




CITY OF KENT, OHIO

DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

July 19, 2011

TO: Dave Ruller
City Manager

FROM: Gary Locke
Community Development Director 

RE: Preliminary Evaluation of Ward Apportionment in Relation
To the 2010 Census Data

Introduction

Since the release of the first elements of the new 2010 Census Data several months ago, the Community Development Department has been evaluating the new data in relation to Section 64 of the Kent City Charter and the voting ward apportionment. For those not familiar with Section 64, it is quoted below:

SECTION 64. VOTING WARD APPORTIONMENT.

Commencing as early as practicable in the year 1971, and every ten years thereafter, Council shall determine by census the resident population of each ward, and shall apportion them equally, and, if necessary, shall redefine the boundaries thereof, so that there is no disparity, in resident population, of more than 10% between wards; provided, however, that this shall in no way limit, nor preclude, an increase in the number of wards, and further provided that each ward shall be comprised of compact and contiguous territory. (Added 5-5-70.)

Data to be used both nationally and locally for political apportionment is typically the first data released by the Census Bureau. This data is released at the "block" level which is the smallest geographic delineation used by the Census Bureau. As such, ward boundary lines and the manner in which they are drawn are dependent on census "block" boundaries.

Analysis

Staff's analysis of the new census data first focused on whether the new data, when broken down by existing ward boundaries (from 2001), still met the Charter requirement. To do this, we totaled the population data for each ward. We then took the total population of the City using the new data and determined the average number of persons in each ward.

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From that average, we created a population range where the high and low number of the range did not deviate by more than 10%. With this range in hand, we could then look at the new population total of each ward to see if it met the Charter test. We found that two wards – Ward's 3 and Ward 4 did not meet the Charter test. Ward 3 was too low and Ward 4 was too high. Since the two wards are contiguous, it was possible to look at moving ward boundary lines between the two wards to make the adjustment necessary so that the Charter requirement could be met.

Options

While there are a number of possible solutions for meeting the Charter requirement which potentially could involve changing several or all of the existing wards, staff took the approach that the fewer changes the better. We understand that residents get used to voting in a particular ward and would prefer not to have to make changes in that regard. Nonetheless, the Charter requirement has to be satisfied. In working with Ward 4 in particular, the census data presents challenges given the fact that the populations on campus and in the privately owned areas along the south side of East Summit Street are concentrated in large numbers and do not easily lend themselves to small adjustments. We were able to come up with two possible solutions (Options A and B) that we considered "minimal" and would like to present these to Council for consideration. Both meet the Charter requirement.

Option A

Option A (see map and data attached) affects two different areas and moves people in these areas between Wards 3 and 4. The area shown in green shading on the map moves to Ward 3 and the area shown in purple moves to Ward 4.

Option B

Option B (see map and data attached) affects two different areas as well but only moves people from Ward 4 to Ward 3. This option is more limited in changes than Option A. Both areas in red on the map move from Ward 4 to Ward 3.

Summary

The two options being presented represent staff's first take on addressing the issue of ward boundary adjustment based on the new census data. If Council likes either of the presented options, they could move forward with legislation to make the preferred adjustment. If Council would prefer to look at additional options, staff would be glad to conduct further evaluation, however, other options would likely create more significant changes in one or more of the wards and their boundaries.

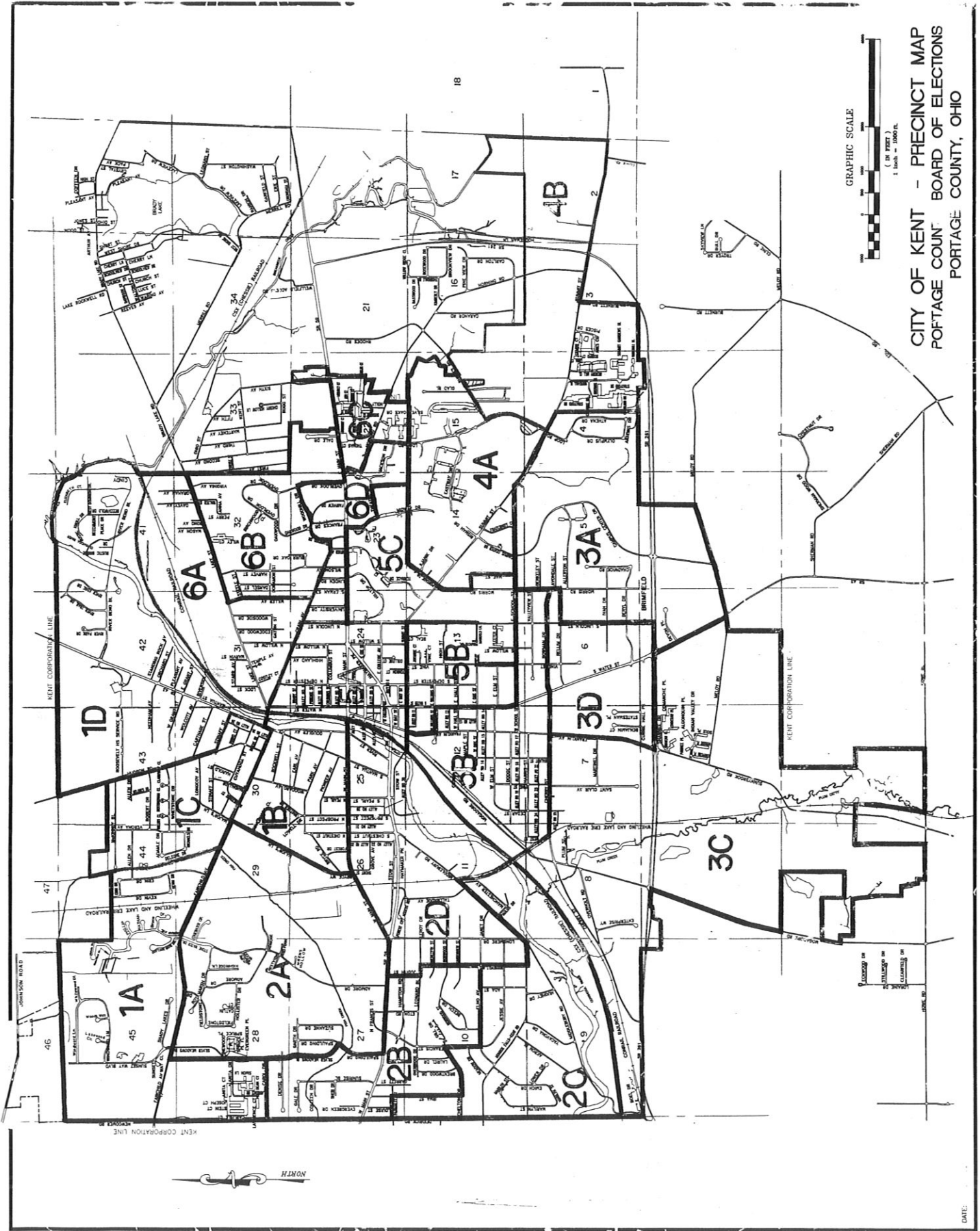
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A list explaining the attachments to this report is provided below:

- A-1 Existing Ward Map (2001)
- A-2 Spreadsheet Of Ward Populations (2000 & 2010 Census Data)
- A-3 Map Showing Proposed Option A (w/ spreadsheet)
- A-4 Map Showing Proposed Option B (w/ spreadsheet)
- A-5 Description of "Change" Areas (A through G) Note: These are areas that were analyzed given their population counts, proximity to ward boundaries and potential ability to be used to balance ward populations. Some were looked at but not used in Options A or B.

Cc: James Silver, Law Director
Linda Copley, Clerk of Council
2011 Ward Apportionment File

A-1

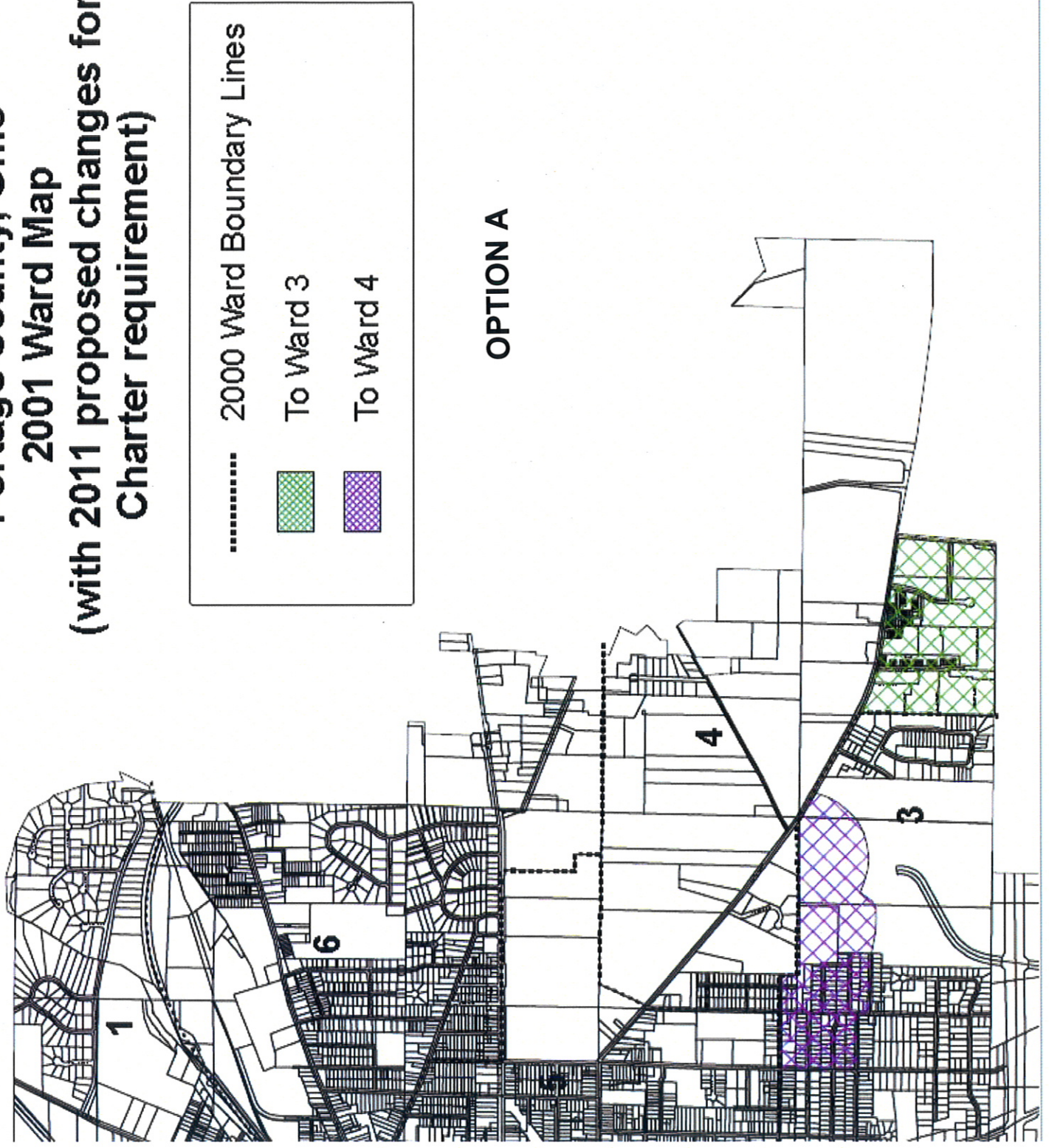


DATE:

Ward Population Data (Based on Current Ward Boundary Lines)

	<u>2000 Census</u>	<u>2010 Census</u>	<u>Change</u>
Ward 1	4,642	4,758	116
Ward 2	4,723	4,906	183
Ward 3	4,547	4,271	-276
Ward 4	4,564	5,391	827
Ward 5	4,629	4,887	258
Ward 6	4,801	4,691	-110
Total	27,906	28,904	998
Avg / Ward	4,651.00	4,817.33	166
Charter 10%			
High	4,883	5,057	
Low	4,419	4,577	
Spread		480	

**City of Kent
Portage County, Ohio
2001 Ward Map
(with 2011 proposed changes for
Charter requirement)**



OPTION A

**Using Current Ward Boundaries with Changes
Option A**

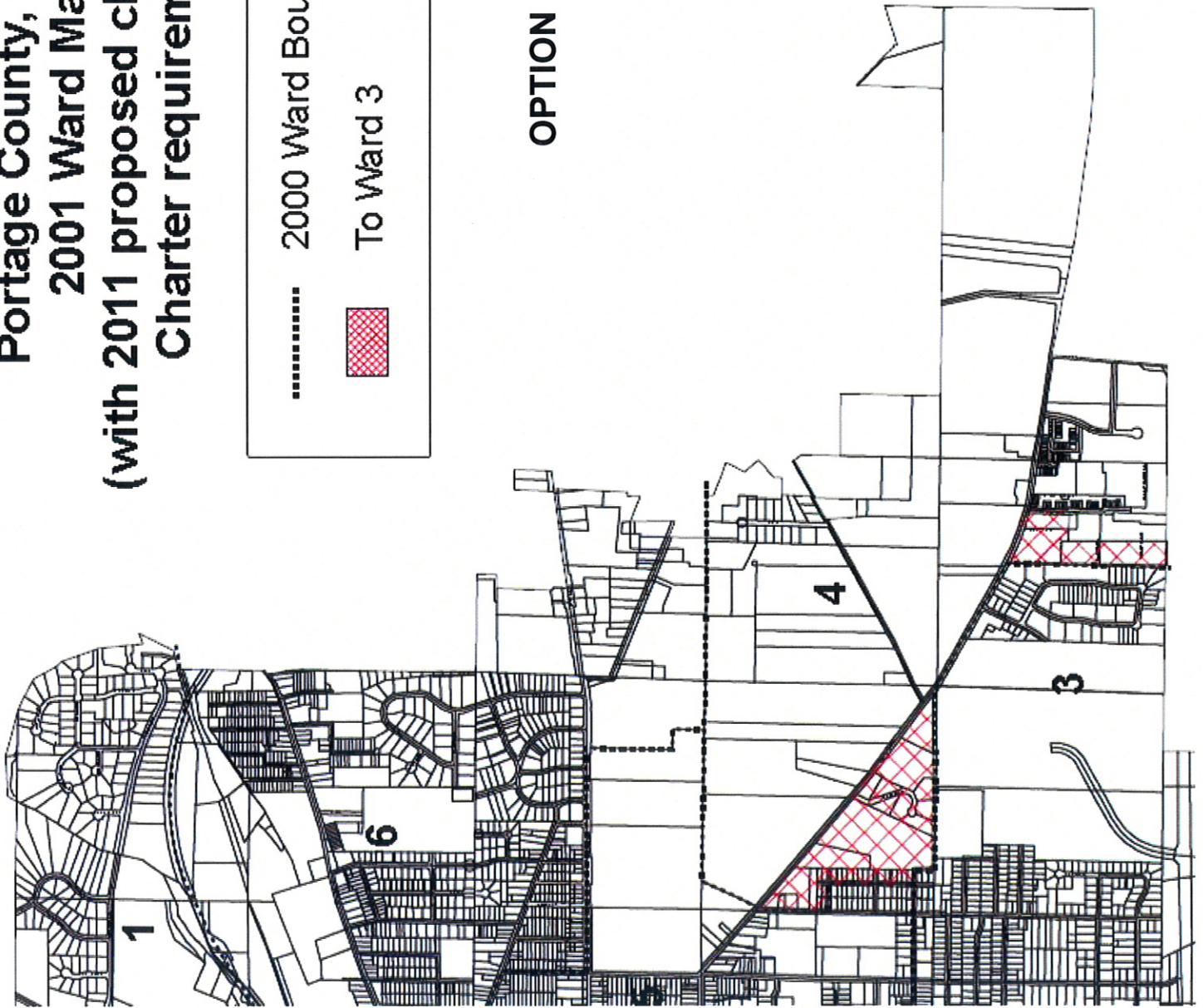
High	5,057	Revised	
Low	4,577	High	4,941
Spread	480	Low	4,691
		Spread	250

	<u>Current</u>	<u>Add</u>	<u>Lose</u>	<u>Revised</u>
Ward 1				
Current	4,758			
Totals				4,758
Ward 2				
Current	4,906			
Totals				4,906
Ward 3				
Current	4,271			
Add Area "A"		1,115		
Lose Area "F"			445	
Totals		1,115	445	4,941
Ward 4				
Current	5,391			
Lose Area "A"			1,115	
Add Area "F"		445		
Totals		445	1,115	4,721
Ward 5				
Current	4,887			
Totals				4,887
Ward 6				
Current	4,691			
Totals				4,691
Grand Total				28,904

**City of Kent
Portage County, Ohio
2001 Ward Map
(with 2011 proposed changes for
Charter requirement)**

..... 2000 Ward Boundary Lines
[Red Hatched Box] To Ward 3

OPTION B



Using Current Ward Boundaries with Changes Option B

High	5,057	Revised High	5,034
Low	4,577	Revised Low	4,628
Spread	480	Revised Spread	406

	<u>Current</u>	<u>Add</u>	<u>Lose</u>	<u>Revised</u>
Ward 1				
Current	4,758			
Totals				4,758
Ward 2				
Current	4,906			
Totals				4,906
Ward 3				
Current	4,271			
"Add Area G"		235		
"Add Area B"		122		
Totals		357	0	4,628
Ward 4				
Current	5,391			
"Lose Area G"			235	
"Lose Area B"			122	
Totals		0	357	5,034
Ward 5				
Current	4,887			
Totals				4,887
Ward 6				
Current	4,691			
Totals				4,691
Grand Total				28,904

Areas on Periphery of Existing Ward Boundaries

Area A

Current Ward - 4

Description - South side of East Summit, East of Current Ward 3 Boundary

Whitehall / University Town Homes Area

Census Tract - 6015.03

BL 1000	62
BL 1009	52
BL 1010	69
BL 3023	405
BL 3024	66
BL 3025	101
BL 3026	59
BL 3027	0
BL 3028	52
BL 3029	249
Total	1115

Area B

Current Ward - 4

Description - Fraternity Circle Area

Census Tract - 6015.03

BL 2007	7
BL 2008	0
BL 2009	0
BL 2010	34
BL 2011	0
BL 2017	20
BL 2018	61
BL 2019	0
BL 2020	0
Total	122

Area C

Current Ward - 5

Description - Eastern "Cut Out" Area in Ward 5 East of Midway Drive

Census Tract - 6015.02

BL 1017	0
BL 1018	1031
Total	1031

Area D

Current Ward - 3

Description - Area bounded by South Water Street, Rellim Drive, Morris Road,
East School Street back to South Water Street

Census Tract - 6015.02

BL 1007	46
BL 1008	21
BL 1009	32
BL 1010	46
BL 1011	44
BL 1012	28
BL 1013	54

Census Tract - 6015.03

BL 1015	37
BL 1016	49
BL 1017	45
Totals	402

Area E

Current Ward - 6

Description - Ward 6 Area south of East Main Street and south and west of Horning Rd

Census Tract - 6015.02

BL 1000	0
BL 1013	0
BL 1014	0
BL 1015	0
BL 1016	0
BL 1024	518
BL 1025	358
BL 2012	76
BL 2013	70
Totals	1,022

Area F

Current Ward - 3

Description - Area Bounded by S. Lincoln on west, Rellim/Morris/Allerton and E. Campus Center Drive on
South and East, and current Ward 4 boundary on North and East

Census Tract - 6015.03

BL 1015	37
BL 1016	49
BL 1017	45
BL 2013	222
BL 2014	48
BL 2015	14
BL 2016	30
BL 2021	0
BL 2022	0
Totals	445

Area G

Current Ward -4

Description - Bounded by East Summit Street on the north; then south along Whitehall Blvd. to a point where it intersects Cambridge Drive, then west along Cambridge Drive to a point where it intersects Stratford Drive, then south along the center of Stratford Drive to its ending and then continuing due south along the extended center of Stratford Drive to the City corporation limits; then west along the southern corporation line of the City to a point where intersects the west property line of the Whitehall Apartments; then north along the west property line of the Whitehall Apartments to a point where that line intersects East Summit Street.

Census Tract - 6015.03

BL 1000	62
BL 1009	52
BL 1010	69
BL 3028	52
Totals	235

*CITY OF KENT
SHADE TREE COMMISSION
MISSION STATEMENT*

**The mission of
the Shade Tree
Commission
is to promote a
healthy, safe and
aesthetic urban
forest for the City of Kent**

THE COMMISSION

The Shade Tree Commission is composed of five Kent residents who are appointed by the City Council to serve as Commissioners for a term of four years. Citizens are encouraged to attend commission meetings; to participate in educational programs and activities; and to submit ideas and concerns relating to street trees.

Contact the Service Department at 330-678-8105 for more information.



Magnolia Blossom

COMMISSION GOALS

- Establish a master plan for planting a diversity of tree species, including those native to Ohio, as part of the Urban Forest Management Plan (UFMP).
- Promote awareness of proper planting, health, maintenance and hazard tree identification through educational programs.
- Encourage the planting of street trees along boulevards and in tree lawns to enhance the natural beauty and health of our urban environment.

COMMISSIONER RESPONSIBILITIES

Established in 1926, the Shade Tree Commission is authorized by the City of Kent to

- Act as the forum for public review and oversight of the City's treatment of trees in the public right-of-way.
- Recommend solutions to the City of Kent and its Arborist regarding problems identified with street trees.
- Assist the City Arborist by educating residents about proper care of trees in the Urban Forest.
- Establish, review and approve an UFMP with the goal of creating a better environmental future for Kent's residents.

MISSION STATEMENT

The mission of the Shade Tree Commission is to promote a healthy, safe and aesthetic urban forest for the City of Kent.



The City of Kent
Service Department
930 Overholt Road, Kent Ohio 44240
330-678-8105

Photography & Image Credits:
Pink Flowering Dogwood, Sassafraz, Mulching, Pruning—Deborah D. Miller
Tree Planting—Betsy Konic
Magnolia Blossom—Grant E. Jones
Tree Planting Workshop (pictured): James Jewell, David Harris



Caring for the Urban Environment

TREE CARE & MAINTENANCE REFERENCE GUIDE



Sussex

YEAR-ROUND GUIDELINES

- Late Winter / Early Spring**
- * Prune branches for structure, health and safety
 - * Plant deciduous trees and conifers in early spring
 - * Stake newly planted trees if necessary
- Spring and Summer**
- * Remove trunk tree wrap from young trees
 - * Mulch under drip line if necessary
 - * Prune soon after flowering for spring blooming plants
 - * Monitor and treat for insect, disease and weed problems
 - * Water if drought conditions prevail

Autumn

- * Refresh mulch if necessary
- * Monitor and treat for insect problems
- * Compost or remove fallen leaves under drip line if desired
- * Water if drought conditions prevail
- * Prune branches for structure, health and safety reasons
- * Apply tree wrap to protect trunks of young trees
- * Plant and stake young deciduous trees

Winter

- * Prune out broken or damaged branches
- * Remove heavy snow load from branches of young conifers

Planting



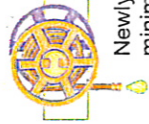
Tree Planting Workshop at Fred Fuller Park



- * Dig hole, removing and retaining soil from the planting site.
- * Planting hole should preferably be twice the size of the diameter of the rootball.
- * Root flare should be level or slightly higher than the soil surface.
- * Place tree in prepared hole, then remove wire basket, burlap, twine and girdling roots from rootball.

- * Backfill with retained soil.

- * Water thoroughly and mulch with an organic product.



Watering

- * Newly transplanted trees should receive a minimum 1 to 2 inches of water per week.
- * Water soil to a depth of 12 inches during periods of drought and high heat.
- * Avoid overwatering, particularly in slow-draining soils.

Pruning



Proper Pruning

- * Remove crossed, diseased, dead & broken branches
- * Prune for structural integrity
- * Prune just outside the branch collar



Improper Pruning

- * Do not leave stubs
- * Do not make flush cuts
- * Do not top trees
- * Do not remove more than 1/4 of the canopy per year

Mulching



Proper Mulching

- * Mulch with shredded tree bark, pine needles, or wood chips.
- * Organic mulch should be 2 to 3 inches deep.
- * Leave space of 2 to 3 inches from the tree trunk.
- * Replenish organic mulch as it decomposes.

Improper Mulching



Avoid *volcano mulching* to prevent the development of girdling roots and to prevent damage to the lower trunk by diseases and insects.

ECONOMIC BENEFITS OF TREES

- * Trees produce a cooling effect in summer and act as a barrier from winter winds, reducing energy costs.
- * As an element of the landscape, trees increase property values and enhance curb appeal.



Maple Among Conifers

ENVIRONMENTAL BENEFITS OF TREES

- * Tree roots slow the passage of water through the soil while filtering out impurities and improving water quality.
- * Soil erosion is reduced / slowed by the presence of tree roots.
- * Trees remove tons of carbon dioxide from the air per year.
- * Trees provide food and shelter for birds and wildlife.