

**2020**

***Neil Armstrong Scenic Byway Corridor Management Plan (CMP)***

**Ohio Department of Transportation**

**Submitted January 2020**



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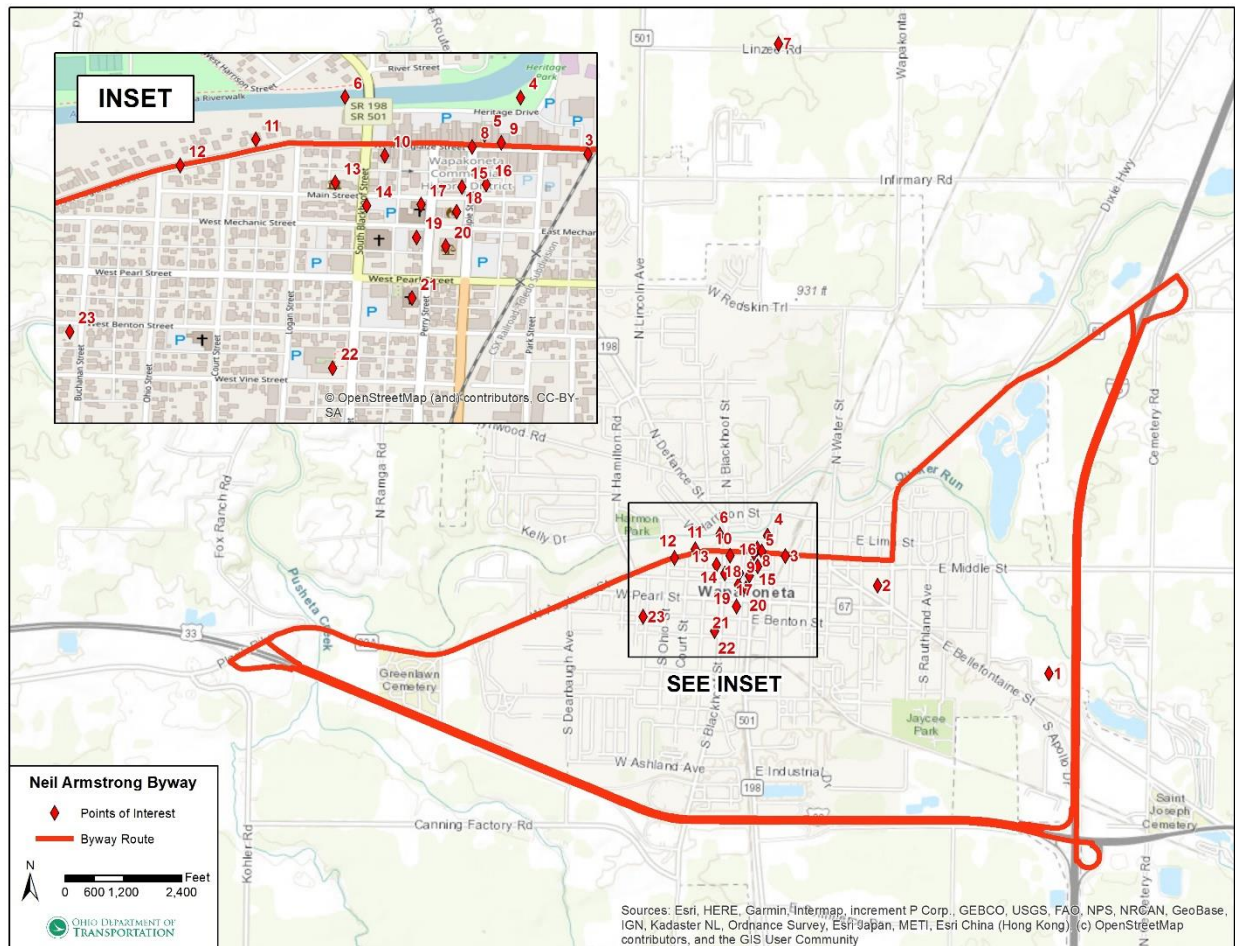
## **I. INTRODUCTION AND MAP**

### **A. Byway Introduction**

The Neil Armstrong Scenic Byway is located exclusively in Auglaize County, specifically within the city limits of the county seat at Wapakoneta, except for a portion in Duchouquet Township, north and west of the city.

The Byway celebrates the early years of Neil Armstrong's life with special emphasis on the time period in which he obtained his pilot's license. In 1969, Neil Armstrong became the first human to walk on the moon. Prior to that, his early interest in flying was cultivated in his hometown of Wapakoneta. Armstrong was so determined to fly that he successfully attained his pilot's license before his driver's license. Armstrong received his flight training at the former Port Koneta - a related site to this byway. This route traces a likely route for his bicycle journey to the airfield. The route through town also largely retraces the route of his homecoming parade after returning from the moon. Some of the storefronts have changed, but several of the sights appear largely as they did during Armstrong's boyhood.

## B. Byway Route Map



### Street locations of intrinsic resources:

- |                                                            |                                                                   |
|------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1. Armstrong Air & Space Museum – 500 N Apollo Dr          | 13. The Wapakoneta Local History Museum – 206 W Main St           |
| 2. Temple of Tolerance – 203 S Wood Ave                    | 14. Dudley Nichols Historical Marker – W Main St & S Blackhoof St |
| 3. Dayton & Michigan Railroad – 117 E Auglaize St          | 15. Wapa Theater – 15 Willipie St                                 |
| 4. Heritage Park – 30 E Auglaize St                        | 16. WPA Murals – 12 Willipie St                                   |
| 5. Wapakoneta Heritage Parkway – E Auglaize St             | 17. St. Paul United Church of Christ – 101 Perry St               |
| 6. Auglaize River – E Auglaize St                          | 18. Wapakoneta Fire Station – 103 Willipie St                     |
| 7. Port Koneta – 13549 Linzee Rd                           | 19. Auglaize County Public Library – 203 Perry St                 |
| 8. Wapakoneta Commercial Historic District – E Auglaize St | 20. Auglaize County Courthouse – 201 Willipie St                  |
| 9. Rhine and Brading Drug Store – 26 E Auglaize St         | 21. St. Joseph Catholic Church – 101 W Pearl St                   |
| 10. Bowsher Hardware – 123 W Auglaize St                   | 22. Blume High School – 407 S Blackhoof St                        |
| 11. The Shannon Stock Company – 308 W Auglaize St          | 23. Armstrong Boyhood Home – 601 W Benton St                      |
| 12. Historic Homes District – W Auglaize St                |                                                                   |

## **II. BYWAY STRATEGIC PLAN: VISION, MISSION, GOALS AND ACTIONS**

### **A. Vision and Mission**

#### **Vision:**

The Neil Armstrong scenic byway will provide visitors with an opportunity to experience a selection of locations in the young life of Neil Armstrong. Drivers will be able to connect with the Armstrong Boyhood home, portions of his hometown, the site of the airfield where he learned to fly, and the museum dedicated to him and space exploration.

#### **Mission:**

The mission of this project is to establish a route that will direct visitors from the Armstrong Air & Space Museum located along I-75 and guide them through his hometown of Wapakoneta. The route will make use of city, county and state roadways and will promote tourism traffic through the area.

### **B. Accomplishments since last CMP**

Not applicable.

### **C. Goals, Objectives, and Action Plans**

**Goal I:** Promote preservation along the byway and Wapakoneta.

| <b>Objective</b>                                                                       | <b>Person/group responsible</b> | <b>Timeline</b> | <b>Action Plan</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             | <b>Funding</b> |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------|-----------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------|
| Encourage the preservation of, and interest in, local sites related to Neil Armstrong. | City of Wapakoneta              | Ongoing         | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• This phase is already underway. While no agreement has been reached, there have been conversations about having the OHC acquire the Boyhood Home after the 2019 anniversary. A self-guided tour will help tell the story of related boyhood sites. These sites will add to the potential interest in the Armstrong Air &amp; Space Museum and encourage visitors to learn more of the story.</li></ul> | TBD            |

**Goal II:** Enhance roadways and promote the inclusion of tourist modes of visitation.

| <b>Objective</b>                                     | <b>Person/group responsible</b> | <b>Timeline</b> | <b>Action Plan</b>                                                                       | <b>Funding</b> |
|------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------|-----------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------|
| Work to improve the overall flow and function of all | City of Wapakoneta              | Ongoing         | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Continue to make roadway improvements.</li></ul> | TBD            |

|                                                                                   |  |  |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |  |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--|--|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--|
| modes of transportation in Wapakoneta to better serve the community and visitors. |  |  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Wapakoneta recently passed an income tax levy for street improvements. The boyhood home sits on Benton Street which is designated for reconstruction in 2021. Auglaize Street has been resurfaced within the last eight years.</li> </ul> |  |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--|--|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--|

**Goal III:** Work with residents to promote improvements in appearance and efforts to beautify areas of Wapakoneta.

| Objective                                                                                       | Person/group responsible | Timeline | Action Plan                                                                                                                                                                                                                    | Funding |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------|----------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------|
| Encourage private properties along the route to improve appearance and promote community pride. | City of Wapakoneta       | Ongoing  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A grassroots effort to have property owners clean &amp; spruce things up for the 2019 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the moon landing saw wide-spread community involvement.</li> </ul> | TBD     |

**Goal IV:** Make more connections with Neil Armstrong's story with other resources around the area.

| Objective                                                                                                                                                                             | Person/group responsible     | Timeline | Action Plan                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  | Funding |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------|----------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------|
| Connect Museum visitors with boyhood sites, to reinforce the boyhood story, and to promote the idea that anything is possible for those with a dream and the work ethic to attain it. | Armstrong Air & Space Museum | Ongoing  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A self-guided tour brochure has already been developed. It highlights several of the related boyhood sites. It is included in the appendix section.</li> <li>Enhance the experience of museum visitors and send them through the additional site of tourist interest in Wapakoneta's historic downtown. The self-guided tour will reference the museum to encourage interaction with that sight. The route will send drivers past the historic downtown shopping district.</li> </ul> | TBD     |

### **III. BYWAY ORGANIZATION: STRUCTURE, COMMITTEES, VOLUNTEERS, PARTNERS AND BUDGET**

#### **A. Structure:**

The proposed Byway includes state routes, city streets and county roads. There have been no significant issues. These roadways are supervised by the respective governing bodies.

#### **B. Description of Current and Future Byway Committee Representatives, Partners and Stakeholders**

##### **Main Stakeholders:**

###### **First on the Moon**

- 419-394-1294
- [info@firstonthemoon.org](mailto:info@firstonthemoon.org)

###### **Wapakoneta City Council Streets & Alleys Committee**

- 701 Parlette Court Wapakoneta, OH 45895
- 419-738-3011

###### **Auglaize County**

- 209 S Blackhoof St Room 201 Wapakoneta, OH 45895
- 419-739-6710

###### **Duchouquet Township**

- 16038 County Rd 25A Wapakoneta, OH 45895
- 419-738-4401
- [info@duchouquettownship.com](mailto:info@duchouquettownship.com)
- <http://duchouquettownship.com/>

###### **Armstrong Air & Space Museum**

- 500 Apollo Drive Wapakoneta, OH 45895
- 419-738-8811
- <https://www.armstrongmuseum.org/>

###### **Boyhood Home owners (Karen Tullis)**

###### **Auglaize County Historical Society**

- 206 W Main St Wapakoneta, OH 45895
- 419-738-9328
- [auglaizecountyhistory@bright.net](mailto:auglaizecountyhistory@bright.net)
- <http://www.auglaizecountyhistory.org/>

###### **Ohio History Connection**

- 800 E 17<sup>th</sup> Ave Columbus, OH 43211
- 614-297-2300

- [info@ohiohistory.org](mailto:info@ohiohistory.org)
- <https://www.ohiohistory.org/>

#### Downtown Wapakoneta Partnership

- 30 E Auglaize St PO Box 1604 Wapakoneta, OH 45895
- 419-738-6807
- [info@downtownwapakoneta.com](mailto:info@downtownwapakoneta.com)
- <http://www.downtownwapakoneta.com/>

#### Wapakoneta Area Specialty Shops

##### Wapakoneta Chamber of Commerce

- 30 E Auglaize St Wapakoneta, OH 45895
- 419-738-2911
- [chamber@wapakoneta.com](mailto:chamber@wapakoneta.com)
- <https://wapakoneta.com/>

##### Schaub Excavating, site of former Port Koneta

- 13549 Linzee Rd Wapakoneta, OH 45895
- 419-738-8438

##### Auglaize County Sheriff

- 1051 Dearbaugh Ave Wapakoneta, OH 45895
- 419-739-6565
- [sheriff@auglaizecounty.org](mailto:sheriff@auglaizecounty.org)
- <https://www2.auglaizecounty.org/sheriff>

##### Wapakoneta Police Department

- 701 Parlette Ct Wapakoneta, OH 45895
- 419-738-2222
- [police@wapakoneta.net](mailto:police@wapakoneta.net)
- <http://wapakoneta.net/>

#### **Other Stakeholders:**

##### Auglaize County Commissioners

##### Auglaize County Engineer – Douglas Reinhart

- 1014 S Blackhoof St PO Box 59 Wapakoneta, OH 45895
- 419-739-6520
- [doug@augcoeng.com](mailto:doug@augcoeng.com)
- <https://www2.auglaizecounty.org/elected-officials/engineer>

##### ODOT D-7 DDD – Randy Chevalley

- 1001 Saint Marys Ave Sidney, OH 45365
- 937-492-1141
- [Randy.chevalley@dot.ohio.gov](mailto:Randy.chevalley@dot.ohio.gov)
- <http://www.dot.state.oh.us/districts/d07/pages/default.aspx>

#### Auglaize County Genealogical Society

- 203 Perry St Wapakoneta, OH 45895
- 419-738-2921
- <https://www.auglaizelibraries.org/>

#### Greater Grand Lake Visitors Region

- 900 Edgewater Drive St. Marys, OH 45885
- 419-394-1294
- [info@seemore.org](mailto:info@seemore.org)
- <https://seemore.org/>

#### Southwest Auglaize County Chamber of Commerce

- 22 S Water St PO Box 3 New Bremen, OH 45869
- 419-629-0313
- [stopp@auglaize.org](mailto:stopp@auglaize.org)
- <https://auglaize.org/>

#### Duchouquet Township Trustees

#### C. Leaders' Contact Information

| Primary Contact                                                                                                                               | Secondary Contact                                                                                                                                                           |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Donna Grube<br>Greater Grand Lake Visitors Center<br>Email: <a href="mailto:seemore@bright.net">seemore@bright.net</a><br>Phone: 419-394-1294 | Rachel Barber<br>Auglaize County Historical Society<br>Email: <a href="mailto:auglaizecountyhistory@bright.net">auglaizecountyhistory@bright.net</a><br>Phone: 419-738-9328 |

#### D. Level of Participation in State/Regional Byway Meetings and Trainings

None.

#### E. Byway Leadership Succession Plan

This plan intends to make designees of First on the Moon as the ongoing contact.

#### **IV. BYWAY CORRIDOR CONDITIONS: ROADWAYS, SAFETY, INTRINSIC RESOURCES, AND ACCESSIBILITY**

##### **A. Road Conditions and Signage**

Maintenance is by the State of Ohio, Auglaize County, and the City of Wapakoneta

All roadways are in good condition. Auglaize Street has been reconstructed or resurfaced for its entire length in the last ten years.

i. Existing official ODOT byway signs.

N/A

ii. Local byway signs

N/A

iii. Interpretive signs.

Dudley Nichols Marker

- 40.5693970,-84.1961330

Dayton and Michigan Railroad Marker

- 40.5704560,-84.1916990

The Shannon Stock Company Marker

- 40.5706040,-84.1983770

Neil Armstrong's Boyhood Home

- 40.5670000,-84.2020840

iv. Future sign needs.

Signs will be needed contingent upon the approval of the byway in the Scenic Byway Advisory Committee's (SBAC) next meeting on April 21<sup>st</sup>, 2020.

##### **B. List of Primary and Secondary Intrinsic Qualities/Resources**

| <b>Primary<br/>Intrinsic<br/>Quality</b> | <b>Secondary<br/>Intrinsic<br/>Quality</b> | <b>Site and Location (GPS<br/>when available)</b> | <b>Description</b> |
|------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------|--------------------|
|------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------|--------------------|

|          |          |                                                                    |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |
|----------|----------|--------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Cultural | Historic | Armstrong Air & Space Museum<br>(40.564105, -84.172012)            | Opened in 1972, this museum celebrates the career of Neil Armstrong and the history of human space travel.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |
| Historic |          | Armstrong Boyhood Home<br>(40.56687, -84.202099)                   | After living in several Ohio communities, the Armstrongs returned to Wapakoneta in 1944, purchasing this home on W. Benton Street.                                                                                                                                                                                                                       |
| Cultural |          | The Temple of Tolerance<br>(40.568864, -84.184799)                 | Completed in 1999, this sanctuary is in the backyard of property owner Jim Bowsher but is always open to the public. More than just an elaborate rock garden, the shrine and surrounding structures encourage calm, healing, and love. There are rocks with connections to various historic persons and events as well as tributes to Ohio war veterans. |
| Historic |          | Dayton & Michigan Railroad<br>(40.570443, -84.191661)              | This rail line began service in 1858 and connected Wapakoneta to a larger world. The historic marker at this site tells its story and is nearby a former downtown depot building.                                                                                                                                                                        |
| Scenic   |          | Heritage trails Park District<br>(40.571575, -84.193023)           | Located on the Auglaize River behind the downtown shopping district, this park features a gazebo and picnic areas. It will receive numerous upgrades and enhancements by the fall of 2020 as part of a larger riverscape project.                                                                                                                        |
| Cultural |          | Wapakoneta Heritage Parkway<br>(40.570826, -84.193741)             | This venue connects the downtown shopping district to Heritage Park along the Auglaize River. It features a statue portraying Neil Armstrong riding in the parade celebrating his moon landing. It is a popular site for gatherings and small concerts during warm weather months.                                                                       |
| Scenic   | Natural  | Auglaize River<br>(40.571588, -84.196553)                          | Running behind historic homes and the historic downtown, enjoyment of this natural feature will soon be enhanced with a new riverwalk scheduled to be completed in the fall of 2020.                                                                                                                                                                     |
| Historic |          | Port Koneta<br>(40.599294, -84.192892)                             | Now the site of Schaub excavating, this is where the airfield existed at which Armstrong learned how to fly.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |
| Historic | Cultural | Wapakoneta Commercial Historic District<br>(40.570586, -84.193992) | The downtown historic shopping district is listed on the National Register of Historic Places. Numerous store fronts harken back to the times ranging from the mid-1800s to the early 1900s. The district features a wide variety of shops, antique dealers, and dining locations.                                                                       |
| Historic |          | Rhine and Brading Drug Store<br>(40.570671, -84.193409)            | During high school Neil Armstrong worked at the Rhine and Brading Drug Store, a longtime business in downtown Wapakoneta. He used his earnings to pay for his flying lessons at the Port Koneta Air Field. This is now the site of Charme hair salon.                                                                                                    |

|          |          |                                                                |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |
|----------|----------|----------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Historic |          | Bowsher Hardware<br>(40.57041, -84.195757)                     | This hardware store was another of Neil's teenage employers. It is now the site of Dad's Toy Shop.                                                                                                                                                                          |
| Historic | Cultural | The Shannon Stock Company<br>(40.570735, -84.198349)           | This Historic Marker is in the Historic Homes District and tells the story of the traveling theater group that was based in Wapakoneta and popular in the first few decades of the 20th Century.                                                                            |
| Historic |          | Historic Homes District<br>(40.570213, -84.199872)             | West of Downtown Wapakoneta, mainly along Auglaize Street, this area features several blocks of well-maintained homes built in the late 19th and early 20th Centuries.                                                                                                      |
| Historic |          | The Wapakoneta Local History Museum<br>(40.569865, -84.196752) | Housed in the church building that was once home to the First Presbyterian Church of Wapakoneta, this 1860s structure now belongs to the Auglaize County Historical Society and serves as a museum for the history of Wapakoneta and its surrounding area.                  |
| Historic |          | Dudley Nichols Historical Marker<br>(40.569401, -84.196122)    | Located near St. Paul's UCC Church, this Historic Marker details the life and career of Wapakoneta native and Oscar-winning screenwriter Dudley Nichols.                                                                                                                    |
| Historic | Cultural | Wapa Theater<br>(40.569779, -84.194202)                        | The historic Wapa Theatre was constructed as the Brown Theatre in 1904. Its spectacular, neon marquee was added in 1939. Other than new seats and air conditioning, little has changed in the theatre since the 1940s. The theatre continues to show first run films daily. |
| Cultural |          | WPA Murals<br>(40.569821, -84.193711)                          | Housed in Wapakoneta's Post Office, the mural entitled "Wapakoneta and American History" was completed in 1937 by artist Joseph Limarzi. The three-panel work includes Native American, pioneer, and agricultural scenes.                                                   |
| Historic | Cultural | St. Paul United Church of Christ<br>(40.569423, -84.19502)     | The Armstrong Family attended St. Paul United Church of Christ, one of the oldest congregations in Wapakoneta, dating to 1850. Neil was a member of the Boy Scout troop sponsored by the church, achieving the rank of Eagle Scout.                                         |
| Historic |          | Wapakoneta Fire Station<br>(40.56928, -84.194308)              | Built in 1885 and is believed to be one of the oldest active fire stations in Ohio.                                                                                                                                                                                         |
| Historic |          | Auglaize County Public Library<br>(40.568765, -84.195111)      | Recently remodeled and located across the street from St. Paul's UCC Church, this library location has served Wapakoneta and Auglaize County since 1968.                                                                                                                    |
| Historic |          | Auglaize County Courthouse<br>(40.568585, -84.194529)          | Completed in 1894 and celebrating 125 years in 2019, this structure still serves Auglaize County for judicial proceedings.                                                                                                                                                  |
| Historic | Cultural | St. Joseph Catholic Church                                     | This worship site is an impressive part of the German-Catholic immigration to the area that                                                                                                                                                                                 |

|          |  |                                              |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |
|----------|--|----------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
|          |  | (40.567542, -84.195209)                      | began in the 1800s. Completed in 1910, the two-spired church is one of the largest and most recognizable structures in the community. Similar structures can be seen on the nearby Land of the Cross Tipped Churches Scenic Byway. |
| Historic |  | Blume High School<br>(40.566139, -84.196803) | Neil Armstrong graduated from this school and played in the band while attending.                                                                                                                                                  |

#### C. Changes in Intrinsic Qualities/Resources since last CMP

None.

#### D. Accessibility to Intrinsic Quality/Resources: Pull-Offs, Parking, Rest Areas, Visitor Amenities, etc.

Museum - parking lot

Boyhood home - on street parking

Airfield - site has room for turnaround, if desired

Downtown - numerous parking areas including newly acquired corner lot parking at Auglaize and Perry Streets

Auglaize River - parking lots for three (3) adjoining parks

All interpretation, Pull-Offs, and visitor amenities along with associated parking, public restrooms and amenities are to be accessible per the Americans with Disability Act. This includes accessibility for persons with mobility, hearing, sight, and cognitive impairments. The 2010 US Census revealed that at least 56.7 million or 20 percent of the US population have some level of disability, about 20 million of which are mobility impaired Americans. Therefore, for the story of the byway to be told to all, new programs and improvements need to be accessible while existing sites should have transition plans in place by those who own and maintain them.

The byway organization will have a hand improving accessibility by raising awareness about the need to remove barriers to access and by installing all interpretive signs or other improvements according to the United States Civil Rights ADA laws. For free information and guidance, please contact the Great Lakes ADA Center at 800-949-4232 (V/TTY).

## **V. VISITOR EXPERIENCE: INTERPRETATION, STORIES, AND PRESERVATION**

### **A. Interpretation since Designation**

The story of the Neil Armstrong Scenic Byway begins with negotiations for the purchase of Armstrong's boyhood home by Ohio History Connection. While no agreement has been reached yet between the property owner and OHC, the announcement of negotiations sparked the idea of memorializing the link between the two locations with a scenic byway.

Visitors to the Neil Armstrong Scenic Byway will experience the culture in which the First Man on the Moon grew up. The Byway begins at the Armstrong Air & Space Museum which provides an overview of space exploration and the history of man's race to the moon. The journey then travels through the town in which Armstrong grew up, including near his Boyhood home and high school and through the downtown he would have frequented and in which he first worked as a youth.

The first moon landing is celebrated annually in Wapakoneta with the Summer Moon Festival. This event features a 5K / 10K run, special exhibits, and events and activities both downtown and at the Armstrong Air & Space Museum. The festival regularly features special guests, most notably, several retired astronauts, Armstrong biographer James Hansen, and, in 2017, Buzz Aldrin, the second man on the moon.

The 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of man's first steps on the moon turned the eyes of the world on Wapakoneta. This resurgence in interest in Armstrong's story will provide opportunities to share interpretive signage and publications along the route.

Another major event that sparked interest in Armstrong was the release of the film *First Man*, a major motion picture based on Hansen's biography of Armstrong and focusing on the time from when Armstrong joined NASA to his first steps on the moon.

The Auglaize River runs through the middle of Wapakoneta and offers another opportunity for interpretation. The Ohio Department of Transportation recently approved a redesign of the waterfront area, which is not only expected to serve the citizens of Wapakoneta, but also serve as a destination for visitors. The project was completed in late 2020.

### **B. Byway Story**

The Neil Armstrong Scenic Byway is located exclusively in Auglaize County, specifically within the city limits of the county seat at Wapakoneta, except for a portion in Duchouquet Township, north and west of the city.

The Byway celebrates the early years of Neil Armstrong's life with special emphasis on the time period in which he obtained his pilot's license. In 1969, Neil Armstrong became the first human to walk on the moon. Prior to that, his early interest in flying was cultivated in his hometown of Wapakoneta. Armstrong was so determined to fly that he successfully attained his pilot's license before his driver's license. Armstrong received his flight training at the former Port Koneta - a related site to this byway. This route traces a likely route for his bicycle journey to the airfield. The route through town also largely retraces the route of his homecoming parade after returning from the moon. Some of the storefronts have changed, but several of the sights appear largely as they did during Armstrong's boyhood.

### C. Future Interpretation

The byway and related sites include some points of interpretation that are already present. A state historic market was erected at the boyhood home in 2019 as part of the 50th anniversary celebration of the moon landing. There is the existing map / brochure detailing some of the sights. The Armstrong Air & Space Museum tells not only Armstrong's story, but that of space travel, in general. The museum includes displays regarding Armstrong's bicycling to flight lessons and the type of plane he used for learning to fly. The museum opened an expansion in the summer of 2019 and construction of a new visitor center is planned for the near future. There has also been discussion of working with the county historical society to pursue another historic market at the Port Koneta sight. The idea of possibly having a bicycle rental to retrace the path has also been suggested but is only in an idea phase at this time.

### D. Plans for Improving Visitor Experience

See Goal V in Section III.

### E. Preservation

Downtown Wapakoneta is listed on the National Register of Historic Places and tourism is incorporated into the city's long-range plan. The city has already addressed billboards and other signage throughout the city in the form of new ordinances designed to preserve the integrity of the city's landscape.

## **VI. MARKETING: PROMOTION, FEATURED ATTRACTIONS AND FUTURE PLANS**

### **A. Current and Future Planned Marketing Activities**

Being a rural area, it has been found that the marketing of local attractions is best left to the local convention and visitors bureau, in this case, the Grand Lake Region Visitors Bureau. The bureau maintains a visitor's center within Grand Lake St. Marys State Park and handles tourism-related marketing for Auglaize and Mercer counties. The bureau advertises extensively outside the state as well as statewide and locally. Marketing would also be aided by information provided by the Wapakoneta Area Chamber of Commerce.

Additionally, the local Chamber of Commerce produces a self-guided tour brochure highlighting boyhood related sites. It has been mentioned elsewhere in this document and is included in the appendix section.

### **B. Recommended Products or Attachments for Media and Public Relations**

#### **i. Short description of byway for use in publications.**

The Byway route broadly duplicates the route Neil Armstrong would have followed from his boyhood home to Port Koneta for flying lessons. Since he had not yet obtained his driver's license, he made the journey on his bicycle. The Armstrong Air & Space Museum links his early years to his later accomplishments in the field of space exploration and his status as the first man to step on the moon.

#### **ii. Seasonal digital photographs (at least 300 dpi).**

See Appendix E.

#### **iii. Brief description of the top 5-10 unique/authentic attractions on the byway.**

| <b><u>Site Name</u></b>                | <b><u>Description</u></b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         | <b><u>Location</u></b> |
|----------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------|
| Armstrong Air & Space Museum           | Opened in 1972, this museum celebrates the career of Neil Armstrong and the history of human space travel.                                                                                                                                                                                                                        | 40.5632 -84.1729       |
| Boyhood Home                           | After living in several Ohio communities, the Armstrongs returned to Wapakoneta in 1944, purchasing this home on W. Benton St. At the time, Neil was in high school. His family included his parents, Stephen and Viola, his sister June, and brother Dean.                                                                       | 40.566870 -84.202100   |
| St. Paul UCC                           | The Armstrong Family attended St. Paul United Church of Christ, one of the oldest congregations in Wapakoneta, dating to 1850. At the time the Armstrongs began going here, it was an Evangelical and Reformed congregation. Neil was a member of the Boy Scout troop sponsored by the church, achieving the rank of Eagle Scout. | 40.569290 -84.194950   |
| Rhine & Brading Drug Store former site | During high school Neil Armstrong worked at the Rhine and Brading Drug Store, a longtime                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          | 40.57075 -84.193370    |

|                                   |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |                     |
|-----------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------|
|                                   | business in down- town Wapakoneta. He swept the floors in the morning before school and returned after school to stock shelves and work as a clerk. He used his earnings from the drug store (40 cents per hour) to pay for his flying lessons at the Port Koneta Air Field. This is now the site of Charme hair salon.                                  |                     |
| Blume High School                 | Neil Armstrong graduated from this school and played in the band while attending.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        | 40.56586 -84.196320 |
| Bowsher Hardware former site      | This hardware store was another of Neil's teenage employers. It is now the site of Dad's Toy Shop.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       | 40.57039 -84.195710 |
| Wapa Theater                      | The historic Wapa Theatre was constructed as the Brown Theatre in 1904. Its spectacular, neon marquee was added in 1939. Other than new seats and air conditioning, little has changed in the theatre since the time when Neil Armstrong and his classmates attended the latest films in the 1940s. The theatre continues to show first run films daily. | 40.56976 -84.194420 |
| Auglaize County Courthouse        | Completed in 1894 and celebrating 125 years in 2019, this structure still serves Auglaize County for judicial proceedings.                                                                                                                                                                                                                               | 40.56858 -84.194520 |
| Wapakoneta Fire Department        | Built in 1885 and is believed to be one of the oldest active fire stations in Ohio.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      | 40.56925 -84.194450 |
| Port Koneta Air Field former site | Now the site of Schaub excavating, this is where the airfield existed at which Armstrong learned how to fly.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             | 40.6081 -84.183420  |

iv. Provide website/URL (if available) and local website/URL that manages byway.

Not applicable.

v. Marketing contact information:

Grand Lake Visitors Bureau:

- Donna Grube
- Phone: 419-394-1294
- Toll Free: 800-860-GRAND
- Email: [info@seemore.org](mailto:info@seemore.org)

The next two would be secondary. The Chamber produces the local brochure of sites and the museum is the likely beginning / end point for travelers.

Wapakoneta Chamber of Commerce:

- Jackie Martell, Executive Director

- Phone: (419) 738-2911
- Email: [chamber@wapakoneta.com](mailto:chamber@wapakoneta.com)

Armstrong Air and Space Museum:

- Dante M. Centuori, Executive Director
- Phone: (419) 738-8814
- [dcentuori@armstrongmuseum.org](mailto:dcentuori@armstrongmuseum.org)

## **VII. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION: COMMUNITY PARTNERS, PUBLIC FORUMS, CRITICAL ISSUES**

### **A. Ongoing Communication and Cooperation with Community Partners**

All meetings of the Wapakoneta City Council and its subcommittees are open to the public. The council also produces a quarterly newsletter and the city has a website. The Downtown Wapakoneta Partnership is a non-profit alliance of downtown business owners and works closely with the city in a public-private partnership to facilitate building façade improvements. Both organization also work closely with the Chamber of Commerce, especially in conducting the annual Summer Moon Festival downtown. These groups also coordinate with the Armstrong Air and Space Museum during festival times.

### **B. Public Meeting and Public Participation Opportunities**

The citizens of Wapakoneta have a fondness for their local hero. Since the Neil Armstrong Scenic Byway committee is a sitting committee of the Wapakoneta City Council, all meetings are open to the public and all activities are reported to council at its regular meetings.

The city council also regularly works with the other civic organizations. The Downtown Wapakoneta Partnership and the Wapakoneta Area Specialty Shops are two examples of these organizations. While the former is focused on preservation of the downtown area, WASS serves its retail members in promoting the city. Other partners will include the Grand Lake Region Visitors Bureau, the Wapakoneta Area Chamber of Commerce and the Greater Wapakoneta Area Economic Development Council. It is also expected that committee representatives will be invited to speak at Rotary, Lions, Optimist and Sertoma meetings.

Since history is a key focus of this Byway, the committee will also be working with the Auglaize County Historical Society to ensure accuracy as development of the Byway proceeds.

The committee has also spoken with the property owners in the vicinity of the former site of Port Koneta to gain their input on the Byway.

A meeting of stakeholders was held in Wapakoneta on August 1, 2018. Representatives from the Armstrong Air & Space Museum, Auglaize County Commissioners, the Downtown Wapakoneta Partnership, the local newspaper and Wapakoneta City Council attended. All indicated support for the project.

A tour of the proposed route was made with the director of the Grand Lake Region Visitors Bureau and the administrator of the Auglaize County Historical Society. Both individuals suggested changes to the route to incorporate more historic sites and provided further insight into the life of Neil Armstrong. Adjustments to the route were made based on this input, leading to the currently proposed route.

### **C. Steps Taken to Update Byway Mission and Vision**

Not Applicable.

### **D. Narrative on Critical Issues and How They Will Be Addressed**

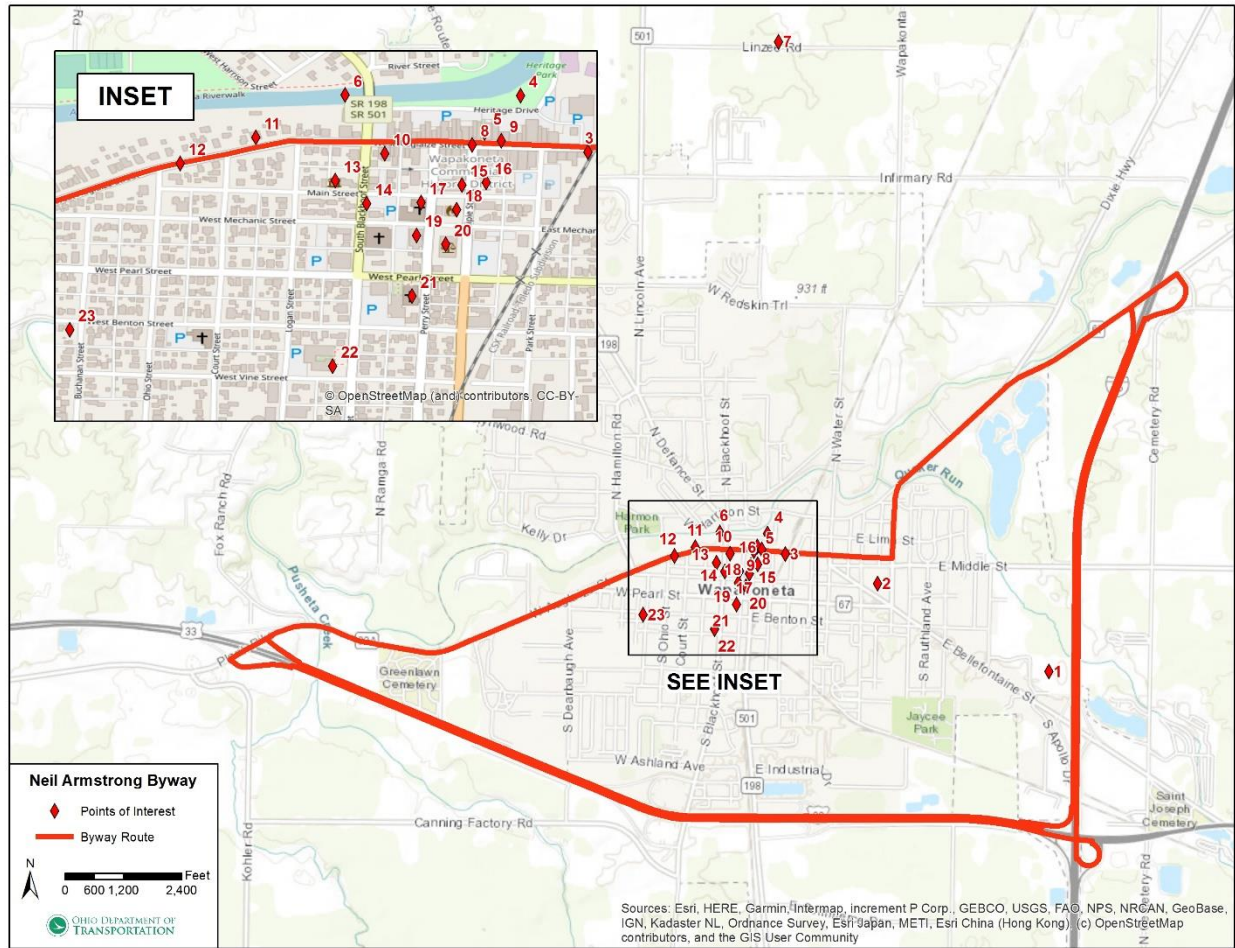
There are no critical issues at the present time. With most of the route inside the city limits, the city's Streets and Alleys Committee of City Council will be the resource for future issues.

## VIII. APPENDIX

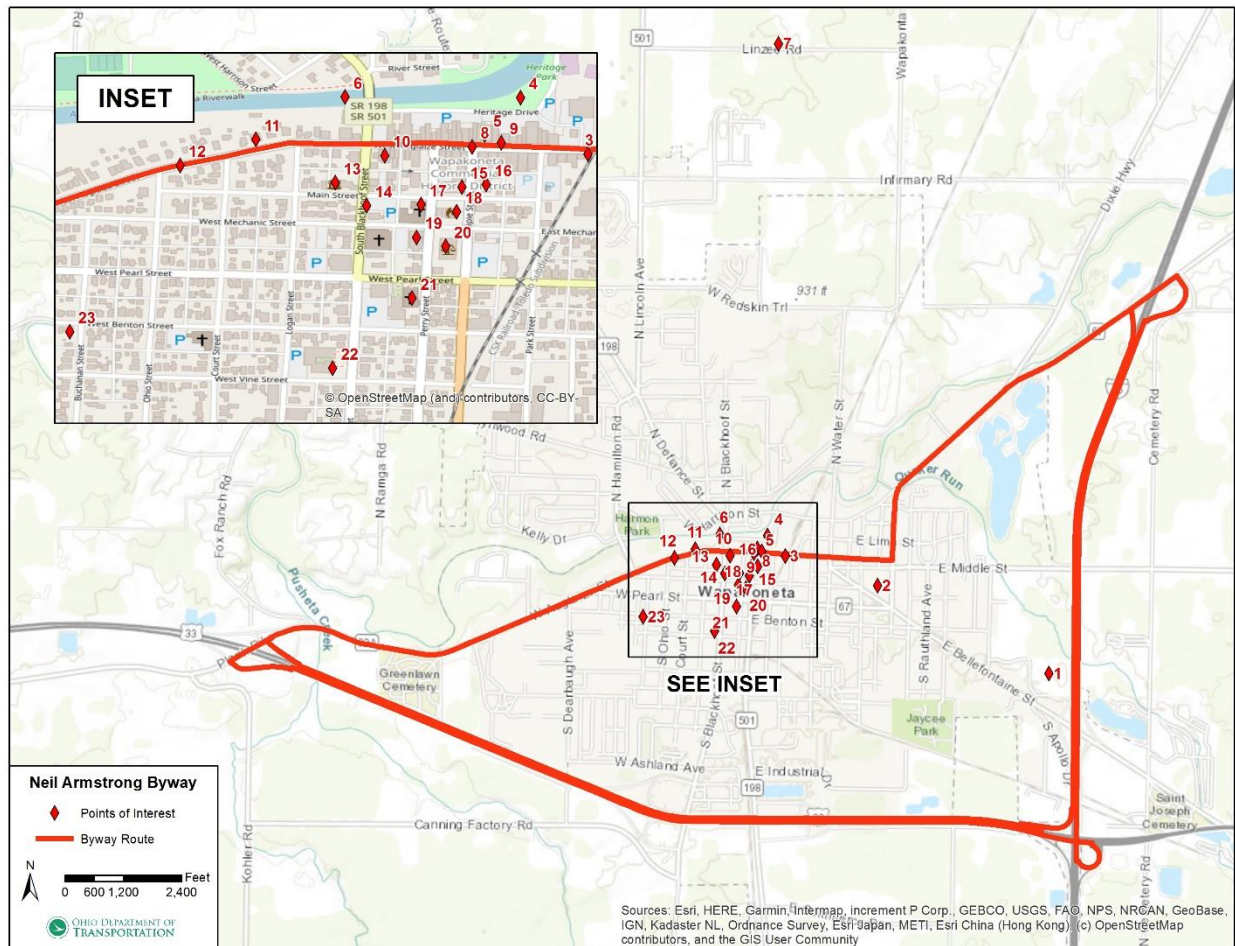
### A. Ohio Byway sign inventory

Not applicable.

### B. Most Current Byway Map



### C. Maps Identifying Primary Intrinsic Quality/Resource Locations



1. Armstrong Air & Space Museum – 500 N Apollo Dr
2. Temple of Tolerance – 203 S Wood Ave
3. Dayton & Michigan Railroad – 117 E Auglaize St
4. Heritage Park – 30 E Auglaize St
5. Wapakoneta Heritage Parkway – E Auglaize St
6. Auglaize River – E Auglaize St
7. Port Koneta – 13549 Linzee Rd
8. Wapakoneta Commercial Historic District – E Auglaize St
9. Rhine and Brading Drug Store – 26 E Auglaize St
10. Bowsher Hardware – 123 W Auglaize St
11. The Shannon Stock Company – 308 W Auglaize St
12. Historic Homes District – W Auglaize St
13. The Wapakoneta Local History Museum – 206 W Main St
14. Dudley Nichols Historical Marker – W Main St & S Blackhoof St
15. Wapa Theater – 15 Willipie St
16. WPA Murals – 12 Willipie St
17. St. Paul United Church of Christ – 101 Perry St
18. Wapakoneta Fire Station – 103 Willipie St
19. Auglaize County Public Library – 203 Perry St
20. Auglaize County Courthouse – 201 Willipie St
21. St. Joseph Catholic Church – 101 W Pearl St
22. Blume High School – 407 S Blackhoof St
23. Armstrong Boyhood Home – 601 W Benton St

**D. Byway Photographs- Include several images of your byway, at least one from each season.**

Armstrong Air & Space Museum



Boyhood Home



St. Paul UCC Church



Rhine & Brading Drug Store (former site)



Blume High School Building



Bowsher Hardware former site



Wapa Theater



Auglaize County Court House



Wapakoneta Fire Department Building



Port Koneta Air Field former site



## E. Marketing Materials- If applicable.

Below is an image of a tri-fold brochure produced by the local Chamber of Commerce including the location of, and descriptions of, several sites related to the Armstrong boyhood experience.

### Neil Armstrong Timeline

**1930** Neil Armstrong was born on his family's farm near Wapakoneta.

**1946** Armstrong began taking flying lessons at the local Port Koneka Air Field.

**1949** Armstrong was called to active duty as a Navy pilot, serving until 1952.

**1951/52** Armstrong flew 78 combat missions during the Korean War.

**1955** Armstrong completed a degree in Aeronautical Engineering at Purdue University.

**1962** Armstrong entered the NASA astronaut program.

**1966** Armstrong commanded the Gemini VIII mission.

**1969** Armstrong commanded the Apollo 11 lunar landing.

**1971** Armstrong became a professor of aeronautical engineering at the University of Cincinnati.

**2012** Neil Armstrong died as a result of complications from heart surgery.

## Discover the Wapakoneta Mr. Armstrong Knew

### Other Local Points of Interest

- A. 1894 Auglaize County Courthouse
- B. Wapakoneta Museum
- C. Chamber Visitor's Center
- D. 1930s Post Office WPA Murals
- E. Dayton & Michigan Rail Historical Marker
- F. Dudley Nichols Historical Marker
- G. Shannon Stock Company Historical Marker
- H. Wapakoneta WaterPark

#### Armstrong Home 1

Neil Armstrong was born in 1930 on the farm of his mother's parents, southwest of Wapakoneta. After living in a number of Ohio communities, the Armstrongs returned to Wapakoneta in 1944, purchasing this home on W. Benton St. At the time, Neil was in high school. His family included his parents, Stephen and Viola, his sister June, and brother Dean.

This is a private residence. Please do not trespass.

#### Blume High School 2

Neil Armstrong attended Blume High School, graduating from here in 1947. He played batfone in the school band. With three friends he formed a jazz combo that performed at school assemblies. Neil often stayed after school to work in the science lab with his teacher, Grover Krites. At age 16, he earned his student's pilot license at the local Port Koneka Air Field.

#### St. Paul United Church of Christ 3

The Armstrong Family attended St. Paul United Church of Christ, one of the oldest congregations in Wapakoneta, dating to 1850. At the time the Armstrongs began going here, it was an Evangelical and Reformed congregation. Neil was a member of the Boy Scout troop sponsored by the church, achieving the rank of Eagle Scout.

#### Rhine & Brading Drug Store 4

During high school Neil Armstrong worked at the Rhine and Brading Drug Store, a longtime business in downtown Wapakoneta. He swept the floors in the morning before school and returned after school to stock shelves and work as a clerk. He used his earnings from the drug store (40 cents per hour) to pay for his flying lessons at the Port Koneka Air Field.

Current site of Chrome nail Design.

#### Wapa Theatre 5

The historic Wapa Theatre was constructed as the Brown Theatre in 1904. Its spectacular, neon marquee was added in 1939. Other than new seats and air conditioning, little has changed in the theatre since the time when Neil Armstrong, and his classmates attended the latest films in the 1940s. The theatre continues to show first run films on a daily basis.

## Discover Wapakoneta

Wapakoneta traces its roots to the 1780s when the Shawnee established a settlement along the banks of the Auglaize River. They built their Council House not far from the river, named by the French for its clay-filled waters. Many great American Indian leaders came to Wapakoneta to council, including Tecumseh, Little Turtle, Blue Jacket, and the Shawnee's elder chief, Black Hoof (Catahecassassa).

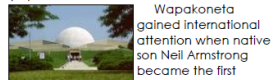
Early local historians attributed the name Wapakoneta to a person, possibly a leader of the tribe. Recent information from Shawnee scholars and native speakers of the language indicates that it means white garment or white cloth, likely reflecting the community's status as a neutral (and therefore peaceful) location after the Treaty of Greenville (1794). The earliest maps of the town spell its name as Waughpaukonnetta, which evolved into Wapakoneta.

The Society of Friends, also known as Quakers, established a mission at Wapakoneta, living and working with the Shawnee. By 1814 they had erected a saw and grist mill on the banks of the Auglaize, and constructed a school. In 1832 the federal government removed the Shawnee from Ohio and sent them to Kansas. What had been their reservation was opened for white settlement. Wapakoneta was platted in 1833 as part of Allen County. Its 84 lots sold for \$20 to \$140.

Wapakoneta was little more than a swampy, sleepy hamlet during the first decade and a half. However, on February 14, 1848, the Ohio Legislature voted to create the new Auglaize County from portions of Allen and Mercer Counties, and Wapakoneta became the county seat.

With the completion of the Dayton and Michigan Railroad in 1858, Wapakoneta's success was assured. It became a prosperous shipping point in west central Ohio. By the late 1800s local industry had developed with a national reputation for butter churns, cast iron cookware, furniture, and buggies. The number and variety of manufacturers meant secure employment for local residents, and Wapakoneta's downtown developed to accommodate the growing population.

Wapakoneta gained international attention when native son Neil Armstrong became the first person to set foot on the moon in 1969. A world-class museum dedicated to the history of space exploration opened in Wapakoneta in 1972, and continues to attract tens of thousands of visitors annually. Today Wapakoneta is a prosperous community of nearly 10,000 located at Interstate 75 and US33, a major crossroads in American travel and commerce. We invite you to spend some time and discover why Wapakoneta is an outstanding place to live or visit.



Learn more at [downtownwapakoneta.com](http://downtownwapakoneta.com)

## Our Historic Downtown

A visit to historic downtown Wapakoneta is an architectural treat. In 1988, a historic district containing 65 properties was listed on the National Register of Historic Places. It contains 19th and early 20th century buildings, which now house a wide variety of restaurants, shops, and offices.

Our Downtown Wapakoneta Partnership works diligently to enhance and promote the viability of our historic downtown, and it is working.

Our downtown is filled with dozens of interesting restaurants, clothing stores, antiques shops, and more. There are numerous sales events, a Farmers Market, and concerts. It is home to the historic Wapa Theatre showing first run films daily. It has become a regional destination. We invite you to discover it, too.

Learn more at [downtownwapakoneta.com](http://downtownwapakoneta.com)

Discover Wapakoneta as NEIL ARMSTRONG knew it

BOYHOOD HOME  
FAMILY CHURCH  
HIGH SCHOOL  
LOCAL MOVIE THEATER  
WHERE HE WORKED TO PAY FOR FLYING LESSONS

