

# Economic Development Manager



## City of WORTHINGTON, OHIO

The City of Worthington is seeking an experienced and dynamic professional to manage the City's economic development program. This individual will guide, develop and implement the City's programs focused on business attraction, retention and development. This community and position profile is designed to guide applicants as they familiarize themselves with relevant job-related and community information.



## HISTORY

The earliest planned community in Ohio, Worthington was settled in 1803. Early leaders purchased 16,000 acres of land and planned the layout for the village. The pre-planning of a community was very unique for early 19th century Ohio, yet pioneers had a vision for their new community. Worthington was platted as a New England-type village around a central public square, which was designated for religious and educational purposes, as well as a spot for community gatherings. This area remains today as our Village Green and still maintains the values of Worthington's founders, while also anchoring one of central Ohio's most iconic downtown historic districts.



# WORTHINGTON TODAY

Today, Worthington remains committed to thoughtful planning and responsible development. Worthington is a strong suburban community in the vibrant Columbus, Ohio region, ideally located at the northern crossroads of I-270, I-71 & State Route 315, with easy access to, from and around the central Ohio region. As a mature community inside the region's outerbelt, the focus is on high quality, value-added redevelopment of existing properties and land. Architectural Review requirements are in place in the historic district and central business corridor to assure future development is complementary to the historic nature of the community.

Worthington includes a mix of unique retail establishments and restaurants in our historic Old Worthington district, office and professional businesses in the Wilson Bridge Road and High Street corridors, and industrial and commercial users in our Huntley Road corridor. Major employers in these corridors include Worthington Enterprises, Worthington Steel, AAA Ohio, Hyperion Materials & Technologies, Medvet, and DLZ Corp.

Historic Old Worthington is an attractive, New England-inspired downtown area comprised of unique, family run restaurants and retail shops with office space interspersed. It is the heart of Worthington both geographically and emotionally. Numerous special events are held in Old Worthington which draw a multitude of residents and visitors to the area. The City places a special emphasis on supporting and maintaining the vibrancy of this area which drives much of Worthington's identity.

Wilson Bridge Road serves as the City's primary office corridor with large office facilities and interstate highway frontage. It is home to businesses ranging from retail, restaurant, wholesale trade and logistics, communications and utilities, finance, insurance and real estate. The western portion of the corridor has experienced significant private investment in recent years and is attracting new businesses and residents.

The High Street corridor is home to a wide array of businesses, including corporate offices and professional and retail services such as banks and restaurants. The area north of Worthington's historic center is characterized by broad, green landscapes with mature trees and increased setbacks.

Worthington's industrial corridor follows Huntley Road on the east side of the City. It includes dual main-line rail (CSX and Norfolk Southern). Businesses in this corridor represent the manufacturing, service, construction, transportation and utilities sectors.

Worthington has long been recognized as a successful and vibrant community. As a mature city, Worthington has a primary focus on redevelopment and reinvestment. Given the City's key geographic position in the region, a strong business base, and a high quality of life, we see many opportunities to



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achieve positive redevelopment. It is critical that redevelopment is consistent with the City's objectives and meets both the long and short term needs of the community.

The City's redevelopment efforts are guided by its Comprehensive Plan as well as specific corridor and redevelopment plans. In 2024, the City plans to initiate an update to the City's Comprehensive Plan. In addition, a Northeast Area Plan is being finalized to provide recommendations to facilitate future development of the Northeast Corridor, which includes Huntley Road, Worthington Galena Road, East Wilson Bridge Road, Proprietors Road and Lakeview Plaza. A new Housing Assessment Study was also recently completed to inform future needs for housing in our community. These planning studies will all feed into our Comprehensive Planning process and are aimed at ensuring the long-term success of the City.

The Worthington community recently completed a visioning initiative to identify a vision for our community in the coming years. The vision has seven components, including being a diverse and equitable community; offering a high quality of life; dedication to the vibrancy of downtown; a balanced and resilient economy; open, forward-thinking and collaborative leadership, modeling environmental stewardship and connectedness.



Specific action ideas were developed by Vision Implementation Teams and Council has prioritized the actions to accomplish in the next one to two years. The full vision and actions can be found at [worthington.org/visioning](http://worthington.org/visioning).

The City utilizes a wide range of economic development tools to achieve its desired outcomes, including tax increment financing, tax abatement, grants for job creation, grants and loans for building improvements, and other strategies that are identified. Its approach to development incentives is a tailored one that focuses on the needs of the specific project and identifies the tools most appropriate to meet those needs.

Worthington has a culture of community partnerships and regional collaboration. The City is actively engaged with The Columbus Region, the region's economic development organization; the Mid-Ohio Regional Planning Commission (MORPC); the Mid-Ohio Development Exchange (MODE); and numerous other state and regional boards, task forces and committees. The City works closely with the Worthington Area Chamber of Commerce including co-producing a popular economic development podcast, Amplify Worthington. We also partner regularly with Experience Worthington, the Schools, Libraries and other community groups on initiatives, programs and events to benefit residents, businesses and visitors. Worthington is home to many active, engaged and talented citizens who care deeply about the community and regularly volunteer their time and expertise to help it succeed.

## FORM OF GOVERNMENT

The City of Worthington is a Council-Manager form of government. The legislative body includes seven (7) City Council members who are elected at-large from a non-partisan ballot for four-year overlapping terms. The Council appoints the City Manager, who has the administrative authority and operational responsibilities of the City.

Worthington has a highly professional and ethical governmental culture that is well known for its political and managerial stability. This is derived both from the form of government and from highly educated and professional City Council members, boards and commissions members, staff and citizenry who are thoughtful and strategic in their decision making.





## ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT MANAGER

Economic Development is a function of the City Manager's office. The Economic Development Manager reports to the Assistant City Manager and is charged with overseeing and implementing the City's economic development initiatives. Important functions performed by the Economic Development Manager include a strong existing business program involving proactive contact with Worthington businesses, targeted financial support for projects that achieve the City's economic development goals, active marketing of prime redevelopment sites, implementation and promotion of the City's façade grant/loan program targeted at the industrial corridor along the City's eastern edge, and providing key staff support for the Worthington

Community Improvement Corporation. The Economic Development Manager is encouraged to build and expand the City's economic development activities by developing new programs, policies and initiatives that will further support the City's economic development objectives.

The City of Worthington is seeking an experienced economic development professional who will embrace collaboration with the other key individuals who comprise the City's team. The ideal candidate knows how to develop and advance policies and ideas for improving the Worthington economy and must be able to work collaboratively with elected and appointed officials, business leaders and citizen groups. He/she enjoys working on

the many different facets of economic development at the local government level and can independently manage a significant volume of multi-faceted work. He/she possesses strong knowledge of the wide range of economic development tools and has sufficient technical expertise to execute them. Ideally, this individual is an effective communicator, possesses the ability to listen, can appropriately balance consistency and flexibility, possesses a strong sense of community and fairness, has an understanding of the business world and a sense of humor.

More information including the complete job description is available at [worthington.org/jobs](http://worthington.org/jobs).

### HOW TO APPLY

The position will be open until filled.

Applicants should submit an application for employment at [worthington.org/jobs](http://worthington.org/jobs) and include a cover letter, resume, salary history and three work related references. Applications and attachments can also be sent to:

Angela Harris  
Personnel Director  
[angela.harris@worthington.org](mailto:angela.harris@worthington.org)  
City of Worthington  
6550 N. High Street  
Worthington, Ohio 43085

Resumes for this position are public records and subject to inspection.