

BILL NO. R-25-04-21

RESOLUTION NO. _____

**A RESOLUTION APPROVING THE AMENDMENT
OF FORT WAYNE'S COMPREHENSIVE PLAN, ALL
IN ALLEN, TO INCLUDE THE GOALS AND
POLICIES OF THE EAST CENTRAL FORWARD
PLAN.**

WHEREAS, the City of Fort Wayne, through its Common Council,
adopted Fort Wayne's Comprehensive Plan, All In Allen, in March 2023; and

WHEREAS, on March 17, 2025, the Fort Wayne Plan Commission
initiated the amendment of the Comprehensive Plan to adopt the goals and
policies of the East Central Forward Plan; and

WHEREAS, the City of Fort Wayne Plan Commission, in accordance
with Indiana statutes, held a public hearing related to the proposed
amendment to the Comprehensive Plan; and

WHEREAS, the City of Fort Wayne Plan Commission issued a Do
Pass recommendation on the amendment to the Common Council of the City
of Fort Wayne.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE COMMON
COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF FORT WAYNE, INDIANA:**

SECTION 1. The Common Council finds that the procedures required
pursuant to Indiana statutes providing for notice, public hearing, and other

statutorily required acts by City of Fort Wayne Plan Commission have been properly performed.

SECTION 2. That the City of Fort Wayne's Comprehensive Plan is amended by including the goals and policies of the East Central Forward Plan which shall repeal and replace the previously adopted East Park Planning Alliance: A Neighborhood Plan for the East Central Neighborhood adopted in 2005.

SECTION 3. That the Resolution shall be in full force and effect from and after its passage and any and all necessary approvals by the Mayor.

Council Member

APPROVED AS TO FORM AND LEGALITY

Malak Heiny, City Attorney

City of Fort Wayne Common Council

DIGEST SHEET

Department of Planning Services

Title of Ordinance: Amendment to the All in Allen Comprehensive Plan
Case Number: COMP-2025-0001 – East Central Forward
Bill Number: R-25-04-21
Council District: 5 – Geoff Paddock

Introduction Date: April 22, 2025

Plan Commission
Public Hearing Date: May 12, 2025

Next Council Action: Resolution will return to Council after recommendation by the Plan Commission

Synopsis of Ordinance: A proposal to amend the All in Allen Comprehensive Plan by including the goals and strategies of the East Central Forward Neighborhood Plan.

Location: The study area extends (approximately) from the 400 block of East Jefferson Boulevard to the 1700 block of Maumee Avenue, and (approximately) from the 1700 block of South Anthony Boulevard to the 2000 block of South Anthony Boulevard. The (approximate) area is located south of the Maumee River, north of the CSX Transportation Inc. Railway, east of Lafayette Street, and west of South Anthony Boulevard.

Applicant: The City of Fort Wayne Division of Community Development

Related Petitions: Ordinance G-25-04-19

Effect of Passage: Adopting the goals and strategies of the East Central Forward Neighborhood Plan will help fulfill a request of the East Central Neighborhood, providing an updated strategy for development and redevelopment. The plan covers topics related to the Neighborhood and Safe Community, History and Heritage, Housing, Place, and People.

Effect of Non-Passage: The East Park Planning Alliance: A Neighborhood Plan for the East Central Neighborhood (2005), will continue to guide development, economic, zoning and infrastructure decisions that are no longer in alignment with the goals and needs of the neighborhood planning area.



April 1, 2025

Ben Roussel, Director
Allen County Department of Planning Services
200 East Berry Street, Suite 150
Fort Wayne, IN 46802

In alignment with the *All in Allen Comprehensive Plan* — specifically, Housing & Neighborhoods, Goal 1: Support and Strengthen Complete Neighborhoods, and Policy 1.6: Encourage Neighborhood Activation and Planning — the City of Fort Wayne, in partnership with the East Central Planning Committee, has developed the ***East Central Forward Neighborhood Plan***.

This planning effort began in the fall of 2023, following an official request from the East Central Neighborhood Association to update the existing neighborhood plan. Since then, city staff and a dedicated volunteer steering committee have diligently worked to gather extensive community input from nearly 420 residents, business owners, and stakeholders in the neighborhood.

Building upon the foundation of the 2005 *East Park Plan*, ***East Central Forward*** includes updated Demographic data, along with new goals and policies, and reflects the community's current priorities. The plan focuses on key areas, including neighborhood safety, walkability, housing improvements, access to recreation and wellness, and celebrating the neighborhood's rich history and heritage.

On **March 17, 2025**, the Fort Wayne Plan Commission formally initiated the adoption process for the East Central Forward plan. As part of the next steps, the plan is set to be introduced to Common Council on **April 22, 2025**, followed by a public hearing hosted by the Plan Commission on **May 12, 2025**.

Staff members from the City of Fort Wayne's Department of Neighborhoods will prepare the Staff Report and provide all necessary documentation for the public hearing process.

If you have any questions regarding the East Central Forward Neighborhood Plan, please do not hesitate to contact me at (260) 427-5694 or dan.baisden@cityoffortwayne.org.

Sincerely,

Dan Baisden



East Central Forward

2035 NEIGHBORHOOD PLAN

WHAT IS EAST CENTRAL FORWARD?

East Central Forward is a planning document that provides a shared vision and direction of East Central Neighborhood, located in the eastern urban core of the City of Fort Wayne. The East Central planning area is rich in history and is a long-standing community that is moving forward to a bright future.

WHO DOES IT INCLUDE

- Neighborhood Associations
- City Leaders and Staff
- Investors, Developers and Business Owners
- For-Profit Corporations & Non-Profit Organizations

WHAT DOES IT INCLUDE

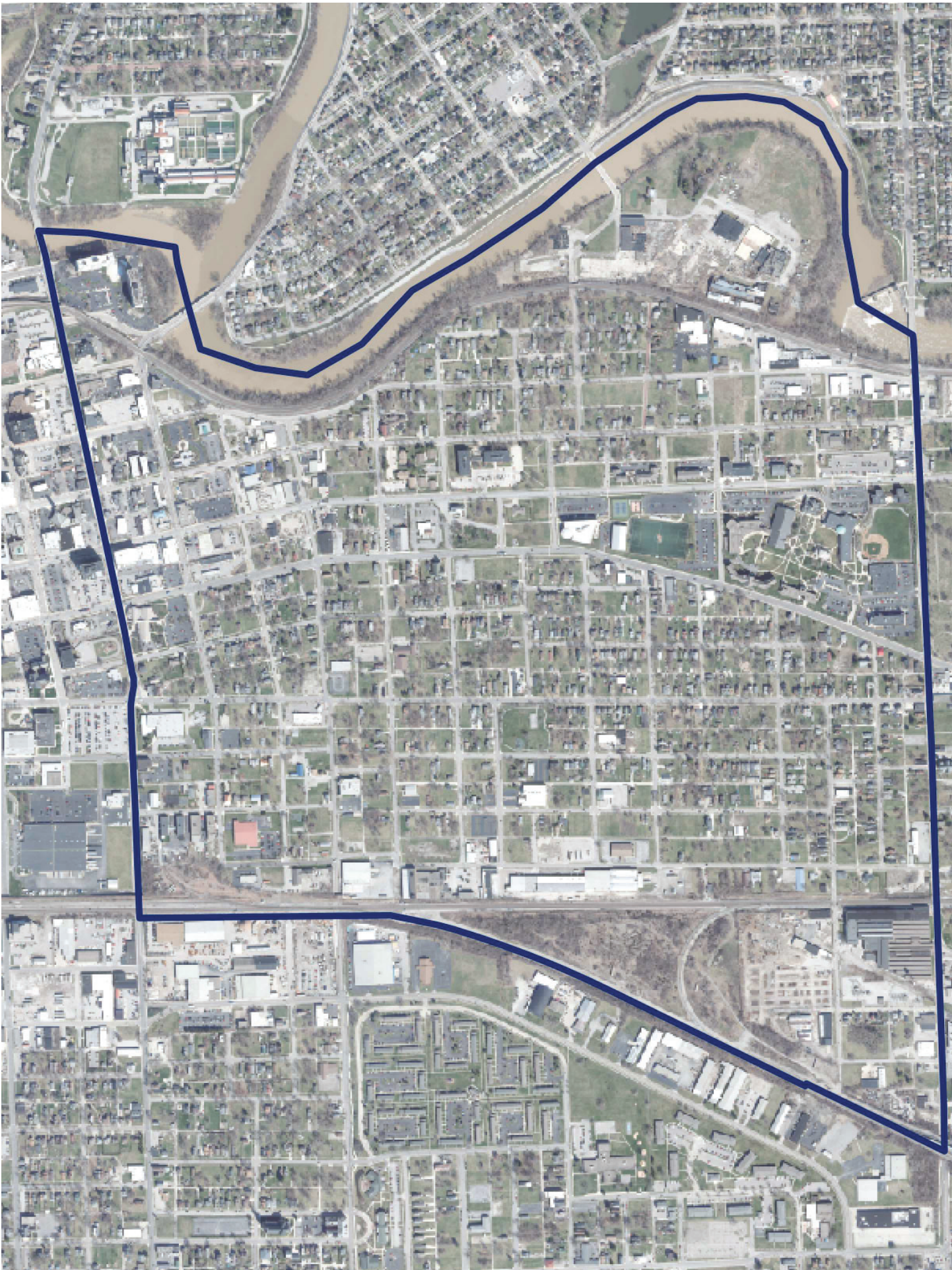
- Neighborhood History
- Neighborhood Existing Conditions
- Plan Recommendations
- Implementation Matrix

WHAT IS THE PLANNING PROCESS?

The **East Central Forward** planning process began in the Fall of 2023 due to an initial effort of the East Central Neighborhood to pursue a neighborhood plan.

This partnership began with a steering committee made up of leaders and residents of East Central. The planning area is called East Central Forward to honor the current efforts to move the neighborhood forward, and to acknowledge past efforts that have historically left little impact. This neighborhood represents a deep, rich culture that has emphasized the wants and needs to move the area in a positive and supportive way.

East Central Forward is founded on stakeholder and resident contributions. From 2023-2025 over four hundred community members were engaged including youth and seniors, property owners and renters, elected officials, workers, and business owners. Over 20 events and workshops have been held in-person and online, including working group meetings, neighborhood walks, open houses, and neighborhood meetings at various locations including Hanna Homestead Park, Foellinger Foundation, and MKM Architecture. Additional engagement included print and online surveys in English and Spanish. Overall about 420 neighborhood residents were engaged in the planning process to elicit a complete picture of the community's priorities and desires.



The following principles serve as the foundation of East Central Forward, guiding all strategies, actions, and recommendations within the plan. Rooted in the community's values and priorities, these principles reflect a shared vision for a stronger, more connected, and resilient neighborhood. They respond to both present-day challenges and long-term opportunities, ensuring that East Central remains a place where residents feel safe, supported, and proud to call home.

Planning Principles:

Safe Community

We believe that all residents deserve to feel safe in their neighborhoods. East Central Forward prioritizes strategies that strengthen public safety, encourage community involvement, and create inviting public spaces. By fostering a greater sense of trust, connection, and visibility, we aim to enhance safety and peace of mind throughout East Central.

History and Heritage

East Central's past is a source of strength and identity. This plan supports efforts to celebrate the neighborhood's cultural heritage, honor those who have shaped it, and preserve historic places and stories. By elevating community memory, we build pride and support connections to East Central for future generations.

Walkability

A walkable neighborhood is a livable neighborhood. East Central Forward emphasizes the importance of safe, connected, and accessible pedestrian infrastructure. We prioritize sidewalk improvements near schools, parks, and activity centers to promote healthier lifestyles and improve mobility for people of all ages and abilities.

Improved Housing

Stable, quality housing is the heart of a strong neighborhood. East Central Forward promotes housing that is safe, affordable, and well-maintained. Supporting reinvestment in existing homes, responsible infill development, and policies that help residents remain in their homes and build long-term stability.

Recreation and Wellness

Access to recreation and wellness resources is essential to community well-being. East Central Forward advocates for the enhancement of parks, trails, and community spaces as hubs for physical activity, connection, and health services. Ensuring that every resident has access to safe, vibrant places to play, gather, and thrive.



GOAL ONE: East Central residents actively contribute to and take pride in a safe, clean, and beautiful neighborhood

1.1 Empower residents to enhance the cleanliness and appearance of East Central through community-led cleanup initiatives.

1.2 Improve safety and security in East Central by implementing Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design (CPTED) Strategies.

GOAL TWO: East Central's history and heritage are a source of community pride and are actively celebrated

2.1 Engage the East Central community in identifying, preserving, and celebrating its history and historic resources.

2.2 Tell the story of East Central's history and heritage through compelling public art and signage that enhances the neighborhood's identity and sense of place.

2.3 Establish a strong visual identity for East Central by enhancing neighborhood gateways that clearly define its boundaries and celebrate its unique character.

GOAL THREE: East Central offers residents a range of safe, high-quality, and affordable housing options that meet diverse needs and preferences

3.1 Enhance East Central's housing stock through maintenance, improvement, and preservation efforts.

3.2 Increase housing availability and diversity in East Central through strategic infill development.

3.3 Expand homeownership opportunities in East Central.

GOAL FOUR: East Central residents have access to safe, reliable, and connected infrastructure

4.1 Encourage connectivity and expansion of the city Trail Network in the East Central Neighborhood.

4.2 Support safe access to public transit within the East Central Neighborhood.

4.3 Improve pedestrian safety and accessibility throughout the neighborhood.

4.4 Improve physical linkages between East Central and Downtown Fort Wayne to enhance connectivity for residents and businesses.

GOAL FIVE: East Central residents enjoy equitable access to and actively utilize high-quality parks, public spaces, and recreational facilities that foster community and enhance quality of life

5.1 Assess the needs of East Central's diverse community and develop a plan to adapt public facilities and parks to address identified needs.

5.2 Enhance community engagement and resident well-being in East Central through targeted programming.

GOAL SIX: Development in East Central reflects the community's vision for its future.

6.1 Encourage the alignment and modification of zoning district designations that support desired development and reflect the community's vision for East Central.

GOAL SEVEN: East Central residents have access to safe, reliable, and connected infrastructure

7.1 Increase community awareness and participation in East Central activities and events.

7.2 Foster small business growth and development in East Central by connecting entrepreneurs and small business owners with the City of Fort Wayne SEED program.

7.3 Strengthen the partnership between East Central and Indiana Tech to enhance community development.

GOAL EIGHT: East Central fosters a healthy and sustainable community for residents to live, work, and play

8.1 Improve physical and mental health outcomes for East Central residents.

8.2 Work with local agencies to develop Physical and mental health support services in the East Central

8.3 Enhance access to resources and support for unsheltered residents in East Central through collaborative partnerships.

8.4 Enhance environmental sustainability and resilience in East Central.