders the Pennyroyal Plateau, (also called the Pennyrile), with Muldraugh Hill, another escarpment, forming the boundary.



# Climate

Climate in Trimble County mirrors that of most Kentucky, with humid summers, cold winters, and an overall temperate climate.

The highest temperature recorded in Kentucky is 114°, Fahrenheit. This record high was recorded on July 28, 1930 at Greensburg. The lowest temperature in Kentucky, -37°, was recorded on January 19, 1994 at Shelbyville. Average monthly temperatures range from a high of 87.6 degrees to a low of 23.1 degrees.

Trimble County, Kentucky, gets 47 inches of rain per year. The US average is 39. Snowfall is 11 inches. The average US city gets 26 inches of snow per year. The number of days with any measurable precipitation is 113. On average, there are 192 sunny days per year in Trimble County, Kentucky. The July high is around 88 degrees. The January low is 23.

The state of Kentucky has a moderate climate, characterized by warm, yet moist conditions. Summers are usually warm, and winters cool. Kentucky’s weather patterns are influenced by the Gulf of Mexico, especially during summer. Much of Kentucky’s average 46 inches of precipitation a year falls in spring, the rainiest season. From south to north, precipitation decreases. Southern Kentucky receives the highest average precipitation, about 50 inches a year, while the north averages only 40 inches.

Kentucky is located in a path several storm systems follow. Storms happen year-round; however most storms occur between March and September. Below, the following charts show the average temperature from 1895-2015 and the temperature in 2015.

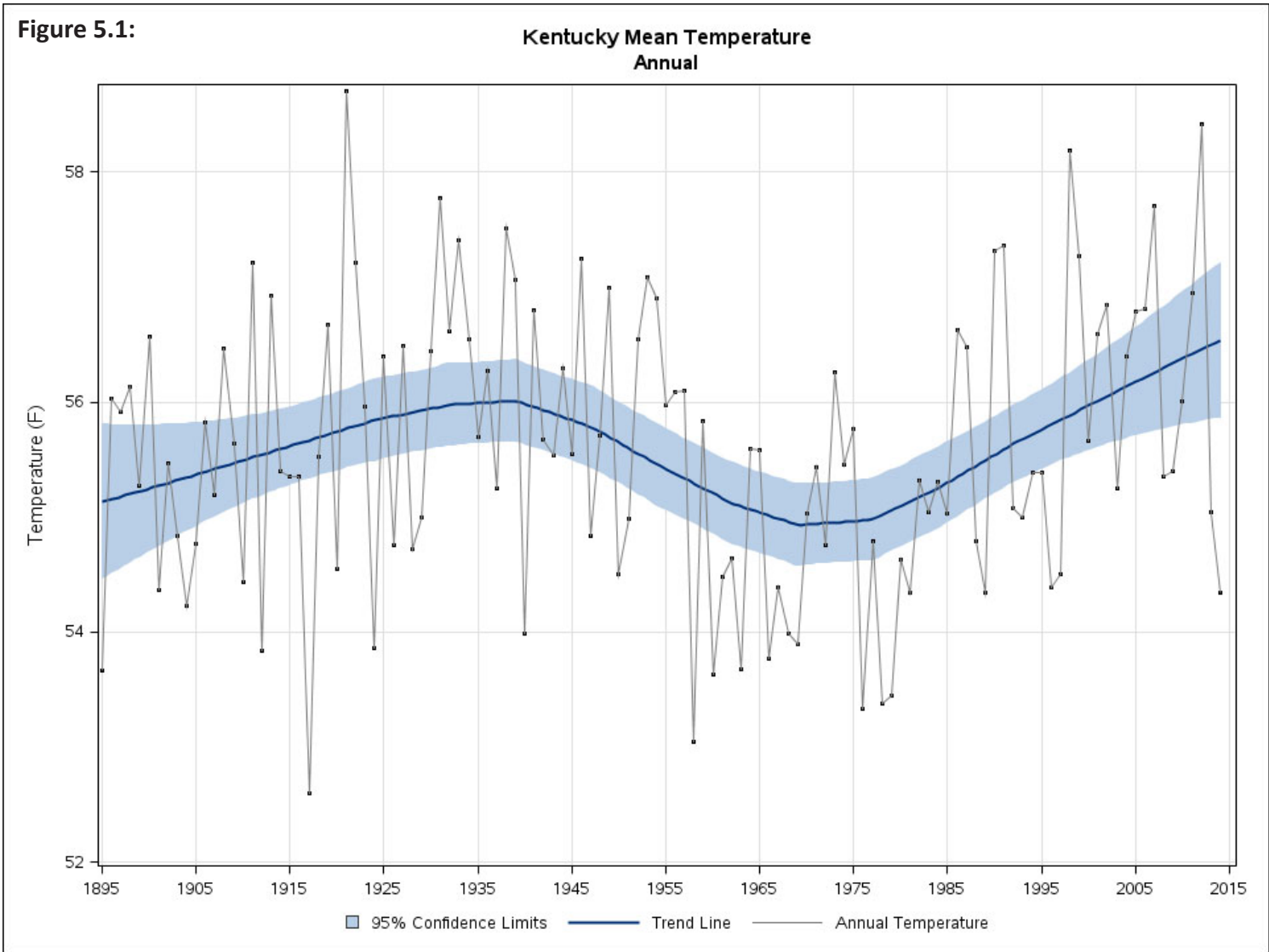
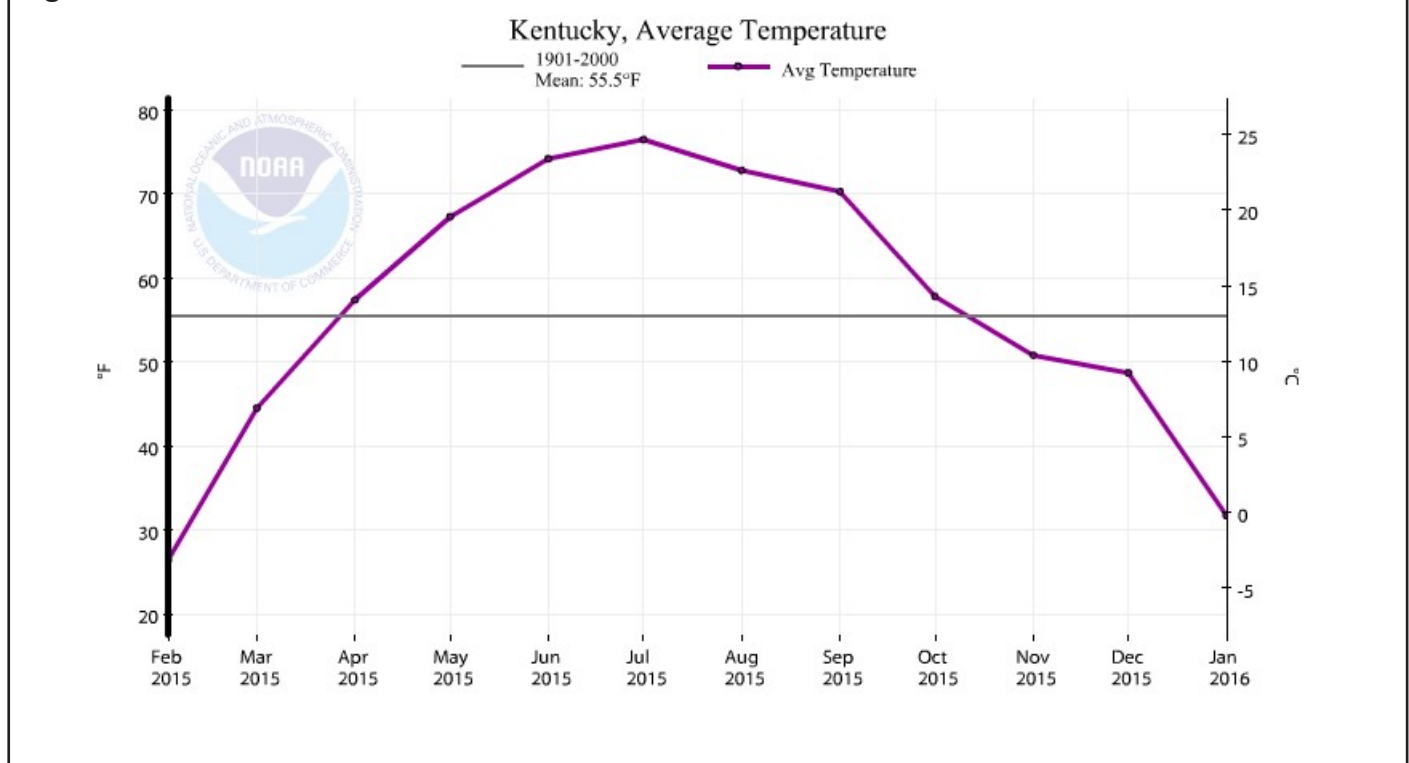


Figure 5.2:



Kentucky’s climate is a valuable natural resource. However like other states, Kentucky is vulnerable to a variety of hazards associated with its climate. These hazards pose threats to life and property, and they can disrupt economic activity.

Thunderstorms are an important element of Kentucky’s climate. They can occur throughout the year but are most common in warmer months. The number of thunderstorm days averages about 55 in the west and closer to 40 in the east. While thunderstorms are a vital source of rainfall in the summer season, they can also bring severe weather, including damaging winds, hail, and tornadoes. Fewer than ten tornadoes are recorded in most years. Tornadoes are most frequent in April, but can occur in any month.

Winter storms producing heavy snow occasionally affect Kentucky. Heavy snow is normally associated with storm systems that originate in the southwest, are fueled by Gulf moisture, and track toward the northeast. Instead of snow, a winter storm may bring freezing rain that produces significant icing, but such events are infrequent. Intense winter storms are sometimes followed by cold waves that bring subzero temperatures.

Flooding can be widespread or highly localized across Kentucky. Widespread flooding is most common in the winter and spring seasons when moisture-laden frontal systems can drop heavy rains over large areas. Flooding in the late summer and early fall can occur due to the remnants of a tropical cyclone that tracts over the state. Intense thunderstorm precipitation can cause flash flooding.

While flash floods can occur anywhere across the state, they are a greater threat in areas of rough terrain and narrow stream valleys.

Droughts are a recurrent feature of Kentucky’s climate, occurring an average of about one year in ten and usually become evident during the growing season when temperatures are warm and the demand for water is high. Since fall is normally a dry season, recovery usually does not occur until winter and in some cases a drought may persist for more than a year. Droughts often intensify during the summer due to a strong Bermuda High, which blocks the movement of frontal systems across the state, inhibits the development of thunderstorms, and contributes to the intensity of heat waves.



# Air Quality

Air quality is a publication of the Kentucky Division for Air Quality, part of the Department for Environmental Protection, Energy and Environment Cabinet. The “Kentucky Ambient Air Monitoring Network Plan” which is produced by the Technical Services Branch of the Kentucky Division of Air Quality is issued annually. The last report issued summarizes statistical results of monitoring conducted during the year 2016 to measure outdoor concentrations of air pollutants in the Commonwealth.

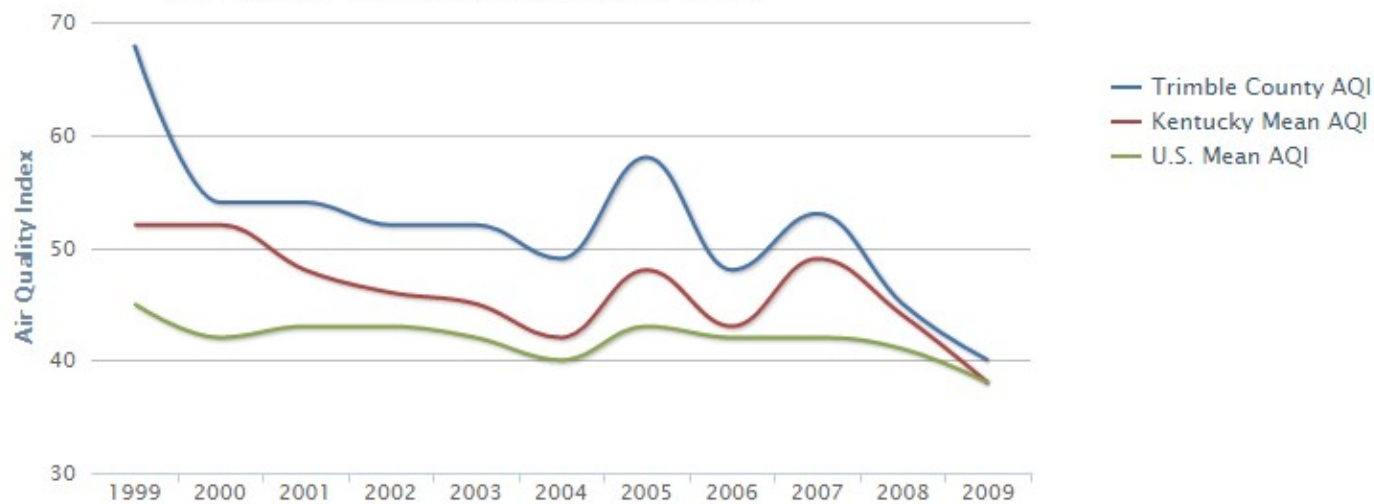
The primary source of data for the report is the Air Quality Surveillance Network operated by the Kentucky Division for Air Quality which has operated an air quality monitoring network since July 1967. The 2016 network included 117 monitors in 33 counties (this total includes monitors operated by the Louisville Metro Air Pollution Control District and the National Parks Service at Mammoth Cave). The monitoring station locations are selected with U.S. Environmental Protection Agency guidance and, in general, are established near high population areas or air pollution sources. Each year the sites are reviewed to ensure that adequate coverage is being provided. In the year 2016, the closest Kentucky Air Monitoring Sites to Trimble County were the Louisville Metro sites.

Overall, the division monitors compliance of six (6) criteria pollutants including carbon monoxide, sulfur oxides, nitrogen dioxide, lead, ozone, and particulate matter.

An Air Quality Index (AQI) is a number used by government agencies to communicate to the public how polluted the air currently is or how polluted it is expected to become. Trimble County did not report Air Quality Index (AQI) data, as it is a small enough county that its population does not exceed the threshold at which data reporting is federally required. The median AQI for counties that did report data in Kentucky was 38.69, which falls in the “good” range.

Figure 5.3:

Average Air Quality Index (AQI) by Years



Air quality indices (AQI) are numbers used by government agencies to characterize the quality of the air at a given location. As the AQI increases, an increasingly large percentage of the population is likely to experience increasingly severe adverse health effects. Air quality index values are divided into ranges, and each range is assigned a descriptor and a color code. Standardized public health advisories are associated with each AQI range. The United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) uses the following AQI:

Air Quality Index (AQI) Values	Levels of Health Concern	Colors
0 to 50	Good	Green
51 to 100	Moderate	Yellow
101 to 150	Unhealthy for Sensitive Groups	Orange
151 to 200	Unhealthy	Red
201 to 300	Very Unhealthy	Purple
301 to 500	Hazardous	Maroon



## Noise

High noise levels can impact the health and safety of residents. Excess noise can cause impacts ranging from the nuisance of interrupting a conversation to causing physical and psychological harm. The primary consideration for noise in terms of new development is the community noise level.

According to “The Noise Guidebook” issued by the Department of Housing and Urban Development, the main contributors to a community noise problem are transportation sources such as highways, railroads, and airports. These sources are the most pervasive and continuing of the noise sources. The main issues involved in any noise analysis are how much noise a site is exposed to, what types of activities are affected, and what design or mitigation measures can be used to keep noise to an acceptable level.

Outdoor noise levels are of greatest concern in residential areas especially at night when sleep is disrupted. The easiest way to mitigate noise is to separate noise sources from noise receptors. This can be accomplished by requiring buffer zones around airports and establishing minimum setbacks from major highways and railroads.

For example, HUD recommends that no occupiable buildings be constructed within 100 feet of a railroad due to the impact of noise and vibration. Noise levels can also be attenuated by noise barriers, site design, and soundproofing of buildings. It is recommended that a noise analysis be conducted when noise sensitive uses such as residential development or hospitals are proposed near railroads, airports or highways with considerable truck traffic.

In Trimble County, in the southern tip, the CSXT line crosses over the county line, but does not go further into the county. There are no major airports and Interstate 64 also follows the Southern line of the county, but no major interstate goes through any major population center in Trimble County.





# Physiography and Geology

## Hydrogeology

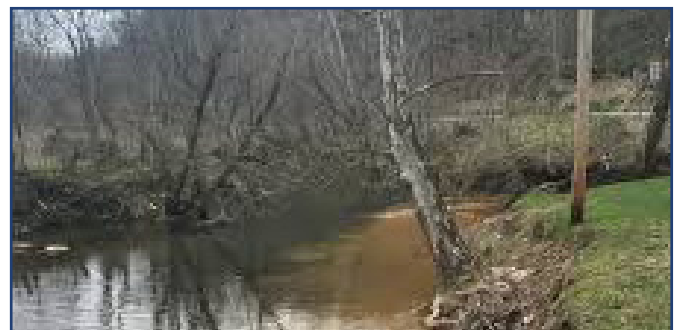
According to the Groundwater Branch of the Kentucky Division of Water, “Groundwater is a vital, renewable natural resource that is widely used throughout Kentucky. Wells and springs provide approximately one-third of public domestic water supplies in the state. Surface streams, the major source of Kentucky’s water supply, are primarily sustained during base flow by groundwater discharge from adjacent aquifers. This resource is susceptible to contamination from a variety of activities at the land surface. Once contaminated, groundwater can be difficult or impossible to remediate.”

The quality of groundwater in the Bluegrass Region varies considerably from place to place and is determined by its geologic source. In Trimble County groundwater is hard to very hard and may contain salt or hydrogen sulfide, except for water from the Ohio River alluvium, which is generally of good quality. The two most common natural constituents that make water in the Bluegrass Region objectionable for domestic use are common salt and hydrogen sulfide. The hydrogen sulfide-bearing water is usually satisfactory for domestic use since the hydrogen sulfide escapes as a gas upon exposure of the water to the air.

Being aware of the depth to saline groundwater is valuable when planning a water-supply well. Drilling a well too deep through the freshwater interval may cause a good well to be unsuitable for various uses. Care must be taken to prevent contamination of the freshwater zones by the deeper saline waters. Properly constructed water wells will screen the production zone in the targeted aquifer and isolate all other zones by casing and properly grouting and cementing of the space outside the casings in the boreholes.

In Trimble County the fresh-saline interface ranges from elevations of less than 400 feet mean sea level near the Ohio River to 700 feet in the high areas of the county. Generally, salt water is found at depths greater than 100 feet below the level of the principal valley bottoms.

According to the Kentucky Division of Water, Groundwater Branch, Trimble County has areas of moderate to moderate-high sensitivity to groundwater pollution (see “Groundwater Sensitivity Regions of Kentucky”). The hydro-geologic sensitivity of an area is defined as the ease and speed with which a contaminant can move into and within a groundwater system.





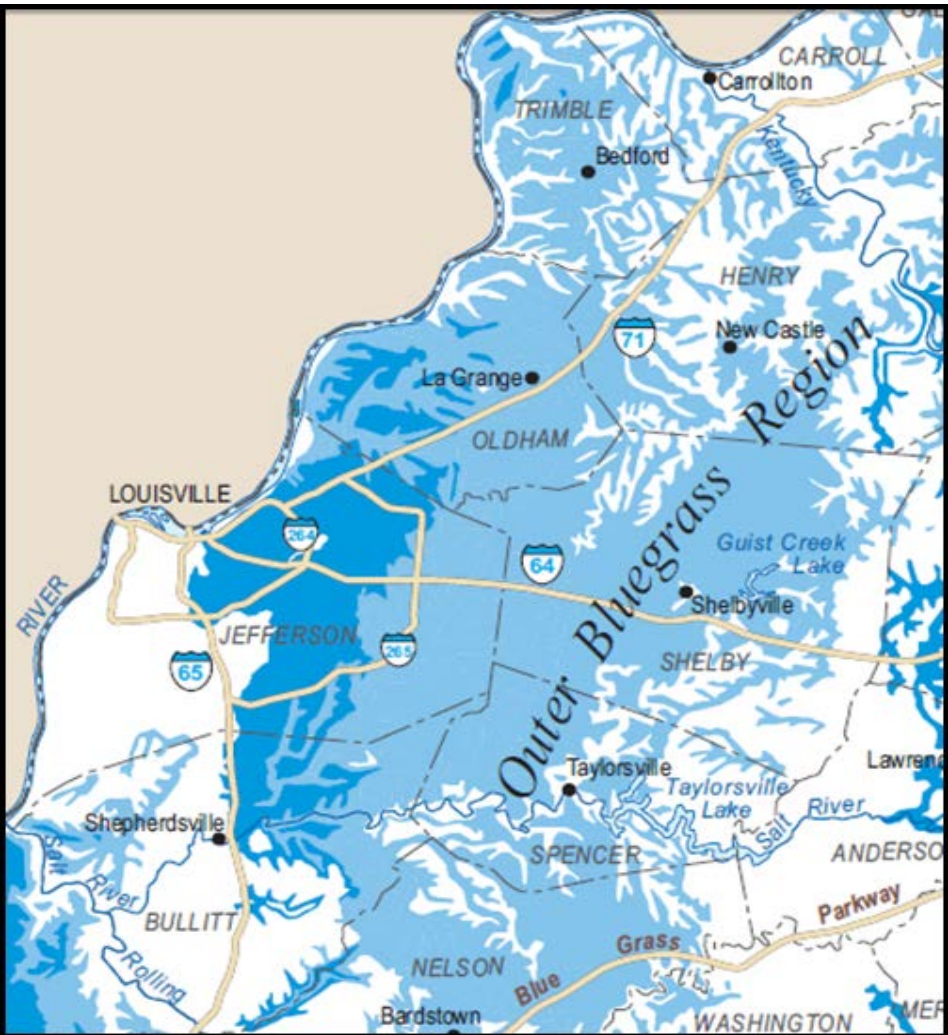
# Topography

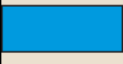


## Karst

Karst is defined as “a terrain, generally underlain by limestone or dolomite, in which the topography is chiefly formed by the dissolving of rock and which may be characterized by sinkholes, sinking streams, closed depressions, subterranean drainage, and caves.”

A sinkhole is defined as a “natural depression or hole in the surface landscape caused by the removal of soil or bedrock, often both, by water.”

Sinkholes can vary in size from less than a meter to several hundred meters in diameter and depth and can be formed suddenly or gradually. Often sinkholes are formed when underground limestone is dissolved by rain or when the surface materials collapse into underlying cavities in the rock.



EXPLANATION	
	Areas underlain by bedrock with high potential for karst development
	Areas underlain by bedrock with moderate potential for karst development
	Areas underlain by bedrock with limited or no potential for karst development

Map 5.1:

Kentucky is one of the most famous karst areas in the world. Much of the state’s beautiful scenery, particularly the horse farms of the Inner Bluegrass, is the result of development of karst landscape. Viewing the Karst potential map for the State, the highest potential for karst occurs in the Inner Bluegrass, Western Pennyroyal and Eastern Pennyroyal regions of the state. The outcrop area of the limestone bedrock in Kentucky has been used to estimate the percentage of karst terrain or topography in the state. About 55 percent of Kentucky is underlain by rocks that could develop karst terrain, given enough time. About 38 percent of the state has at least some karst development recognizable on topographic maps, and 25 percent of the state is known to have well-developed karst features. Trimble County is no different than the rest of the state containing areas underlain by bedrock with high potential for karst and areas with limited or no potential for karst (see map). The City of Bedford and the City of Milton do possess some risk, but mainly due to population concentration.



## Steep Slopes

Trimble County is in the Outer Bluegrass Region of north-central Kentucky. The Ohio River marks the northern and western borders. The normal pool elevation of the Ohio, 420 feet, is the lowest elevation in the county. Adjacent bluffs rise abruptly 300 feet above the river and mark the sites of the greatest local relief. Where flats are present along the Ohio River, they are at an elevation of approximately 470 feet. The area is a well-dissected upland. It is hilly, and steep slopes are common. Local reliefs of 150 to 200 feet are present. A few small sinkholes may be found near the tips of the larger ridges. Upland elevations are 750 to 800 feet in the west; some are more than 900 feet in the central part of the county; and they are generally about 850 feet in the east. Most of the higher elevations are along or near a flat-topped ridge near the center of the county, which is a drainage divide between the Little Kentucky River on the east and minor tributary streams to the Ohio River on the west. The highest elevation in the county, 970 feet, is on Fishers Ridge south of Ky. 1226, 4 miles north-northeast of Bedford.

The Little Kentucky River crosses the southeastern part of the county and has carved a valley 200 to 250 feet below the adjacent upland. Bunker Hill, a core of an abandoned meander of the Little Kentucky River, has an elevation of 686 feet and stands 186 feet above the surrounding valley.

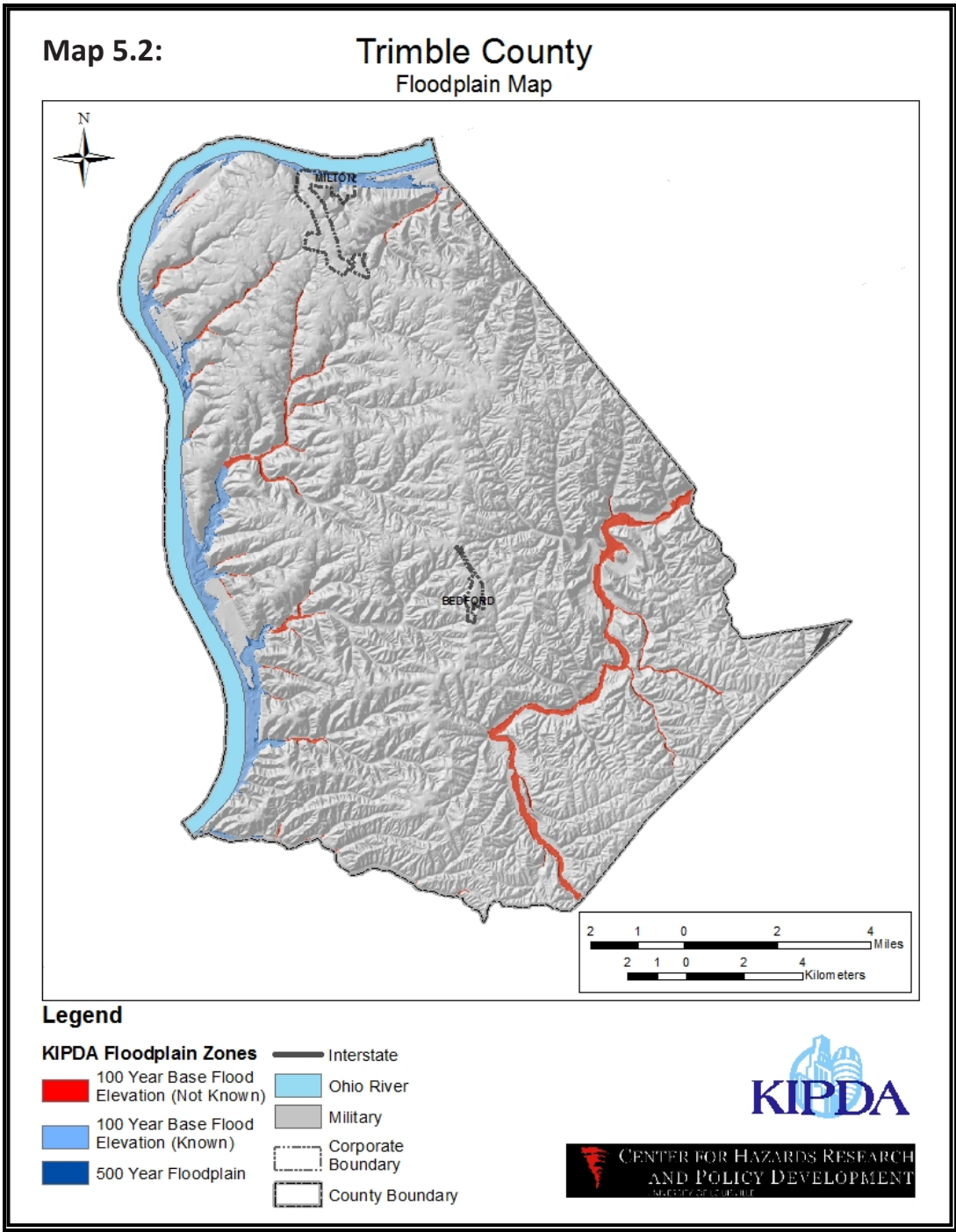
The elevation of Bedford, the county seat, is 910 feet. Elevations at other communities are Milton, 468 feet; Monitor, 924 feet; Mt. Pleasant, 859 feet; and Wisers Landing, 470 feet.



# Floodplains

The majority of the county lies outside of the 100-year and 500-year floodplains, although the small percentage of land area that is within the floodplain has historically been negatively affected by significant flooding. The affected areas are along the Ohio River in the northern part of Trimble County, near the City of Milton. The western part of the county that borders the Ohio River does lie within the floodplains, however, most of the county’s population resides near Bedford and Milton, which Bedford is centrally located and not affected by the floodplain area, whereas the city of Milton is affected.

FEMA (Federal Emergency Management Agency) also creates maps and all areas should be consulted first before any construction should begin.





**Table 5.1: % of Area Impact in Flood Zones**

COUNTY	CITY	ZONE			TOTAL
		100-yr BFE not known	100-yr BFE known	500-yr floodplain	
TRIMBLE	BEDFORD	0%	0%	0%	0%
	MILTON	0%	14.76%	0.85%	15.61%

Table 5.1 illustrates how Bedford is on higher ground and is not impacted by any flooding in the flood zones. However, Milton has experienced flooding in both the 100 and 500 year floodplains. Because of this history of flooding along the Ohio River in Milton, the city participates in the Federal Emergency Management Agency's (FEMA) National Flood Insurance Program (Table 5.2). The program aids communities to better prepare for disaster events by investing in mitigation efforts before a flood occurs. One of the main factors that the program focuses on is assisting communities to guide development away from flood-prone areas.

**Table 5.2: Trimble County Participation in Flood Insurance Program**

	Community Identification (CID) Number	Initial Flood Hazard Boundary Map (FHBM) Identified	Initial Flood Insurance Rate Map (FIRM) Identified	Current Effective Date	Registered Emergency Date
Bedford	-	-	-	-	-
Milton	210215#	3/15/1974	9/18/1986	3/18/2008	9/18/1986



## Soils

Soil is important to development and farming when deciding which site to build and create agriculture. The United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), in cooperation with the Kentucky Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Cabinet and Kentucky Agricultural Experiment Station created a publication entitled, Soil Survey of Henry and Trimble Counties, Kentucky. In this survey, the USDA, wrote information that can be used in land planning programs for Trimble County. It contains predications of soil behavior for selected land uses. The survey also highlights limitations and hazards inherent in the soil, improvements needed to overcome the limitations, and the impact of selected land uses on the environment.

According to the U.S. Department of Agriculture, Soil Conservation Service, prime farmland is land that has the best combination of physical and chemical characteristics for producing food, feed, forage, fiber, and oilseed crops and is also available for these uses. Prime farmland can be cropland, pastureland, rangeland, forest land or other land but not urban built-up land or water.

Prime farmland has the soil quality, growing season, and moisture supply needed to economically produce sustained high yields of crops when treated and managed according to acceptable farming methods. In general, prime farmlands have an adequate and dependable water supply from precipitation or irrigation, a favorable temperature and growing season, acceptable acidity or alkalinity, acceptable salt and sodium content and few or no rocks. They are permeable to water and air. Prime farmlands are not excessively erodible or saturated with water for a long period of time. They either do not flood frequently or are protected from flooding.

Trimble County contains some of the most fertile prime farmland in the state of Kentucky, with varied soils that are robust and ripe for growing crops.

The following soils found in Trimble County are considered to be potential prime farmland:

**Table 5.3:**

Abbreviation	Soil Type
BaB	Beasley silt loam, 2 to 6 percent slopes
Bo	Boonesboro silt loam, frequently flooded
CaB	Chenault silt loam, 2 to 6 percent slopes
CcB	Cincinnati silt loam, 2 to 6 percent slopes
EkB	Elk silt loam, 2 to 6 percent slopes
EoA	Elk silt loam, occasionally flooded, 0 to 2 percent slopes
ErB	Elk silt loam, 2 to 6 percent slopes, rarely flooded
Hu	Huntington silt loam, 0 to 2 percent slopes, occasionally flooded
Lc	Lawrence silt loam, rarely flooded
Mc	McGary silt loam
Ne	Newark silt loam, 0 to 2 percent slopes, frequently flooded
NhB	Nicholson silt loam, 2 to 6 percent slopes
No	Nolin silt loam, 0 to 2 percent slopes, occasionally flooded
OtA	Otwell silt loam, occasionally flooded, 0 to 2 percent slopes
OtB	Otwell silt loam, rarely flooded, 2 to 6 percent slopes
RoA	Rossmoyne silt loam, 0 to 2 percent slopes
RoB	Rossmoyne silt loam, 2 to 6 percent slopes
RyB	Ryker silt loam, 2 to 6 percent slopes
ShB	Shelbyville silt loam, 2 to 6 percent slopes
uLsoB	Lowell-Sandview silt loams, 2 to 6 percent slopes
WhB	Wheeling silt loam, 0 to 6 percent slopes
WoB	Woolper silty clay loam, 2 to 6 percent slopes

On considering the impact of pollutants, it should be noted the average lead level in Trimble County soil and sediment is 30.144 ppm, which is below the EPA 400-ppm hazard limit. The average soil mercury level in Trimble County is: 0.034 ppm (inside the normal range, which is 0.02-0.625 ppm).

## Endangered Species

There are nine endangered species listed on the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's "Endangered, Threatened, Proposed & Candidate Species in Trimble County, KY" list. The only mammal is the Indiana Bat (*Myotis Sodalis*). The Trimble County Conservation District and other groups in the county are committed to helping preserve this species of bat, the eight mussels and the Running Buffalo Clover plant that are listed. Any development that is proposed must go through a rigorous environmental impact assessment study to make sure that none of these species' habitats would be affected. These creatures are important to the biological health of the Trimble County ecosystem and must be protected for future generations so that the environmental viability of the county is able to thrive.

Endangered, Threatened, Proposed and Candidate Species in Trimble County, Kentucky					
Group	Species	Common Name	Legal* Status	Known** Potential	Special Comments
Mammals	<i>Myotis sodalis</i>	Indiana bat	E	K	
	<i>Myotis grisescens</i>	gray bat	E	K	
	<i>Myotis septentrionalis</i>	Northern long-eared bat	P	P	
					These mussel species are known to occur or may occur within the Ohio River and its watershed in Trimble County.
Mussels	<i>Plethobasus cooperianus</i>	orangefoot pimpleback	E	K	
	<i>Cyprogenia stegaria</i>	fanshell	E	P	
	<i>Lampsilis abrupta</i>	pink mucket	E	P	
	<i>Obovaria retusa</i>	ring pink	E	P	
	<i>Plethobasus cyphus</i>	sheepnose	E	P	
	<i>Pleurobema clava</i>	clubshell	E	P	
	<i>Pleurobema plenum</i>	rough pigtoe	E	P	
	<i>Quadrula cylindrica cylindrica</i>	rabbitsfoot	T	P	
Plants	<i>Trifolium stoloniferum</i>	running buffalo clover	E	P	
Birds	<i>Haliaeetus leucocephalus</i>	bald eagle	Delisted	K	Bald eagles have recovered and have been delisted, but are still protected under the Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act and Migratory Bird Treaty Act.
Notes:					
* Key to notations: E= Endangered, T= Threatened, P=Proposed, C= Candidate, CH= Critical Habitat					
** Key to notations: K= Known occurrence record within county, P= Potential for the species to occur within the county based upon historic range, proximity to known occurrence records, biological, and physiographic characteristics					
Source: U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, Kentucky Ecological Services Field Office					





# Natural Resources Implementation Strategies

- 1) **Support the cooperative efforts of the Trimble County Extension Service, Soil Conservation Service, and Farm Service Agencies to adopt best management practices for improved water quality, forages, and reduce soil erosion.**
- 2) **Environmentally sensitive areas should be zoned as protected land, therefore preventing development from occurring on those sites.**
  - a. Environmental issues to be considered include karst (sinkholes), flood plains, and wetlands.
- 3) **Planning Commission should explore future areas for dedicated park and open space.**
- 4) **Enforce all standards set by the Environmental Protection Agency on all commercial and industrial development.**
- 5) **Protection of scenic views and view sheds.**
  - a. Issue to be approached as a future element to consider when reviewing development proposals.

# Section 6: Community Facilities

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## Introduction

The quality and vitality of the environment and lifestyle of the residents of Trimble County is dependent upon the facilities and public services available to them. These facilities and services support the social make-up of the community and include schools, libraries, parks, municipal buildings, public safety services, sanitation facilities, utilities and infrastructure, healthcare facilities, and recreation and open space. Community facilities are those areas, buildings and services which are public in nature but which may be publicly or privately owned.

Community facilities, especially school systems, play an important role in attracting new residents and industries as well as retaining present residents and employers. The age and efficiency of the existing public facilities affect the revenue needs of the cities and county. The efficient layout and construction of new facilities determine the direction for future growth of residential, commercial, and industrial development. For all of the above reasons, it is important that the development of public facilities be coordinated according to the needs and desires of Trimble County residents and elected officials for their future. As Trimble County grows and develops to meet the needs of its residents, it will be extremely important to plan for the expansion of community facilities.

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**Goal:** *Provide efficient and environmentally sound public services and community facilities for all residents.*

**Objective A:** Support the development of a farmers' market and/or pavilion that supports the agricultural businesses.

**Objective B:** Continue to improve parks and green space.

**Objective C:** Work with public school district to assure adequate facilities and programs are available to all residents.

**Objective D:** Encourage the expansion of sewer facilities.

**Objective E:** Work with local utility providers to promote continued improvements to their respective systems.

**Objective F:** Provide adequate police and fire protection.

**Objective G:** Ensure that improvements to the county's recreation complex continue and that programs are being created to accommodate the county's growth.

**Objective H:** Encourage the expansion of the solid waste collection and recycling throughout the county.

**Objective I:** Creation and maintenance of dual and multi-purpose facilities and services is encouraged, including private or semipublic facilities which can be used to accommodate a public need.

# Public Facilities & Utilities

## Water Supply Systems

There are presently three water suppliers serving Trimble County residents. Those are: Trimble County Water District #1, Milton Water & Sewer Department and Henry County Water District #2. Maps 6.1 and 6.2 illustrate the water and wastewater infrastructure in Trimble County. Geographic Information Systems (GIS) software is used to maintain an asset inventory of all of Trimble County's water and wastewater lines. It is used as an important tool when prioritizing funding and developing in certain areas where water lines may not be compatible for the increased amount of users. This asset inventory, created by the Kentucky Infrastructure Authority and maintained by the KIPDA Area Development District, is a vital tool for the county's systems by inventorying the pipe material, size, condition and year it was laid, plus if there has ever been any leak history or major breaks. Understanding the system's flow capacity and where the most vulnerable areas are helps to save money in emergency leak detection response efforts and replaced materials and parts.

The Trimble County Water District #1 has four wells located along the Ohio River aquifer at Wise's Landing. It serves customers on a retail basis in the central part of the county, including residents within the Bedford City limits.

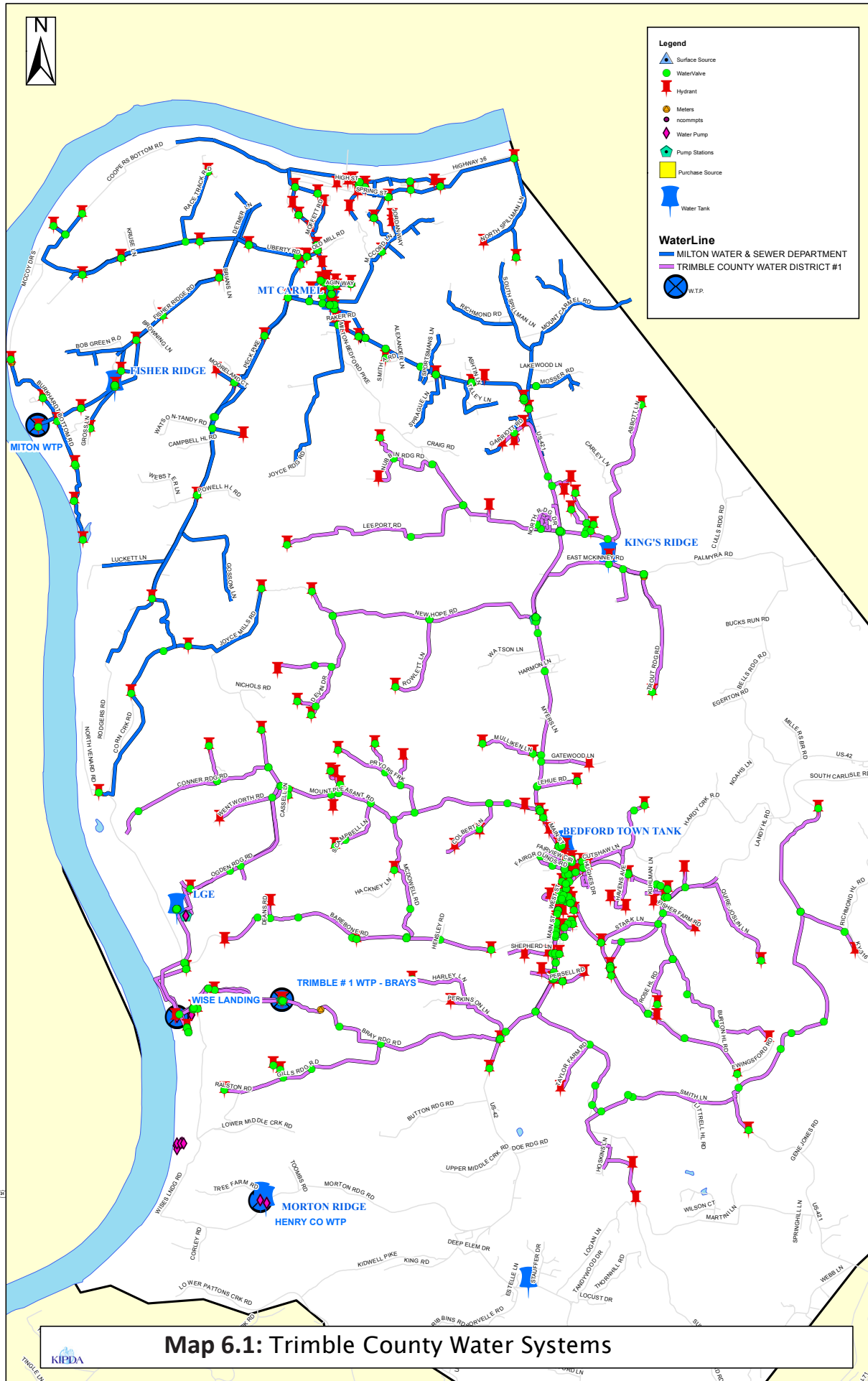
Milton Water and Sewer Department is a water source that serves northern Trimble County including all of the residents within the City of Milton's incorporated city limits. This system also relies on the Ohio River as its source, with its well located at 7515 Burkhardt's Bottom Road in Milton.

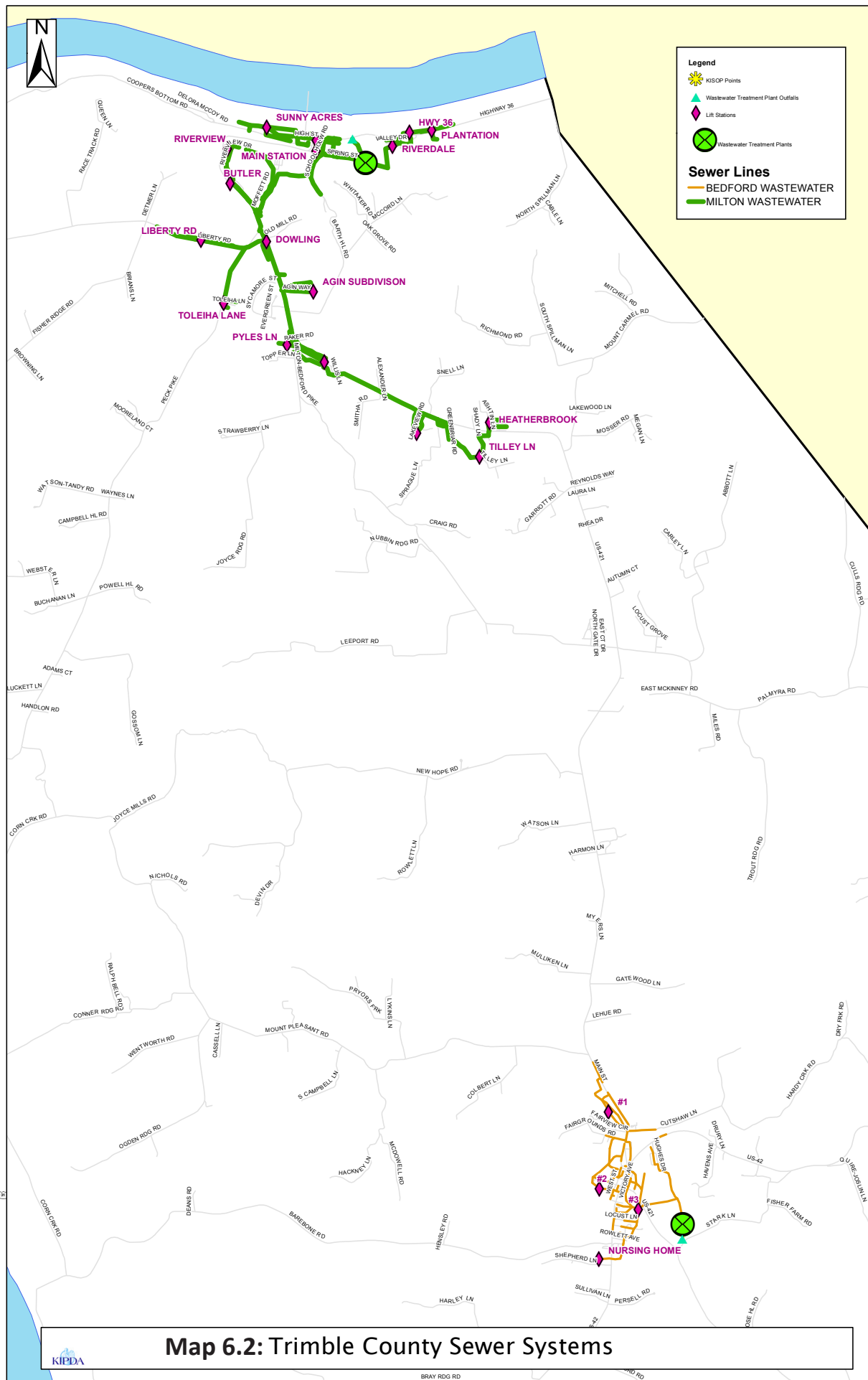
The Henry County Water District #2 serves the southern portion of the county. It utilizes seven wells that are also located at Wise's Landing along the Ohio River, within the Trimble County boundaries.

There is one distributor of water in Trimble County. The West Carroll Water District services a small portion of the eastern part of the county. The district distributes water purchased from the Trimble County Water District to residents in Trimble County. Most of their activity within the county originates from Trimble County wells. West Carroll County Water District purchases an additional supply of water from the City of Milton. This water is only distributed within Carroll County.









## Wastewater Systems

Residents and businesses in Bedford and Milton are all served by local, public wastewater treatment systems. The rest of the county is not served by public sewers and must utilize septic tanks and other private means of sewage disposal. Currently, this is one of the limiting factors to development in Trimble County. Map 4,1 show the sewer lines Bedford and Milton. This gives a clear view of any extensions that may be necessary for future residential, commercial, or industrial developments.

The Milton Wastewater System is owned and operated by the City of Milton and was established in 1950. Presently, it serves approximately 427 residential customers, fourteen commercial customers and one institutional customer. The wastewater system is currently only using 81% of its design capacity, which is 164,000 MGD. The effluent destination for the Milton Wastewater system is the Ohio River.



The Bedford Wastewater Treatment Plant provides sewer service in Bedford and is owned and operated by the city. The treatment plant serves approximately 274 residential customers, 13 commercial, and 33 institutional customers. It is a lagoon system with a design capacity of 0.130 million gallons (MGD).

## Gas & Electric Utilities

Three utility companies provide electricity to Trimble County's residents. These are the Kentucky Utilities Company (KU), the Louisville Gas and Electric Company (LG&E) and the Shelby Rural Electric Cooperative Corporation, which buys its power from the East Kentucky Power Cooperative. Kentucky Utilities currently serves 1,063 customers in Bedford and approximately 305 customers in Milton. The Louisville Gas and Electric Company provides natural gas service to portions of Trimble County. LG&E serves gas to 271 customers in Trimble County and electricity to only 3 customers. Shelby Rural Electric Cooperative Cooperation serves 3,349 customers throughout Trimble County.



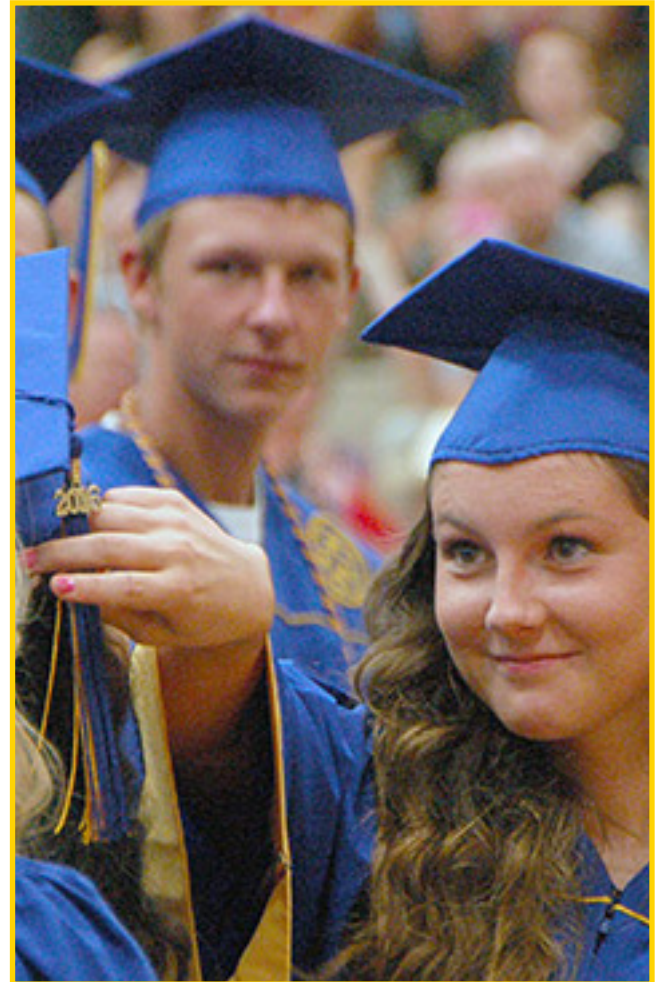


## Education

The Trimble County Public School system consists of three actual school sites. There are two separate elementary schools, Bedford Elementary in the City of Bedford and Milton Elementary in the City of Milton. Since the 2016-2017 school year there is now a combined Middle and High School (Grades 7 - 12) at the site of the previous Trimble County High School. The old Trimble County Middle School building is now being used to house the Board of Education Office and the gymnasium is open during the day to the community to be used as an indoor walking and exercise space. The enrollment in Trimble County has been declining steadily over the past few years. The total enrollment for the 2017-2018 school year was 1,186 with a loss of 67 students from the 2016-2017 school year, when the enrollment was 1,253. The total enrollment for the 2015-2016 school year was 1,308, a loss of 85 students from the 2014-2015 school year when the enrollment was at 1,393. Trimble County is one of the five iLead Academy Districts. iLead Academy is a new regional academy, based in Carroll County, which offers students a competitive advantage with its project-based formula heavy on engineering and technology. Trimble County Public Schools currently has 22 students enrolled in the iLead Academy. Middle school age students in Trimble County can now receive high school credits for various courses as middle schoolers. Since the 2015-2016 school year, Trimble County has increased the offerings of dual credit opportunities and added personalized learning components such as the Summit Learning Platform to allow students to learn at their own pace.

Higher education is readily available to the people of Trimble County because of the colleges and universities in close proximity to the county. Those schools, which offer various types of degrees, are located in Carroll County, Jefferson County, KY, Lexington, KY, and across the river in Indiana.

A local school system can be a very critical factor in attracting new residential development to a community. It is critical that the schools are able to meet the various needs of all of its students.



# Library

The Trimble County Public Library serves Bedford, Milton and the rural communities of Trimble County as well as the rest of the state and Jefferson County residents through joint agreements. The library is open 6 days a week and provides over 2,700 service hours annually. Currently, the library provides over 24,000 books and 47 subscription magazines. Over 3,200 movies and 1,110 audio books are available for patron use. The library has expanded digital services to include over 50 electronic databases from various vendors and over 123,000 downloadable e-books through the consortium Kentucky Library Unbound. The library takes pride in providing current technology. Over 20 computers are available for in-house use. Audiovisual equipment is also available for presentations and is available to be checked out.

Library programming has increased over the last several years as demand has increased. Over 13,000 people attended in-house and out-reach library programming during the 2016 fiscal year. Programming provides educational opportunities as well as entertainment for the community. Approximately 800 customers complete Summer Reading Programs every year.

Trimble library staff members are committed to working with community partners in providing excellent services. Currently the library partners with the Trimble County School District to provide a variety of programs and services. Programmers work with Kentuckiana Works and the Adult Education Center to promote workforce development. The library also works with local churches to help with the Feed the Children program and with Trimble CARES to provide programs to address needs in our community. KIPDA representatives frequently use library facilities to meet with community members.



## Trimble County PUBLIC LIBRARY

35 Equity Drive Bedford, KY (502) 255-7362





# Public Protection

## Police

The Trimble County Sheriff's Office (TCSO) is the primary law enforcement agency in the county. The Sheriff's Department has 10 employees and four constables for each magisterial district in the county. Daily duties of the office include routine patrols of the county, criminal investigations, traffic accident investigations, and serving



warrants and court summons. Additionally, the TCSO provides a School Resource Officer to the county schools, provides security at school sporting events, collects property taxes, provides vehicle inspections for registrations, handles the processing of carry concealed deadly weapons permits, and provides funeral escorts. The office works with the community on crime prevention through performing home security surveys, as well as doing educational presentations on drugs to the high school, churches, and community groups.

## Fire

### Bedford Fire & Rescue

Bedford Fire & Rescue is a Fire & Rescue Department. Bedford has two stations, one of which is in the City of Bedford and one that is south towards Oldham County. The Chief of Bedford is William McCoy and there are approximately 20 members. The department gets its funding solely through donations and state aid. The department has 3 Engines, 2 Tankers, 2 Brush Units and some more light duty pieces. Bedford earns extra money by providing inflatables to rent. It also houses the Level B Hazmat Trailer in their Station 1. This Trailer is sponsored by the Region 6 Hazmat Team. Bedford serves a large area of Trimble County, however due to automatic aid, they serve the entire 152 square miles along with Milton Fire Department and Campbellsburg Fire Department.



### Milton Fire & Rescue

Milton Fire & Rescue Department has two stations, one of which is in the City of Milton and one that is directly in between Milton and Bedford. The Chief of Milton is Jason Long and there are approximately 15 members.



The Milton Fire & Rescue Department also gets its funding solely through donations and state aid. The Department has 2 Engines, 1 Tanker, 1 Squirt, 1 Rescue, 1 Brush and 2 Boats. Milton earns extra money by traveling the area setting up with their fish fry trailer and selling food at festivals and events. Milton protects the majority of the 25 miles of the Ohio River that is in Trimble County. It serves a slightly smaller area than Bedford, but with Automatic Aid they also serve the entire 152 square miles of Trimble County.



## Emergency Medical Services (EMS)

The Trimble County Emergency Medical Services serves the county of Trimble and its 152 square mile area. It is run by Director Sharon Law and has 8 full-time employees. Trimble County is currently the last Basic Life Support (BLS) Only County in the entire state. Advance Life Support (ALS) coverage comes from the three surrounding counties that also have hospitals. Coverage in Trimble County is provided by a 24/48 Crew, as well as partially covered at times by a second truck when there are no transports. The service has three ambulances, one of which has a power loading system. The EMS Service is always looking for volunteers and part-time personnel to fill in.



## Emergency Management Agency (EMA)

The Trimble County Emergency Management Agency (EMA) is often considered the backbone of the county's emergency services. The EMA, along with the Local Emergency Planning Committee (LEPC), work together to create plans and conduct training to help mitigate the effects of any hazards that the county may face. Trimble County EMA has one full-time Director, Andrew Stark, and one Deputy Director at this time who is a volunteer.



The EMA is the organization that is responsible for everything, but in charge of none. It serves as the liaison between agencies and private/public partners. EMA oversees the plans for the seven Environmental Health Safety (EHS) facilities in Trimble County. It is funded in two ways, half through the county and half through the state. EMA oversees six weather warning sirens and eight repeater towers for communications. It is also responsible for the HAZMAT trailer and the equipment that is supplied for this resource. EMA also covers the 152 square miles of Trimble County, but is called from time to time to neighboring communities and across the state to provide assistance.

# Solid Waste and Recycling Management

A solid waste management system is imperative to protect the public health and environment in Trimble County. The Trimble County Waste Management District includes the Cities of Bedford and Milton, and all other incorporated areas of Trimble County. The Trimble County Fiscal Court is responsible for implementing the Solid Waste Management 5 Year Update. This plan is updated every five years. The last plan was updated and approved in 2017 and establishes the county's solid waste management policies and implementation schedule for the years 2018 to 2022. The county currently has a full-time solid waste coordinator and a solid waste officer. Trimble County has a permitted solid waste collection system, which provides residents door-to-door collection services. All waste haulers must have a permit to haul trash through the county. Solid waste is currently disposed of at Valley View Landfill owned by Republic Services of Kentucky, LLC. The life expectancy of Valley View Landfill is forty plus years. A recycling management system does not currently exist in Trimble County. However, residents and community members on the Planning Commission and the Trimble County Comprehensive Plan Steering Committee expressed an interest in researching the need and feasibility of implementing a recycling program within the county and what the necessary funding would need to be to support it. For cost-effectiveness, overall efficiency and logistics, the incorporated cities of Bedford and Milton should be first priority for recycling services. Drop off locations or a mobile recycling trailer should be considered as an alternative for more rural and isolated parts of the county where residents are less likely to haul their recyclables into Bedford or Milton.

## Recreational Facilities

The Trimble County Park lies just north of Bedford along Highway 421 and encompasses a little over 100 acres. The land that the park is now on was purchased by the county in 1975. There are two baseball fields, a softball field, a teeball field, a football field and an empty vacant field that used to be used for soccer. There are two tennis courts and a basketball court open to the public as well. The park has a playground for children and provides shelters with electricity and pavilions for cookouts and family gatherings. There are two public restrooms besides the ones near the concession stands by the baseball and softball fields. The Trimble County park is also used for annual events such as the Trimble

County Fair and the Trimble County Youth Ag Day in September, where local farmers work with the county's youth who are interested in learning more about farming and agriculture. The park also features a Senior Center where seniors gather daily to participate in activities and to socialize. There is a short walking trail in the back of the park that meanders about a half mile back into the surrounding woods. Park authorities and community members have discussed expanding the trail if there is interest from residents in a longer trail system in or near the park. The City of Milton Park was founded in 2000 and is located near downtown Milton just off of State Highway 36. The park is around 3 acres in size and offers a baseball field, playground, two shelter houses, a restroom facility and a mile long pedestrian/bike path for the community to utilize. The City of Milton Park also hosts annual events. Every year on Mother's Day weekend and Labor Day weekend the park holds an Animal Swap Meet where animals are





traded or purchased. There are also many arts and crafts and yard sale booths at the event. During the summer months the park features a baseball program for ages 13-18. The program is a Babe Ruth sanctioned league and is part of the North Central Kentucky Baseball Alliance.

The Dirty Turtle Offroad Park (DTOR) is 270 acres of offroading land near Bedford that is open to anything offroad: Jeeps, buggies, SxS, RZR's, ATVs, etc. The park has recently expanded to include cabins, campgrounds, a general store and now showcases several events that draw visitors from around the region and even out of state. Cardinal Hills Golf Course is an 18 hole course off of Stark Lane just outside of Bedford. It opened in 1968 as a 9-hole golf course, designed by Harold England. In 1996 the back nine was added to create the complete 18 hole course. The Cardinal Hills Golf Course hosts corporate or family outings and offers available shelter space with a grill and picnic tables. It is currently the only golf course in Trimble County.



## Farmer's Market Development

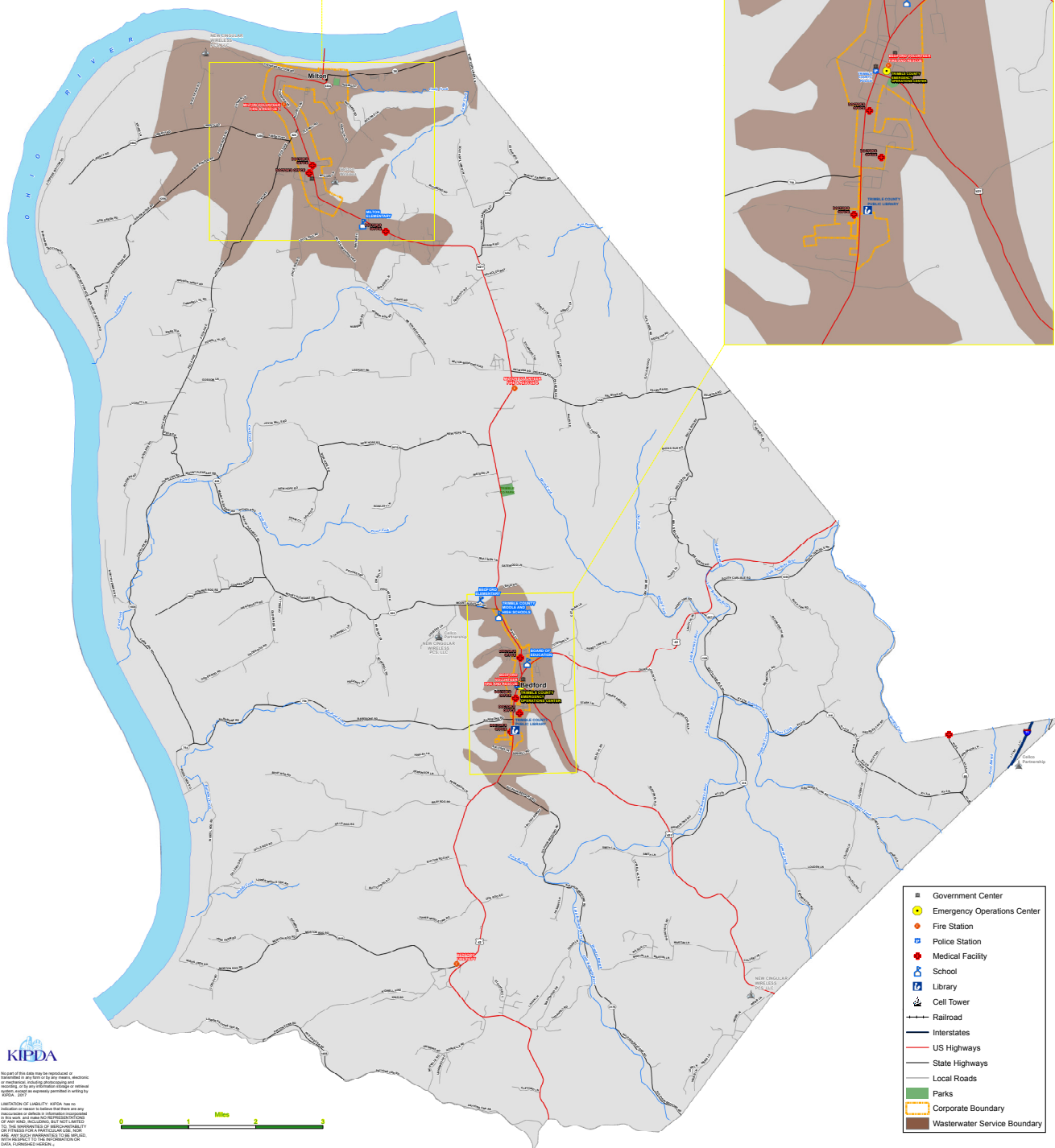
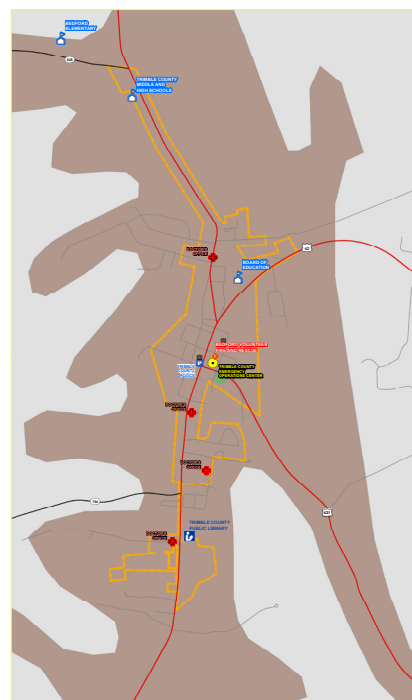
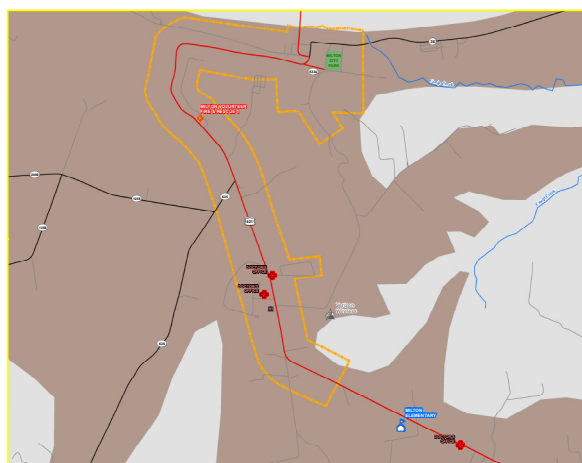
Currently, Trimble County is the only county in the KIPDA region that does not have a local farmer's market within its boundaries. There has been discussion within the county to create one, but Brays and Callis Orchards have roadside markets and many of the farmers are solely farming cash crops such as soybeans and corn or still trying their luck at harvesting tobacco in a struggling market. The Planning Commission has heard several ideas and opinions on how a Trimble County Farmer's Market would succeed, and has recommended that an advisory council of motivated and dedicated residents be formed to help spearhead the initiative, so that both participating local farmers and consumers that need it the most can benefit. A specific implementation strategy has been formed to help guide this process and assist Trimble County in establishing their own farmer's market. Any participation from the county's youth or 4H group in this endeavor would be strongly encouraged.







# Trimble County, Kentucky Community Facilities



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# Community Facilities Implementation Strategies

- 1) **Work with Kentucky Infrastructure Authority and Division of Water to replace septic systems and expand sewer facilities in an efficient and sustainable manner.**
  - a. A county-wide mandatory sewer connection ordinance should be implemented.
- 2) **Semi-annual meeting should occur between local government officials and local utility providers to address concerns about system operations and improvements.**
- 3) **Continue to financially support emergency service providers and first responders including police, emergency medical services (EMS) and fire protection.**
- 4) **Research expansion opportunities for parks, greenspace and multi-use trails including identifying funding sources.**
- 5) **Local government should explore the need and feasibility of implementing a recycling program.**
  - a. Incorporated areas should be considered first priority for efficiency and cost effectiveness.
  - b. Drop off locations should be considered as an option for more isolated, rural areas of the county.
- 6) **Develop a Farmers' Market Advisory Council that will bring all stakeholders together to address the needs of Trimble County's local food economy, identify potential sites, generate plans, create policies and procedures for the market, and organize farmers and vendors to participate.**





# Section 7: Housing

## Introduction

The community is committed to preserving Trimble County's rural charm, ensuring that new housing development and maintenance of current housing stock enhances the quality of life for all residents. The county seeks an appropriate balance between individual property rights and the community's goals. It is vital that growth be guided appropriately to ensure that adequate public services are provided and that all citizens have access to diverse housing options with adequate services and opportunities for employment near home. Guiding appropriate residential development, reinvesting in the current housing stock, and enforcing building codes will enable the county to provide safe, affordable, and quality housing for all residents in the community.

**Goal:** *All housing units shall be constructed in a manner that protects the health, safety and welfare of the residents and is an asset to the community.*

**Objective A:** A variety of housing opportunities should be available for all residents.

**Objective B:** Reinvest in deteriorating housing to promote community integrity.

**Objective C:** Adopt standard building codes that ensure the structural quality of all dwelling units, including manufactured homes.

**Objective D:** Encourage mixed-use infill development and adaptive reuse.

**Objective E:** Encourage the maintenance of the community's existing housing stock and neighborhoods by discouraging the encroachment of incompatible land uses within established residential areas and enforcing existing regulations related to property maintenance.

**Objective F:** Encourage well-planned and designed residential neighborhoods in areas equipped to provide essential public services.





# Housing Conditions

## Housing Tenure and Vacancy Rate

Trimble County has 3,923 total housing units. Of those units 3,548 are occupied and 375 are vacant. That vacancy number has decreased by 22.6% or 110 units since 2010. This decrease indicates there was a greater demand for housing during this period. Out of those 3,548 occupied units, there are 2,686 (76%) that are owner occupied and 862 (24%) that are renter-occupied. The homeowner vacancy rate for the county is 2.0 and the rental vacancy rate is 6.3.

Trimble County Housing Tenure, 2011-2015

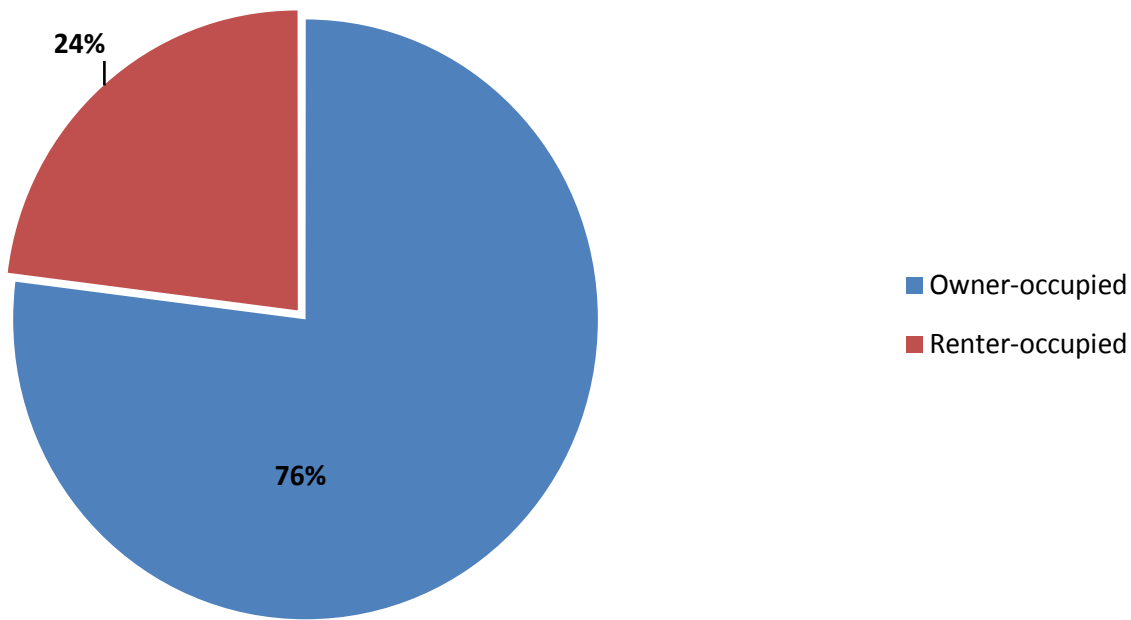


Figure 7.1 , Source: U.S. Census Bureau American Community Survey 2011-2015

Table 7.1	Kentucky	Trimble	Bedford	Milton
Total Housing Units	1,944,495	3,923	307	364
Occupied Housing Units	87.9%	90.4%	84.7%	88.2%
Vacant Housing Units	12.1%	9.6%	15.3%	11.8%
Homeowner Vacancy Rate	2.0	2.0	5.3	0.0
Rental Vacancy Rate	6.3	6.3	11.6	14.4
Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2011-2015 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates				

# Home Values

Figure 7.2 illustrates a wide range of home values for owner-occupied units in Trimble County. The largest category was \$50,000 to \$99,999 with 796 homes or 29.6% of owner-occupied housing stock valued within that price range. The next highest range was \$100,000 to \$149,999 with 557 homes or 20.7%, followed by the \$150,000 to \$199,999 range with 467 or 17.4%. Ranked fourth was the less than \$50,000 range with 381 or 14.2%, followed by 357 or 13.3% of homeowners who own homes within the \$200,000 to \$299,999 range. There were only 118 or 4.8% of homeowners in Trimble County owning a home valued at \$300,000 or more.

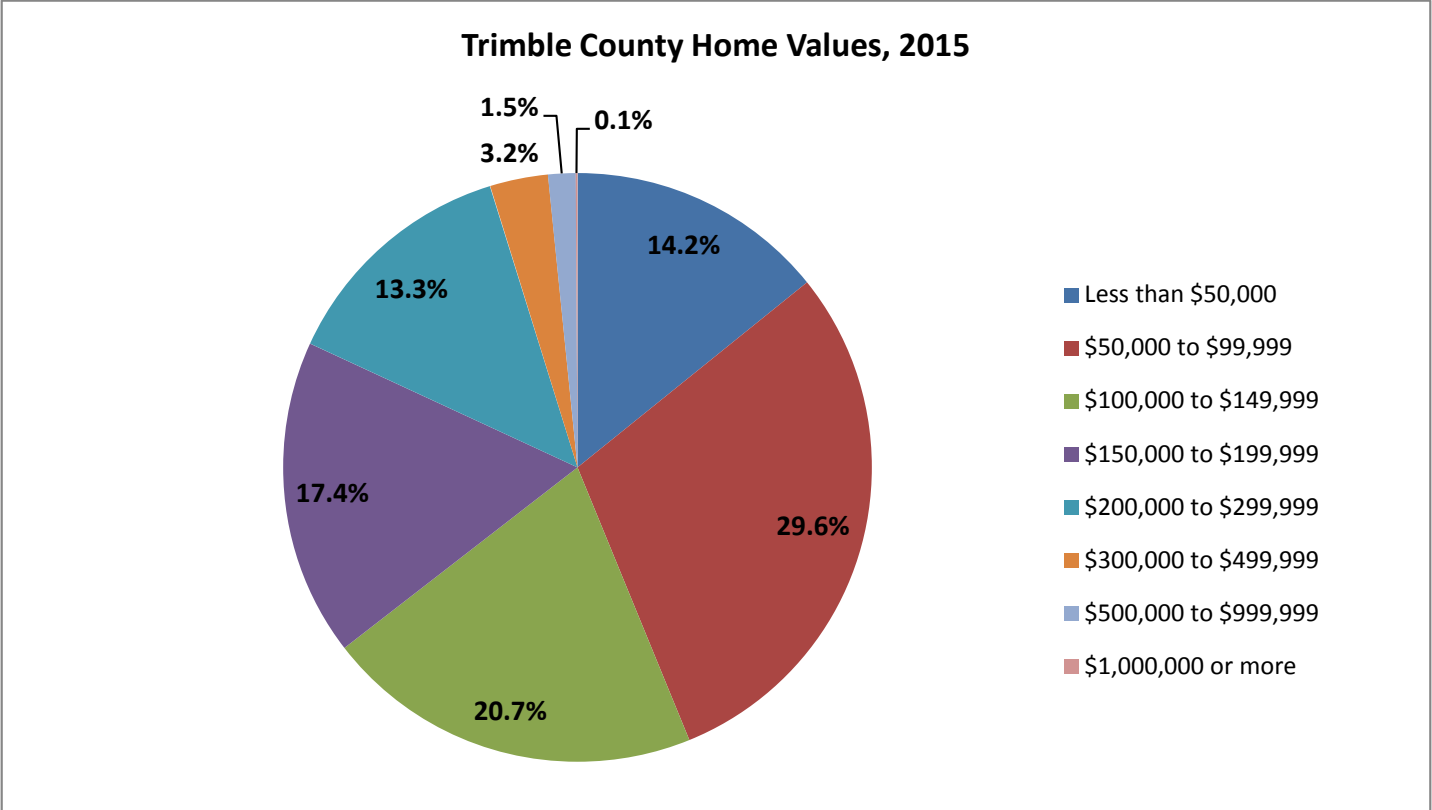


Figure 7.2 , Source: U.S. Census Bureau American Community Survey 2011-2015

# Housing Types and Affordability

Table 7.2 displays type of housing and the number of units per structure. The majority of homes are 1-unit, detached housing units with 2,840 or 72.4% of homes in the county falling into this category. Mobile home owners make up the second largest category in the county with 23.1% or 905 total units. The remaining 4.5% of housing units are made up of multiple units in a structure with 5 to 9 units being the largest of these categories, totaling 66 or 1.7%. Out of the 862 renter-occupied units within Trimble County, there are 676 of those units that pay rent each month with 186 having no rent paid. The majority of renters, 410 or 60.7%, pay between \$500 to \$999 a month, followed by 139 or 20.6% of renters paying less than \$500, 124 or 18.3% renters paying between \$1,000 to \$1,499, and 3 renters or 0.4% paying between \$1,500 and \$1,999. One data trend that should be considered is the high rate of renters in Trimble County whom are considered cost-burdened. There are 221 residents or 33.5% of all renters in who pay more than 35% of their household income on their housing. This figure is up from 28.4% in 2010. Efforts should be made to find ways to decrease this statistic so that income disparity and impoverished conditions do not begin to permeate the county’s communities.

**Table 7.2: Units in Structure, Trimble County, 2011-2015**

Type	Number of Units	Percentage
1-unit, detached	2,840	72.40%
1-unit, attached	1	0.00%
2 units	5	0.10%
3 or 4 units	39	1.00%
5 to 9 units	66	1.70%
10 to 19 units	24	0.60%
20 or more units	36	0.90%
Mobile home	905	23.10%
Boat, RV, van, etc.	7	0.20%
<b>Total Housing Units</b>	<b>3,923</b>	
Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2011-2015 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates		

Table 7.3 shows the types of housing heating fuel used by households in Trimble County. The majority of housing units, 2,227 or 62.8% use electricity. Followed by bottled, tank, or LP gas with 526 units or 14.8%, utility gas with 438 units or 12.3%, wood with 282 or 7.9%, fuel oil, kerosene, etc. with 54 units or 4.5%, the remaining 21 housing units use coal, some other fuel, or no fuel. There are no homes in Trimble County heating with solar energy. Of the 3,548 occupied housing units there are 20 homes lacking complete plumbing facilities, 32 lacking complete kitchen facilities, and 81 with no telephone service.

**Table 7.3: Types of Housing Heating Fuel**

Type	# of Units	Percentage
Utility gas	438	12.30%
Bottled, tank, or LP gas	526	14.80%
Electricity	2,227	62.80%
Fuel oil, kerosene, etc.	54	1.50%
Coal or coke	2	0.10%
Wood	282	7.90%
Solar energy	0	0.00%
Other fuel	10	0.30%
No fuel used	9	0.30%
Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2011-2015 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates		



Table 7.4 illustrates Trimble County’s household vehicle accessibility. According to the U.S. Census Bureau, 6.8% or 241 households have no vehicle availability. Comparatively, 7.8% of households in Kentucky have no vehicle access. When looking at the cities in Trimble County that number increases, 10.8% in Bedford and 14.3% in Milton. No or limited vehicle access speaks to the economic security of these residents living in a county where the majority of residents have to commute to access job opportunities and other resources. Conversely, the number of Trimble County households with 3 or more vehicles is higher than the state average of 20.6%, at 1047 households or 29.5%.

Table 7.4: Household Vehicle Accessibility, 2011-2015				
	Kentucky	Trimble County	Bedford	Milton
Occupied Housing Units	1,708,499	3,548	260	321
No Vehicles Available	7.8%	6.8%	10.8%	14.3%
1 Vehicle Available	33.6%	27.8%	52.7%	40.5%
2 Vehicles Available	37.9%	35.9%	25.0%	30.5%
3 or More Vehicles Available	20.6%	29.5%	11.5%	14.6%
Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2011-2015 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates				

## Affordable Housing

The U.S Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) defines affordable housing as “housing for which the occupant(s) is/are paying no more than 30 percent of his or her income for gross housing costs, including utilities. Families who pay more than 30 percent of their income for housing are considered cost burdened and may have difficulty affording necessities such as food, clothing, transportation and medical care.” HUD provides funding for various affordable housing and rental assistance programs offered through Public Housing Agencies to help low income individuals and families. The Kentucky Housing Corporation (KHC) located in Frankfort is the agency that serves Trimble County. The county’s federally assisted affordable rental housing stock includes properties financed through programs including Section 8 Housing Choice Vouchers, project-based Section 8 contracts, Low Income Housing Tax Credit (LIHTC), Project Based Rental Assistance, Section 515 Rural Rental Housing, and Rural Development Rental Assistance. According to U.S. Census Bureau, 2011-2015 American Community Survey 5- Year Estimates, in Trimble County approximately 21% of homeowners pay more than 30% of their household income on their mortgage and 43% of renters pay greater than 30% of their household income on rental costs. This highlights the need to increase affordable housing options within the county. Descriptions of various affordable housing programs are below:

- The HOME Program provides funds for tenant-based rental assistance, construction of new rental units or rehabilitation of existing rental units. Requirements for tenancy vary according to activity and each project’s tenant selection plan may be different.
- The Housing Credit (HC) program provides tax incentives for the development of multifamily housing for families whose incomes are less than 60 percent of area median income.

- The Rural Development Program serves low and moderate income families in rural areas. Low income senior citizens or families paying rent of more than 30 percent of their adjusted annual incomes can qualify for rental assistance. In properties not offering rental assistance, tenants pay the greater of 30 percent of adjusted income or the base rent. Low-interest rate loans are made to owners to reduce the rents (including utilities) paid by low income tenants.
- The Section 8 program helps low and very low income families pay their rent. Eligible tenants must pay the highest of either 30 percent of their adjusted income or 10 percent of their gross income. Many Section 8 apartments are reserved for the elderly. A small portion of the units are specially designed for the mobility impaired.
- The Small Multifamily Affordable Loan Program (SMAL) is designed to increase the supply of affordable rental housing for lower-income individuals. The program makes it easier for developers to build smaller projects than with more traditional sources of funding. One of the benefits of the SMAL Program is that, when used as a sole source of funding, it serves people whose incomes are too high to receive assistance with other KHC programs.

**Table 7.5: Affordable Housing Properties in Trimble County, Kentucky**

Property Name	Address	City	Total Assisted Units	Total Elderly Units	Total Accessible Units	Programs
Bedford Apartments	340 McDowell Lane	Bedford	8	0	0	Rural Development
Bedford Commons	701 Leasure Court	Bedford	40	13	2	Project-Based Section 8
Fairground Place	135 Fairground Rd	Bedford	19	19	2	Housing Credit; Rural Development
Millennium Rentals I	Martini Lane	Bedford	2	0	0	SMAL Multifamily
Good News Homes		Bedford	4			Section 8
Churchwood Apartments	100 Churchwood Lane	Milton	24			Rural Development, Project Based Section 8
Swan Crest Rentals	Brandon Way	Milton	5	0	0	HOME

Source: Kentucky Housing Corporation, Trimble County Fiscal Court





# Historic Preservation

Currently, a need exists to increase the historic resources in Trimble County in order to better preserve and utilize these properties. One of the biggest issues researching historic properties in Trimble County is limited availability of information. Other than the National Historic Registry, few sites or agencies were dedicated to historic preservation in the county. The City of Milton does possess a historic district which can bring tax benefits, increased tourism, and adds heritage to the county. There are three main agencies exist for historic resources, but on surface, appear to be limited in scope.

1. **Kentucky Heritage Council** is Kentucky's State Preservation Historic District office. Their mission is to identify, preserve and protect the cultural resources of Kentucky.
2. **National Register of Historic Places.** The National Register of Historic Places is the official list of the Nation's historic places worthy of preservation. Authorized by the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, the National Park Service's National Register of Historic Places is part of a national program to coordinate and support public and private efforts to identify, evaluate, and protect America's historic and archeological resources. There are currently 29 sites listed on the National Register in Trimble County.
3. **Trimble County Historical Society** creates genealogy and surname tables to trace family heritage and links historic census indices. However, the website has not been updated in almost 5 years.





## Trimble County Historic Properties on the National Register

**Table 7.6:**

	Name on the Register	Date listed	City or town
1	Bates House	April 9, 1984 (#84002026)	Bedford
2	Callis General Store and Post Office	July 21, 1983 (#83002878)	Bedford
3	Coleman House	July 21, 1983 (#83002880)	Bedford
4	William L. Coleman House	July 21, 1983 (#83002879)	Bedford
5	Ginn's Furniture Store	July 21, 1983 (#83002881)	Milton
6	Hancock House	April 9, 1984 (#84002029)	Bedford
7	House at Moffett Cemetery Road	July 21, 1983 (#83002882)	Milton
8	House on KY 1492	April 9, 1984 (#84002031)	Milton
9	House Tm-B-7	April 9, 1984 (#84002033)	Bedford
10	House Tm-M-27	April 9, 1984 (#84002035)	Milton
11	House Tm-M-28	April 9, 1984 (#84002036)	Milton
12	Humphrey Place	July 21, 1983 (#83002883)	Bedford
13	Hunter's Bottom Historic District	August 11, 1976 (#76000862)	Carrollton
14	W.W. Logan House	April 9, 1984 (#84002052)	Bedford
15	Milton Masonic Lodge and County General Store	July 21, 1983 (#83002884)	Milton
16	Moreland School	April 9, 1984 (#84002053)	Milton
17	Neal House	April 9, 1984 (#84002054)	Milton
18	Norfolk Farm Tenant Log House	January 8, 2014 (#13001055)	Bedford
19	Old Kentucky Tavern	July 21, 1983 (#83002885)	Bedford
20	Page House	April 10, 1984 (#84002056)	Milton
21	Page-Bell House	July 21, 1983 (#83002886)	Milton
22	Peak House	April 9, 1984 (#84002057)	Bedford
23	Preston House	July 21, 1983 (#83002887)	Milton
24	Rowlett House	April 9, 1984 (#84002058)	Milton
25	Rowlett's Grocery	July 21, 1983 (#83002888)	Milton
26	Third Street Historic District	April 10, 1984 (#84002059)	Milton
27	Trimble County Jail	April 9, 1984 (#84002061)	Bedford
28	Trout House	July 21, 1983 (#83002889)	Milton
29	Yeager General Store	July 21, 1983 (#83004528)	Wises Landing

# Future Housing Needs

The county supports mixed-land uses, where appropriate, that provide access to neighborhood services that support an environmentally friendly and walkable community. As with all development, private choices affect public policy concerning intersecting land uses, public facilities and services, transportation loads, and environmental protection. Conversely, public policy affects housing location and costs through the provision of utilities, zoning, subdivision regulations, and building codes. Thus, the county seeks to provide a variety of housing options for residents in the context of preserving valuable county resources and enhancing life for all citizens. Affordable housing opportunities for residents and newcomers to the county are necessary and desired to create a diverse and stable workforce and citizenry. By promoting areas for housing development and engaging in conversation with private developers about shared infrastructure costs, the county hopes to bring greater diversity and affordability to the housing stock in Trimble County.





# Housing Implementation Strategies

- 1) **Provide information on programs and assistance at the state and federal level for funding to reinvest in deteriorating housing.**
  - a. Local government should explore ways to incentivize and promote maintenance on current housing stock.
- 2) **Residential developments should adhere to state building codes and should be enforced by a certified building inspector.**
- 3) **Enforce existing regulations related to property maintenance to ensure quality housing for all residents.**
  - a. Make sure tenants are aware of their rights and current landlord/tenant laws.
- 4) **Planning Commission should review proposed development to safeguard residential areas from being encroached upon by incompatible land uses.**
- 5) **A variety of housing should be available, specifically focusing on affordable housing in the incorporated areas.**
  - a. Housing options should include multifamily housing, public housing, and senior living facilities.





# Section 8: Economic Development

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## Introduction

An analysis of the county's local economy is essential when developing land use policies and regulations that will support the growth and prosperity of the local economy. A strong economic development plan will support the needs of new and existing businesses and ultimately improve the quality of life of Trimble County residents. Expanding the tax base in Trimble County will provide more employment opportunities and enable the local government to continue to provide and improve upon public services. Increasing employment opportunities could also be a stimulus to gaining population.

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**Goal:** *Encourage a strong economic base that fosters employment opportunities for Trimble County residents.*

**Objective A:** Foster and encourage structured, long-term growth of residential, commercial and industrial uses within defined areas.

**Objective B:** The development of commercial and industrial uses should be compatible with surrounding land uses.

**Objective C:** The expansion of existing businesses and clean industries should be promoted.

**Objective D:** In order to accommodate new industry, the county and cities must acquire physical, social and community resources for development.

**Objective E:** Encourage the revitalization of buildings and facilities to enhance new commercial, retail and professional businesses in and around Bedford and Milton.

**Objective F:** Develop necessary infrastructure, both traditional and technological, such as high speed internet service, to encourage the retention and expansion of businesses.

**Objective G:** Support programs that invest in the human capital through education, mental health and training opportunities.

**Objective H:** Tourism shall be explored as an economic resource while minimizing potential negative impacts.

# Current Employment

Trimble County has a civilian labor force of 4,212 with a participation rate of 60.2%. Of individuals 25 to 64 in Trimble County, Kentucky, 11.4% have a bachelor’s degree or higher which compares with 31.3% in the nation. In the first quarter of 2017, total employment for Trimble County, Kentucky was 1,453 (based on a four-quarter moving average). Over the year ending 2017Q1, employment declined 3.1% in the region. In order to reverse the decline in employment and increase the labor force participation rate there needs to be targeted efforts towards economic and workforce development.



# Unemployment and Poverty Rate

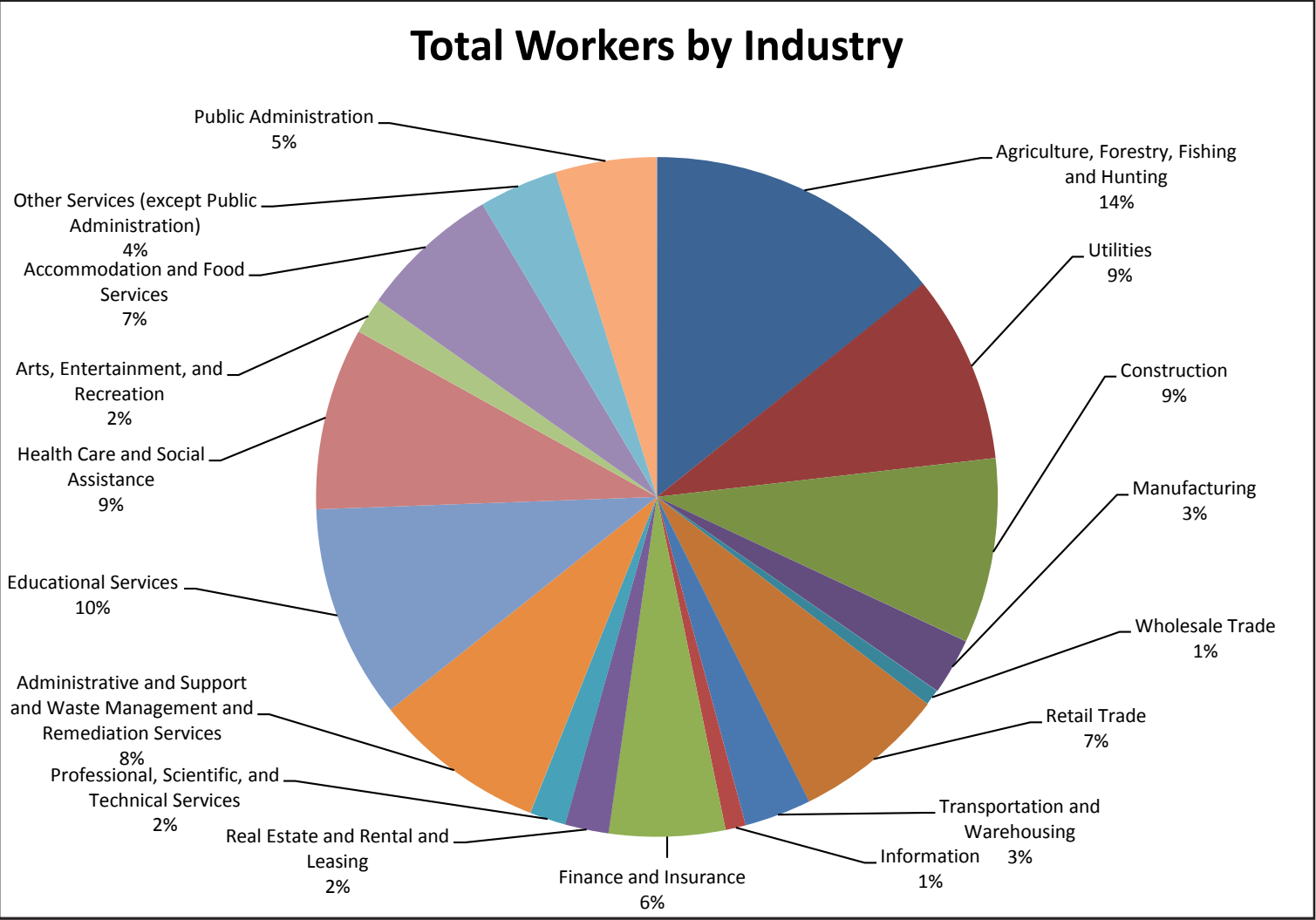
The seasonally adjusted unemployment rate for Trimble County, Kentucky was 5.0% as of May 2017. The regional unemployment rate was higher than the national rate of 4.4%. One year earlier, in May 2016, the unemployment rate in Trimble County, Kentucky was 5.3%. According to the U.S. Census Bureau, median household income in Trimble County is \$47,409, per capita income \$23,465, with 17.4% of the population living under the poverty line. In comparison, Kentucky was \$43,740, \$24,063, and 18.9%, respectively. Milton’s median income is 33% higher and their per capita income is 43% higher than Bedford; leading to Bedford having almost half of its population under the poverty line at 48.5%.

**Table 8.1: Selected Economic Characteristics, 2015**

	Trimble	Bedford	Milton	Kentucky
Median Household Income	\$47,409	\$20,833	\$30,903	\$43,740
Per Capita Income	\$23,465	\$11,131	\$19,471	\$24,063
Percent Population Under Poverty Line	17.4%	48.5%	23.7%	18.9%
Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2011-2015 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates				

# Employment by Industry

The industry with the highest employment in Trimble County is Agriculture, Forestry, Fishing and Hunting, totaling 14% with 207 employees and an average annual wage of \$7,818. Followed by Educational Services (10%) with 148 employees and an average annual wage of \$34,173, Utilities (9%) with 130 employees and an average annual wage of \$96,651, Construction (9%) with 128 employees and an average annual wage of \$38,804, and Healthcare and Social Assistance (9%) with 126 employees and an average annual wage of \$46,742. The forecasted total growth demand for each of the sectors is expected to decrease with the exception of Healthcare and Social Assistance sector with a projected growth of 0.9% or 6 jobs and Construction with a projected growth of 0.8% or 5 total jobs. Table 8.2 illustrates the current, historical, and forecast employment by industry for Trimble County. Figure 8.1 shows the percentage of total workers by industry in Trimble County.



**Figure 8.1:** Source: Jobs EQ - Employment data are derived from the Quarterly Census of Employment and Wages, provided by the Bureau of Labor Statistics and imputed where necessary. Data are updated through 2016Q3 with preliminary estimates updated to 2017Q1. Forecast employment growth uses national projections adapted for regional growth patterns.



Table 8.2: Current, Historical, and Forecast Employment by Industry, Trimble County		Current		Historical			Forecast		
		Four Quarters Ending with 2017Q1		Change Over Last 5 Years	Average Annual % Change In Employment 2012 - 2017		Over the Next 5 Years		
NAICS	Industry	Employment	Avg. Annual Wages	Employment	Trimble County	Kentucky	Total Approx. Repl. Demand	Total Growth Demand	Average Annual Growth %
11	Agriculture, Forestry, Fishing and Hunting	207	\$7,818	0	0.00%	0.40%	36	-10	-1.00%
22	Utilities	130	\$96,651	-32	-4.30%	-0.30%	16	-7	-1.20%
23	Construction	128	\$38,804	-5	-0.70%	1.50%	13	5	0.80%
31	Manufacturing	39	\$65,153	8	4.70%	3.20%	4	-3	-1.40%
42	Wholesale Trade	11	\$44,150	-2	-3.80%	1.00%	1	1	1.80%
44	Retail Trade	105	\$20,298	-4	-0.80%	1.20%	16	1	0.10%
48	Transportation and Warehousing	46	\$56,980	9	4.40%	2.70%	6	-3	-1.20%
51	Information	14	\$27,831	-6	-6.70%	-2.50%	2	0	0.00%
52	Finance and Insurance	80	\$42,726	14	3.90%	2.00%	9	0	0.00%
53	Real Estate and Rental and Leasing	30	\$25,169	10	9.00%	1.00%	3	1	0.60%
54	Professional, Scientific, and Technical Services	25	\$57,982	-6	-4.10%	1.80%	3	1	1.00%
56	Administrative and Support and Waste Management and Remediation Services	119	\$28,730	63	16.50%	3.50%	13	2	0.30%
61	Educational Services	148	\$34,173	-66	-7.10%	-1.00%	15	-4	-0.60%
62	Health Care and Social Assistance	126	\$46,742	2	0.20%	1.00%	12	6	0.90%
71	Arts, Entertainment, and Recreation	25	\$22,168	17	25.80%	2.30%	4	1	0.50%
72	Accommodation and Food Services	97	\$11,236	27	6.90%	2.40%	17	1	0.30%
81	Other Services (except Public Administration)	54	\$23,093	5	1.80%	-0.60%	7	1	0.30%
92	Public Administration	70	\$27,148	7	2.00%	-0.60%	8	1	0.20%
	Total - All Industries	1,453	\$39,170	41	0.60%	1.20%	176	-6	-0.10%

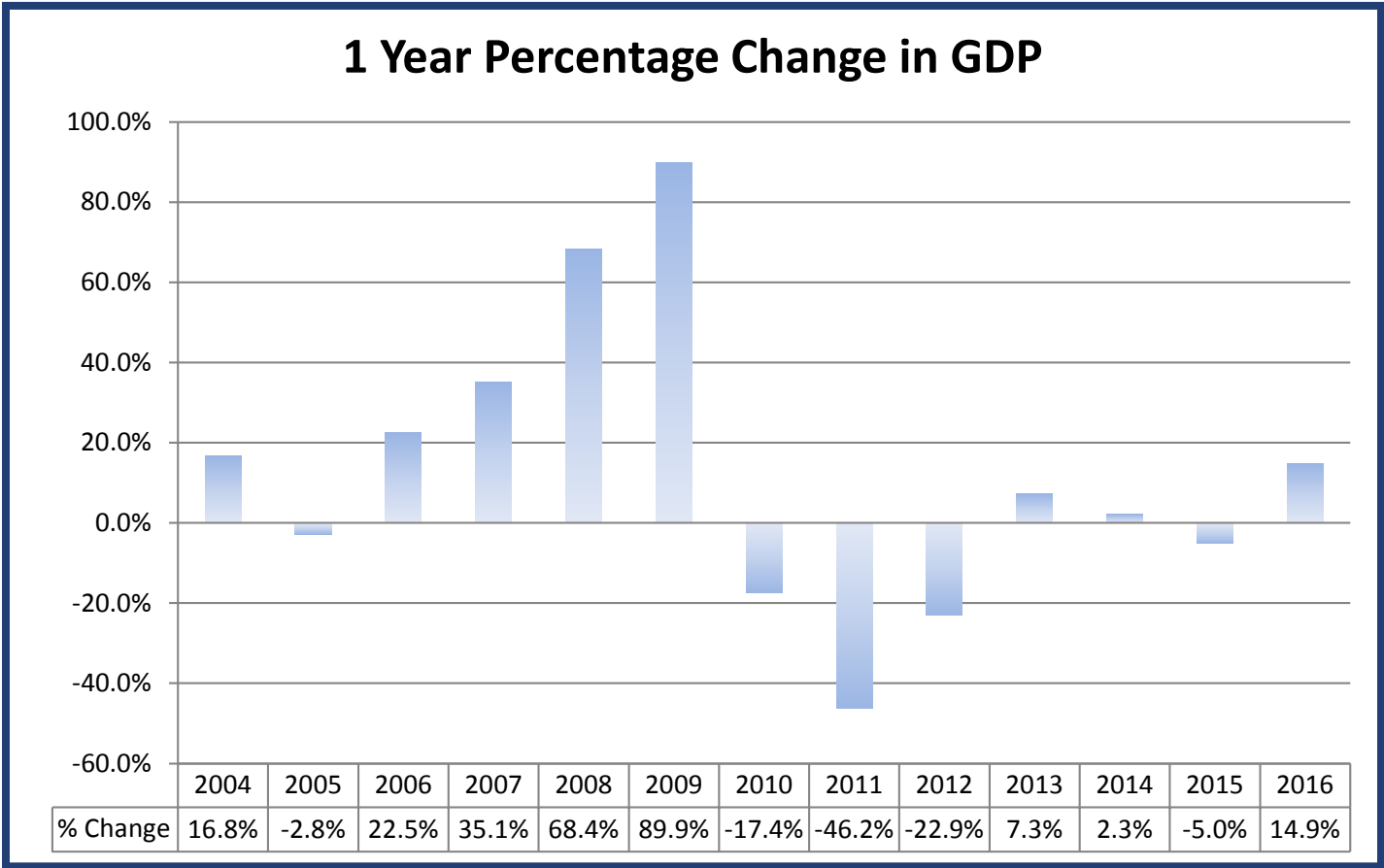
Source: Jobs EQ - Employment data are derived from the Quarterly Census of Employment and Wages, provided by the Bureau of Labor Statistics and imputed where necessary. Data are updated through 2016Q3 with preliminary estimates updated to 2017Q1. Forecast employment growth uses national projections adapted for regional growth patterns.

Table 8.3 (below) lists the top three private sector employers in Trimble County in 2015. Air Methods Corporation, located in Bedford, had the largest number of employees at 150, followed by Signature Health Care with 50, and Farmers Bank with 32.

Table 8.3: Largest Private Sector Employers		
Company Name	City	Employment (2015)
Air Methods Corp	Bedford	150
Signature Health Care	Bedford	50
Farmers Bank	Milton	32
Source: ESRI/Business Analyst, 2015		

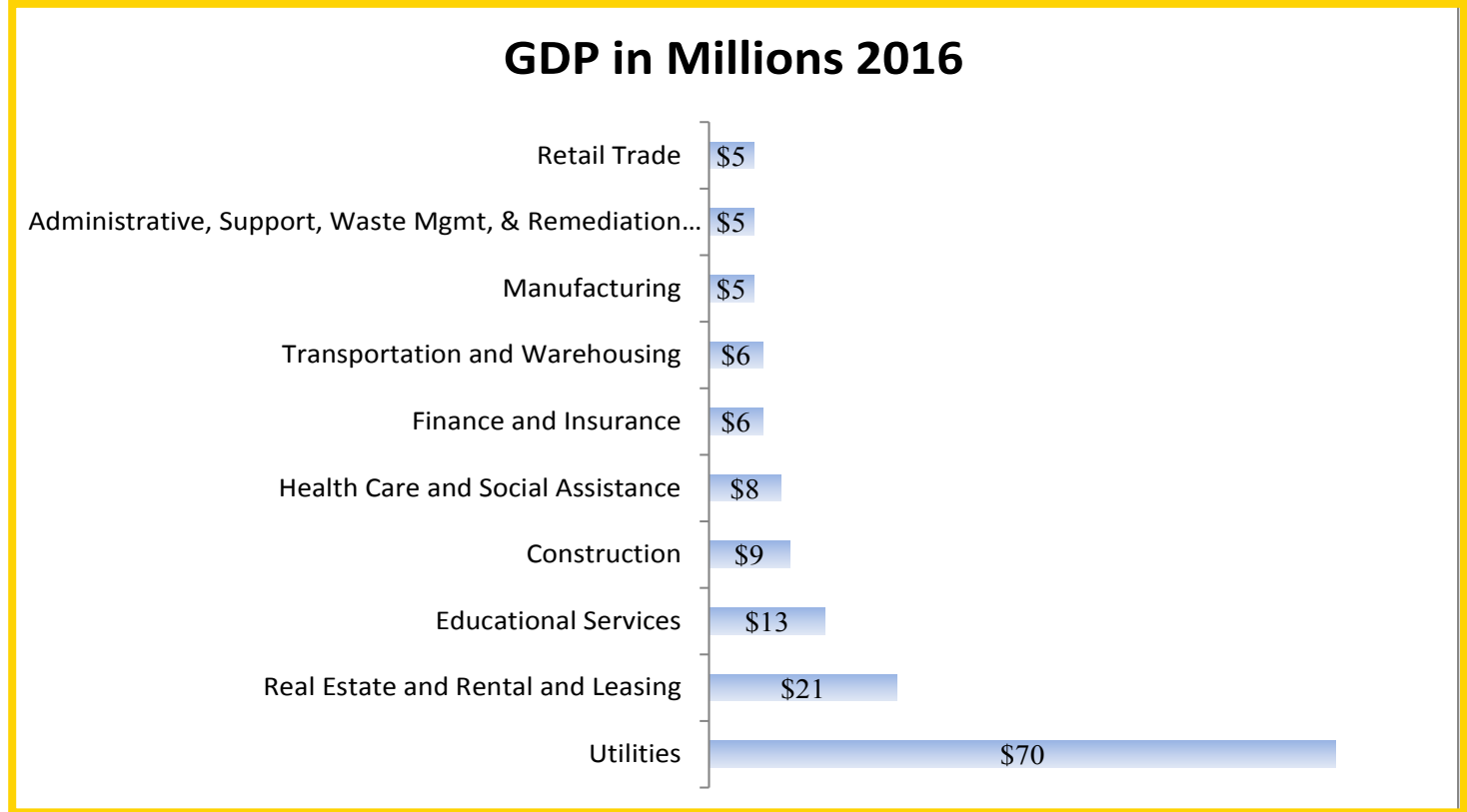
### Gross Domestic Product

Gross Domestic Product (GDP) is the total value of goods and services produced by a region. In 2016, nominal GDP in Trimble County, Kentucky expanded 14.9%. This follows a contraction of 5.0% in 2015. As of 2016, total GDP in Trimble County, Kentucky was \$166,523,000.



**Figure 8.2:** Source: Bureau of Economic Analysis, Imputed by Chmura where necessary, updated through 2016

Of the sectors in Trimble County, Kentucky, Utilities contributed the largest portion of GDP in 2016, \$70,196,000. The next-largest contributions came from Real Estate and Rental and Leasing (\$20,527,000); Educational Services (\$12,590,000); and Construction (\$9,327,000).



**Figure 8.3:** Source: Bureau of Economic Analysis, Imputed by Chmura where necessary, updated through 2016

### Wage Trends

The average worker in Trimble County, Kentucky earned annual wages of \$39,170 in the first quarter of 2017. Average annual wages per worker increased 8.8% in the region during the preceding four quarters. For comparison purposes, annual average wages were \$53,246 in the nation in the first quarter of 2017. The top industries with the highest average annual wage in Trimble County is Utilities at \$96, 651, followed by Manufacturing at \$65,153, Professional, Scientific, & Technical Services at \$57, 982, Transportation & Warehousing at \$56, 980, and Healthcare & Social Assistance at \$46, 742.





# Commuting Conditions

Table 8.4 displays the various means of transportation and commute time for Trimble, Bedford, Milton, and Kentucky in 2015. According to the U.S. Census Bureau, Trimble County residents travel a mean commuting time to work of just under 30 minutes (29.6) which is higher than the average Kentucky commute time of 23 minutes. The majority of commuters (86.3%) drive alone to work while 10.1% carpool and only 0.3% walk. The higher commute time is not surprising as most of the county’s employed residents (88.4%) are working outside the county which highlights the lack jobs available in the county. Table 8.5 illustrates the inflow and outflow job counts of primary jobs in 2014. The data show that of the 3,556 employed residents in the county, only 412 (11.6%) were living and working in Trimble County.



**Table 8.4: Means of Transportation, 2015**

	Trimble	Bedford	Milton	Kentucky
Mean Travel Time to Work (Minutes)	29.6	24.9	23.7	23.0
Drove Alone	86.3%	62.9%	81.1%	82.4%
Carpooled	10.1%	28.4%	15.5%	9.7%
Public Transportation	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	1.1%
Walked	0.3%	1.1%	2.6%	2.4%
Bicycle	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.2%
Taxicab, Motorcycle, or Other Means	1.1%	0.0%	0.0%	1.0%
Worked at Home	2.3%	7.6%	0.9%	3.1%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2011-2015 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates

**Table 8.5: Inflow/Outflow Job Counts 2014 (Primary Jobs)**

	Count	Share
Employed in the Selection Area	1,003	100.0%
Employed in the Selection Area, but Living Outside	591	58.9%
Employed and Living in the Selection Area	412	41.1%
Living in the Selection Area	3,556	1.0%
Living in the Selection Area, but Employed Outside	3,144	88.4%
Living and Employed in the Selection Area	412	11.6%
Source: Census On the Map		

## Workforce Development

Having an educated and trained workforce is the cornerstone to a strong economy. Trimble County has already committed to improving their workforce by becoming a Work Ready Community in Progress. The program states that participation in the program “offers counties the opportunity to transform the local economy and gain a



competitive advantage in attracting new businesses and jobs.” Promoting and expanding various educational and workforce training opportunities are listed in Trimble County’s Work Ready Plan. One of the entities listed in the Work Ready plan include adult education services at Jefferson Community and Technical College (JCTC) Adult Education Services. Trimble County should also utilize the services offered by Kentuckiana Works. They operate a regional network of Kentucky Career Center services that includes job and career counseling, training, resume-building and direct referral to employers.





## Technological Advancements

Improving access to technology, in particular, high speed internet is a necessity for economic development in order to expand and attract new businesses. The demand for more advanced, reliable, and affordable broadband affects every segment of the community including commerce, education, healthcare and government services. It is recommended that Trimble County create a committee dedicated to developing effective strategies for connecting their citizens, businesses, and institutions to expanded broadband services.



## Tourism

As previously mentioned in the Agriculture Element, promoting Trimble County as a destination for agricultural and recreational tourism and food-themed cultural activities could be an additional economic driver for the community. Current successful events include the Apple Festival, the Trimble County Fair and the 4-H Festival. Developing more events that highlight the agricultural businesses and recreational tourism can greatly increase local economic opportunity by showcasing the existing strengths and rural heritage of the community. The creation of a Farmer's Market is another way to support the local agricultural businesses and include in the agritourism framework. According to the 2012 Census of Agriculture, there were 33,000 farms in the U.S. that offered agritourism and recreational services such as farm or winery tours, hayrides, hunting, fishing, and other such activities. Drawing in tourism dollars would help the already existing businesses in the county and allow them to expand and potentially be a catalyst for new business development.





# Economic Development Implementation Strategies

- 1) **Create a Chamber of Commerce, economic development position, or taskforce to attract new business development and provide support to existing businesses to sustain or grow.**
  - a. Position could be contracted out to Kentuckiana Regional Planning & Development Agency.
- 2) **Economic development position should create an inventory of buildings and/or site locations in Milton and Bedford to promote targeted revitalization efforts.**
- 3) **Create a Technology Advancement Committee that will work with Kentucky Wired to expand high speed internet capabilities throughout the county.**
- 4) **Continue to move forward with Kentucky Work Ready initiative goals to become a Certified Work Ready county.**
- 5) **A Tourism Committee should be established to pursue agritourism and recreational tourism efforts.**
- 6) **Promote the development of clean industries.**



# Section 9: Transportation

## Introduction

It is imperative that maintenance continues and future Trimble County transportation improvements be made to the Trimble County highway network so the highway system can be safe, reliable, and effective. Many of the residents of Trimble County commute long distances to work and to get their children to activities or amenities outside of the county and depend upon a safe and well maintained network. If economic development opportunities are to be encouraged then quality roads must be kept and to entice businesses looking to expand their warehousing or manufacturing facilities. Included in the Transportation plan in the Trimble County Comprehensive Plan is a listing of future transportation improvements.

**Goal:** *Maintain and improve upon current transportation systems to ensure the most efficient and safe movement of people and goods.*

**Objective A:** Support the development of new walking and biking trails to create an alternate transportation and recreation network.

**Objective B:** Existing substandard right-of-ways and roadways should be upgraded when new development occurs.

**Objective C:** The construction and repairing of sidewalks should provide for the safe movement of pedestrians through new residential subdivisions in Bedford and Milton.

**Objective D:** Maintain the existing roadways to ensure good condition and safety. Improve street systems by upgrading existing roads in accordance with county criteria.

**Objective E:** Identify high priority transportation improvements and advocate for their inclusion of the state's Six Year Road Plan.

**Objective F:** Continue to promote the improvements along US 421.





## Roadways

Trimble County is served by two major state roads US 421 and US 42. The US 421 corridor runs north to south and links together the incorporated cities in the county of Bedford and Milton. The US 42 corridor runs east to west through Bedford to the Carroll County line. Also, there is a portion of Interstate-71 that runs through the southeast corner of Trimble County.

The I-71 Interstate is designated as the National Truck Network. The National Truck Network route is a state maintained road system which have been specifically designated by KYTC and approved by Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) for use by motor vehicles (trucks) with increased dimensions (e.g., 102 inches wide, 13-6" high, semi-trailers up to 53 feet long, trailers 28 feet long-not to exceed two (2) trailers per truck).



## Waterways

The major navigable waterway to Trimble County is the Ohio River. The Ohio River borders north and western parts of Trimble County. There are no public river ports or ferries that are located in Trimble County. The Little Kentucky River begins from the Ohio River in Carroll County but then meanders several miles in Trimble County before exiting at the southernmost border into Henry County near Sulpher.



## Airports

There are no airports located in Trimble County. The closest small aircraft airport is located in Madison, Indiana across the Ohio River, approximately 10 miles northwest of Milton. The two major airports that have commercial airline and airfreight services are located in Louisville International Airport-Standiford Field (SDF) and the Northern Kentucky International Airport. Scheduled commercial airline and airfreight services are available at Louisville International Airport, which is 37 miles southwest of Trimble County, and the Cincinnati/Northern Kentucky International Airport, which is approximately 47 miles north of Trimble County.



# Walkability

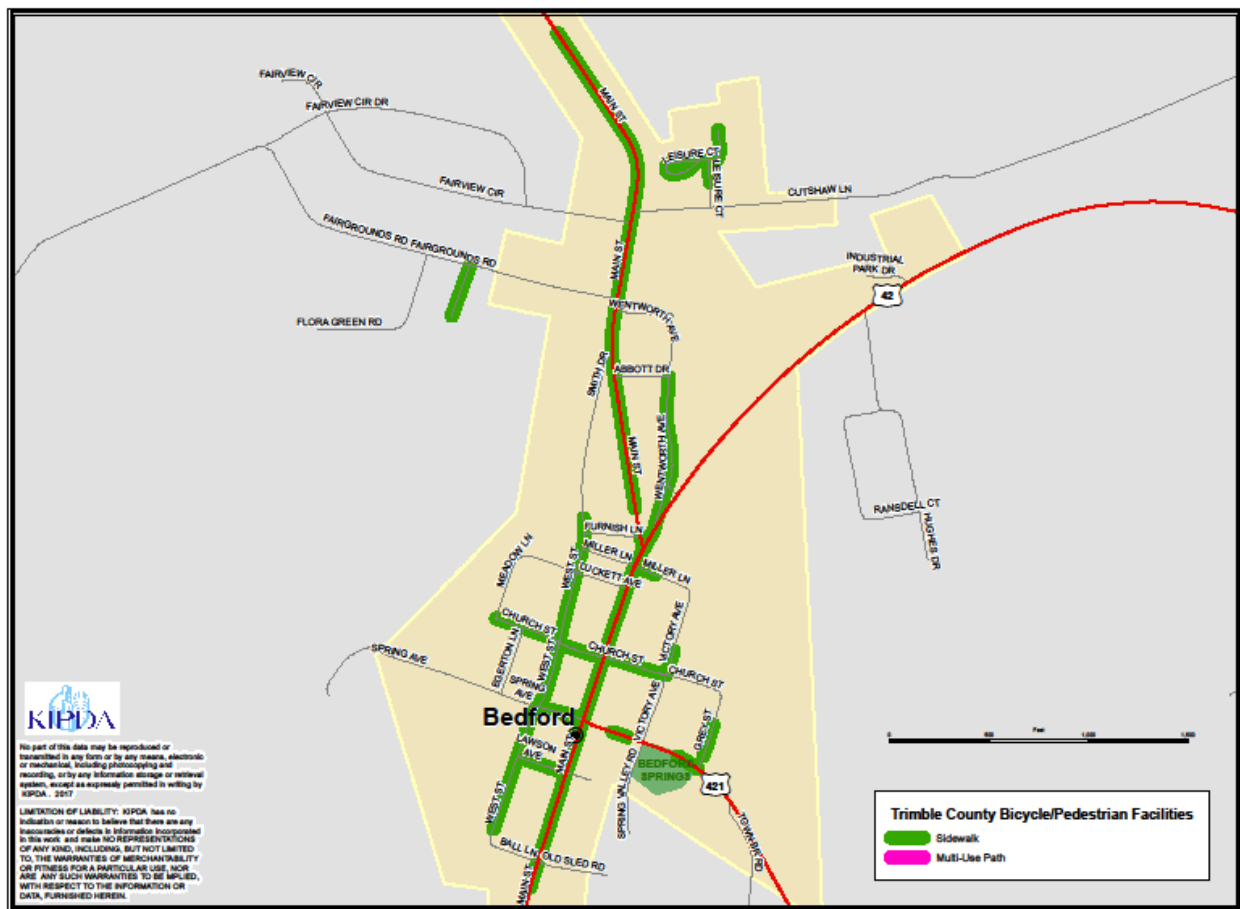
The quality of life of an area is impacted by how its users are able to move, commute, connect and socialize. Trimble County is traditionally a rural county but its residents, especially the ones who live in and right around the incorporated areas, depend on the resources that the County Seat of Bedford and the City of Milton provide. There are churches, apartments, homes, schools, restaurants, dozens of businesses, the County Courthouse, libraries and civic and cultural amenities in these denser, more urban areas of Trimble County and more importantly they are where most residents socialize and interact with each other. In order for these areas to thrive and serve as the social nodes and commercial districts they were created to be, they need to be well connected and have a strong sense of walkability and pedestrian safety. A sidewalk system within a community enhances connectivity, promotes walking and serves as a safety mechanism for youth who would otherwise most likely be walking along the shoulder of the road. Greater walkability improves the overall quality of life of an area and allows people to feel more engaged and a part of their community. Walking allows residents to slow down and be a part of the town and not just pass through it in an automobile.

## Sidewalks

There are sidewalks in both Bedford and Milton. Figures 9.1 and 9.2 illustrate the sidewalks and multi-use paths in both of these incorporated cities. Sidewalks are vital to lower-income residents who reside within the city limits and depend on them because they have unreliable transportation. They are also utilized by children traveling to school, the library or in Milton's case, the city park. Through the county's comprehensive planning process, there were many residents who voiced their opinion that sidewalks be better maintained and new ones created in Bedford and Milton. An implementation strategy has been created to address the need to identify locations where improvements should be made, streets where new sidewalks should be created for better connectivity purposes and a regulation that all new urban residential developments include mandatory sidewalk construction.

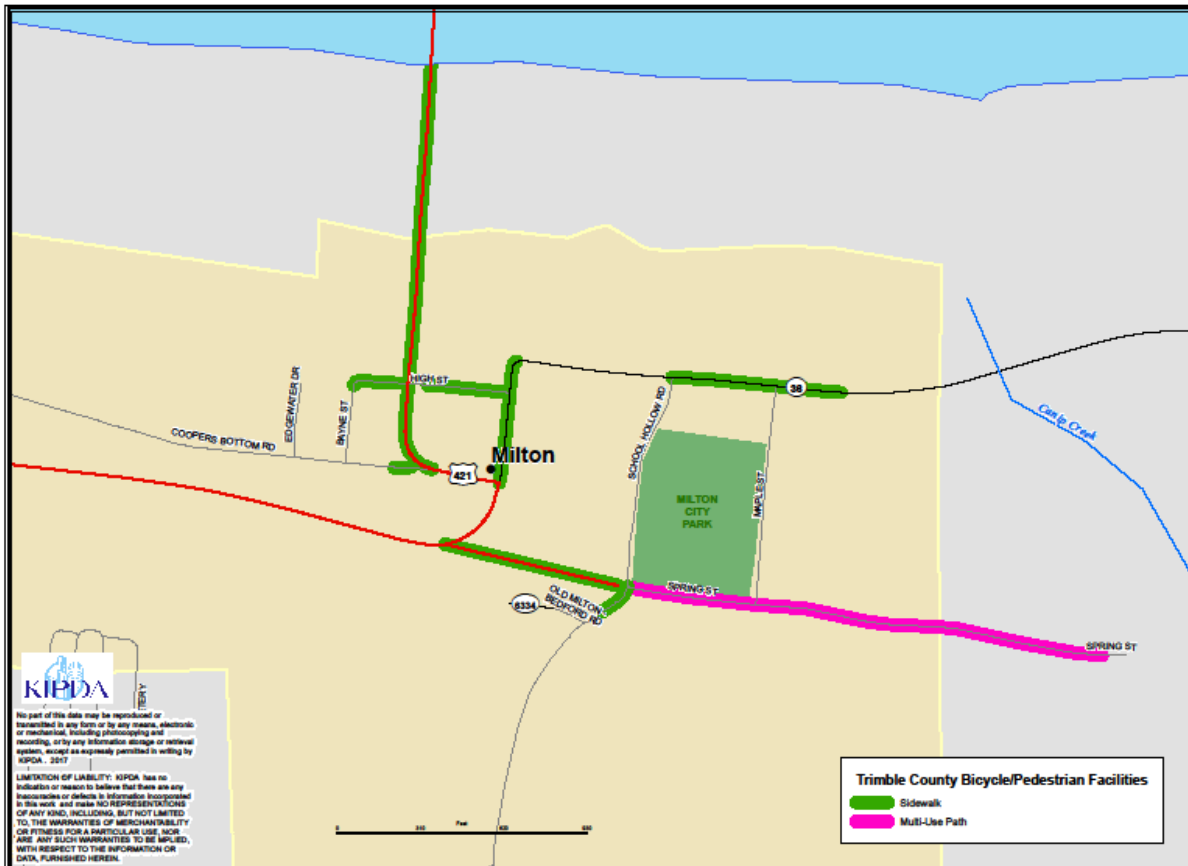


## City of Bedford Sidewalks



Map 9.1

## City of Milton Sidewalks



Map 9.2



## Multi-Use Trails

There is a multi-use trail that was built on the Milton Madison Bridge over the Ohio River. Also, there is a multi-use trail that runs on Vaughan Drive in Madison, IN underneath the Milton Madison Bridge. This multi-use trail is approximately a mile and half on West Vaughan Drive and East Vaughan Drive on the waterfront in Madison.



## Future Transportation Projects

There are four Kentucky Transportation Cabinet (KYTC) sponsored highway projects on the horizon for future transportation improvements in Trimble County. Trimble County highway projects in the horizon for future transportation improvements. The first transportation project is a bridge replacement over Little Kentucky River on KY 2871, 150 feet northwest of KY 1335. The KY 2871 bridge replacement has been let for construction for November 2017 and the project is scheduled to be complete by July 2018. There are three school buses that cross the KY 2871 bridge daily and is a major safety issue, especially when the bridge floods. The second transportation project is north of Bedford on US 421 that would add turn lanes and address safety issues at the intersection of US 421/KY 1226. The third transportation project is also north of Bedford on US 421 and would add a left turn lane into the Trimble County High School. The last transportation project is on KY 36 in Milton near the Milton Madison Bridge. This project is to improve safety, truck mobility, and address geometric deficiencies along KY 36 from US 421 to 250 feet east of School Hollow Road. There is a sight distance and safety issue for trucks and cars at the blind curve on KY 36 near US 421 in downtown Milton. The KY 36 corridor between Milton and Carrollton runs along the Ohio River and is connected to US 421 at Milton Madison Bridge approaches. KY 36 is a major truck route and is utilized by trucks daily coming and going from Kentucky and Indiana. The four future transportation improvements on KY 2871, US 421, and KY 36 will improve the transportation network and make the roads safer for Trimble County.

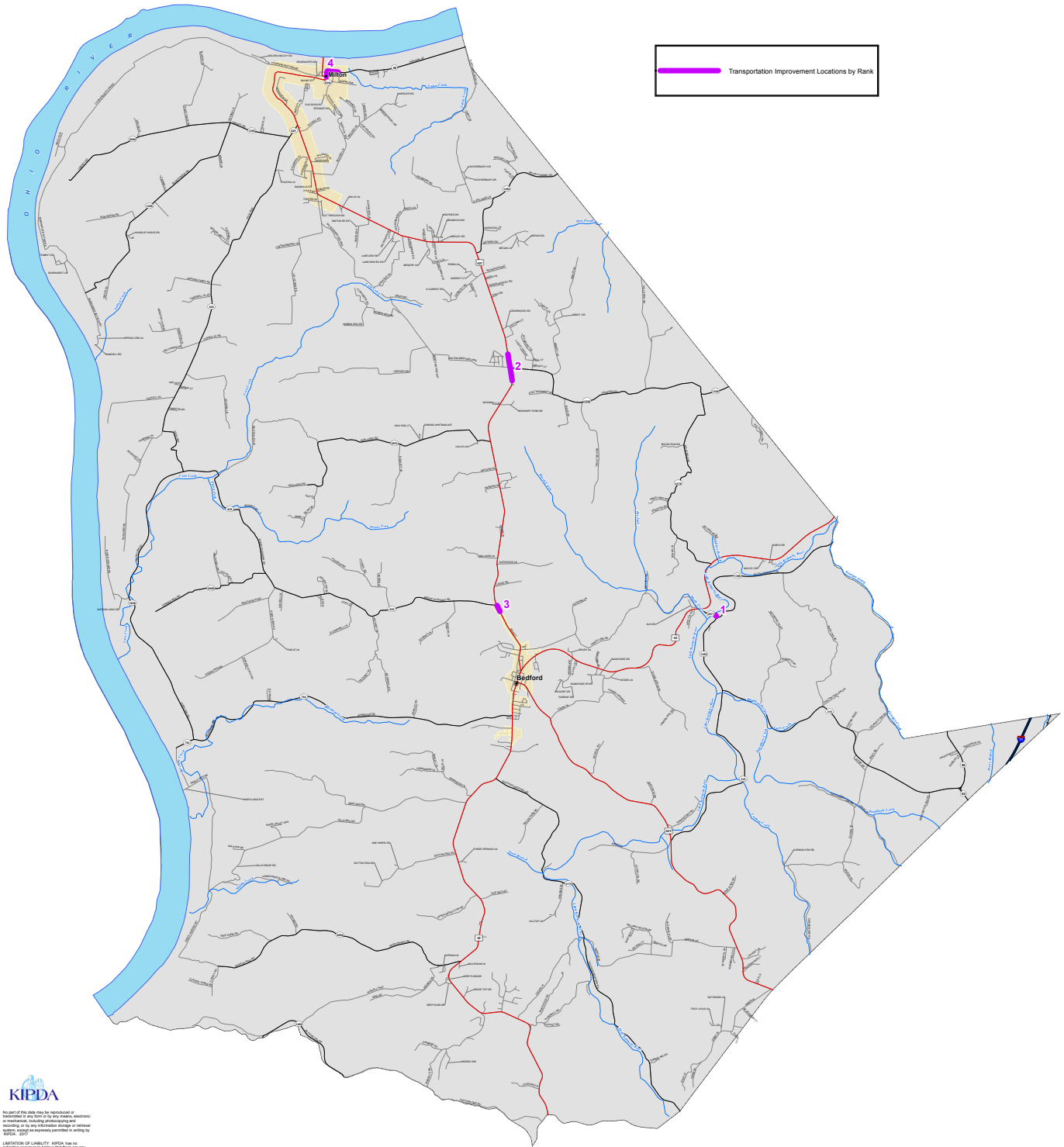
- 1) Route: KY 2871- Replace bridge over Little Kentucky River on KY 2871 150 FT NW OF KY 1335.
- 2) Route: US 421-Address safety issues and access at the intersection of US-421/KY-1226 AT MP 11.5.
- 3) Route: US 421-Construct turn lanes into Trimble County High School.
- 4) Route: KY 36-Improve safety, truck mobility, and address geometric deficiencies along KY 36 from US 421 to 250 feet east of School Hollow Road in Milton.



# Trimble County Future Transportation Improvement Locations



Locations in Order of Priority				
Route	Beginning Milepoint	Ending Milepoint	Description	Rank
112-KY-2871	0.248	0.266	Replace bridge over Little Kentucky River on KY 2871 150 ft NW of KY1335. (112B00029N) (SR=46.2)(14CCR)(16CCR)	1
112-US-0421	11.278	11.678	Address safety issues and access at the intersection of US-421/KY-1226 at MP 11.5. (12CCR)	2
112-US-0421	7.680	7.780	Construct turning lanes into Trimble County High school. (12CCN)	3
112-KY-0036	0.000	0.250	Improve safety, truck mobility, and address geometric deficiencies along KY 36 from US 421 to 250 feet east of School Hollow Road in Milton.	4



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# Transportation Implementation Strategies

- 1) **A committee should be formed to research and create a proposed bicycle and pedestrian plan that would include multi-use trails and support recreational transportation networks.**
- 2) **Continue to adhere to the existing ordinance that makes it mandatory to improve and upgrade substandard right-of-ways and roadways when new development is proposed.**
- 3) **Identify locations in incorporated areas and existing residential subdivisions that need sidewalks, sidewalk improvements, and better connectivity.**
  - a. Subdivision regulations should be reviewed and updated to include mandatory sidewalk construction within new urban residential developments.
- 4) **Follow existing county and state transportation criteria to ensure good roadway conditions and safety standards.**
  - a. Continue to advocate for funding to make needed improvements.

