



VILLAGE OF  
**BARNESVILLE**  
**VISION PLAN**

FEBRUARY 2026

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

This report is a reflection of the collaborative effort and commitment of everyone involved to foster economic growth along the commercial corridors along Main and Chestnut Streets and beyond. Special thanks to the **Community Improvement Corporation of Belmont County** and the **Village of Barnesville**'s local business leaders and residents for sharing their perspectives on current market needs and aspirations.

This Vision Plan was produced by **Atlas Community Studios**, a team specializing in project implementation and the pre-development work needed to be implementation-ready, including research, planning, funding strategies, grant writing, and advocacy.

Trail access point renderings were developed and designed by **Kudzu Collective**, an architecture and community development practice—leading workshops, building partnerships, and helping small towns build capacity for good work.

This project has been funded wholly or in part by the United States Environmental Protection Agency under assistance agreement (41-84066501) to Kansas State University. The contents of this document do not necessarily reflect the views and policies of the Environmental Protection Agency, nor does the EPA endorse trade names or recommend the use of commercial products mentioned in this document.

The results of this study do not guarantee the achievement of any specific outcome or success. The real estate market, economic conditions, regulatory environments, and numerous other factors beyond the control of any party can affect the results of any redevelopment effort. Any decision to proceed with a project or investment based on the contents of the study should be made only after careful consideration of all relevant factors, including independent financial, legal, and technical advice.

# TABLE OF CONTENTS

<b>REUSE AND CONNECTIVITY FRAMEWORK</b>	<b>4</b>
REUSE AND CONNECTIVITY AS A SYSTEM FOR BARNESVILLE	5
INTRODUCING THE LOOP TRAIL AND DOWNTOWN ACCESS POINTS	6
THE FOUR PLACES THAT ANCHOR THE LOOP	7
CONNECTIVITY FRAMEWORK	20
<b>IMPLEMENTATION FRAMEWORK AND RESOURCE GUIDE</b>	<b>24</b>
PURPOSE AND APPROACH	25
IMPLEMENTATION FRAMEWORK	25
RESOURCE GUIDE	37



# REUSE AND CONNECTIVITY FRAMEWORK

## REUSE & CONNECTIVITY AS A SYSTEM FOR BARNESVILLE

Barnesville is a small village with a long memory and a strong sense of place. Its industrial history still shows in its buildings. Its historic downtown remains intact and recognizable. Each fall, the Pumpkin Festival brings thousands of people together and reminds residents and visitors alike that this is a town that knows how to show up for itself. Add to that the Depot, the Watt Center, the Bohandy Building, and Memorial Park, and Barnesville has a collection of assets that many communities of its size would envy.

The opportunity now is not to reinvent Barnesville, but to better connect what already exists. The Depot, the Watt Center for History & the Arts, the Bohandy Building, and Memorial Park each play a different role in village life. Individually, they serve specific purposes. Together, they can form a walkable, connected system that supports everyday activity, strengthens downtown, and gives people more reasons to stay longer and come back more often.

This narrative focuses on realistic reuse and practical connections. It does not assume major redevelopment or overnight change. Instead, it looks at how thoughtful, incremental improvements and coordinated use can build on Barnesville's history, reinforce its downtown, and support the kind of steady, community-centered activity that sustains small towns over time.

## INTRODUCING THE LOOP TRAIL & DOWNTOWN ACCESS POINTS

At the heart of this Vision Plan is a proposed loop trail that connects downtown Barnesville, the Depot, the Watt Center for History & the Arts, and Memorial Park. With one limited exception involving a short new segment on village-owned property, this loop relies on existing village roads, sidewalks, and trail segments rather than new or speculative infrastructure. The focus is on making those connections clearer, more comfortable, and more inviting for people on foot.

The loop trail serves two purposes at once. It is a recreation and quality-of-life investment that builds on Barnesville's existing trail assets and Memorial Park amenities. It is also a downtown revitalization tool that draws people from Main and Arch Streets toward the trail, the Depot, and other community destinations, then brings them back downtown. These goals reinforce each other: recreation brings people in, and downtown activity gives them reasons to stay.

A critical part of this approach is creating and improving highly visible access points that connect downtown directly to the trail system. Rather than treating the trail as

something hidden behind buildings or down a hillside, the Vision Plan treats trail access as a front-door experience that is easy to see, understand, and use.

Two access points anchor this strategy. One is located near the intersection of East Main Street and South Arch Street, where a prominent stairway and entry feature can signal the start of the trail from downtown. The second is located near the intersection of North Arch Street and East Church Street, where an existing sidewalk connection can be revealed and framed as a clear path leading toward the Depot and the trail beyond. In both locations, the intent is to make movement toward the trail feel intentional rather than accidental.

The Vision Plan includes renderings that illustrate these access points and the overall loop trail. These visuals are meant to help residents, decision-makers, and partners imagine how a small number of strategic improvements can strengthen connections, support downtown activity, and enhance everyday recreation without altering the village's fundamental character.

## THE FOUR PLACES THAT ANCHOR THE LOOP

The proposed loop trail connects four places that already play distinct roles in Barnesville's daily life: the Depot, the Watt Center for History & the Arts, the Bohandy Building, and Memorial Park. Each site serves a different purpose and attracts people for different reasons.

The sections that follow describe how each place functions today, how realistic reuse or continued investment can strengthen that role, and how each site contributes to the overall network of places connected by the loop trail. Together, these sites illustrate how small, strategic improvements can build momentum by linking downtown, culture, recreation, and community life.



## THE DEPOT

### EXISTING ROLE AND CONDITION

The Depot is a historic, village-owned building that is visible from the intersection of East Church Street and North Arch Street and immediately adjacent to a recently improved trail. The exterior remains in good condition, while the interior reflects years of limited investment and would benefit from renovation. At present, the building is leased to a construction company, which uses it as a temporary office, helping keep the site occupied and maintained.

Next to the Depot is the John Schradel Farmers Market Pavilion, a familiar community asset that has long served as a gathering space. Together, the Depot and pavilion already function as a recognizable landmark and informal meeting point, even without full interior activation.

### REALISTIC REUSE & EVERYDAY ACTIVITY

The strongest case for the Depot centers on **regular, everyday use** rather than occasional programming alone. Local experience and prior community discussion point toward uses that keep the building open regularly and visible, such as **small-scale food or beverage service, shared office or nonprofit space, or flexible community use** that does not depend

on major interior reconstruction. This consistent presence helps establish the Depot as a place people expect to be open, encouraging repeat visits and steady foot traffic. Even modest **food or coffee-related activity**, at a limited scale, can play an outsized role in reinforcing that expectation.

The adjacent pavilion strengthens this approach. Markets, pop-up vendors, and seasonal gatherings can continue or expand without waiting for full building improvements. Over time, these outdoor activities can support and complement indoor use, helping build momentum rather than competing for attention.

### ROLE IN DOWNTOWN CIRCULATION

Because of its location and visibility, the Depot is well-positioned to serve as the first stop for people walking from downtown toward the trail, the Watt Center, and Memorial Park. Its visibility from Church Street and Arch Street makes it a natural transition point rather than a destination that feels detached from downtown activity.

When active, the Depot signals that downtown does not end at North Arch Street. Instead, it invites people to keep moving, whether toward recreation, cultural sites, or community spaces. That role as a visible threshold is one of the Depot's most important contributions to the broader system.

---

### KEY TAKEAWAYS

**The Depot works best when it supports regular, everyday use.**

**Small-scale activity builds familiarity and routine.**

**Its visibility and location make it a natural first stop linking downtown to the broader network of trails, civic spaces, and community assets.**



## THE WATT CENTER FOR HISTORY & THE ARTS

### EXISTING ROLE AND CONDITION

The Watt Center for History & the Arts is a historic, village-owned building that preserves and displays the business, industrial, and agricultural history of Barnesville and the surrounding area. The building originated as the Watt Car & Wheel Company, founded in 1863 and known for manufacturing the first patented self-oiling mine car wheel. Much of the building's historic character remains intact, including original wood paneling, tin ceilings, and a series of distinctive vaults that now house exhibits.

The interior includes a number of first-floor rooms that once served as offices, a small kitchen, and a broad stairway leading to large second-floor rooms with tall windows. These upper-level spaces currently host monthly presentations focused on regional history. A small museum occupies the basement. Collectively, the building functions as a working museum and cultural space rather than a vacant or underused facility.

### REALISTIC REUSE & EXPANSION FUNCTIONS

The strongest future for the Watt Center lies in building on its existing role rather than redefining it. Based on community experience and past discussion, the building is **well-suited for office, meeting, and event space that supports steady, continuous use**. These functions align with the existing layout and preserve the interior's character without requiring significant alteration.

The Watt Center also works well as a supporting element within a broader visitor and community context. It can **complement activity at the Depot** by serving as a place for interpretation, orientation, small group gatherings, and educational programming. Residential or residency-style uses, such as short-term interpretive or scholarly stays, also fit the building's character more naturally than retail or food service.

**The building does not need to become a primary commercial destination to remain relevant. Its value comes from consistency, depth, and purpose.**

### CONTRIBUTION TO DAILY AND EVENT-BASED ACTIVITY

The Watt Center already hosts a range of regular and recurring activities that draw repeat local use. These include monthly history presentations, the Barnesville Grade School Art Show, an annual used book sale, and programs led by local and regional historians. Together, these activities create a reliable rhythm of use throughout the year.

This steady programming reinforces the Watt Center's role as a place people return to regularly rather than visit once. When coordinated with activity at nearby sites, these events can also encourage longer visits and broader participation across downtown.

## ROLE IN DOWNTOWN CIRCULATION

The Watt Center sits several blocks, roughly half a mile, off the primary downtown corridor, which makes connectivity especially important. On its own, the building is unlikely to draw casual foot traffic. However, improved trail and pedestrian connections that encourage movement from downtown to the Depot and onward to the Watt Center can significantly change how the building functions within the village.

When connected as part of a walkable sequence, the Watt Center becomes a natural stop along a larger loop rather than a destination that feels out of the way. In that role, it benefits directly from a clear, continuous physical connection to the rest of the system.

---

## KEY TAKEAWAYS

**The Watt Center adds depth and meaning to the network of places as a whole.**

**Steady programming supports repeat engagement.**

**Improved connectivity allows the building to function as an integral part of village life without changing its core mission.**



## THE BOHANDY BUILDING

## EXISTING ROLE & CONDITION

The Bohandy Building occupies one of the most prominent locations in Barnesville, sitting at the corner of Main Street and South Chestnut Street at the village's primary downtown intersection. Constructed in 1901 for the Campbell Brothers and designed by local architect Benjamin C. Patterson, the building has long served as a signature downtown structure. Its three-story height and half-block length give it an uncommon scale for a village of Barnesville's size and make it a defining presence along Main Street.

The building later housed the Harrison Department Store and stood vacant for many years before the Village of Barnesville acquired it in 2018. While interior conditions are not the focus of this Vision Plan, the building's long vacancy and past attempts to secure large commercial tenants underscore the challenge posed by its size. At the same time, its location and visibility represent a significant opportunity if approached with realistic expectations.

## REALISTIC REUSE FUNCTIONS

The most viable future for the Bohandy Building lies in phased, **mixed-use** rather than a single, large tenant or destination concept. Community experience points toward **housing on the upper floors** as the most practical long-term use. Residential units introduce activity that does not depend on retail trends and help stabilize downtown by adding people who live within walking distance of shops, services, and events.

At street level, smaller-scale commercial or community-serving uses offer the greatest flexibility. Rather than attempting to fill the entire ground floor at once, a series of modest spaces allows the building to respond to demand over time. Local perspective suggests that **food-related uses**, including a sit-down restaurant, could perform well at this location if sized appropriately, given its visibility, parking proximity, and position within downtown.

This approach reduces risk, allows incremental investment, and keeps the building adaptable as downtown activity evolves.

## CONTRIBUTION TO DAILY AND EVENT-BASED ACTIVITY

Upper-floor housing creates consistent, everyday foot traffic that supports downtown throughout the day and evening. Residents contribute to a baseline level of activity that does not rely on festivals or special events. Ground-floor uses can then build on that base by serving daily needs, social gathering, and dining rather than functioning solely as destination retail.

The Market Study completed for Barnesville reinforces this logic. The study identified unmet demand for food service and gathering spaces that support everyday use rather than occasional visits. Positioned at the village's most visible intersection, the Bohandy Building is well-suited to capture that demand in a way that reinforces downtown rather than pulling activity elsewhere.

## ROLE IN DOWNTOWN CIRCULATION

Because of its size and location, the Bohandy Building plays a different role than the Depot or the Watt Center. It **anchors movement within downtown itself**. Activity here reinforces Main Street and South Chestnut as places people move through repeatedly rather than visit briefly and leave.

When active, the building strengthens the connection among downtown businesses, civic spaces, and the broader network of places linked by trails and sidewalks. It helps define downtown as the center of that network, not just one stop along it.

---

## KEY TAKEAWAYS

**The Bohandy Building succeeds through phased, mixed-use rather than a single solution.**

**Housing provides stability and daily activity.**

**Ground-floor uses strengthen downtown life. Its scale and location make it central to how people move through and experience downtown Barnesville.**



## MEMORIAL PARK

### ROLE AS A RECREATION AND QUALITY-OF-LIFE ANCHOR

Memorial Park is a large, village-owned park that serves as one of Barnesville's most important quality-of-life assets. It offers a **wide range of amenities that support recreation for all ages**, including lighted ball fields with a covered grandstand, tennis and basketball courts, volleyball court, junior Olympic-size swimming pool, playgrounds, shelters, and the Alberta S. George Youth Center. Walking trails and a loop path connect visitors to a park, lake, and surrounding green space, creating opportunities for both active use and quiet enjoyment.

The park's **primary role is to serve residents**. It supports daily routines, youth sports, family gatherings, and community events that define everyday life in Barnesville. That steady, year-round use gives the park a stability and relevance that does not depend on special programming or seasonal tourism.

### SUPPORTING RESIDENT ENGAGEMENT

Memorial Park serves as a shared community space where residents of different ages and backgrounds come together. Youth sports, swimming, walking, and informal gatherings bring people together in ways that are both routine and meaningful. Shelter houses, group cabins,

and flexible indoor space allow families and organizations to use the park for celebrations and events year-round. These everyday activities form the backbone of community life and reinforce Barnesville as a place where people choose to spend time, not just pass through.

### CONNECTION TO PEDESTRIAN AND TRAIL INVESTMENTS

The proposed loop trail and trail improvements in and around Memorial Park will connect recreation with the rest of the village. Walking paths within the park connect to broader trail investments, making it possible to move comfortably on foot between the park, the Watt Center, the Depot, and downtown. When these connections function well, the park becomes part of a larger experience rather than a separate destination. Residents can walk from downtown to the park as part of their daily routine. Visitors drawn by the trail system can extend their time in Barnesville by moving naturally between outdoor recreation and downtown activity.

### ROLE IN THE NETWORK OF PLACES

While Memorial Park is not framed as a reuse site, it plays a critical role in the overall network of places. Its recreational appeal strengthens the case for walkability and connectivity across the village. For visitors, the trail system and park amenities can serve as an entry point to Barnesville. For residents, the park reinforces the value of living in a community where daily needs, recreation, and downtown activity connect.

---

### KEY TAKEAWAYS

**Memorial Park anchors Barnesville's quality of life.**

**Recreation supports daily, resident-centered use.**

**When connected by trails and sidewalks, the park also becomes a welcoming extension of the village's downtown and cultural assets.**

# CONNECTIVITY FRAMEWORK

## WHAT THE CONNECTIVITY FRAMEWORK MEANS FOR BARNESVILLE

In this Vision Plan, the connectivity framework describes how people move comfortably and intuitively between Barnesville's key places on foot. It focuses on the everyday experience of walking between downtown, the Depot, the Watt Center for History & the Arts, and Memorial Park. Rather than introducing new destinations, the framework emphasizes linking existing assets in ways that feel natural, safe, and inviting.

This approach recognizes that connectivity is not only about infrastructure. It is also about perception. People are more likely to walk when routes feel clear, visible, and purposeful, and when each stop along the way offers a reason to keep moving.

## PHYSICAL CONNECTIONS

Sidewalks, trails, access points, and crossings form the physical backbone of the connectivity framework. Together, they link all four sites and create multiple ways to move through the village. These connections do not need to be complex or elaborate. They need to be continuous, easy to understand, and comfortable for people of different ages and abilities.

Trail investments play a particularly important role by connecting recreation, culture, and downtown activity into a single walkable experience. When trails and sidewalks work together, they reduce the sense of distance and make walking feel like a practical choice rather than a special effort.

## EXPERIENTIAL CONNECTIONS AND WAYFINDING

People experience Barnesville as a sequence of places rather than a set of isolated destinations. Clear routes, visible connections, and intuitive cues help people understand where they are and where they can go next. Even without formal wayfinding installations, consistency in routes, sightlines, and entry points helps guide movement and builds confidence.

Visibility matters. When people can see where paths lead or recognize familiar landmarks along the way, they are more likely to explore further. In this way, wayfinding functions as much through design and continuity as through signs.



## **WALKABILITY, MARKET DEMAND, AND COMMUNITY INPUT**

Walkability emerged as a clear theme in the Barnesville Market Study, driven directly by resident survey feedback. Community members identified the desire for places that are easy to walk between, support everyday activity, and encourage people to spend more time downtown. The emphasis on connectivity in this Vision Plan responds directly to that input.

Improved walkability supports the types of uses identified as market-supported in the study, including food service, gathering spaces, and downtown activity that depends on repeat, routine visits. When people can move comfortably between destinations, they are more likely to combine trips, linger longer, and return more often.

## **INCREASING LENGTH OF STAY AND REPEAT VISITS**

Over time, these everyday decisions about where to walk and linger add up. They strengthen downtown activity, support local businesses, and reinforce Barnesville as a place where people enjoy spending time rather than rushing through.

## **A LOOP THAT REINFORCES DAILY LIFE**

The connectivity framework is built around a loop that links downtown, the Depot, the Watt Center, and Memorial Park. Loops encourage exploration and repeat movement rather than one-way trips. They allow people to choose different paths, vary their experience, and return to familiar places from new directions.

This loop structure supports both residents and visitors. For residents, it reinforces daily routines tied to recreation, errands, and social activity. For visitors, it offers an easy way to experience multiple parts of the village without needing a map or a plan.

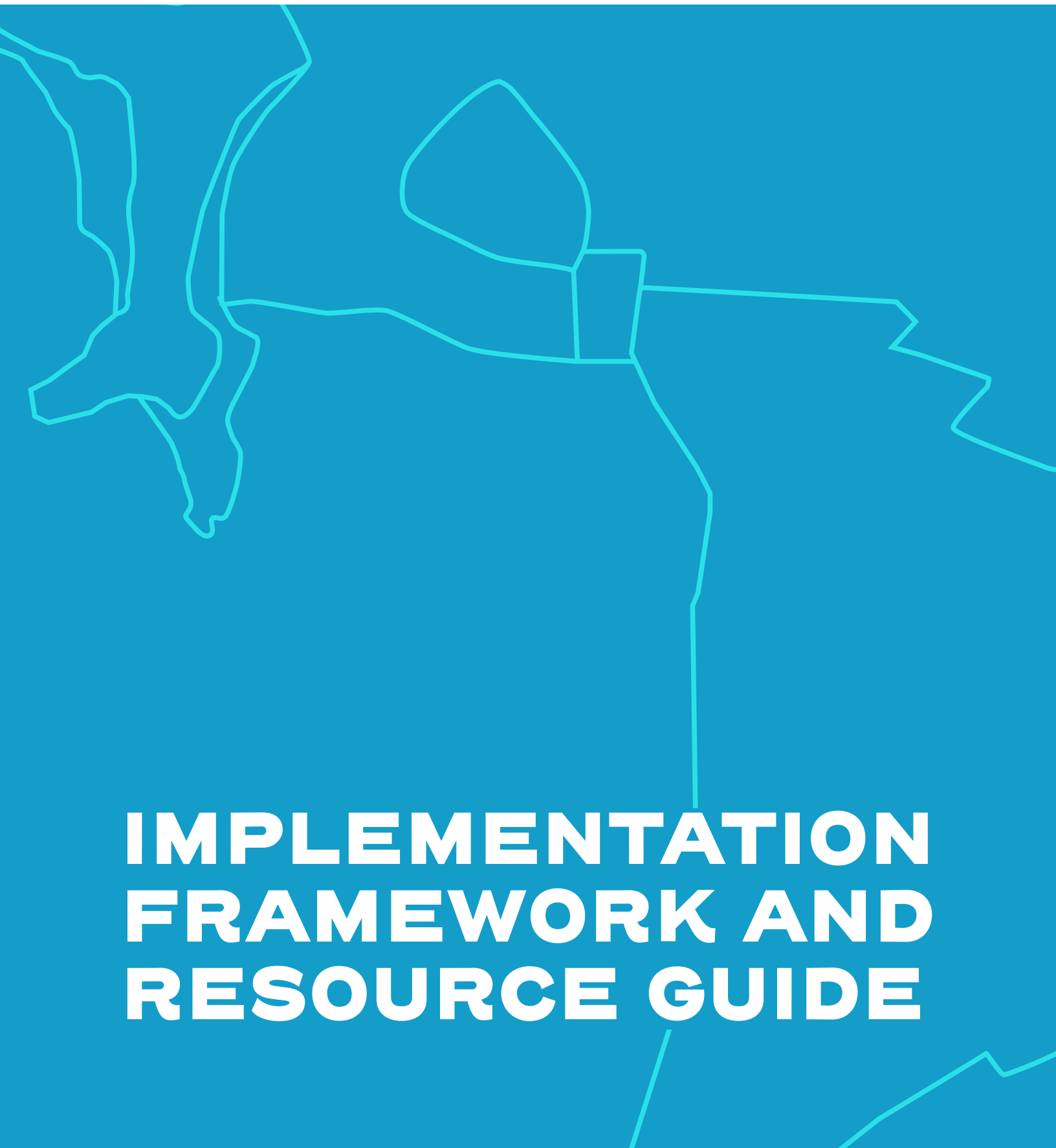
## **HOW REUSE AND CONNECTIVITY WORK TOGETHER**

Active buildings give people reasons to walk. Strong connections make those buildings more viable. Each reinforces the other. Reuse efforts succeed when people can reach places easily and move between them comfortably. Connectivity investments matter most when there are destinations worth walking to.

By treating reuse and connectivity as parts of the same strategy, Barnesville can build momentum incrementally and sustainably.

## **PREPARING FOR NEXT STEPS**

This connectivity framework sets the stage for coordinated action. It focuses on strengthening what already exists, responding to community input, and supporting everyday use. By improving how places connect rather than pursuing isolated projects, Barnesville can continue building a village that works well for residents and naturally welcomes visitors over time.



# IMPLEMENTATION FRAMEWORK AND RESOURCE GUIDE

## **PURPOSE AND APPROACH**

This Implementation Framework translates the Vision Plan's reuse and connectivity concepts into clear, achievable next steps. It focuses on actions the Village of Barnesville and its partners can realistically take over time to strengthen connections between downtown, the Depot, the Watt Center for History & the Arts, the Bohandy Building, and Memorial Park.

The framework emphasizes incremental progress rather than final design or fixed reuse decisions. It prioritizes sequencing, visibility, access, and everyday use. The goal is to help local leaders move from vision to action in a way that builds momentum, respects capacity limits, and keeps options open as conditions evolve.

Across all sites and systems, this framework follows a simple logic: establish regular use first, make clear decisions based on that use, and pursue larger investments only after direction and demand are established.

---

**THE IMPLEMENTATION  
FRAMEWORK BEGINS ON THE  
FOLLOWING PAGE.**

## LOOP TRAIL AND PEDESTRIAN CONNECTIVITY

### Intent

The loop trail links downtown, cultural assets, and Memorial Park into a single walkable system. It supports daily recreation, strengthens downtown activity, and encourages longer visits by making movement between places easy and intuitive.

### Lead and Supporting Partners

**Lead:** Village of Barnesville

**Supporting:** Community Improvement Corporation of Belmont County, Memorial Park Board members, regional transportation or recreation partners

### Actionable Next Steps

1. Confirm the **overall loop alignment** using existing sidewalks and trails, and identify where new trail construction on village-owned property is required.
2. Clearly **define the segment between the Watt Center and Wiley Avenue** as a priority gap requiring new trail construction.
3. Evaluate **potential route options** for this segment, recognizing that an exact alignment has not yet been determined.
4. Pursue **preliminary engineering and design work** to establish **construction feasibility and cost** for the Watt Center–Wiley Avenue segment.
5. Use preliminary design information to **determine funding readiness** and pursue outside funding when alignment, cost, and feasibility are clear.
6. Prioritize **low-cost improvements** elsewhere along the loop that improve continuity, such as surface repairs, crossings, lighting, and visibility.
7. Coordinate **trail improvements with planned work** at Memorial Park and near the Depot to reinforce the system.
8. Establish a **simple maintenance plan** to keep routes clear and usable year-round.

### Draft Timeline

- **Near-term (0–2 years):** Confirm alignment, address priority gaps, improve visibility of existing routes.
- **Mid-term (3–5 years):** Complete remaining segments and upgrades, including new trail construction as funding allows.
- **Long-term (5+ years):** Extend connections as opportunities arise.

## DOWNTOWN TRAIL ACCESS POINTS

### Intent

Downtown access points serve as visible front doors to the trail system. They signal that the trail connects directly to downtown rather than sitting apart from it.

### Lead and Supporting Partners

**Lead:** Village of Barnesville

**Supporting:** Community Improvement Corporation of Belmont County, downtown property owners, regional design or engineering assistance providers

### Actionable Next Steps

1. Confirm **locations for the two primary access points**:
  - The plaza at the southwest corner of the intersection of East Main Street and South Arch Street.
  - The northwest corner of the public parking area located at the southeast corner of North Arch Street and East Church Street.
2. Clearly **define the scope and complexity** of each access point, recognizing that both will require new construction at different scales and may advance on different timelines.
3. Pursue **preliminary engineering and design work** for each access point, including archway features, stair or sidewalk elements, and connections to existing infrastructure.
4. Use preliminary design information to **refine cost estimates and pursue outside funding** for construction.
5. Coordinate access point design with downtown parking, sidewalks, and pedestrian circulation.
6. Incorporate **lighting, signage, and clear sightlines** into access point design to improve visibility and safety.
7. Ensure access points meet basic **accessibility standards** where feasible.

### Draft Timeline

- **Near-term (0–2 years):** Confirm locations, define scope, and complete preliminary engineering and design.
- **Mid-term (3–5 years):** Secure funding and construct priority access point improvements as design, cost, and site conditions allow.
- **Long-term (5+ years):** Refine and expand access points as part of broader downtown improvements.

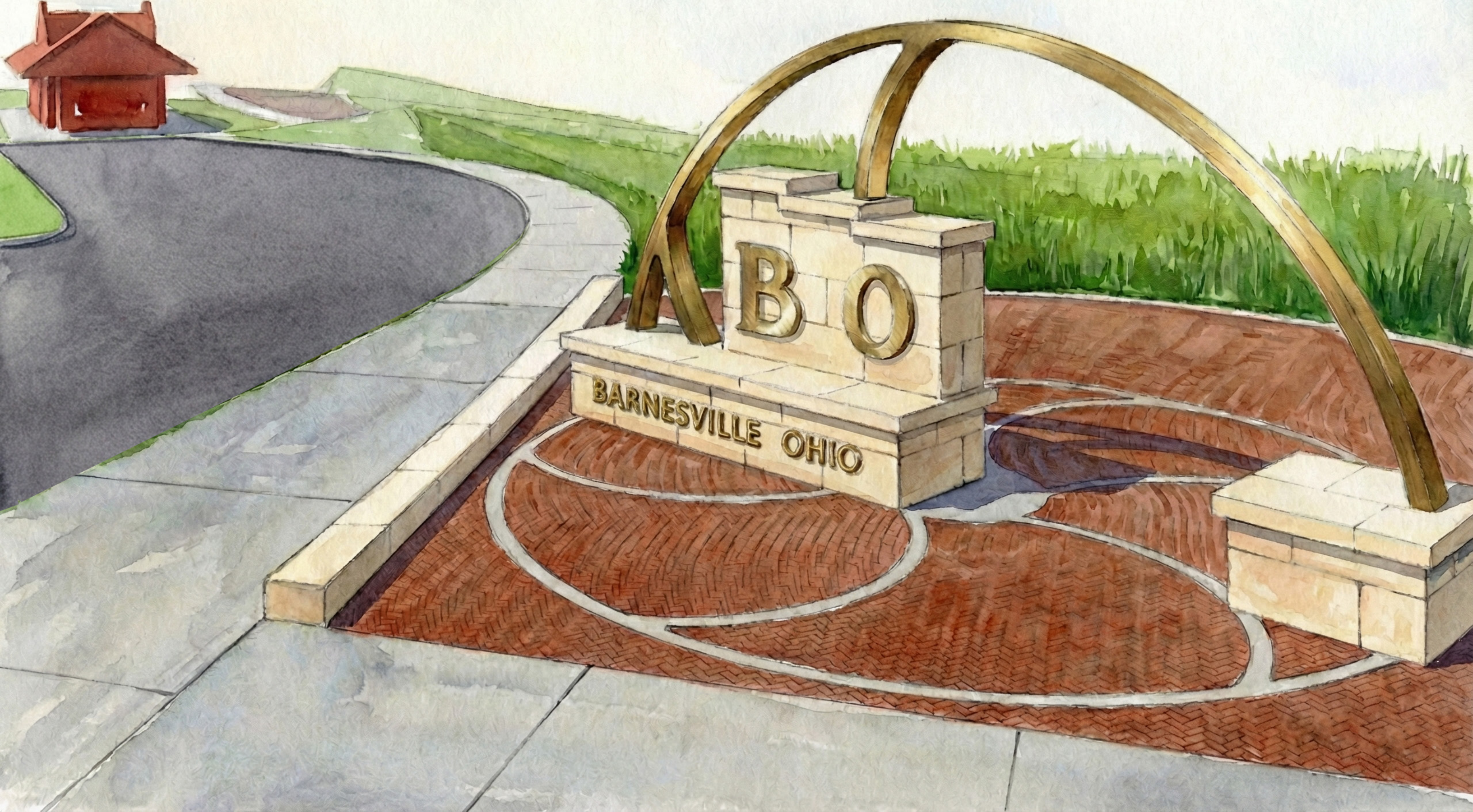


EAST MAIN STREET AND SOUTH ARCH STREET  
TRAIL ACCESS ARCH STAIRWAY (STREET VIEW)

**EAST MAIN STREET AND SOUTH ARCH STREET  
TRAIL ACCESS ARCH STAIRWAY (TUNNEL VIEW)**



**NORTH ARCH STREET AND EAST CHURCH  
STREET TRAIL ACCESS ARCH**



## THE DEPOT

### Intent

The Depot functions as a visible transition point between downtown and the trail system. Its value comes from regular, everyday use and its role as a threshold rather than a single programmed destination. Establishing consistent use is a necessary first step before long-term investment or specialized build-out.

### Lead and Supporting Partners

**Lead:** Depot Committee under the Barnesville Community Foundation

**Supporting:** Village of Barnesville, Community Improvement Corporation of Belmont County, local nonprofits

### Actionable Next Steps

1. Maintain continuous occupancy or regular programmed use to establish the Depot as a **predictable, everyday stop** along the trail.
2. Define what counts as regular use for the Depot and track it over time.
3. Focus early investment on **stabilization, safety, and basic functionality** that supports repeat use without committing to a specific reuse.
4. Improve **exterior visibility, lighting, and trail-facing entrances** to reinforce the Depot's role as a gateway.
5. Coordinate **outdoor activities at the adjacent pavilion** with trail use to ensure visibility even when interior use varies.
6. Document **existing building conditions and past stabilization work** to create a shared baseline for future decisions.
7. Use demonstrated **patterns of use** to decide whether and when more specialized interior improvements are warranted.

### Draft Timeline

- **Near-term (0–2 years):** Maintain active use, complete exterior improvements, document building conditions.
- **Mid-term (3–5 years):** Make targeted interior improvements that support flexible, repeat use.
- **Long-term (5+ years):** Pursue larger improvements only after a stable, long-term use is clearly defined.

## WATT CENTER FOR HISTORY & THE ARTS

### Intent

The Watt Center adds cultural depth and consistent activity to the overall system and is well-positioned to support more frequent, coordinated use over time. Connection to the loop trail allows the building to shift from a destination used primarily for scheduled events to a regular stop within a broader pattern of daily movement through the village. Achieving that shift will require clear direction, coordination, and ongoing support from the Village and its partners.

### Lead and Supporting Partners

**Lead:** Watt Center Committee under the Barnesville Community Foundation

**Supporting:** Village of Barnesville, historical and cultural partners

### Actionable Next Steps

1. Improve **pedestrian connections** between the Watt Center and the loop trail to support routine, everyday access.
2. Strengthen **visibility of entrances and walking routes** so the building presents a clear, welcoming presence from the nearby road and trail.
3. Set clear expectations, in coordination with Village leadership and the Watt Center Committee, for more frequent and regular use of existing office, meeting, and event spaces to establish a predictable pattern of activity.
4. Set a basic target for how often key spaces should be in use and review progress twice per year.
5. Actively **coordinate scheduling and promotion** of Watt Center programs with activity at the Depot and downtown to align efforts and avoid competing or isolated events.
6. Address **accessibility and safety needs** incrementally to support broader participation over time.
7. Periodically review **patterns of use** and adjust scheduling, staffing, or space allocation to better support frequent and coordinated activity.

### Draft Timeline

- **Near-term (0–2 years):** Improve connections and visibility, and clarify Village priorities and expectations for expanding regular use.
- **Mid-term (3–5 years):** Address interior support needs for frequent and repeated use.
- **Long-term (5+ years):** Expand supporting functions as demand and capacity grow.

## THE BOHANDY BUILDING

### Intent

The Bohandy Building anchors downtown activity and movement and represents one of the most significant remaining reuse opportunities in the village. Its future role depends on establishing a clear path forward that supports phased, mixed-use development and aligns with downtown connectivity and local market realities. Unlike other sites in the system, the Bohandy Building's scale and location require an explicit ownership and reuse direction before meaningful progress can occur.

### Lead and Supporting Partners

**Lead:** Village of Barnesville or future private owner

**Supporting:** Community Improvement Corporation of Belmont County, housing and redevelopment partners

### Actionable Next Steps

1. Decide on a **long-term ownership and management path** as the first step, so that reuse planning can move forward.
2. Choose a clear reuse path that supports **phased redevelopment**, with upper-floor housing as a priority.
3. Maintain **flexibility** for ground-floor uses that match local demand and support downtown activity.
4. Coordinate reuse planning with downtown streetscape improvements and pedestrian connectivity to reinforce the building's role in the broader system.
5. Move forward in defined stages, making **investment decisions based on actual demand** rather than a fixed schedule.

### Draft Timeline

- **Near-term (0–2 years):** Establish ownership direction and select a clear reuse path.
- **Mid-term (3–5 years):** Initiate phased reuse aligned with market demand.
- **Long-term (5+ years):** Continue build-out as conditions and demand support investment.

## MEMORIAL PARK

### Intent

Memorial Park anchors quality of life and everyday recreation. Strong connections integrate the park into daily walking patterns and downtown activity.

### Lead and Supporting Partners

**Lead:** Village of Barnesville

**Supporting:** Park leadership, recreation partners

### Actionable Next Steps

1. Improve trail connections between Memorial Park and the loop trail.
2. Coordinate **park path improvements** with broader trail investments, including the ODOT-funded renovation of the Ray Palmer Trail.
3. Ensure **signage** clearly shows routes to and from downtown.
4. Maintain park amenities that support daily use by residents.
5. Use **park programming and seasonal events** to strengthen walking connections between Memorial Park and downtown.

### Draft Timeline

- **Near-term (0–2 years):** Improve connections and signage.
- **Mid-term (3–5 years):** Upgrade internal paths and links.
- **Long-term (5+ years):** Expand connectivity as usage grows.

## WAYFINDING AND ORIENTATION

### Intent

Wayfinding helps people understand where they are and where they can go next. Clear, welcoming cues make the loop trail and connected sites easy to navigate, encourage exploration, and support repeat use.

### Lead and Supporting Partners

**Lead:** Village of Barnesville

**Supporting:** Community Improvement Corporation of Belmont County, placemaking partners

### Actionable Next Steps

1. Identify places where people are likely to hesitate, get turned around, or need clear direction.
2. Seek outside help for design, funding, and installation for work that is beyond the Village's day-to-day capacity.
3. Agree on a simple, consistent look for signs and markers so people can recognize the trail and connected sites at a glance.
4. Focus on helping people move easily between downtown, the trail, and major destinations like the Depot, Watt Center, Bohandy Building, and Memorial Park.
5. Plan and implement wayfinding alongside access points and trail improvements, so signs feel intentional rather than added later.
6. Choose materials that can withstand weather and can be updated without major expense.

### Draft Timeline


- **Near-term (0–2 years):** Identify priority locations and define a wayfinding approach
- **Mid-term (3–5 years):** Secure external support and install initial wayfinding elements
- **Long-term (5+ years):** Expand/refine the system as the loop and connected sites mature.

## RESOURCE GUIDE

The Vision Plan is supported by a companion Resource Guide presented in spreadsheet format that organizes potential funding and technical assistance options by category. The spreadsheet is designed as a practical, editable working document the Village can use as projects move from concept to design and construction. It identifies relevant funding types tied to trail and pedestrian infrastructure, building stabilization and reuse, downtown revitalization, wayfinding, and capacity building. Used alongside the Implementation Framework, the Resource Guide helps local leaders match the right funding sources to the right phase of work and serves as a clear reference point as opportunities arise.

During the development of trail access concepts, the project architect sketched an arch based on the silhouette of a pumpkin shell as a nod to the Barnesville Pumpkin Festival. We did not carry that specific design into the final set of renderings, but we are including it here because it was simply too good not to share.



A large, light green outline of a map or boundary on a dark green background. The outline is irregular and complex, with several distinct sections and a jagged edge on the right side. It appears to be a stylized representation of a geographical area or a specific site boundary.

PREPARED FOR  
THE VILLAGE OF BARNESVILLE  
BY ATLAS COMMUNITY STUDIOS  
FEBRUARY 2026