

1.2 DESCRIPTION OF THE PLANNING AREA

County Geography

Washington County is located in southeastern Ohio along the Ohio River, and is approximately 80 miles southeast of Columbus, the state capital. The county has a total area of 640 square miles, of which 632 square miles is land and 8 square miles is water (U.S. Census Bureau). Washington County is bordered by Morgan and Athens counties to the west, Noble and Monroe counties to the north, Tyler (WV) and Pleasants (WV) to the east, and Wood County (WV) to the south. Washington County is separated from West Virginia by the Ohio River along its entire eastern and southeastern border. Washington County was founded in 1788 and is the oldest county in Ohio. The county seat is the City of Marietta, and the county contains six other municipalities along with twenty-two townships. The table to the right lists the municipalities and townships found in Washington County and these are also displayed graphically in the map below. The location of Washington County regionally is also depicted in the second map below and to the right.

Name	Type
Adams	Township
Aurelius	Township
Barlow	Township
Belpre	City
Belpre	Township
Beverly	Village
Decatur	Township
Dunham	Township
Fairfield	Township
Fearing	Township
Grandview	Township
Independence	Township
Lawrence	Township
Liberty	Township
Lowell	Village
Lower Salem	Village
Ludlow	Township
Macksburg	Village
Marietta	City
Marietta	Township
Matamoras	Village
Muskingum	Township
Newport	Township
Palmer	Township
Salem	Township
Warren	Township
Waterford	Township
Watertown	Township
Wesley	Township

County Demographics

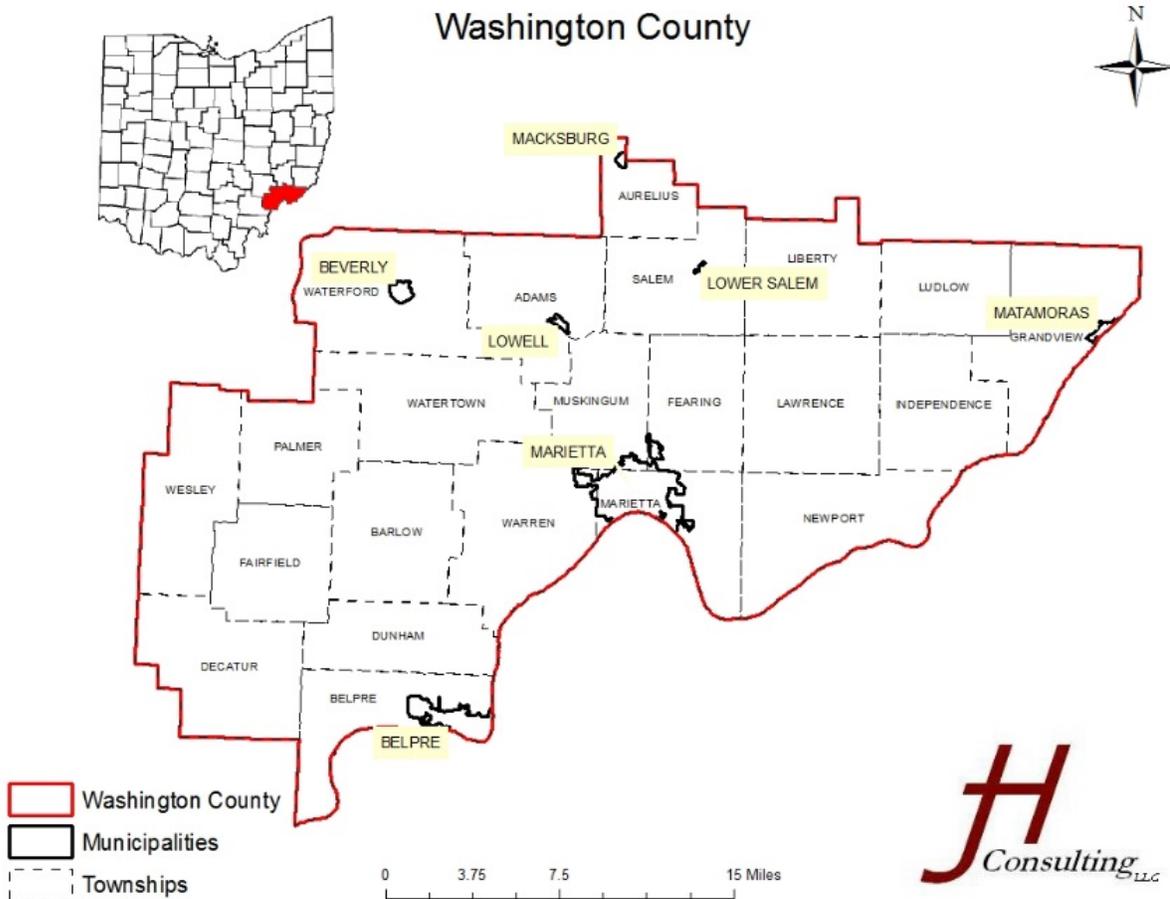
The total population of Washington County, according to the Census Bureau's 2014 population estimate, is 61,778. Of that, 37% live within the seven municipalities while 63% live in the unincorporated county. The median age in Washington County is 43, above the state median age of 39 (Ohio Development Services Agency, 2015).

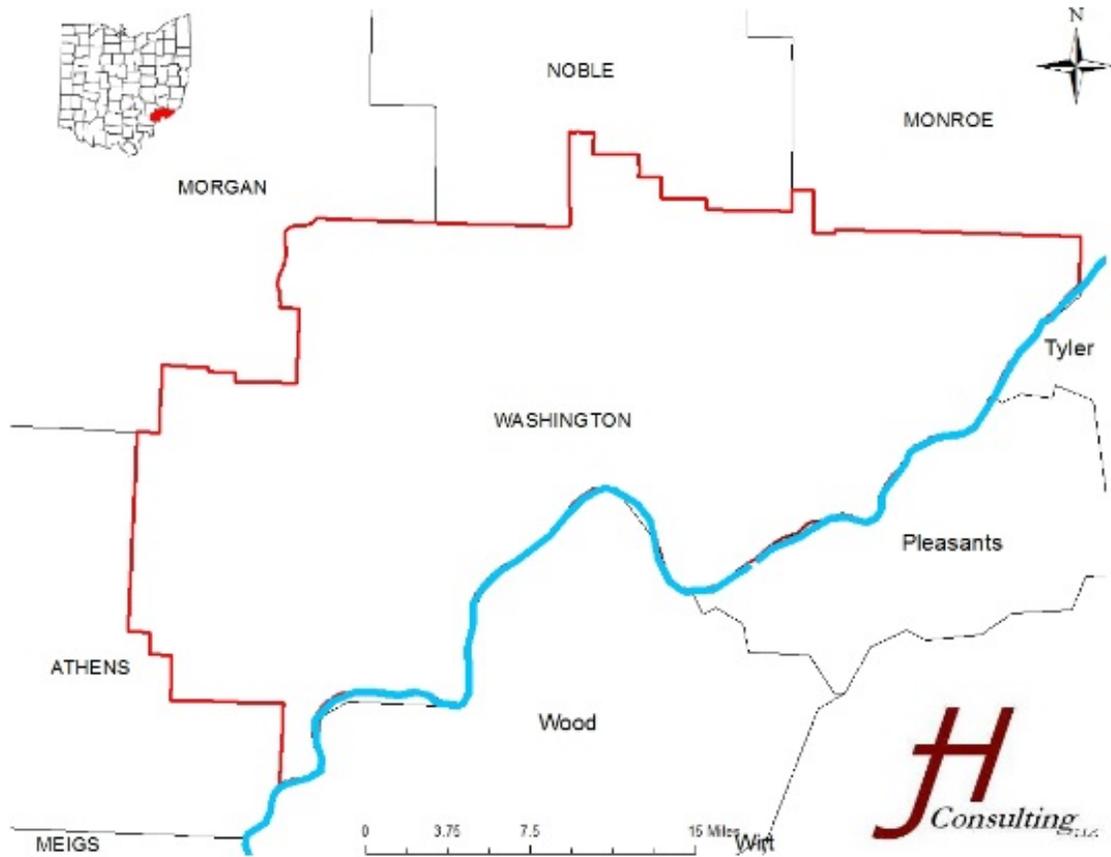
Over 88% of the population in Washington County has at least a high school diploma or GED, which is equivalent to the statewide percentage. The median household income is \$42,834, below the state median household income and considerably below the national median. Just over 15% of families are living below the poverty line. The table to the right

shows this and other basic demographic data for Washington County (Ohio Development Services Agency, 2015).

As stated prior, and listed above, there are seven municipalities in Washington County. The demographics for these municipalities are shown in the table below. All data are from the Census Bureau.

Total Population	61,778
Male	30,165
Female	31,613
Total Housing Units	28,367
Percent high school diploma or higher	88.8%
Percent Bachelor's degree or higher	16%
Median Household Income	\$42,834
Families below poverty level	15.3%
Unemployment Rate	6.2%





	Belpre	Beverly	Lower Salem	Lowell	Macksburg	Matamoras	Marietta
Population	6,431	1,072	40	478	133	822	14,029
Minority (%)	6.0%	2.5%	7.0%	10.5%	2.3%	0.5%	5.3%
65+ (%)	22.3%	24.4%	14.0%	22.0%	19.5%	20.4%	20.1%
Under 21 (%)	19.6%	20.2%	26.7%	27.2%	14.3%	22.0%	24.9%
Median Household Income	\$ 33,647	\$ 34,886	\$ 18,750	\$ 36,908	\$ 21,250	\$ 33,750	\$ 31,030
Total Households	3,053	545	31	248	77	413	5,828
Poverty (%)	21.9%	13.8%	40.0%	15.7%	21.8%	25.3%	24.2%

Economy

The service industry is the largest employer in Washington County, making up over 70% of all private sector employment. According to the Marietta Area Chamber of Commerce (MACC), the Marietta Memorial Hospital is the largest employer in the county. The top ten employers are shown in the table to the left (MACC, 2016). The unemployment rate in Washington County has been

Employer	# Employed
Marietta Memorial Hospital	2,558
Peoples Bank	787
Pioneer Pipe	588
Thermo Fisher	480
Kraton Polymers	443
Marietta College	322
Solvay Advanced Polymers	290
Eramet	210
Washington State Community College	160
Wal-Mart	155
RFJ International	152

Year	Unemployment Rate
2010	11.4%
2011	9.9%
2012	8.4%
2013	8.4%
2014	6.2%
2015	5.9%

steadily falling for the past several years, from a high of 11.4% in 2010 to 5.9% in 2015 (Ohio Development Services Agency, 2015).

Transportation

Roads

Interstate 77 runs through the center of Washington County from north to south. In addition to the interstate, U.S. highway 50 runs through the southeastern portion of the county. The county is also served by a network of fifteen state highways. These routes are shown in the map above.

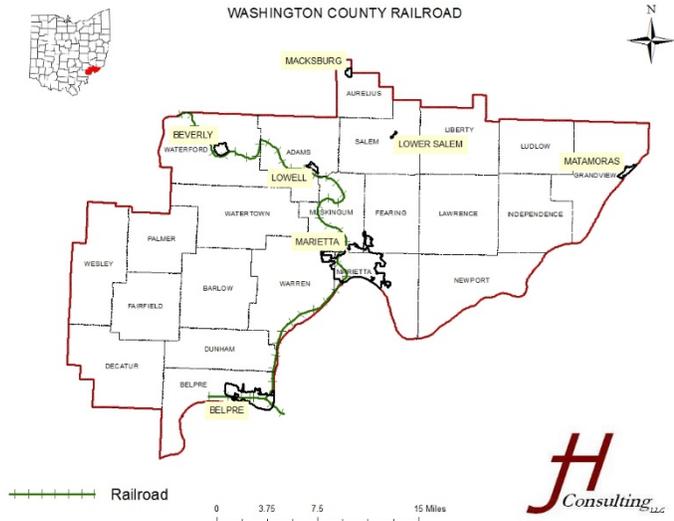
In addition to the Interstate and State Highway systems, residents in Washington County are



also served by county and township maintained roads. There are 835 miles of township roads and 336 miles of county roads across the county (Local Sources).

Rail

CSX Transportation operates a primary line and a secondary line in Washington County. Both lines cross over the Ohio River from Wood County, WV near the city of Belpre. The secondary line runs west from that point before terminating in Belpre Township. The primary line runs north along the Ohio River until reaching Marietta Township, where it turns northwest and continues generally in that direction until it leaves Washington County. The primary line runs through or adjacent to Belpre, Marietta, Lowell, and Beverly.



Air

Mid-Ohio Valley (MOV) Regional Airport is the closest airport to Washington County and is located in Wood County, WV. Silver Airways is the sole passenger service provider at MOV Regional Airport. Daily flights are available to the Morgantown Airport and to Washington-Dulles International (Silver Airlines Timetable).

Public Transit

Public transportation in Washington County is provided by the Washington – Morgan Community Action Bus Line (CABL). Service is limited to daytime routes. Some routes operate on a Monday – Saturday schedule while others operate on specific days. CABL also offers curb to curb paratransit service to eligible disabled persons during normal hours of operation (Washington-Morgan Community Action).

Medical Access

There are two hospitals in Washington County; Selby General Hospital and Marietta Memorial Hospital. Both hospitals are located in Marietta. The Memorial Health System also has a free standing emergency room and outpatient clinic located in Belpre. Additional outpatient facilities are located throughout the county (Memorial Health System: <http://www.mhsystem.org/about.>)

Utilities

Electric Service

There are two electric service providers in Washington County: Ohio Power and Washington Electric Co-op (Public Utilities Commission of Ohio [PUCO], 2016).

Internet

There are a large number of internet service providers in Washington County, ranging from national providers to local companies. These include: AT&T U-verse, Dish Network, Frontier North, Horizon, HugesNet, King Street Wireless, Lumos Networks, Suddenlink, and Winstream (Broadbandnow.com, 2016).

Natural Gas

Two companies provide natural gas service within Washington County: Columbia Gas of Ohio, and National Gas and Oil Co-op (Public Utilities Commission of Ohio [PUCO], 2016).

Sewer

There are 3 sewage system providers within Washington County, all of them being municipal systems. The City of Belpre, Washington County Wastewater the City of Marietta provide this service (Local Officials).

Telecommunications

Washington County is home to four telecommunications providers, including: AT&T Ohio, Frontier North, UTO (d/b/a Century Link), and Windstream Western Reserve (Public Utilities Commission of Ohio [PUCO], 2016). There are a number of cellular communications providers in the area, the two largest being AT&T and Verizon (Local Officials).

Water

There are twelve water providers in Washington County, including five municipal systems. The cities of Belpre and Marietta operate their own water distribution systems, as do the Villages of Matamoras, Lowell and Beverly. The rest of the county is served by:

- Highland Ridge Water Association
- Little Hocking Water Association
- Newport Water Association
- Putnam Community Water
- Reno Water District
- Tri-County Water

- Warren Community Water (Local Officials).

Jurisdictional Capabilities

Participating jurisdictions have a number of capabilities that can support (or at least be related to) mitigation efforts. The table below outlines those capabilities.

Jurisdiction	Planning Commission?	Comprehensive Plans?	Floodplain Regulations?	Building Codes*	Zoning Ordinances	Capital Budget? **	Public Works Budget? **
Washington County	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Limited	No	No
Belpre	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	No
Marietta	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	No
Beverly	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	No	No	No
Lower Salem	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	No	No	No
Lowell	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	No	No	No
Macksburg	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	No	No	No
Matamoras	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	No	No	No
*All jurisdictions in the State of Ohio now follow the State Building Code. (Ohio Administrative Code 4101:1)							
**The budget area refers to budgets that would allow the jurisdiction to devote some resources towards mitigation activities.							

National Flood Insurance Program Participation

Communities Participating in the NFIP						
CID	Name	County	Init FHBM Identified	Init FIRM Identified	Curr Eff Map Date	Reg-Emer Date
390566	Washington County	Washington County	1/31/1975	2/18/1981	4/16/2014	2/18/1981
390567	City of Belpre	Washington County	4/5/1974	8/1/1980	4/16/2014	8/1/1980
390572	City of Marietta*	Washington County	12/7/1973	2/18/1981	4/16/2014	2/18/1981
	*=ORDINANCE 257 (04-05) AS AMENDED BY ORDINANCE 2 (06-07) WAS FOUND TO BE COMPLIANT					
390568	Village of Beverly	Washington County	4/5/1974	8/1/1980	4/16/2014	8/1/1980
390580	Village of Lower Salem	Washington County	8/30/1974	8/15/1980	4/16/2014	8/15/1980
390569	Village of Lowell	Washington County	4/12/1974	8/15/1980	4/16/2014	8/15/1980
390571	Village of Macksburg	Washington County	8/23/1974	11/5/1980	4/16/2014	11/5/1980
390573	Village of Matamoras**	Washington County	4/5/1974	8/1/1980	4/16/2014	8/1/1980
	**= 2 feet freeboard					
Source: FEMA NFIP Community Status Book Report						

National Flood Insurance Program Compliance

According to the Ohio Department of Natural Resources (ODNR), Division of Soil and Water Resources, Washington County began the map modernization process in early 2003. The Scoping Meeting was conducted in early to mid-2003 and preliminary maps were released on September 9, 2003. An Open House was held on February 15, 2005 for both government representatives and the public to review the drafts of the revised maps. The appeals and comment period was open from April 20 to July 19, 2005. The Letter of Final Determination was issued on August 16, 2005. The new maps were adopted by the County on February 16, 2006 and became effective immediately.

The Southeast Ohio Building Department keeps the County's Special Purpose Flood Damage Reduction Resolution. This regulation appoints a County Floodplain Administrator

and specifies this position's duties and responsibilities. Some of the duties include, but are not limited to routine monitoring of the floodplain, enforcing regulations and providing community assistance such as encouragement for property owners to maintain flood insurance.