2.0 COUNTY INFORMATION

As required by DMA2K, a community profile must be developed for the county and any jurisdictions participating in this effort. Because of the multiple jurisdictions involved in this plan, this section presents a demographical and historical description of the county as a whole.

2.1 County Profile

Butler County is located in the southwestern portion of the State of Ohio. It lies north of Hamilton County, south of Preble County, southwest of Montgomery County, west of Warren County, and just east of the Indiana state line. The county covers a 467.27 square mile area with a population estimated at 363,184 as of 2009.

Figure 2.1

Butler County

The county has 6 cities, 13 townships, and 6 villages. The majority of the population resides in the seven cities located within the county. The highest populated area is the county seat, Hamilton, followed by Middletown, Fairfield, Oxford, Monroe, and Trenton. While 2,500 residents within the City of Sharonville reside in Butler County, the majority of Sharonville is located in Hamilton County, making the Hamilton County Emergency Management Agency their primary planning entity. The highest populated village in the county is New Miami, while West Chester accounts for the highest populated township.

2.2 County History

Butler County was established by the State of Ohio on March 24, 1803. The county was named in honor of Richard Butler, who was killed in St. Clair's defeat in 1791. The county was originally part of Hamilton County at its inception. Butler County has enjoyed a wide array of industry and business since its beginning. The cities of Hamilton and Middletown attracted industries which manufactured hundreds of products including paper, steel, machine tools, safes, and bicycles. By 1910 due to large growth of industry, the City of Hamilton's population was a robust 40,000 strong while the county as a

whole was just over 70,000. The county population continued to grow steadily until 1960 when the population jumped from just over 150,000 to nearly 200,000 and has continued to rise to its current population.

2.3 County Jurisdictions

The jurisdictions represented in the Mitigation Core Group Committee include:

1. City of Hamilton
2. City of Fairfield
3. City of Middletown
4. City of Monroe
5. City of Trenton
6. City of Oxford
7. Fairfield Township
8. Hanover Township
9. Lemon Township
10. Liberty Township

11, Madison Township
12. Milford Township
13. Morgan Township
14. Oxford Township
15. Reily Township
16. Ross Township
17. St. Clair Township
18. Wayne Township
19. West Chester Township
20. Village of College Corner

21. Village of Jacksonburg
22. Village of Millville
23. Village of New Miami
24. Village of Seven Mile
25. Village of Somerville

2.4 Census Data and Projections

State Population Projection

The State of Ohio's population in 2000 was 11,353,140 and it is projected to climb to 12,317,613 by 2030, an increase of 8.5%. However, it appears that the rate at which Ohio's population is growing is diminishing. Several factors may be contributing to this decline. The birth to death ratio is much smaller than in faster growing states, with Ohio expected to have 4.4 million births and 3.6 million deaths. Net migration is a factor as well. Ohio may gain approximately 247,000 people through in-migration but may lose about 758,000 people through out-migration.
The projected percentage of population change by county in Ohio from 1990 to 2030 is reflected on the map in this section. Counties surrounding a major metropolitan area – Cincinnati, Columbus, and Cleveland – generally will experience higher growth rates. Counties in the north central and eastern region of the state are projected to experience a decline.
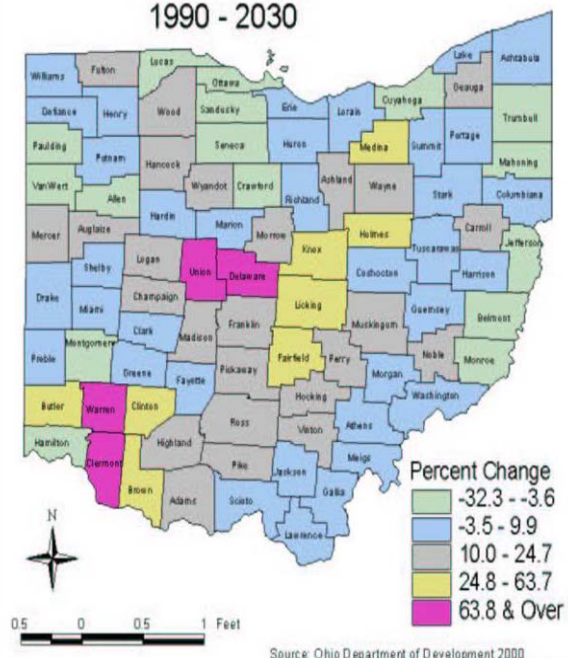

Figure 2.2

County Population Projection

While the county's population at the 2000 census was 332,807, current estimates show that the population will most likely grow to above 363,000 by 2010. The exact information on the growth of population within the county will not be known until the 2010 census data is released in mid-2011. Residency in rural and urban parts of the county is nearly even with an estimated approximate of 60% living in the urban areas and 40% living in the rural. While current data is still being collected on exact numbers, history and future projections show that Butler County is an area that continually grows from decade to decade. The Ohio Department of Development assumes that Butler County will grow between 24.8% and 63.7% between the years 1990 and 2030 (See Figure 2.2). Historic population data dating back to 1900 is listed in Figure 2.3.

Butler County Historic Population Data

2009 (estimate)	363,184
2005 (estimate)	349,966
2000	332,807
1990	291,479
1980	258,787
1970	226,207
1960	199,076
1950	147,203
1940	120,249
1930	114,084
1920	87,025
1910	70,271
1900	56,870

Figure 2.3

2.5 County Topography

According to the Butler County Soil and Water Conservation District, there are 14 different watersheds that influence drainage within the county. Of those 14 watersheds the Great Miami River, Indian Creek, and Four Mile Creek have the largest areas within the county.

Figure 2.4 shows rivers and streams in Butler County as they relate to jurisdictions.
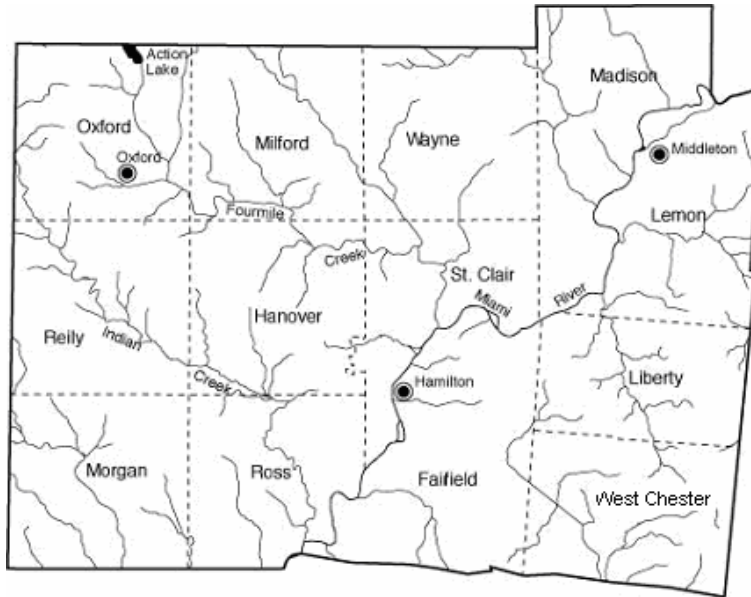
Figure 2.4

2.6 Land Use

The Butler County Department of Development Land Use Plan was reviewed and used to provide technical information during the update process of this Mitigation Plan. After analyzing data provided by the Butler County Department of Development, it is apparent that the majority of the land in the county is primarily used for agricultural purposes. Residential use is the next leading category with 30% of the county's land utilized in this fashion. Figure 2.5 shows the breakdown of the county's current land use.

Land Use	2010 Acres	%
Agriculture	167,688	56.1
Residential	92,022	30.8
Industrial	6,166	2.1
Commercial	9,029	3
Public	22,983	7.7
Railroad	992	.3
TOTALS	**298,880**	**100**

Figure 2.5

According to the current land use plan, 5 goals are in place to guide land development in the county. They are as follows:

1. To promote the orderly and efficient layout and appropriate use of land in Butler County to promote the health, safety, and welfare of all residents and to leave future generations a desirable place to work, study, and reside.

2. To provide the Board of County Commissioners, county planning commission, zoning commission and township trustees with policy guidelines in order to assist them in their weekly, monthly, and annual decision making concerning land use, zoning, public facilities and services, and development review matters.

3. To create a framework to provide current and future residents in Butler County the opportunity to create a shared vision for their community.

4, To establish the framework for implementing the recommendations of this plan in a timely and meaningful manner.

5. To assist the continuing efforts of coordinating various planning agencies operating in the county and achieve the overall goals and objectives of this plan without being unduly disrupted by any single element of this plan of other planning efforts undertaken in Butler County.

These goals are envisioned to eventually lead to the development of more of the county's agricultural land into residential, industrial, commercial, and public purposes.

According to the Butler County Department of Development the proposed change in acreage shown in the below chart is to be achieved by 2020. The proposed future land use specificities are shown in Figure 2.6.

Land Use	Future Acres	%
Agriculture	155,950	52.2
Residential	99,336	33.2
Industrial	7,566	2.5
Commercial	11,743	3.9
Public	23,293	7.8
Railroad	992	.3
TOTALS	**298,880**	**100**

Figure 2.6

2.6 Public Utilities

2.6.1 Water and Wastewater

The 6 cities within Butler County all have their own water and wastewater facilities. The Butler County Water and Sewer Department (BCWS) serves a growing population of more than 100,000 in

West Chester, Lemon, Liberty, Fairfield, Hanover and Ross townships, as well as, the city of Monroe and the village of New Miami. The BCWS provides both drinking water and wastewater services. The remaining townships and villages not served by cities or the BCWS depend on wells and septic systems for water and wastewater issues. Butler County receives its water from the City of Hamilton's ground water supply and the Greater Cincinnati Water Works' (GCWW) ground and surface water. The BCWS also maintains several other connections with the GCWW, Warren County, Cities of Hamilton, Mason, and Monroe to ensure the delivery of water in case of an emergency.

2.6.2 Other Utilities

The county is served by Duke Energy, Butler County Rural Elective Cooperative, and Dayton Power and Light for its gas and electricity needs. The City of Hamilton also has its own gas and electric department serving its residents. Telephone services are provided to the county by Cincinnati Bell and Time Warner Cable and other private telephone companies.