Village of Amesville

5-year Revitalization and Sustainability Plan

Content Page

l. Purpose of the Plan 1

* + - Purpose statement
    - Key Stakeholders
    - Working Vision Statement

ll. Community Background and existing Conditions 2

* + Settlement History and community milestones
  + Demographic profile of community
    - Wants and Needs of the Community – Survey needed
    - Community Character
  + Businesses
    - Summary of Businesses; See attachment A for list of Businesses
    - Wants and needs of Businesses

III. Current Land Use and Environmental Elements

* + - Map of the village
    - # of house holds
    - Elementary School
    - Businesses located in the village
    - Coonskin Library Museum
    - Green Space and Natural Resources
      * Federal Creek and Flooding
    - Recycling Center
    - Agriculture Space and Heritage

IV. People Movement; Walking /Biking/ Auto mobiles

* + - Conditions of Roadways and village streets
    - Walking
    - Biking

V. Strategic Plan, Implementation and Time Line

* + - Strategies to Build and Grow Community
      * Find a restaurant/chef for closed Federal Creek Café or other business- Bakery, Ice cream shop
      * 3rd Saturdays
      * Annual Alonso Weed Fall Festival
      * Complete Community Challenge Project
    - Strategies to Support the Businesses
      * Promote networking among business owners
      * Partner with Rural Action
      * Facilitate connecting individual Business to consultants for personalized support
      * Create brand/logo/mascot for Village of Amesville
      * Install signage on 550 identifying local Businesses and local, current events
    - Strategies to attract and grow Amesville as a tourist destination
      * Find a restaurant/chef for closed Federal Creek Café or another business- Bakery, Ice cream shop / Amish goods store?
      * Identify and support Entrepreneurial to start businesses on 550 – café, antique shop, Outdoor gear store (old Barns)
      * Partner with Athens County Convention & Visitors Bureau to create robust Amesville link on the Athens Convention & Visitors Bureau website
      * Design road maps for bicycle and motorcycle riders that highlight both natural sites and tourist stops (wineries, local potters, weavers/ artists, antique shops, welcoming farmers and gardens)
      * Install rack for trifold brochures and promo cards: local points of interest and stops, air bnb’s, restaurants, businesses

VI. Additional Opportunities

Purpose of the Plan

This purpose of this plan is to inform others of the many initiatives being undertaken in the next 5 years to ensure that the Village of Amesville grows into a destination for tourists and outdoor enthusiasts thus stabilizing existing businesses and increasing the number of businesses while remining a safe, vibrant community in which to live. The plan describes specific strategies along with identifying potential partners and resources available to assist in achieving each strategy. A timeline and performance measures are included to ensure that work groups remain on task and hit key milestones as planned.

Key Stakeholders

There are four primary stakeholder groups in Amesville. Together these 4 groups have listened to the residents and businesses in Amesville resulting in an understanding of the communities needs and wants.

Key Stakeholder #1

Residents of the community are the most important stakeholder. According to the 2010 Census Bureau Amesville has a population of 184. There are approximately 87 homes in the community. Check with Gary --- NEED TO DO A SURVEY

Key Stakeholder #2

Amesville Village Council is the second key stakeholder group. The 6-person council along with elected Mayor Gary Goosman oversee the village water and sewage operations, Gifford Park and safety of village residents. In past several years the council’s priority has been to upgrade the village water system. In January 2018 the Council was notified that a grant from the Appalachian Regional Commission (ARC) had been awarded to the community. In addition, the Council is dedicated to improving the quality of life for all residents as evidenced by current and proposed projects. See project list below

Reclamation of former railroad line and recreation of its history  
Children's Play Area in Gifford Park Coonskin Saturdays – third Saturday May to October Additional parking for Gifford Park: on hold  
Asphalt pad removal in Gifford Park: on hold Sister City proposal to Road water, England: Being reviewed by Cleeve Abbey Parish  
Dark Sky Park Program: being researched with AEP and Athens Astronomy Club

Key Stakeholder #3

In 2017 Rural Action Center for Rural Entrepreneurship reached out to Amesville via Mayor Goosman to engage the community in building a long-term support system for businesses of all sizes, products, and stages of growth. Rural Action believes that communities have many talented people that are running or want to run a business, and every community has people that want to see their local businesses thrive. In November?? 2017 the Amesville Economic and Entrepreneurial Team was formed to promote and support the growth of businesses in and nearby Amesville. Under Rural Action’s guidance surveys of 8 businesses were completed, followed by two networking meetings for business owners in November 2018 and March 2019.

Key Stakeholder #4

In the fall of 2018 Amesville became a participating community of the Athens County Commissioners’ Community Challenge. This is a yearlong annual program (August 2018- August 2019), which utilizes Athens County Commissioners’ staff and area stakeholders (agencies (Rural Action) and individuals working in community development, health, etc.) along with funding to assist citizens and communities with improvement efforts. This program intends to increase collaboration within communities countywide and provide an open line of communication to discuss resources to address community needs. The Amesville Community Challenge Team consists of 9 members representatives as prescribed by the Community Challenge Prospectus. These members are young adults, an elected official, an employed professional, a retired person, a person representing a local civic organization, a person affiliated with an Amesville school and an artist. The Amesville Community Challenge team has identified two major projects for 2019. First is to enhance Gifford Park with exercise stations. The second project is to work in partnership with the Village Council to execute and expand Coonskin Saturdays.

Vision Statement

We envision rejuvenating Amesville by improving sense of community increasing the number of businesses, paying respect to our history

**ll. Community Background and existing Conditions**

**Settlement History and community milestones**

In 1797, Ephraim Cutler made his home in Ames Township. Other families followed, including George Ewing and his son Thomas, who was in the first graduating class from Ohio University. Sylvanus Ames settled in the area around 1800; he became the second sheriff of Athens County, a trustee of Ohio University, and representative to the 16th and 17th General Assemblies. At the time, these pioneer settlers didn't realize the impact they would make on the future town of Amesville.  
  
The Coonskin Library, the most historic of Amesville’s institutions, opened its doors on February 2, 1804. Its official name was the Western Library Association. Most people referred to it as the Coonskin Library since raccoon furs provided the money necessary to begin the library. The library's holdings grew and included several hundred books by 1830. The Ohio Historical Society now holds most of the original volumes.

Since 1797 Amesville has grown slowly but steadily. In 1802, the first school built in Ames Township was taught by Charles Cutler. The Amesville Academy was established after the town held a meeting about better education. The first Post Office was located in a brick building at the corner of State and Main Streets in 1821. At the time, the building was also home to a store. The United Methodist Church was formed in 1824, followed by the Amesville Presbyterian Church in 1829.

**Demographic profile of community**

Amesville is a village in Athens County, Ohio. The community was named after Sylvanus Ames. The latitude of Amesville is 39.400N. The longitude is -81.955W. It is in the Eastern Standard time zone. Elevation is 633 feet. According to the 2010 Census Bureau Amesville has a population of 184. There are approximately 87 homes in the community

**Pull in jpg’s from Amesville.org**

Unfortunately, the town's location on the bank of Federal Creek and by the McDougal Creek branch have made it prone to flooding. The first flood occurred in 1873. Many floods have followed, including back-to-back floods in 1997 and 1998. Following the devasting floods of 1997 &1998 FIMA declared XXX properties in the flood plain on the south side of Ste Route 550 as uninhabitable and declared withdrawal of federal funds for future rebuilding. These properties were cleared and given new life as Gifford Community Park, a XX-acre green space that has become a vital asset for the community. The park is used daily by dog-walkers and fitness buffs. The park boosts a shelter house, children’s play area, community garden and outdoor stage. During warm months the park is used for birthday parties, festivals, bicycling and monthly 3Rd Saturday Community gatherings.

* + - Wants and Needs of the Community – Survey needed
    - Community Character

**Businesses**

* + - Summary of Businesses; See attachment A for list of Businesses
    - Wants and needs of Businesses

**III Current Land Use and Environmental Elements**

Amesville is located in the unglaciated Allegheny Plateau. Athens County extends west from the Ohio River, mostly centering around the lower Hocking River watershed. The underlying geology is mostly sandstone and shale, including "reedbed" shale that presents a severe slip hazard when structures are built over it on hillsides. Most hillsides, though, are solid sandstone and present very little slip potential.  
  
The plant habitat around Amesville is that of mixed hardwood forests. The dominant species are oak, hickory, maple, beech, poplar and various [nut trees](https://9162814-912861709519440136.preview.editmysite.com/editor/main.php)(walnut, butternut and others). The under-story plants include dogwood, redbud, spice bush, paw paw, viburnums, mountain laurel and other small shrubs. The floor species contains hundreds of herbs and wild flowers: wild ginger, ferns, various mints, jack in the pulpit, trilliums, mayapple, trout lily and hundreds of other varieties. Numerous other fora include lichens, club mosses, liver worts and dozens of mushrooms prevalent in the fall each year.

IV. People Movement; Walking /Biking/ Auto mobiles /Horse& Buggy

The main street of Amesville is State Route 550. It is heavily traveled and is the main thoroughfare for automobiles, bicycles and motorcycles traveling east and west through the village. Within the village boundaries there are both commercial and residential properties on State Route 550. Peak automobile usage is Monday – Friday between 0530 and 0900 and again from 1600 to1900. The Amish community uses this route when commuting to work sites and usually only once or twice a day. Weather permitting bicyclist and motor cyclist use 550 for recreational pursuits. During the warm months these riders are numerous especially on weekends and travel through the village from dawn to dusk.

* + - Conditions of Roadways and village streets
    - Issues—speed, no bike lanes or slow lanes, poor site line at curve on east end

V. Strategic Plan, Implementation and Time Line

* + - Strategies to Build and Grow Community
      * Find a restaurant/chef for closed Federal Creek Café or other business- Bakery, Ice cream shop
      * 3rd Saturdays
      * Annual Alonso Weed Fall Festival
      * Complete Community Challenge Project