UTILITIES AND INFRASTRUCTURE
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Water

Orange Township’s drinking water and fire suppression are supplied by the Del-Co Water Company, a cooperatively owned private water company. Del-Co draws surface water from the Olentangy River and from the Alum Creek reservoir, which is then pumped to up-ground reservoirs on South Old State Road and State Route 315 prior to treatment. Del-Co is actively working on plans to expand capacity of their largest plant, located on Olentangy River Road to ensure it can continue to supply the daily water demand. Water availability and service is not anticipated to be a restraining factor in regards to future growth within the Township or region.

Sewer

Orange Township is provided sanitary sewer service by the Delaware County Regional Sewer District (DCRSD), which also services the rest of Delaware County. There are two treatment plants under the DCRSD that specifically service Orange Township, The Olentangy Environmental Control Center (OECC) and the Alum Creek Wastewater Reclamation Facility (ACWRF). The dividing line between the two is the highest point of the Township between the east and west watershed, which generally follows the Conrail railroad track. Areas to the east of the track drain to the ACWRF, and areas to the west drain to the OECC. According to the DCRSD’s updated Sanitary Sewer Master Plan, 2017, both plants are in need of an upgrade to handle the future growth of Delaware County. For a list of proposed upgrades, refer to the Sanitary Sewer Master Plan for DCRSD, 2017.

There are currently six sewage pump stations servicing Orange Township. The DCRSD has planned for a two projects that will impact Orange Township, referred to as Peachblow pump station upgrade and the new Lower Alum Creek Relief pump station.

Orange Township currently allows a maximum of 2 units per acre in single family districts, based on a complete build-out. With the current trend in population growth for the Township, this number of units per acre could change. If the Zoning Commission and Board of Trustees propose changes to the densities and non-residential land uses in the plan, then the sanitary engineering office must be consulted to ensure such changes can be served with the current pipelines, pumps, and treatment facilities.

Private Sewage Treatment Systems

Orange Township also has a vast number of private sewage treatment systems (STS), that are regulated by the Delaware General Health District. The Delaware General Health District routinely checks the STS’s to ensure they have not failed. When private STS’s fail, the residents are then required to connect to the central sewer line, if central sewer is available.
Electricity

American Electric Power (AEP) supplies electric services to Orange Township and maintains three major electric transmission lines that cross Orange Township. Electric services have not been a restraining factor for development. On March 10, 2017, the Orange Township Trustees voted in favor of a community electric aggregation program with Capital Energy to bring more competitive electric rates to the Township.

Natural Gas

Columbia Gas and Suburban Natural Gas both serve Orange Township where natural gas service is available. Natural gas service is not a restraining factor in the long-term growth of Orange Township.
Telecommunications

With the rise in use of wireless devices, such as tablets and smartphones, additional cellular towers and small cell facilities may be necessary to meet development needs. Cable and fiber optic networks will also play a vital role in serving the technological and communication needs of the Township in future years.

Under current state and federal laws, telecommunications towers are permitted in any non-residential zoning districts. Under Ohio law, townships can regulate telecommunications towers in areas zoned for residential use if objections are filed by abutting property owners.

High Speed Internet

Orange Township has seven internet providers across the township, varying in certain areas, but maintaining at least two competing providers in any given area. These providers include Spectrum Time Warner Cable, Bresco Broadband, Frontier Communications, WOW!, AT&T Internet, HughesNet, and Exede Internet.

Stormwater Management

Stormwater management is reviewed by the Delaware County Engineer’s Office. The Delaware County Soil and Water District maintains ditches as well as stormwater detention and retention ponds by agreement with the County Engineer. Stormwater management within the Township has not been a restraining factor in regards to future growth within the Township, nor is it anticipated to be one in the future.
Community Feedback

In our public meetings, there was concern pertaining to utilities being able to handle the future growth of the Township. With these concerns being taken into consideration, the public utilities servicing Orange Township were contacted to provide any feedback they had to offer to address the communities concerns. The responses from these various utility providers affirmed that Orange Township has been planning to meet the demands of the growing population. The information from these responses have been incorporated into the Assessment section of this chapter.

GOALS AND STRATEGIES

Goal UI-1: Effective Provision of Utilities

Providing community facilities, services, and utilities for Orange Township is necessary for public health and safety. Due to the high growth in the area, these services will be upgraded as needed to ensure a functional, safe, healthy, and economically viable community.

Strategy UI-1.1: Coordinate extension of public sewer and water utilities with future land use in a manner that serves future growth and facilitates open space preservation.

Strategy UI-1.2: Provide a clear and consistent understanding throughout the land use plan for utilities to reference for projected population and capital project planning.

Responsible Parties: Township Trustees, Delaware County Commissioners, Delaware County Regional Sewer District, and Del-Co Water, Orange Township Planning and Zoning boards and staff.

Refer to Appendix C.1 and C.2 for Public Input Data
Goal UI-2: Encourage More and Safer Pedestrian Connections and Paths

Increased connectivity was widely advocated for by the community members of Orange Township. In addition to this increased connectivity, residents expressed issues with the lack of effective lighting and street crossing infrastructure. This infrastructure must also correlate with the Township’s community design goals to encourage a sense of place. This goal specifically calls for downlighting, which creates visibility while following the Township’s Dark Sky policy. This goal will increase those connections and provide higher provisions of safety.

Strategy UI-2.1: Encourage developers or homeowner associations to implement downlighting on pedestrian paths.

Responsible Parties: Orange Township Trustees, and Orange Township Zoning Commission and Staff, and Orange Township Parks Department.

Goal UI-3: Support Plans for Evolving Technology

There was a consistent request in public meetings for the provision of public WiFi services. With the growing amount of recreation services, residential neighborhoods, and the Evans Farms development, public space is growing and public WiFi would be a useful amenity. A complementary addition to this WiFi service would be the expansion of fiber optic networks, which could serve as a boon for economic development.

Reference Ohio Law 519.211 for more information.

Strategy UI-3.1: Consider a plan for WiFi technology to be placed in public facilities, such as parks.

Strategy UI-3.2: Encourage cable and fiber optic networks throughout the Township to facilitate with 5G Network.

Strategy UI-3.3: Consider a plan for when a cell tower or small cell technology is placed within residential areas to meet certain aesthetic requirements.

Responsible Party: Orange Township Trustees, Orange Township Zoning Commission and Staff, Delaware County Commissioners, Delaware County Commissioners and Delaware County Economic Development.